

FAUNA AND FLORA COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

The purpose of the Committee is to act within the “Terms of Reference” approved by the Board on 3 September 2015.

The committee, comprising of Dirk Uys, Geoff Anderson, Alta Barnard, Jan Rousseau, Doro Wiederhold, Cherry Ronbeck, Ockert van Jaarsveld, Jan Vermeulen and Lizette van Vuuren, met four times during the year and a number of projects were addressed.

Our focus is still on structured and programmed maintenance of the landscaped areas as well as the conservation of our natural fynbos/renosterveld environment. We are sure that the visual impact is much appreciated by all.

The projects completed for 2019 were:

- Tree Maintenance: A few tall and half dead pines on communal land that required attention were identified and addressed accordingly
- Fynbos planting: Additional fynbos planting was done on Protea Circle, along Fish Eagle and King Fisher Avenues.
- Tree Planting: Trees were planted below the golf nursery and below the 1st green.
- Shrub Planting: Additional planting was done at Village Square.
- Sedge grasses were also planted around some of our dams
- Paving of four parking areas. The temporary areas created as additional parking in Yellowwood and Cormorant Streets as well as Spurwing Close became visually unattractive, requiring constant maintenance. The Committee opted to solve this situation on a permanent basis by paving these areas.

The committee recommended that the annual planting of 100 trees be put on hold until further notice and to rather concentrate on nurturing the trees that we have. This was agreed by the Board.

A new updated bird brochure of birds found on Arabella, was produced and has been distributed to all home owners. Additional copies are available at the estate office. We also, through a recommendation from the Marketing Committee, have a Bird Book “Garden Birds of South Africa” available in which 70% of the birds in the book, are found on the estate. Every home owner will soon receive a complimentary copy of this book and it will also be in future home owner Welcome packs.

The clearing of dry and dead fynbos in critical areas was identified as part of the fire plan for the communal areas and was completed. This will continue annually as part of the annual landscaping maintenance program.

The Capex items purchased during the year have been very useful in ensuring that related tasks are able to be carried out effectively and efficiently. The two additional aerators in Bullrush and Spring dams have also proven to be very beneficial.

The committee is investigating the option of a bird hide and this will continue during the course of 2020.

Regular private garden inspections are carried out to ensure that gardens are well maintained. We thank the majority of homeowners who look after their gardens! We hope that all homeowners will remove exotics from their gardens and replace them with indigenous plants, in line with our guidelines. The Landscaping Guidelines were amended to include small scale vegetable gardens.



The Committee has identified the following focus areas/projects for 2020:

- Fynbos Planting
- Protea Circle Upgrade
- Upgrade of our Putt-Putt course
- Fire Preventative Maintenance

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the committee members for their active participation in the fruitful and very interactive meetings during the year.

Dirk Uys
Chairman