

Finkenstein Estate *Newsletter*

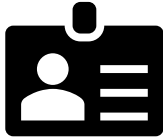


*Photo by
Andre de Jager(175)*

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From the Trustees

It has been a very interesting 2023 indeed. There has been a big upwards move in the sale prices of our properties and quite a few new families have moved in. With the addition of the new road (soon) and security cameras around the perimeter (2024), Finkenstein now wears the crown as the most prestigious and secure Estate to live in in Namibia. Interesting to note the traffic on our website has gone up by 25% year on year and German visitors on the site are four times higher than Namibian visitors. This year we had a monthly average of 2,500 unique visitors and 77,000 hits on our website.

We have also had a busy time on the estate with new members of staff joining the team. The mulching project is very successful. We have also installed new road name signs and re-did the trails and added some new ones. Members are encouraged to make use of them. Add to that addition of the Bridge and the landscaping of our street corners then you know why the staff are so busy. Thank you Dewald and Team! With the help of Johan Kellerman and his team, we are grateful we remain incident free. Johan, your retirement has moved to 2035 now. Excellent work as usual!

We have also had the privilege of members joining some of our Board meetings and we encourage members to continue visiting. It is always refreshing to see another point of view or to get positive suggestions from like-minded members.

We would like to wish all our families a blessed and safe holiday season as we unwind to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

We look forward in serving our community again in 2024.

FHA Trustees

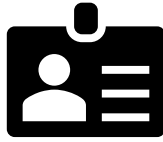
Hellmut von Ludwiger (Chairman, Security, Village/Manor Liaison, CoW, FDT)

Anri Parker (Deputy Chair, External Affairs, Legal and Governance and Human Capital)

Pieter Reyneke (Strategy and Building)

Sirk Krugel (Finance)

Andre de Jager (Infrastructure, Services & Nature)



From Security

Crime Prevention Tips for the Upcoming Holidays

Dear residents, once again we stand at the end of the year where each-and-everyone wants to go on a well-deserved holiday, but at the same time there are elements that will make use of this opportunity while you are on leave to privatize your hard-earned property.

House break-ins during holiday periods remains one of the principal concerns for FHA members, despite that we have been quite fortunate in this regard over the past eleven years, with only two incidents.

Thieves look for simple, fast entry in the hours of darkness, or by utilizing some form of cover that keeps their activities hidden from view. They aim to exploit easy access and if your property is well secured, they will move on elsewhere. You can make it tough on thieves by taking away the opportunity for them to commit crimes in the first place.

Solid doors with good-quality locks are among the best investments you can make toward securing your home. Make sure that a qualified locksmith or carpenter installs the locks and be sure to USE those locks at all times! An unlocked door is simply an open invitation to a thief. It is also a fact that in 90% of house break-ins the criminals have inside information what is going on in your house.

If a burglar cannot easily get into your home through a door, he/she may try a window, so proper home security should take this fact into account. Don't let bushes and shrubs obscure windows: keep trees and branches trimmed back so that you have a clear view outdoors. Remember, burglars need some sort of cover to operate successfully and a tall thick shrub next to the house provides an ideal hiding place.

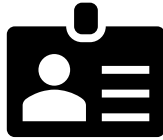
Alarms

Most alarm systems have their limitations and are good only in certain circumstances so don't depend on an alarm to protect you completely. Any alarm should be used only in conjunction with other commonsense crime prevention practices, and with proper locks and security lighting. Ensure that your alarm system is tested periodically and check that it is working properly before you leave your home for any length of time. In either instance, call the Control Room on 081-612-0772 to check that they have received your alarm signal when you test the armed system by triggering it.

Switch on the system when your house is left unoccupied and before retiring for bed. Use the zone function to secure rooms or areas on a large property that are not used regularly so that you will know if there's been an unauthorised access to them.

We would like to advise all residents to have their alarm sirens disconnected by a trained technician so that only the Control Room is alerted if the armed system is triggered. We receive a lot of complaints over the holidays from neighbours who must suffer the noise nuisance of alarms going off regularly in empty houses – sometimes up to 28 times *per day!*

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From Security

If you have outside beams as part of your alarm system, make sure that you prune shrubs and plants that could trigger the beams due to movement in the wind.

Commonsense precautions:

- Do not display expensive items in plain view. Keep them out of sight when not in use.
- Keep ladders and garden tools locked in the garage or a secure storeroom. Burglars can use ladders to reach second-storey windows or use the tools to force open doors, windows or burglar bars.
- Don't advertise new gifts or purchases. Break up and disguise the packaging for items such as new TVs before leaving it on the curb to be removed by Rent-a-Drum.
- Lock all doors and windows when leaving the home unoccupied, even for a short while.
- Don't keep large sums of cash at your house and store expensive jewellery and watches in a safe that is hidden away.
- Leave a light and radio on at night to give an impression that occupants are at home and awake (you can purchase timer plug attachments to switch them on and off automatically).
- Inform the Security Manager and complete an 'Out of Town' form if you are away from your property for any length of time.
- Keep a lookout in your neighbourhood for any suspicious movement. Call the Security Manager 081-284-6562 or Control Room 081-612-0772 for assistance if you witness any suspicious activity.

Dogs

Please do not leave your dogs at home while you are on holiday if you do not have anybody staying at your home to look after them. Lonely, barking animals will only be a nuisance to your neighbours and are likely to become anxious and try to escape from your property. There are a number of good-quality facilities around Windhoek where you can leave them to be cared for when you go away. Also make sure that your dog wears a collar with all your particulars on it in case it escapes from your plot, or take a snapshot of them and send the photo to the FHA Office so that they can be identified if they do not wear a collar.

For those who stay at the Estate over the holiday season, please volunteer to be part of the neighbourhood watch patrols. *Thank you!*

Kind regards

FHA Security

Johan Kellerman



Hello & Goodbye



Hello to

NEW OWNERS

Erf 185, Hartebees Street – Stephan & Sibylle Gradtke

Erf 204, Koedoe Street – Michael David Godfrey & H. Milne



Goodbye to

PREVIOUS OWNERS

Erf 185, Zebra Street – HO & Carol Reuter

Erf 204, Hartebees Street – Danie & Suzette van Vuuren



Estate News

EstateMate – Remote Access

We would like to encourage the use of **EstateMate**, which allows Members to grant access (via a QR Scanning Code) remotely to visitors, friends, family and contractors. Herewith below, please find the registration process and reference guide to be followed by all the Members/Residents who are interested to make use of the Estate Mate platform at Finkenstein Estate.

- Step 1 : Download the App
- Step 2 : Press “Create Account”
- Step 3 : Register
- Step 4 : Login



Once you are registered, we will receive an approval request, and once we approve you will be able to make use of the system to send invites to your visitors.

If you experience any difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact Johan 081-284-6562 or Liam Nissen at 081-225-7252.

Road Maintenance

FHA Trustees & Management have recently consulted with **Bicon Namibia** to advise on the short-and long-term maintenance of our road infrastructure in the Estate. A report of their recommendations can be viewed at the FHA Office should you be interested in their findings.

Some of the recommendations that were made included that the roads of the Estate are still in a fair condition with pothole patching and crack sealing that should be done regularly to prevent water ingress into the sub-layers. They have however recommended that Rooibok Street (part of) and Wildebees Street are due to be resurfaced with a single layer of chip seal soon, which we are planning to perform during the dry season of 2024.





Estate News

Street Corners

FHA Management & our Blue-Collar team recently started the process of clearing and beautifying street corners inside the Estate. Visibility around some of the street corners has become problematic and might even be unsafe. The clearing thereof ties into our long terms plan of keeping our road reserves open and clear of bushes and trees in order to better access infrastructure and to enhance visibility of game and humans making use of our streets. This project will be continued over the duration of 2024, with clearing and landscaping to be done at all street corners.



AGM 2023

This year's AGM was successfully hosted at a brand new venue, Reitsportzentrum Kapps on Wednesday 15 November. The event was attended by 52 Members representing 82 Erven. Minutes of the meeting will be shared with all Members by no later than Wednesday, 6 December.





Estate News

New Highway Construction

Construction works at the new highway through Finkenstein have progressed steadily over the past few months. Contractors have recently completed the reinforced concrete bases and have now started with the shuttering to the walls of the tunnel that will pass underneath the highway on the existing access road from the B6 to the Estate. This tunnel will see one way traffic flowing through, with traffic lights on either side controlling the flow of vehicles. Earthworks at the Otjihase offramp from the airport side, adjacent to Finkenstein Manor, has also progressed steadily. We have been reliably informed that according to the construction program the highway should be complete to Kapps Farm by July of next year, but that delays should be expected.

Cyclists are warned not to make use of the uncompleted highway as it is deemed an active construction site.



Hunting at Moltkeblick!

Every now and again FHA Management is informed that hunting will take place on the Moltkeblick Farm which is adjacent to the western side of the Estate. During these hunts Members are informed on our Whatsapp platforms that access to the Park Area will be off-limits during this time. Unfortunately some Members have not heeded to the call in this regard which has caused a few incidents of confrontation.

Members are reminded of the Park Area Agreement in place between the FHA and MBGF (Moltkeblick Game Farm), herewith the link to the relevant document:

https://www.finkenstein.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/15_2014ParkAreaAgreement.pdf

We urge all Members to adhere to the request to not access the Park during hunting activities, as this might have tragic consequences.



Estate News

Environmental Clearance Certificates (ECC)

On 27 October 2023 the FHA was informed that both of the Environmental Clearance Certificates were approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Tourism (MEFT) for the development of a Data Center on Erf.1 at Finkenstein Manor and a PV (Photovoltaic) Plant on Portion 237 of Farm Finkenstein No.526. We do not have any timeframes or more information on these developments, but will revert back to all Members as soon as this becomes available.

End of year Holidays

The end of the year is in sight, although it feels like it only started yesterday. With the upcoming holidays approaching, and many of our Members that will be away from home, I would like to briefly mention the following considerations when planning your holiday:

1. Inform Management if you will not be home for a prolonged period.
2. Ensure that Management or a relative/friend has access to the property.
3. Arrange with someone to take care of and spend time with your pets.
4. Ensure that your alarm and electric fence is in working condition.
5. Ensure that your irrigation timer is in working condition and set accordingly.
6. Switch off your geyser and water stop valve.

Christmas Donations for Securities & Blue Collar Workers

With the festive season nearing, we would like to again say THANK YOU to our sixteen Security Guards and four Blue Collar workers in appreciation of their sterling work and dedication to the Estate during the past year!

We want to repeat last year's successful initiative of handing each staff member a voucher card that can be used at any Checkers, Shoprite or U-Save. In this regard we would appreciate your cash donation (preferably in an envelope) to be made at the FHA Office by no later than Tuesday 12 December 2023. Alternatively, non-perishable items can also be donated. We will provide Members with feedback on the total amount raised and do the handout to them during the week of 18-22 December.

A big THANK YOU to all Members who have already so generously contributed to this cause!

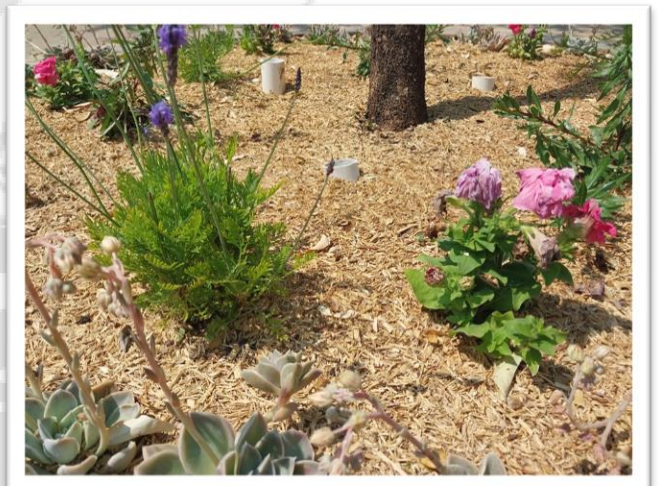
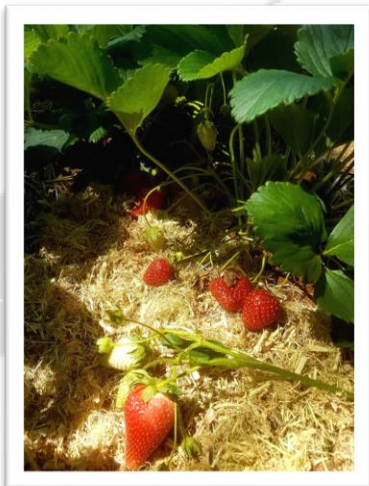


Estate News

FHA Mulch Service

We would like to report back on our mulch service since being implemented in June of this year. To date our Kalahari Chipper and Blue Collar team has produced and sold more than **220 bags of mulch** to our Members in the Estate and surrounding Finkenstein community. Not only are our Estate borders and street reserves now being cleared of overgrown vegetation, but the processed mulch being worked backed into our Finkenstein Gardens!

We ask that you support our project by informing our office if bush clearing is required around your fenced-in area, or if you have garden refuse that might be considered appropriate to be mulched. Mulch is sold at N\$50 per 50kg sized bag and will be delivered to your property upon request. Finkenstein Estate mulch has already been put to good use in many gardens, vegetable tunnels and chicken coups! Using mulch on top of your garden beds will encourage water retention in your soil for longer.



New Street Name Boards

For those who haven't noticed yet, we recently replaced all of our street name boards inside the Estate. Note that our boards are now white with black text and not green with white text. We trust you will enjoy the new look which should be more visible during night times with improved reflectivity.





Estate News

B-Six Transport Notice

It has come to the attention of FHA Management that many residents are complaining about domestic workers not arriving on time due to timeslot issues on the B-Six Transport service from Windhoek in the mornings. The FHA Board of Trustees and Management has brought this to the attention of the company owners and invited them to a Trustee Meeting held. A stern request is being made by BSix Transport Services CC to Members and Residents that all domestic workers should remain on the timeslots booked in advance, as the 07h00 is being misused frequently. Workers wanting to board the 07h00 service from Katutura who are in fact booked on the 06h00 service will not be assisted going forward and will hence have to make use of the 08h00 service. Note that BSix only has so many vehicles and overloading will not be tolerated. Kindly convey this message to your domestic workers accordingly.

Clean up after your dog!

We all love to make use of the amazing nature trails inside the Estate, but lately our trails have become littered with doggy poo. Please take care to clean up after your pets to preserve our pristine environment and enhance everyone's hiking and cycling experience on our trails.

Fireworks

With the festive season in our midst, celebrations over Christmas and the New Year will become more common. Members and Residents are reminded that the use of fireworks without a valid 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 fireworks will need to apply for permits at the Police's Explosives Unit in Windhoek .

Nature Estate living

Living in a Nature Estate entails becoming part of an existing ecosystem of various animals and plants. Being able to experience this in such a direct way is a privilege and indeed a reason why some people have chosen to reside at Finkenstein Estate. Humans establish themselves by creating a built environment within the natural setting, planning in such a way to create the least negative impact possible on the surroundings. Our FHA Design Manual, Construction Regulations and House Rules guides us through this process.



Estate News

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However, and inevitably humans and animals don't always achieve this delicate balance which then sometimes leads to accidents, damage and conflict. Be reminded again that we as humans are but a small piece in the puzzle of harmonious living in the Estate, together with our larger animal friends from Moltkeblick, insects, amphibians, reptiles and other living beings, as well as all vegetation surrounding us.

Be aware of the impact that you are creating on the natural environment around your residence, as well as the movement patterns and habits of the animals in the Estate to prevent unnecessary accidents, damage or conflict. Reference is made to an impala ewe that was struck by a moving vehicle in Eland Street a few weeks ago. This unfortunate incident was not reported by the Member or Resident involved and cannot be accepted or allowed to happen again. Accidents do happen, and are inevitable in our Nature Estate, but caution and awareness should be on top of your mind when moving around or interacting in our unique environment. Please report such incidents immediately to the FHA Office!

Being part of the Finkenstein Estate community is a privilege which comes with a degree of responsibility towards our natural environment. Let us accept this opportunity to encourage harmonious living in the Estate and strive to maintain the natural balance to the best of our abilities!





Fauna & Flora

Velvet Raisin (*Grewia flava*)



Common names: velvet raisin, wild currant, brandybush (Eng.); rosyntjebos, brandewynbos, wilderosyntjie (Afr.) A hardy shrub or small tree up to \pm 4 m high, it gives an impressive show of yellow, star-shaped flowers in summer. This tree is ideal to attract birds to your garden and will make them stay longer or become regular visitors because of the abundance of fruit produced.

Description: *Grewia flava* is a shrub or small tree, 2–4 m tall. The grey bark on the young branches, which is usually covered with thick-growing but quite short hairs, tends to turn dark grey and becomes smooth the older the tree gets; this is also noticeable on the stems. The greyish green leaves are alternately arranged and are covered in fine hairs and it appears to be a lighter shade of green on the underside of the leaves. The apex (tip of the leaves) is rounded, whereas the margin is serrated. Three conspicuous veins from the leaf base is characteristic of this tree; a 2 mm long leaf stalk is also very noticeable. The flowers appear in branched heads from early summer until mid-autumn (October to March) and are about 10–15 mm in diameter. The 2-lobed fruit is \pm 8 mm in diameter, green, turning reddish brown when ripe. The sap wood appears to be light and the hard wood is brown, with a fine texture

Conservation Status: According to the Red List of South African plants, the conservation status of this plant species is at a low risk and, therefore, assessed as Least Concern (LC).

Distribution and habitat: *Grewia flava* is not endemic to South Africa; the tree's Provincial distribution includes the Free State, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, Mpumalanga, Northern Cape and North West. It also occurs in Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia and Angola. It grows in dry bushveld and appears to prefer sandy soils, and it takes on more the form of a shrub in compacted soils

Derivation of name and historical aspects: The genus *Grewia* formerly belonged to the linden family (Tiliaceae), but was later placed in the family Malvaceae because of certain doubts surrounding the placement of *Grewia* and similar genera.

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Fauna & Flora

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The genus *Grewia* was named by Carl Linnaeus in honour of the English botanist Nehemiah Grew (1641–1712). Nehemiah was a leader in the field of plant anatomy and microscope researching throughout his life. His study of pollen paved the way for present day palynology. The specific epithet *flava* means 'yellow' and refers to the colour of the flowers.

There are about 321 accepted species of *Grewia* and the genus contains ± 250 synonyms. The species are widely distributed in Africa, Asia and Australia. Other southern African species covered in this series include: *Grewia occidentalis*, *G. flavescens*, *G. bicolor*, *G. lasiocarpa*, *G. hexamita*, *G. robusta*, *G. retinervis* and *G. monticola*.

Ecology: The larvae of some butterflies, such as the *Leucochitonea levubu* (white-cloaked skipper) and *Abantis tettensis* (spotted velvet skipper) that belong to the family *Hesperiidae*, feed on species of *Grewia*, including the brandybush. The white-cloaked skipper is found from Botswana to the former Transvaal and to Zimbabwe, whereas the spotted velvet skipper's distribution includes Namibia, Botswana, the former Transvaal and the Northern Cape and from Zimbabwe to Zaire and Kenya. The leaves and fruits are enjoyed by domestic stock, as well as wild animals such as Kudu and Giraffe and a large variety of birds.

Uses: The bark of the brandybush was often used to manufacture rope. The fruits are still used to enhance a kind of brandy or 'mampoer'. The sweet vitamin C-enriched fruit can be enjoyed on its own as well. Traditionally porridge was prepared from the dried fruit after processing it into a flour. The wood is hard and fine-grained and is used for sticks. Earlier hunters, like the San community, used to make their bows and arrows from the branches of this plant.

Growing *Grewia flava*: This plant will grow best in well-drained soil and in a full sun position. It is quite safe to be planted near paved areas in the domestic garden, seeing that it does not have an aggressive root system. Because of the abundance of flowers, it can be successfully used as a focal point in the garden.

The plant is quite hardy and can withstand frost. Over-watering should be avoided when the plant is established.

The best propagation method is by seeds. Select fresh seeds, clean them and dry them in a well-ventilated shady area. Soak the seeds in water for at least 24 hours, the initial water must be hot water. Sow the seeds in seedling trays and cover it about 5 mm deep; use only river sand as the growth medium. Place the trays in a warm sheltered area. Do not let the growth medium dry out. A constant moisture level needs to be maintained for successful germination. The germination of the seeds is usually inconsistent, a success rate of about 50–70 % has been observed. Seedlings can be planted out into containers when they reach the 2-leaf stage.

(<https://pza.sanbi.org/grewia-flava>)



Fauna & Flora

Namaqua Dove (*Oena Capensis*)



The Namaqua dove occurs across sub-Saharan Africa, occupying a wide variety of mostly arid habitats, such as *Acacia* savanna, arid shrubland, farmland and rural gardens. It eats almost exclusively seeds, doing most of its foraging on the ground, especially on gravel or on the edges of roads. The nest is a fragile saucer made mostly of twigs, usually placed about 1 metre above ground in a shrub, tree sapling or dead branch. It lays 1-2 eggs, which are incubated by both sexes, for 13-16 days. In one study, the chicks were brooded for the first 4-5 days of their lives and remained in the nest for 16 days.

Distribution and habitat: Occurs across sub-Saharan Africa, absent only from the lowland forests of West Africa and the DRC. In southern Africa it is widespread and common, occurring across Namibia, Botswana, parts of Mozambique, Zimbabwe and South Africa. It generally prefers *Acacia* savanna, arid shrublands, agricultural areas, farmyards, rural gardens and occasionally alien tree stands.

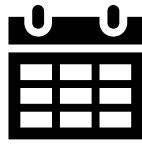
Predators: *Falco peregrinus* (Peregrine falcon); *Falco chicquera* (Red-necked falcon).

Food: Eats almost exclusively seeds, doing most of its foraging on the ground, especially on gravel or on the edges of roads. The following food items have been recorded in its diet: Seeds - *Amaranthus* (pigweed); *Aridaria* (donkievygies); *Chenopodium mucronatum* (Misbredie).

Breeding: Both sexes build the nest, which is fragile saucer made of rootlets, twigs and petioles, with the inside lined with grass and rootlets. It is typically placed about one metre above ground in an *Acacia* sapling, shrub, dead branch or occasionally a grass tuft. Egg-laying season is year-round, peaking from about July-December. It lays 1-2 eggs, which are incubated by both sexes for 13-16 days. In one study, the chicks were brooded for the first 4-5 days of their lives, remaining in the nest for 16 days.

Threats: Not threatened, in fact widespread and common

(http://www.biodiversityexplorer.info/birds/columbidae/oena_capensis.htm)



Events



Important Dates

10 Dec - Human Rights day (Public Holiday on 11 Dec)

15 Dec to 15 Jan - Contractors Holiday



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

30 Nov - Roberto's Pizza @ Luv Earth Bush Stall



Farmers Market *(Contact Esme @ 081-277-8766)*

2 Dec - Farmers Market @ Windhoek Showgrounds

9 Dec - Farmers Christmas Market @ Windhoek Showgrounds



MTB Cycling

8 Dec - Nedbank Desert Dash @ Grove Mall of Namibia



Meetings *(Contact Tiffany van Wyk @ 081-143-4820)*

24 Jan 2024 - Trustee Meeting, 17h30 @ FHA-Office Boardroom



Advertisements

PURCHASING 'LOCAL-IS-LEKKER' GIFTS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

[Sew Good Namibia](#) is a small-scale women's community group that upcycles luxury furnishing fabric into a wide range of unique, ecofriendly products – tote bags, shopping bags, table runners etc. that are ideal for gifting this holiday season!

Two of the craftswomen – **Julia and Amory** – work at Finkenstein Estate so by making a purchase from one of the stores that stocks their work, you are contributing directly to uplifting families in our community.

[Bookden](#) (Windhoek West)

[Decadenz](#) (Eros Shopping Centre)

[Gifts & Goodies](#) (Woerman Brock, Klein Windhoek)

[Namibia Coffee Roasters](#) (Southern Industrial Area)

[Kapps Farmstall](#) (by the airport road police checkpoint)

[The Made in Namibia Collection](#) (Swakopmund)

[The Wool Café](#) (Swakopmund)

[Rooi Dak Padstal](#) (Barkhan Dune Retreat, Solitaire)



Or contact project manager Mel Kelly (081 1271741) for more information.



Advertisements



Elsec Security Systems will be operational again as from the 4th of December in the afternoons from 14h00 onwards.

Contact

Paul Hiestermann @ 081 293 3145



From the Manager

A Year in Review

At last, the finish line is in sight, bring on Christmas and the New Year celebrations!

2023 has proven to be a memorable year for many residents as well as the Estate. Our Board of Trustees and Management has seen some changes this year; with the addition of Mr. Pieter Reyneke as Trustee, the farewell of Mr. Markus Lubbe as Trustee, the welcoming of Ms. Tiffany van Wyk as Office Assistant, the transfer of Ms. Bianca Holtz now assisting the Estate from her home in Swakopmund, and lastly the addition of Mr. Immanuel Gomaseb as Blue Collar worker.

The Bridge : The addition of a communal socialising space in the Estate has swept through the community like a breath of fresh air, with many Members and Residents already making use of this multifunctional area in various ways. This area has been complemented with a new trail starting in Gemsbok Street and ending at the new bridge crossing.

Signage : This year has seen directional Trail Board signage being installed on all our Estate nature trails, as well as the replacement of various road signs and all Street Name boards.

Estate Perimeter : The gravel road around the Estate was graded with two blades' width this year. This will provide more security in terms of distance, should a fire occur, but also in terms of visibility. The addition of cameras on the western perimeter and the clearing of bushes all around has indeed added much value to the Estate and its Members and Residents.

Mulch : Our FHA mulch service has proven to be of excellent value to the Estate in managing bush clearing as an alternative to removing the vegetation. Mulching the material with our new Kalahari Woodchipper, bagging and selling the repurposed material to the Finkenstein Community has indeed established a sustainable practice whilst adding value to Finkenstein gardens.

Electricity : The FHA Board of Trustees and Management have been driving the process of continuous engagement between the FDT, ECB and Nampower throughout the year to bring about the much needed upgrade of the Finkenstein transformer, as per the ECB ruling of 2022. This has come with some on-going challenges which are still being addressed. A positive outcome this year was the addition of a generator to the Finkenstein grid by the developer, providing additional capacity in the short term during maximum demand periods through the winter. We will continue the process of engagement with all stakeholders and maintain the pressure to ensure the long term security of sufficient electrical supply to the whole Finkenstein community.

Solar : This year has seen the addition of many solar systems in the Estate. Perhaps this was driven to an extent by happenings at Eskom in South Africa, but also by Members wanting to take control of their own electrical security. Members are informed that a total of 470kVA of capacity in solar generated electricity has been installed in the Estate and currently feeding back into the grid. A limit has been set by the electrical infrastructure consultants (B&P) at 500kVA in this regard to ensure electrical stability within the Finkenstein reticulation network. Once this total has been reached, Members will still be allowed to install solar systems at their residences, but will not be allowed to feed back into the grid until the transformer at the Finkenstein substation has been upgraded.



From the Manager

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Water : The second half of 2023 has seen the Estate implementing Stage 2 Water Tariffs to manage stricter water usage limits. This is due to overall lower fresh water levels in the country due to lower rainfall amounts. Members are encouraged to investigate the use of technological solutions to manage their domestic water usage. Different Smart Water Meters and services are currently available on the market.

Thank you to all Members and Residents of Finkenstein Estate for making this year a big success! This year has seen a renewal in positive spirit amongst the community, evident through two successful community meetings held (SGM in June and AGM in November). Outcomes were constructive with progress being the end goal.

I started off this year by mentioning that 2023 is the year of the rabbit (Chinese Zodiac) and that my wish for the Estate was to move forward in leaps and bounds this year to achieve new heights. Reflecting back I can confirm that this year indeed brought about a spirit of renewal, hope and positive change. To a large extent I think that this is due to good communication, a common interest, transparency in governance, and the common will for constructive action.

Firstly, I would like to thank the FHA Board of Trustees for steering this ship of ours in the right direction, ensuring that we are equipped with the right vision and tools to make this journey of residing at Finkenstein Estate a memorable one. Secondly, I would like to thank all the FHA Staff for their hard work of executing in all facets to ensure that the service being delivered to our Members and Residents are marked with quality, friendliness and effectiveness.

As we approach the last month of the year, my wish for everyone is to enjoy this festive time with your loved ones. Make time for the small things, laugh as much as you can, soak up our Namibian sunshine with you friends & family, appreciate each drop of rain from above, wonder at our magnificent landscapes and appreciate this season in your life.

Stay safe, travel safe and enjoy your holidays!

As they say in Spanish – ***“Hasta la vista!”***

“As you grow older, you will discover that you have two hands: one for helping yourself, the other for helping others.” – Audrey Hepburn

Kind regards

FHA Estate Manager

Dewald du Plessis



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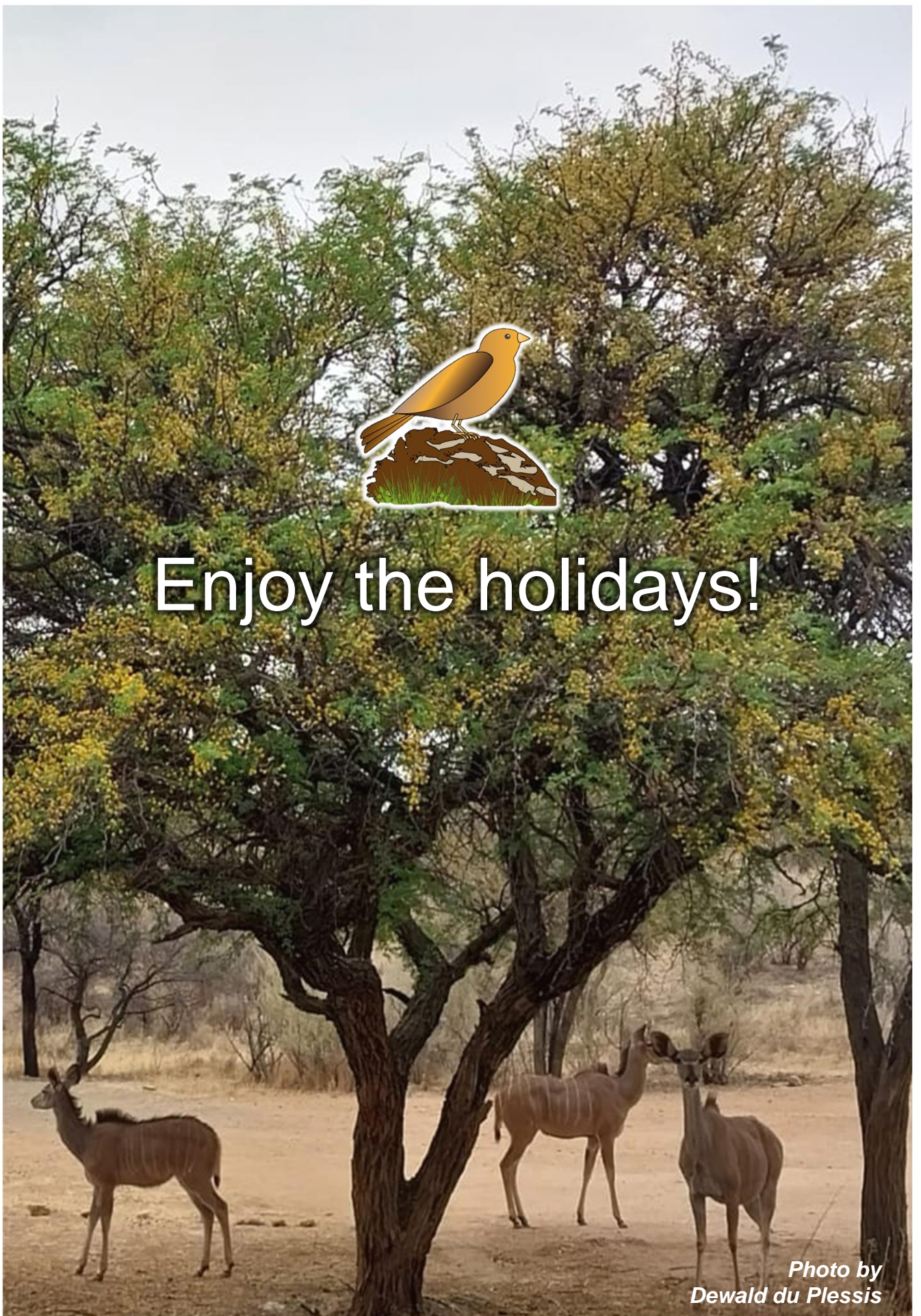
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Enjoy the holidays!



*Photo by
Dewald du Plessis*