

Finkenstein Estate *Newsletter*



*Photo by
Birgit von Ludwiger*

Contents



From the Trustees



From Security



Hello & Goodbye



Estate News



Fauna & Flora



Finkenstein Events



Notices



From the Manager



From the Trustees

This year certainly started with a bang! The first two months have been super busy on the Estate.

We are delighted that the ECB ruled in favour of the FHA and hope to experience the upgrade of the electricity capacity by the FDT before winter.

On 15 December 2022 Judge Oosthuizen pronounced judgement in favour of the FHA in our interdict matter against erf 100 (Mr & Mrs Nieuwoudt), confirming that the interim interdict granted in 2021 is final and the matter is removed from the roll. As in all the previous judgements, costs have been awarded to the FHA. Regrettably, the Nieuwoudts have appealed, and we will now await the ruling of the Supreme Court

We remind members to stay up to date with their levy payments. As a community we cannot afford to subsidise non-payers.

With the wonderful rains we had, the veld has blossomed - as did the weeds! Our Estate staff are hard at work to maintain the roads and trails.

Members are invited (once more) to volunteer for our sub-committees, and you are welcome to attend any of our trustee meetings if you want to see the insides of the FHA machine. Please contact Dewald.

At the AGM there was a suggestion to organise street events. Should you want to be the “Captain” of your street (for this purpose), please contact Dewald so he can provide you with the details of everyone in your street.

If you have any content or pictures you think should be on our website, please submit same to the office.

Any other ideas on how to continue building our wonderful community will be welcomed.

The building of the new road was halted at the beginning of 2023 due to a payment issue. On 16 February, construction continued. Presumably all target dates will move out by six weeks.

Best wishes

FHA Trustees

Hellmut von Ludwig (Chairman)

Anri Parker (Dep. Chair, Comms. & Legal)

Markus Lubbe (Governance, Building & HR)

Sirk Krugel (Finance)

Andre de Jager (Infrastructure, Services & Nature)



From Security

Statistics

Housebreakings: **0**

Theft: **0**

Attempted Housebreakings: **0**

Attempted Theft: **0**

Any damages on the Estate: **0**

Incident – January 2023 & Cameras

At the beginning of January 2023 the motorbike patrol met with two suspects who wanted to enter the Estate from the western unfenced area along Eland Street. The suspects threw the Patrol Officer with stones but luckily missed and ran away.

We are currently in the process of procuring quotations for cameras to be installed to cover the 2-kilometre unfenced area along Eland Street. The Control Room Officer will monitor the cameras and visual verification will give the officers on duty knowledge of who and what they face at the point of the breach.

Network camera surveillance for perimeter protection enables you not only to detect a possible intruder at an early stage but it will also help to verify the extent and severity of a breach as well as providing essential visual information to adopt an appropriate response. Furthermore by checking video streams, it becomes easy to distinguish false alarms (animals) from serious intrusions.

Speeding in the Estate

Speeding on the estate is still a problem and all residents been remind that no one is allowed to drive a vehicle in excess of the speed limit indicated by an appropriate road traffic sign of 40 km/h or 60 km/h on Finkenstein Estate.

Dogs

It is still a concern to us that too many dogs do not wear collars with the owners' details on and running around in the street. FHA Security is regularly forced to keep dogs at the Control Room, an office that is not equipped accordingly, up to the time when the owner eventually collects the dog. We also had an incident where one of our owners was bitten by a dog roaming in the streets. All dogs without identification will be handed over to the SPCA in accordance with the FHA House Rules.



From Security

Alarms

Please make sure of the following:

- That your alarm is activated when you leave your premises and when you go to sleep.
- That all doors and gates are locked.
- Test your alarm regularly and confirm with the control room (081-612-0772) if they have received the signal.
- If you are away from home and receive a message from the alarm monitoring system indicated "AC loss", call someone to check at your house, because there might be a power failure.
- When you go on leave, please inform the Security Manager (081-284-6562), preferably during office hours, to complete an "Out of Town" form with the contact numbers of people who will have access to your house.
- All alarms must be silenced alarms not to disturb your neighbors.

Fireworks

We had an incident on the estate where minors threw a firecracker into the yard of an Owner and we would like to warn residents that the use of fireworks without a permit is illegal in Namibia.

The law states that it is illegal to use or explode fireworks in any place within a town or city, including private homes or gardens, except with prior written permission from the local authority. Anyone who wants to make use of a firework will need to apply for permits at the Police's Explosives Unit in Windhoek.

Kind regards

FHA Security

Johan Kellerman



Hello & Goodbye



Hello to

NEW OWNERS

Erf 168, Zebra Street – Mr.Tshuka Luvindao & Ms.Bonita de Silva

Erf 172, Koedoe Street – Mr.Harald & Ms.Heidrun Preschel

NEW TENANTS

Erf 144, Zebra Street – Mr.Martinus & Ms.Mariana Liebenberg



Goodbye to

PREVIOUS OWNERS

Erf 168, Zebra Street – Mr.Wade Pendleton & Ms.Cheryl Simpson

Erf 172, Koedoe Street – late Mr.Schalk Steyn



Estate News

Let's start 2023

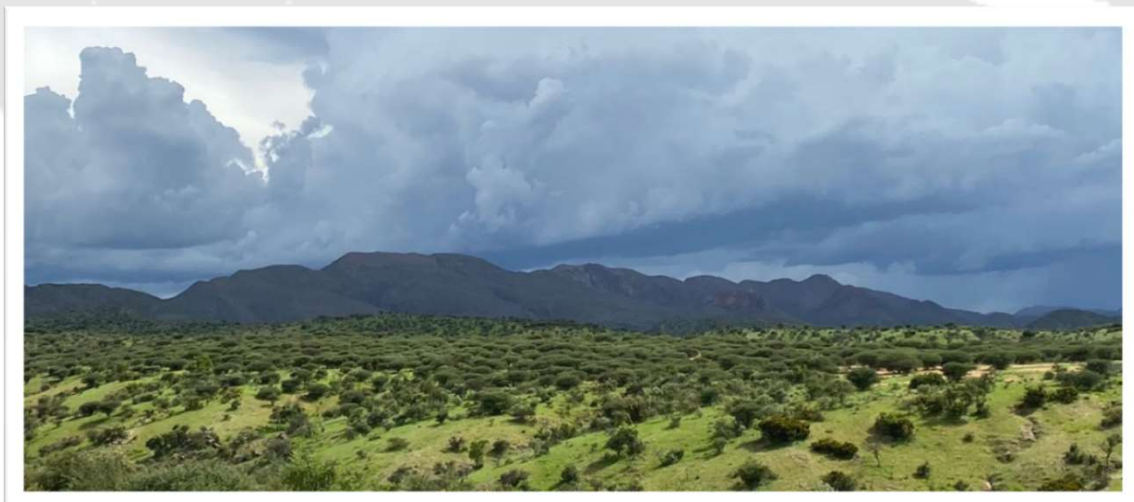
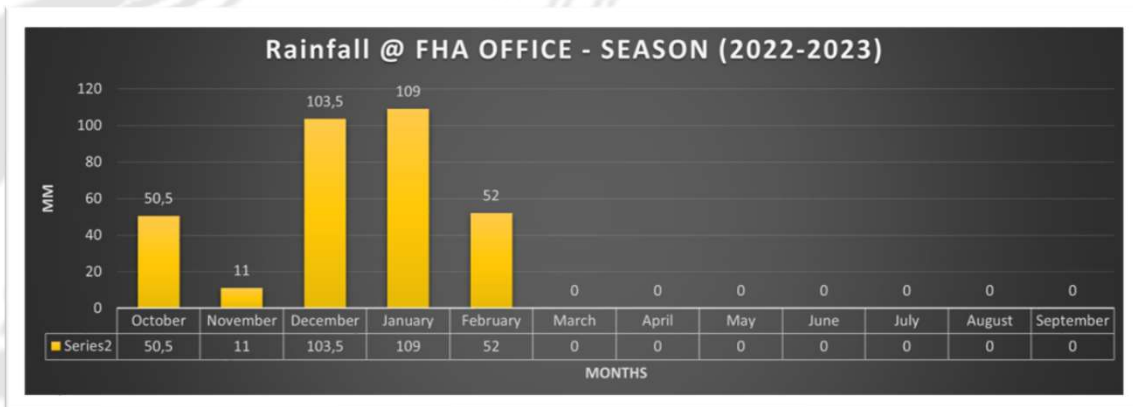
A warm welcome back to all Members after the December-January holidays. We trust that everyone made use of the holidays to rest well and spend time with their loved ones. Can you believe that February has already passed and that Autumn is lying ahead of us!

Let's again take a few minutes to appreciate the beautiful environment at Finkenstein Estate which we all call home, and be thankful for all our senses that enables us to experience this magnificent area of our Country.

Seasonal Rains

Finkenstein Estate has been blessed with average rainfall to date. At the FHA Office we have recorded rainfall from October 2022 to date which totals 326mm.

See graph below indicating total rainfall for the season to date:





Estate News

Reptiles on the road

Recently there has been an increase in the amount of tortoise and chameleon sightings in and around the Estate, and we would like to encourage Members to keep an eye open for these little creatures that traverse our roads.

Please keep driving within the allowed speed limits to avoid killing one of our reptilian friends.



The story of three...no SEVEN little pigs

Our local warthog population is booming this year, with many sows moving around the Estate with their litter of piglets. One sow has even been seen with SEVEN piglets! Enjoy this spectacle which sometimes involve a lot of play time. Remember that the feeding of wildlife (including the warthogs) are prohibited on the Estate, as this practice might cause the animals to become domesticated.





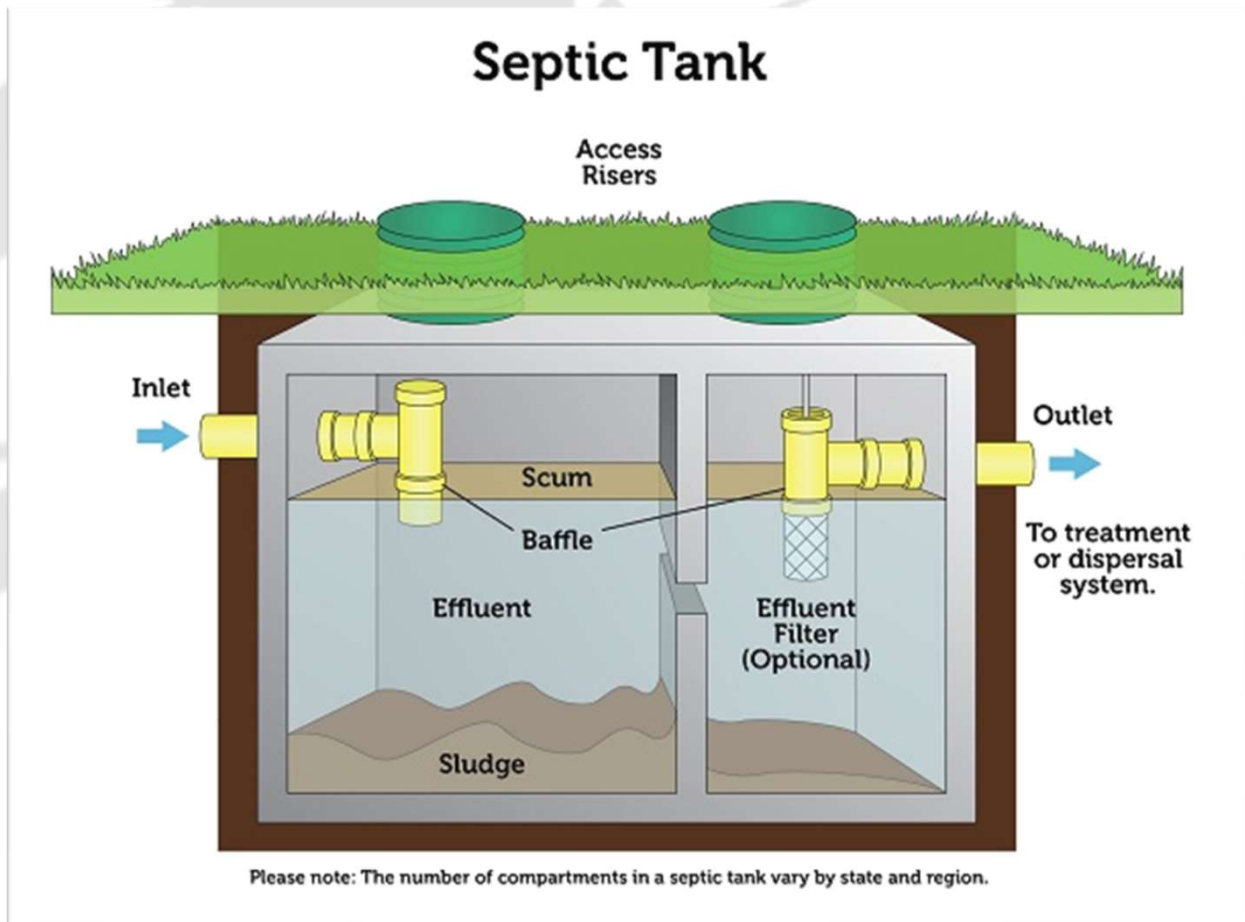
Estate News

Septic Tanks

Owners are encouraged to inspect their septic tanks on a regular basis, as many tanks have recently been overflowing. The overflowing of septic tanks causes effluent to be discharged into our pristine environment, in turn polluting our soil, creating a hazard for our animals, and spreading foul smells in the area. If overflowing septic tanks are not attended to by owners, this will be done by the FHA and the cost thereof added to the Members monthly account.

Members are reminded that the following items may not be flushed down the toilet into the septic tank as it will either clog or cause the tank to fail in its function: *Cooking grease or oil, non-flushable wipes, such as baby wipes or wet wipes, photographic solutions, feminine hygiene products, dental floss, diapers, cigarette butts, coffee grounds, cat litter, paper towels, pharmaceuticals and household chemicals like gasoline, oil, pesticides, antifreeze, paint or paint thinners.*

Typical diagram of a septic tank structure below:





Estate News

Water Meters

Maintenance to water meters in the Estate is a regular issue that needs to be attended to. Unfortunately some owner's water meters are uncovered, and is prone to damage by wildlife and freezing temperatures in the winter. Owners are encouraged to install water meter enclosures at their water meters, as shown below or similar. Should you require assistance in this regard the FHA will be able to assist.



Finkenstein Electricity - ECB Ruling

As reported in the previous Newsletter of November 2022, the ECB made a ruling on 14 November 2022 that the FDT (Finkenstein Development Trust) is responsible for the upgrading of the electrical bulk supply at the Finkenstein substation transformer. On 6 December 2022 a letter of dissatisfaction was submitted by the FDT towards the ECB, but on 20 January 2023 a final ruling was issued by the ECB. This final ruling stated that the ECB is instructing the FDT to implement their relevant ruling items as follows:

1. FDT to upgrade bulk supply from 1MVA to 2 MVA. Upgrade costs will not be funded through tariffs as they form part of the developments costs, which are recovered through selling of serviced erven.
2. FDT must mitigate from fuse-based protection to breaker based protection.
3. FDT must immediately cease with connecting new erven to the electricity infrastructure until the main supply upgrade is done.

At an ECB meeting with the FDT and Nampower, it was instructed that the FDT should apply for a new quotation for bulk supply upgrade from Nampower, and that Nampower should provide same within 30-days.



Estate News

Population Census 2023

During the month of January a census was conducted to determine the population of Finkenstein Estate. The results of the census have been finalised and we would like to report as follows.

Occupied erven	-	167
Adults	-	445
Children	-	188
Total	-	<u>633-Residents</u>

A similar census will be held each year, as this data is valuable on many levels which concerns different stakeholders.

Finkenstein Garden Services

Note that the FHA can assist with the following services:

1. Trimming of grass around your fenced-in area, 2. Application of weedkilling poison around the fence perimeter and driveway, 3. Removal of garden refuse (not building rubble) Should you wish to make use of any of these services please contact the FHA-Manager to make the required arrangements.

Snakes!!!

We are still within the season where snakes are regularly crossing our human paths in the Estate. Knowledge about our snakes can be of great help when confronting a snake. Should you however not be able to identify a snake or need someone to assist, the following people can be contacted:

Johan Kellerman (Office Hours) – 081 284 6562

Peter Keil – 081 124 9578

Harald Keil – 081 262 9567



Boomslang - Poisonous



Zebra Snake - Poisonous



Fauna & Flora

Mountain Thorn (*Acacia Hereroensis*)



THIS tree is very conspicuous due to its numerous cream-coloured flower spikes, which appear from November onwards after the leaves and frequently only after it has rained.

The mountain thorn can also be identified by its very finely divided foliage which is finer than that of any other acacia in Namibia.

Names: German. Bergdorn; Afrikaans. Bergdoring; Herero. Oroo. The botanical name hereroensis refers to the Herero people.

As the English common name implies, this is a tree mostly found in mountainous areas. It occurs from the Karas Mountains and the Aus area northwards along the escarpment up to about the Kuiseb River. From there it is most common in the central highlands and reaches eastwards up to Buitepos. Then again it is found in the mountainous areas from Otjiwarongo up to the Otavi Mountains with occasional trees of this species found in the Kunene region.

It always grows on stony, rocky or gravel substrates, although these may occasionally be overlain by windblown sand. Often it is found on limestone but may also occur on soils derived from certain kinds of volcanic rock.

The mountain thorn can be a shrub with an open, airy crown or a medium-sized tree of up to 8 m with a large rounded crown. The dark brown, almost black trunk is often curved. Young twigs are covered with very fine hairs.

The hooked thorns are paired or single, red on young shoots, dark to black on older wood and often absent. However, they are very sharp and break off easily tending to remain in the skin causing infections. Numerous pods, up to 10 cm long and about 1,5 cm wide, appear from January until June. They are thin, olive green to reddish brown and downy with numerous small red-brown glands. Tapering towards both ends, they split open when ripe. The OvaHerero drink a tea prepared from the roots against chest pains. The flowers are used to make a cough mixture.



Fauna & Flora

(...from previous page)

The mountain thorn is browsed by eland and kudu and the flowers attract butterflies.

The mountain thorn usually has more than one trunk. The trunks do not grow up straight like those of most other acacias but are gracefully curved, forming a pleasing contrast to the very fine foliage. The reddish brown pods are quite conspicuous from about February to August. Due to its pleasing shape and resistance to drought the mountain thorn makes a good garden tree.

Seedlings are available from the nursery of the national Botanical Research Institute [Silke – Tel 061 202 2014] or from certain forestry nurseries – enquire at forestry offices from Okahandja northwards.

Acacia flowers are very numerous. They have no showy petals but conspicuous stamens instead. Individual flowers are grouped into ball-shaped clusters or into elongated spikes. Most acacias are insect-pollinated and bees seem to be the major pollinators. The flowers of some acacia species provide good quantities of nectar and as they appear early in the season they are particularly valuable as bee fodder. Acacia honey has a strong taste and tends to be more liquid than that of other plants

(<https://www.namibian.com.na/index.php?id=131280&page=archive-read>)



A stunning example of the cream coloured flower spike on a Mountain Thorn tree. A beetle can be seen enjoying the nectar of the flower.

(photo by Mr. Hercules Viljoen)



Fauna & Flora

Poison Bulb (*Boophone disticha*)



Wherever you live in South Africa, in a summer- or winter-rainfall region, along the coast or in a semi-arid area, try *Boophone disticha* in your garden, as it is a most rewarding bulbous plant.

Names: century plant, poison bulb, sore-eye flower (Eng.); gifbol, seeroogblom, kopseerblom, boesmangif, perdespook (Afr.)

Description: This is an attractive, deciduous bulbous plant with a thick covering of dry scales above the ground. The large, round heads are sometimes on such short stems that they appear to grow directly from the bulb, almost at ground level. The colour of flowers varies from shades of pink to red and are sweetly scented (July to Oct.)

The pedicels (flower stalks) elongate after flowering to form a large seedhead. This breaks off at the top of the scape (stalk) and tumbles across the veld, dispersing the seed.

The greyish-green leaves are erect, arranged in a conspicuous fan and are usually produced after flowering. This spring-flowering species will flower even if it does not receive any water in winter

Conservation Status: This species is widespread and long-lived but is assessed as Declining by the Red List of South African Plants because wild plants are harvested and sold in large quantities at traditional medicine markets, which is causing the the wild population to decrease, particularly in KwaZulu-Natal and Gauteng.

Distribution and habitat: *Boophone disticha* is widely distributed in all provinces of South Africa and into tropical Africa. It occurs in dry grassland and on rocky slopes and occurs mainly in summer rainfall regions.



Fauna & Flora

(...from previous page)

Derivation of name and historical aspects: The name *Boophone* is derived from the Greek *bous* = ox, and *phone* = death, referring to the poisonous properties of the bulb. The specific name *disticha* means leaves erect in a fan shape.

Ecology: The large round sweetly scented flowerheads attract bees and flies, which pollinate the flowers. The plants also receive visits from ants. The bulb is very poisonous.

Uses: *Boophone disticha* is known to be poisonous to cattle and sheep and the Bushman once used the poison for their arrows. The name sore-eye flower refers to the fact that exposure to the open flowers in a confined space may lead to sore eyes and even to a headache. However, *Boophone disticha* has many medicinal uses. Traditional healers use it to treat pain and wounds. Parts of the plant are used by certain African tribes and also by some Europeans to cure various ailments: the outer covering of the bulb is applied to boils and abscesses; fresh leaves are used to stop bleeding of wounds.

Growing *Boophone disticha*: This plant thrives in full sun in well-drained, sandy soil and also in rocky areas. It should be planted in a protected area, although it can stand drought it does not like frost. The bulb should be planted in such a way that the neck and part of the bulb show above the ground. The plants seem to grow equally well in well-drained, sandy soil and in hard ground, but they take a long time to flower after being moved. The bulbs do not produce flowers until they are quite large.

(<https://pza.sanbi.org/boophone-disticha>)



A stunning example of a Poison Bulb found at Finkenstein Estate.

(photo by Mr. Hannes Goussard)



Fauna & Flora

Leopard Tortoise (*Stigmochelys pardalis*.)



The leopard tortoise (*Stigmochelys pardalis*) is a large and attractively marked tortoise found in the savannas of eastern and southern Africa, from Sudan to the southern Cape. It is the only extant member of the genus *Stigmochelys*, although in the past, it was commonly placed in *Geochelone*. This tortoise is a grazing species that favors semiarid, thorny to grassland habitats. In both very hot and very cold weather, it may dwell in abandoned fox, jackal, or armadillo holes. The leopard tortoise does not dig other than to make nests in which to lay eggs. Given its propensity for grassland habitats, it grazes extensively upon mixed grasses. It also favours succulents and thistles.

Appearance: The Leopard tortoise is a big beautiful tortoise and is the fourth largest out of the tortoise family. Their shell pattern is attractive and also provides perfect camouflage in its home range. These animals are shy and they withdraw into the comfort of their shell when they sense any form of disturbance or danger.

Distribution: Leopard tortoises inhabit the savannas of Southern and Eastern Africa, from Ethiopia to Sudan and from Natal to southern Angola, as well as South Africa and part of southwestern Africa. The hot, dry savannas have sparse vegetation, and the tortoises favour semi-arid to grassland areas, characteristic of grazing species. They are often seen in shady areas or resting underneath brushy plants to escape the immense heat. Some of them, however, inhabit rainy areas.

Habits and Lifestyle: This species is not particularly social. Males will determine dominance through fighting, however, such dominance does not decide much more than access to a certain female. A leopard tortoise's day is mostly taken up with eating and resting. Their back legs are trunk-like and their front legs are paddle shaped and they have "pigeon-toes" with a row of little "nails". These legs enable them to move very fast and manoeuvre easily over rocky terrain. Typically slow movers, they can sprint when startled or scared. They can also climb and can float and swim slowly due to the sizeable lung space in their large, domed shell that allows buoyancy. They have well-developed and good eyesight. A tortoise will hiss when it is scared, but the sound isn't always from its mouth. When it quickly pulls its head and limbs into its shell, this forces all the air from their lungs, which may cause a hiss.

(to next page...)



Fauna & Flora

(...from previous page)

Diet and Nutrition: Strict herbivores (folivores), these animals will eat grass, but prefer to graze on succulents, flowers, fungi, berries, and a range of other fruit. They will sometimes eat ash or old bones, possibly to supplement their levels of calcium.

Mating Habits: Leopard tortoises are monogamous and breed only with one partner per year during the mating season. Males and females both become increasingly aggressive when they are looking for a mate, fighting by butting and ramming their rivals. This species breeds from May until October. After mating, a female digs a hole from 100 to 300 mm deep in the ground, where she will lay her frail, white, spherical eggs. Incubation is for 9 to 12 months, varying according to the location, temperature, and precipitation. 5 to 7 clutches may be produced in one breeding season, around 3 to 4 weeks apart, with 5 to 30 eggs per clutch, with larger females laying more. Once the eggs are laid, the mother covers them up and leaves. Hatchlings are independent immediately upon emerging. Leopard tortoises reach maturity at five years old.

Population threats: Leopard tortoises are seen throughout their geographic range as agricultural pests, and because of this, retaliatory killings do happen. They are also a staple food item for many local peoples, so where human populations are high, leopard tortoises are considered vulnerable.

Population number: According to IUCN, the Leopard tortoise is common and widespread throughout its range but no overall population estimate is available. According to the University of Michigan (Museum of Zoology) resource, there are 5,990 individuals in Tanzania and only 500 individuals in Ethiopia. Overall, currently this species is classified as Least Concern (LC) on the IUCN Red List.

Ecological niche: Leopard tortoise is important seed predator and disperses seeds throughout its environment.

(<https://animalia.bio/leopard-tortoise>)



An example of a baby leopard tortoise found in the Finkenstein area.

(photo by Mr. Dewald du Plessis)



Finkenstein Events



Public holiday

21 March - Namibia Independence Day



Pizza Nights *(Contact Lise Sorensen @ 081-609-6387)*

16 March - Roberto's Pizza & Jetblast @ FHA-Office



Bush Market *(Contact Carina Engels @ 081-222-8849)*

11 March - Bush Market



MTB Cycling

4 March - Rock & Rut XC0 @ Farm Windhoek

8 March - Hollard G&D Sundowner Race 1 @ Heja Lodge

22 March - Hollard G&D Sundowner Race 2 @ Heja Lodge



Trustee Meeting *(Contact Bianca Holtz @ 081-143-4820)*

1 March - From 17h30 @ FHA-Office Boardroom



Notices

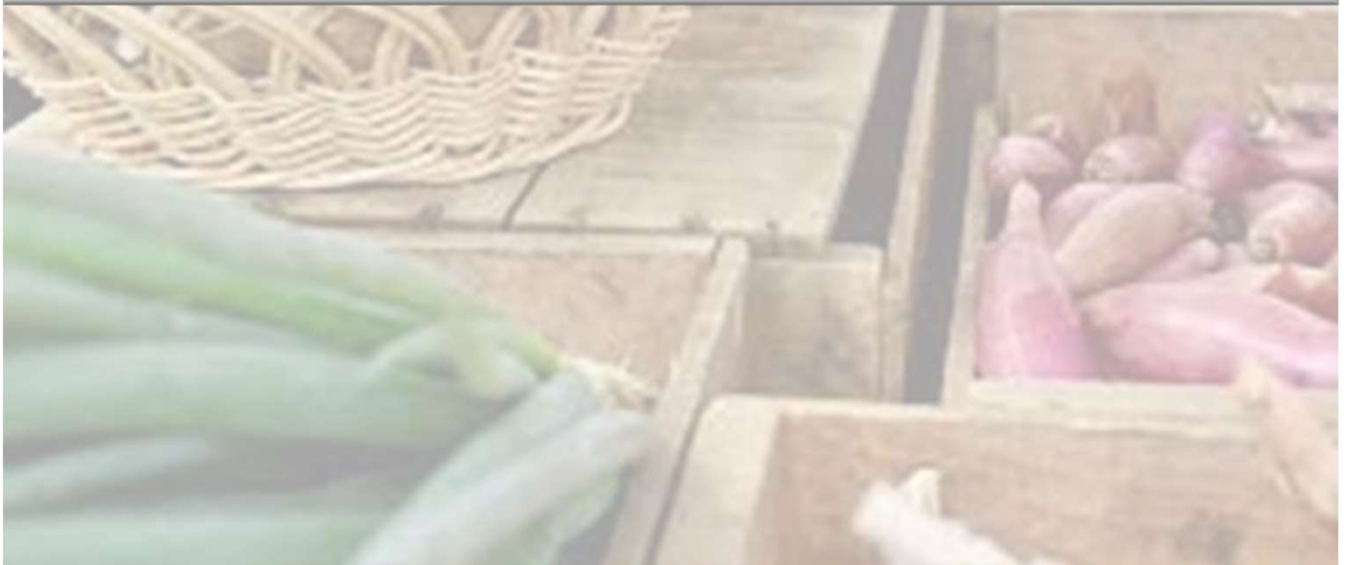
Finkenstein
BUSH MARKET



FINKENSTEIN ESTATE **SATURDAY 11 MARCH 2023**
ENTRANCE **FREE**
08:00 - 13:00
ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
FOR STALL ENQUIRIES CONTACT CARINA **0814773041**



#photofmyday





Notices

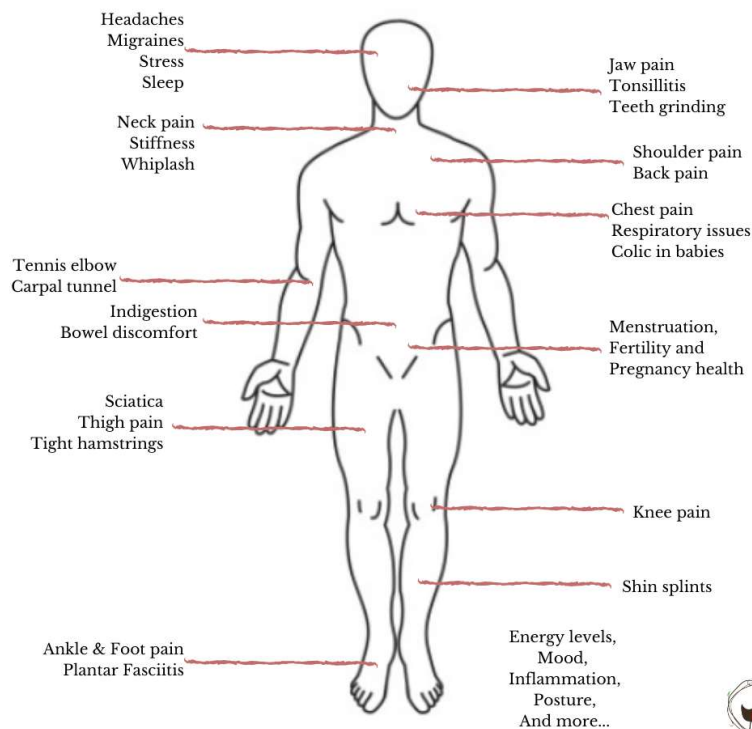
LUDO VAN HEES

Contact : 081-414-4055 / vavaliludo@gmail.com

Bowen Therapy is a holistic way of treatment where one works with soft-tissue, muscles and tendons in a non-intrusive way to trigger the innate intelligence of the body to heal itself. Issues are treated within an average of 4 to 5 sessions.

Emotional work using "**The Work of Byron Katie**" which is a simple and a successful method of Self-Inquiry into emotional issues and an effective way to find your emotional freedom.

Bowen Therapy Can Help With...





Notices

NEW YEAR, NEW YOU!
DARE TO BE GREAT
START TODAY

CONTACT US:
ANDRE:
081 637 2009
ELOISE:
081 157 2744



**411 KAMEELDORING
FINKENSTEIN VILLAGE
N\$600.00 PER MONTH**

OUR SERVICES :

**Facilitated Group
Functional Fitness**

Training for:

- **Weight Loss**
- **Strength & Toning**
- **Overall Fitness**

**MONDAYS
- FRIDAYS**



Notices



K&P MOTORS

FOR 5 STAR SERVICE EXCELLENCE

ARE YOU TIRED OR DON'T HAVE TIME TO
STAND IN LONG QUEUES AT NATIS FOR VEHICLE
& TRAILER REGISTRATION, ROADWORTHY,
CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN DRIVERS LICENSE
AND MORE?

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING:

REGISTRATION - DEREGISTRATION
CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP - POLICE CLEARANCE
TRAFFIC FINES - ROADWORTHY
ALL OTHER VEHICLE ADMIN

VEHICLE LICENSE DISC RENEWAL

N\$350

PER VEHICLE



FEEL FREE TO CONTACT

JONAS +264814007845



Notices

NEED SOLAR AT FINKENSTEIN?

Contact

Brain Hobbs 081 381 4211

Wildest street 222

for a professional assessment on you solar needs





From the Manager

2023 – Year of the Water Rabbit (Chinese Zodiac)

The start of each year brings about a spirit of renewal, hope, and positive change. This is my attitude towards Finkenstein Estate for this year.

Nine months have now passed since I was introduced to the Finkenstein community, and boy what an introduction. It has taken some time to familiarize myself with the ongoing dynamics of the lifestyle, people and infrastructure in the Estate, but can now attest of a much better appreciation of the scope thereof.

FHA Management continuously strive to improve the service that is being delivered to our Members in order to enhance the experience of residing at Finkenstein Estate. In this regard we are exploring and considering new initiatives that will add value to this experience. We welcome all and any suggestions from the Members to improve any aspect of living at Finkenstein Estate.

My goal and wish for 2023 is that Finkenstein Estate will, like the humble rabbit, move forward in leaps and bounds to achieve new highs during this year!

I would like to give a special word of thanks to our dedicated workers, Ernest, John & Joseph who have been working tirelessly during January and February to cut the grass in our street reserves, as well as assist Members to clean the perimeter around their fenced-in area and also to remove garden refuse from their yards. If you drive, walk or cycle past them please do not hesitate to thank them, this will go a long way.

Lastly I would like to make use of this opportunity to thank each and every Member for your selfless contributions towards all of the Security Staff and General Workers over the Christmas Season. I believe that these generous offerings will go a long way in not only to assist the staff and their families but also to maintain the excellent relations we are fortunate to have.

“Coming together is a beginning

Keeping together is progress

Working together is success”

- Henry Ford -

Kind regards

FHA Estate Manager

Dewald du Plessis





Contact Details

***FHA Estate Manager**

Dewald du Plessis
081-146-9110 / em@finkenstein.org

***FHA Estate Security**

Johan Kellerman
081-284-6562 / johan@finkenstein.org

Control Room
081-612-0772

***FHA Estate Admin Office**

Bianca Holtz
081-143-4820 / info@finkenstein.org



***A Man walks into
a pet shop and
asks the owner
"Do you have any
chameleons?"***

***(Looks around) No
idea mate***



***Photo by
Hercules Viljoen***