

MABALINGWE NATURE RESERVE

SHAREHOLDER NEWSLETTER JUNE 2018



Dear Shareholder,

As we look out over the magnificent bushveld from the deck and see just how beautiful it is in all of its glory— hear the sounds of the birds calling to each other, the stridulating of beetles, the movement of the trees and shrubbery as a slight breeze blows through them and the winter sun providing just enough heat, to make it pleasant to be in the great outdoors... we think... we have so much to be grateful for this year! Grateful for all the achievements. Grateful for the abundant rainfall. Grateful that we get to share such a special place with you, our valued Shareholder. Grateful for all the latest developments and happenings. So, without any delay let us fill you in on all that has been happening at your favourite home-away-from-home.

Recognition and Awards

Mabalingwe Nature Reserve placed in the top four, in the **Top Gold Crown Resorts** – Large category at this year's prestigious RCI OSCAS



Awards Ceremony. Attaining the Gold Crown Status is the highest standing a Resort can achieve and to be recognised as one of the best Resorts in this category is a tremendous honour. Over and above, Mabalingwe Nature Reserve received the **RADA Award** for being affiliated with RCI for 30 years.

The Year-end VRS 2017 Ceremony was no different, as Le Fera Restaurant Mabalingwe took home the Best Restaurant of the Year and the Le Fera Mabalingwe Commercial Manager, **Gerald Hamadziripi**, won the Commercial Manager of the Year.

A massive round of applause is in order for Willie, and the Mabalingwe Nature Reserve Team, as well as Gerald and the Mabalingwe Le Fera Restaurant Team. *We salute you.*


- Le Fera Restaurant -






The Latest and Greatest

The Resort and VRS Team are constantly is constantly making sure that a stay at your home-away- from- home is an exceptional one. With this front of mind, Mabalingwe has really focused on sprucing up and expanding in several areas of your special place. Arrive at your slice of paradise set in the heart of the bushveld, with the scent of nature in the air and the sound of birdsong welcoming you home.

 Children love racing down to our Games Room and spending the afternoon playing with their friends and being merry, while the parents catch a much needed afternoon nap, lounge on the patio to read a book or entertain friends. For this reason, we have introduced **two new electronic games for the older kids to enjoy**, while the little ones learn valuable skills with our brightly coloured soft building blocks. If the family is looking for a bit of friendly competition, then visit our pool table. Let the fun times keep rolling!

 Growing up in a South African family means that you reminisce over the days you would walk into “*ouma se kombuis*” and find treats and warm drinks you couldn't refuse. We're bringing back that nostalgic feeling with our **Boeretros Coffee Shop**. Find a seat on the deck of the Le Fera Plaaswinkel/Farmshop pool and order something off our Boeretros Menu to remind you of days gone by. We are open daily from 08:00 till 17:00, and serve; strong brewed coffee,

tummy warming teas and a variety of freshly baked cakes. Over the weekend join us for a *hot-off-the-press* toasted sandwich, just as the child in you remembers.

 On the topic of yummy eats, **Le Fera Restaurant** has also seen some improvements. The Restaurant has been adorned with new tables and chairs in soft hues of off-white and grey. Our Mom's Night Off Menu has been tweaked to provide new options the whole family will enjoy; share a bottle of gorgeous red wine over a fragrant Thai curry or juicy porterhouse, while the kids gobble up slices of Hawaiian pizza over fun activities organised by our entertainment team. If you're looking for a dinner where the family can spend time together; then join us for Family Night Out. Every Tuesday we offer a lip-smacking three course meal to give you a break from having to cook for the family yourself! Giggle together over childhood memories, while enjoying indulgently thick milkshakes or share your favourite sundowner and moments of your day under the fading gaze of the Mabalingwe sun.

 **The Kalahari Oasis Pub** is famous for its rustic, weathered feel and makes for the perfect pit stop en-route to the chalet, after a game drive. We invited a very talented young man to clean up the iconic, old classic cars which are an integral part of the very much adored outside area surrounding the pub. The interior of Kalahari Oasis was also revamped to restore the pub to its former glory. This project ensured that Kalahari Oasis Pub is updated without losing its natural charm and personality.

 From one pub to another; the **Vulture's View Bar** has been opened on the viewing deck. This little gem, tucked away and elevated over the landscape, like the nest of these fascinating creatures it has been named after, has a majestic view over the Nature Reserve and offers guests the perfect spot to sit, relax and enjoy refreshments as the sun sets on the horizon. Nibble on a light lunch with an ice cold drink in your hand, overlooking the Mabalingwe landscape or round up family and friends for any one of our weekly specials and refreshing cocktails. Try our signature cocktail: The Vulture!



- Boeretros Coffee Shop -



- Kalahari Oasis Pub -



- Vulture's View Bar -



We have news for those of you who arrive in the bush for a tranquil escape from busy everyday life and just want to lie back and unwind. **Mabalingwe's Le Fera Spa's** grand opening is finally here – June 2018! Take a leisurely stroll down to Reception to book a variety of treatments, such as: a detoxing full body massage, exfoliating pedicure or a moisturising manicure. Enjoy the little things in life and relax...



Mabalingwe has certainly not forgotten about your cosy home-away-from-home units and much is planned for the rest of the year. For now we are happy to announce that **each unit has received new vanities**; a request you, our valued Shareholders, made. We will keep you posted on the latest developments during the second half of the year.

UNIQUE I DO'S:

Set in the heart of the bush, amidst dry acacia trees and wheaten grass, **Kyle and Heidi Duckett** said their "I do's".

A beautiful ceremony was held for the lovely couple at the Kameelperd Watergat as friends and family cheered the union of these families under bright blue skies. The celebrations really began once the bridal party arrived at the Kalahari Oasis Pub along with their 120 guests. The outdoor, natural and rustic theme of the wedding truly set it apart from the rest. Le Fera stepped in to gracefully carve up the spit braai, prepare several fresh tossed salads with dressing and present warm from the oven rolls for all the guests to delight in. Modise, our very own barman/DJ, set the scene in melody as the bridal couple opened the dance floor for their friends and family. The evening festivities continued under a ceiling of a billion stars; as everlasting memories were made.

Mr and Mrs Duckett, on behalf of the Mabalingwe team, we would like to congratulate you and wish you many happy years in each other's company.

Say UNIQUE I DO's at your home-away-from home!

Enquire now: contactus@mabalingwe.com



Special Occasions - Special Experiences

Our dedicated team strive to go the extra mile for all our guests by creating and facilitating events and special moments that create the environment for everlasting holiday memories.

Valentine's Day was truly special this year. Our team decorated Reception with handmade wooden hearts and welcomed each guest with sweet treats and beverages while each lovely lady received a handcrafted wooden bangle. Couples and families enjoyed hearty dishes served by Le Fera with their own private concert by our multi-talented chef, Lindi Yzel.

Mabalingwe's rangers add a unique flair to our weekly **Meet and Greet's**. Guests soak up the magnificent views of the bush while our rangers share interesting bushveld trivia. Then our visitors test their own knowledge in an entertaining nature quiz. City slickers and passionate nature enthusiasts get involved in the fun as Le Fera present scrumptious buttered scones, warm sweet muffins, sticky pastries and a selection of refreshing drinks.

"Creating everlasting holiday memories" are all our **entertainment team** think of when coming up with new and exciting programmes for the children to enjoy. Guest's laughter can be heard bellowing during various activities held at the Main Swimming Pool. Familiar favourites are our "Bingo Lingo" and "Guess the Tune" with our Mabalingwe Dance-Off fast tracking itself to the most loved activity. The kids cannot get enough of our water activities such as water polo and volleyball as they happily splash and shriek in excitement during the warmer days.


The Eco Cubs and Eco Teens activities remain a firm favourite. The younger guests have the super opportunity to learn all about nature and the Mabalingwe environment and ecosystem. Our rangers are constantly teaching new and useful information, which highlights the importance of the conservation efforts of the Resort and more.


- Entertainment team -





Plan your trip with us

We are on a mission to provide you, our valued Shareholders, with plenty of opportunities to create wonderful holiday memories at Mabalingwe.

 As the heat of the day fades with the setting sun, we **invite you to accompany us on a game drive**. Cruise along in the comfort of our game viewing vehicle as we search the bush for all its magnificent creatures, critters, birds and shrubbery. Our rangers have encyclopaedias full of information to share with you. Bookings can be made at the Eco Centre at Reception and please bring your drinks with so you can sip on your favourite refreshment.

 **The Mabalingwe four-by-four trail** is not for the faint of heart. Challenge yourself and your off-roading vehicle in a dust battle as you climb and dip across the landscape on a unique adventure. **This is an intermediate level track. Get more details at Eco Centre when you next visit.*

 After a day of fun-in-the-sun, round up the kids, in-laws, cousins and neighbours and head over to **Le Fera Restaurant**. Take in the view of the lush green bushveld from the deck as you chat and share your favourite stories over freshly prepared; juicy burgers, tender steaks and even healthy salads.

 There are so many things for you to enjoy at your special place and what more could be needed on an escape from the city and the hustle-and-bustle of everyday life, than the **beautiful nature** that encapsulates the essence of Mabalingwe Nature Reserve.



Recipe Corner

Winter evenings were made for comfort food and naturally that includes absolutely delicious potatoes served in sooooo many forms. Although, we love the potato literally in all its forms (from mash, to boiled, to baked, to fried), we would like to share one of our absolute favourite baked potato recipes with you.

Mab's Hot Tato Tots

Ingredients

900g Potatoes

6 Cloves of Garlic

100g Salted Butter

1 Tsp. Paprika or Dried Chilli Flakes

Salt and Pepper, To Taste

Lemon Juice, To Taste

½ Cup of Grated Gouda Cheese

Fresh Herbs, To Garnish (Optional)

How to Make Mab's Hot Tato Tots

Wash the potatoes while your oven preheats to 200°C. Pat them dry to remove any excess moisture. Cut horizontal slits ¾ of the way into the potato, but not all the way through. Set the potatoes aside as you mix the melted butter, paprika or dried chilli flakes, lemon juice and seasoning together. Peel and crush the garlic cloves so they release their aroma and add them straight into the butter mixture.

Evenly coat your potatoes, making sure to get the mixture into the slits of each potato so they absorb all the great flavour.

Spray an ovenproof dish with non-stick spray and then lay your potatoes, cut side up onto the dish. If you have any excess dressing you can brush it onto the potatoes now. Bake for 35 minutes until a fork easily pierces them and then cover with the grated cheese before grilling in the oven for a further five minutes. Remove from the oven and allow to cool slightly before serving. Garnish with fresh herbs for added va-va-voom.

Your Resort Story Section

One of our valued Shareholders, **Mr. Peter Little**, shared these amazing pictures with us! All of these photos were taken during November 2017. Thank you so much for sharing your special Mabalingwe memories with us.

Please don't forget to share all your Mabalingwe stories, photos, traditions and recipes with us! We love hearing from you and featuring our Shareholders.

Email yourresortstory@oaks.co.za



Amazing Photos From Our Guests:



- Colleen Delaney's Mabalingwe Sunset -



- Karen Steenkamp's Chameleon -



- Lizanda Wolmorans' Water Lily -

Hey, look what's happening!

VRS has a brand new website and we're sure you'll love it. Everything was designed with you, our valued Shareholder in mind. Of course, all the important documents you need are available for you on the site – from Instruction Letters, to AGM Minutes, to Shareholder Newsletters and Resort Calendars. Do keep a look out for additional exciting features to follow...

We hope you like what you see and enjoy the new online experience and being part of the ongoing VRS and Mabalingwe drive for excellence!

Check it out here: www.vrs.co.za



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 Property Admin at propertyadmin@oaks.co.za



Important Notices

Closure Notice

Please note that our VRS Head Office will be closed on the following days:

- Thursday, 09 August 2018 until Friday, 10 August 2018: we will open for business as usual on Monday, 13 August 2018.
- Monday, 24 September 2018: we will open for business as usual on Tuesday, 25 September 2018.

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 the usage, spacebanking, renting, etc. of this timeshare week.) For alternative payment arrangements, please contact Property Admin at 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 Maggie Masenya at: maggie@mabalingwe.com.

We kindly request all Shareholders to ensure that you use your new debtor account number (to be found in bottom left quadrant on statements), not your old account number, in all instances and correspondence to reference payments, enquiries, service instructions, etc.

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 2018 calendar available on the following link:
<http://www.mabalingwe.co.za/docs/MabalingweCalendar2018.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 on our website: http://www.mabalingwe.co.za/docs/MNR_InstructionLetter_2018.pdf

Until Our Paths Cross Once Again...

As we gaze out across the dam and bask in everything that makes Mabalingwe special, we prepare for the second half of 2018 with determination, courage and readiness to end the year on a high note. With this in mind, we leave you with the words of Henry Ford; *"Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress and working together is success"*.

Until we speak again – take care.

Warm regards

Marjorie Forssman

VRS Managing Director



Contact Us

t: 014 001 7011

e: contactus@mabalingwe.com

Contact VRS

t: 012 492 1232

e: propertyadmin@oaks.co.za

