



Namibian Environment & Wildlife Society

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Issue 1 - March 2010

Contact Details: NEWS

Director: Position vacant

Office Coordinator: Position vacant

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NEWS 2010 - QUO VADIS?

A new year with new challenges indeed, with NEWS taking some strain due to important vacant positions, that of the Director & Office Coordinator, hampering progress. Change is always difficult, but more so when you lose good people. The first NEWS Director, Helge Denker, has taken up another challenging position with WWF and this loss is sorely felt although unanimously we wish him all the best as well as thank him for his tireless commitment to our cause.

Problems on the other hand spur challenges, often difficult, but rarely insurmountable. The NEWS committee is investigating the following options:

- a) Appoint a new Director
- b) Chairperson taking on extra responsibilities and being remunerated accordingly

Should any NEWS members have any ideas, suggestions and/or recommendations regarding the above mentioned issues please contact the NEWS office (Information@NEWS-Namibia.org).

As for myself, I have returned from self imposed exile in Saudi Arabia where I was conducting research on an indigenous gazelle species and assisting with park management - but more about this at a later stage - and have volunteered to assist with the NEWS-letters until the AGM on 24 March 2010 (18h00 at the Scientific Society, Windhoek).

Peter Cunningham [Ex-Deputy Chairperson 2007 & Roan News Editor 2001 to 2007]

The following environmental newsletters of interest have recently been distributed and can be viewed at the following websites:

- NAMIBIA CRANE NEWS
No 45 - JANUARY 2010
WWW.NNF.ORG.NA/CRANES
- RAPTORS NAMIBIA NEWSLETTER
- NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009
WWW.NNF.ORG.NA/RAPTORS
- BROWN HYENA PROJECT
NEWSLETTER - Issue 28,
December 2009
WWW.STRANDWOLF.ORG.ZA
- NADEET GOLDEN MOLE
NEWSLETTER No 7.2
WWW.NADEET.ORG

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

NADEET OUTING	2
NEWS STAND	2
PRESENTATION	2
PRESENTATION UPDATE	3
ROLL OF HONOUR	3

NEWS NADEET outing May 2009: Diana Thompson

The following is an extract regarding the 2009 NEWS NaDEET outing. Keep in mind that this outing takes place again during the 1st week of May 2010 - Ed

Carbon footprints! These are the buzz words of today but how do those of us who live in cities, towns and villages manage to measure our carbon footprint? The answer is, go to NaDEET and experience the lifestyle there and measure your carbon footprint for those few days. You will come away with a greater awareness of what you use and what you waste.

I was fortunate enough to be one of the Botsoc (Botanical Society of Namibia) members who joined up with the NEWS members going on the annual outing to NaDEET, from 1 – 4 May 2009. Pieter Mostert was kind enough to give us a lift and the journey was very pleasant. First impressions of the NaDEET office were good, young Vicki greeted us warmly and gave us further instructions of where to go and what to do.

It is good to keep an open mind re accommodation and ablution facilities. My expectations from the information given us had not exactly run to sleeping on mattresses on the floor, all four of us in one big room with fish net being half the wall height and the A-frame type overhead structure. Each house certainly has its own ablution block – but outside! Having roughed it on many previous occasions I was able to adapt quickly but imagine that some folk might have a problem or two.

Our hosts were knowledgeable, easy to talk to and well organized. The food was tasty and plentiful and I found the instruction that we had on the solar cooking methods used most interesting. Could they be easily used in town? Only with a complete change of attitude and lifestyle I think, whereas the energy saving stove used for boiling water in the early morning for breakfast would be

extremely practical if the paper/wood briquettes were easily available and affordable. The daily outings were an opportunity to enjoy the countryside, the scenery and all the creatures great and small that God has seen fit to incorporate in that area. The exercise was great as well, but again, a bit more information on what to expect would have been helpful. In the programme outline given us the first evening we got an idea of what to expect and I was just thrilled that I managed as much as I did.

Back to our carbon footprints! Having our water, hot and cold, measured on a daily basis, weighing our different types of rubbish and measuring the amount of energy we had used in lighting and cooking over the four days, gave us an idea of the impact we as a group had made on the environment. It was a wonderful group, many of whom knew each other, but us rookies were made to feel part of it and welcome. If the opportunity comes my way again, I would repeat the experience because of the necessity of being made aware again and again of what we take from this wonderful creation.



(2009 NEWS outing at NaDEET © Linda Millington

NEWS stand

Ever since its official launch beginning of July 2009 the first NEWS-stand has proven itself to be an interesting and popular spot for locals as well as visitors from abroad to stock up on free environmental material. While strolling through the different stalls on the upper level of the Namibia Craft Centre (Tal Street in Windhoek) many are attracted by the solid wooden NEWS cubicle,

on which two opposite info-sides display information pamphlets and/or membership leaflets of many of the current 26 NEWS Partner Organisations.

Staff of the Mud Hut Trading, attend and assist when it comes to the purchase of any of the sales items from the stand and we are furthermore grateful for the support of Adrian & Meyer, Maerua Super Spar, Namibia Engineering Corporation and The Wood Connection, who support advertising space and show their commitment and social responsibility towards a healthy environment.

For more information on advertising, space, etc. please contact: Information@NEWS-Namibia.org



(NEWS-stand © Manuela Schmid)

Commiphora & Kunene Region Presentation

Karen Nott works for the Integrated Rural Development for Nature Conservation, better known as IRDNC, in NW Namibia where she coordinates the local Himba communities responsible for the collection of *Commiphora wildii* resin (gum) for the perfume industry and furthermore researches the botanical and local knowledge opportunities to enhance sustainable development of natural resources.

On 10 March 2010 at 19h30, Karen will be presenting some of her findings at the Scientific Society's lecture hall. You are hereby cordially invited to attend this guaranteed interesting presentation.



(*C. wildii* © Peter Cunningham)

2009 Presentation Update

22 April 2009: Colin Christian
"Cool Your Feet in an Arctic Winter"

08 June 2009: Dr. Laurie Marker
"The Future of Namibia's Cheetahs"

15 July 2009: Tharina Bird
"Catch me if you can - Namibia's 8-legged sprinters"

05 August 2009: Dr. Margaret Sikwese & Tagwi Paradzayi
"Two years of reflections and experiences in an international award winning programme"

14 October 2009: Kerryn Carter
"Social organisation of giraffe in Etosha National Park"

04 November 2009: Dr Antje Burke
"Green is indispensable - The role of plants in environmental management"

01 December 2009: Steve Bellan
"Tracking outbreaks of disease using scavenger movement patterns Anthrax in Etosha National Park" & John Paterson
"The work of the Albatross Task Force"

Roll of Honour

We gratefully acknowledge the support of our corporate members, which allows us to pursue our mission to conserve the natural environment of Namibia and to promote appropriate protection, wise and sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable development.

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* Wilderness Safaris Guide Training Division

Newsletter editors:

Peter Cunningham & Ndafuda Shiponeni