



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ROODEKRANS

A NEWS PAGE FOR SUPPORTERS

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The year has started and a new breeding cycle for the Black Eagles of Roodekrans will begin at the end of February, with the refurbishing of their nest. Large sticks and branches will be brought in by both eagles and carefully placed to form an egg cup. Emoyeni does most of the furniture arranging, as it is mainly her that will sit on the nest for 45-47 days of incubation. By mid March smaller sticks and sprays will start to be brought to the nest and as they near the time to laying, leafy green sprays. These green sprays will form a cushion and a perfect egg cup for Emoyeni to sit in during incubation. Leafy green sprays will continue to be brought to the nest during the breeding cycle for comfort and because they act as have a disinfectant property for the nest. Rhus leptodictys and Nuxia cojester, the latter being heavily scented are the main trees used, at times we have observed Kiepisol leaves. (Cabbage Tree) Amazing how nature works if only we would leave it alone without interfering.

Good news from the Waterberg is that our Bafana is doing exceptionally well and is answering to his feeding whistle. He is still in the enclosure as we are waiting for his tail feathers to grow. If you remember these were damaged while he was in hospital, unfortunately they all fell out and took a few attempts to finally be strong enough to survive. It was a worrying time as we would not be able to release him should they have not grown back, but according to Nikkie from Free Me they are looking good.

Once his feathers have grown he will start his release program. You can see by the latest photos of him what a stunning bird he has become.



We were very distressed that the Proteadal development was given the final go ahead in December 2010. Once again our government has our country down. How can an original decline be around to give the developer's the go ahead. The fact portion of land has been declined on many previous by Mogale City to develop it and that it falls

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within the Urban Wildlife Reserve, which was given the go ahead last year by the same department GDARD. After many discussions and debating the situation, the Black Eagle Project with the backing of WESSA and other I&AP'S decided to take yet another development to the law courts. Our attorney's from the Sugarbush case, Bell Dewar, assisted us in retaining the services of Tim de Wet from Denys Reitz Attorneys on a pro bono basis. Once again we will endeavor to prevent our environment from being decimated by bulldozers that will destroy vital hunting habitat not only for the eagles but many other fauna and flora species'. For us to do this we will need support and sponsorship to pay for professional reports and administration costs of our experts. **Please consider supporting this worthwhile project.**

This year we should come to a final outcome for the Sugarbush case. We met with the developer and the attorneys at the site last year December, for a site inspection and came to an agreement that BEPR would do some co-ordinates of where development must not take place; unfortunately it has not stopped raining so we have not been able to do it. Once we have done it we will submit it in a proposal to their attorneys and meet for final discussions. We would have liked to have saved more land but at least we have prevented development on most of the ridges, protea forest and orchid sites, the latter last seen in 1956.

The camera will once again be transmitting the goings on from the nest. We are hoping to replace the camera but are still in discussions with the sponsor at the moment. The cam will be on line from March at www.blackeagles.co.za

The South African Biodiversity Institute is launching a new Biodiversity Magazine.

This is a new bi-annual publication, the first issue of which will be in May 2011 followed by the second in November of that year. The magazine will cover opinion and issues, current events and social, in-depth research content. As the magazine has the potential to become a strategically important association, it was decided by the committee to take out a half page advertisement in each edition to demonstrate commitment. We are therefore looking for a dedicated corporate or corporates to sponsor the cost of the advertisements. We would then insert the company logo in the advert reflecting their support. Should your company be interested in sponsoring this project please email me at the email address below.

Donations can be deposited directly into our account, please email proof of payment to verreaux@mweb.co.za.

First National Bank
Randridge Mall 255955
Account Number; 62108581043
Current account

Have a wonderful year and many thanks for your concern and support.

Kind Regards
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