



NEWSLETTER – JULY 2024

Dear Marulani Friends

As the secretary of Marulani, I am excited to share my first newsletter with you. My goal is to keep you informed throughout the year, with positive news, beautiful photographs, and useful information.

As we all know, Marulani is a true paradise. Whenever we visit Ferwes and drive through Marulani, we are reminded of how fortunate we are to be part of such a wonderful place. Marulani has so many stunning places to explore, such as picnic spots, Modderspruit dam, mountains, trees, and wildlife. We would like to express our gratitude to the board, Estienne, staff, and security for their hard work and dedication in making Marulani a piece of heaven on earth.

We can enjoy various activities such as braais, having a drink or, picnic at "Modderspruit," the stunning waterfall, the beautiful sunsets and sunrises, and the fountain in one of the mountains, which make this a very special place. We must preserve Marulani as it is for the sake of our children.

Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to sharing more wonderful news with you in the future.

Best regards

Dr Petrus Lombard

Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2025.

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday, 14 September 2024 at Marulani. We will send more details closer to the time.

Board members for 2024.

	Name	Cell Number	e-mail address	Portfolios
1.	Johan Prins (Chairperson)	082 574 1437	johan@prinsacc.co.za	Finance, Farm Management, Share transfers, Shareholder complaints
2.	Byron Wilson	083 600 2232	byronw.vc@gmail.com	Security, Shareholder complaints
3.	Dr. Charles Serrurier	082 772 7229	drcserrurier@gmail.com	Game & veld management, Shareholders complaints
4.	Dr Petrus Lombard	082 857 7912	petrusiplombard@gmail.com	Newsletters, Secretarial, WhatsApp, Communication with shareholders, Biosphere, Update shareholder's information
5.	Jan du Plessis	072 318 5988	Duplessisjan@outlook.com	Legal, Rules & Regulations
6.	Russell Aird	083 289 5119	russell@kayamandi.com	Extra income generation, Website, Building plans, Insurance and compliance issues

Veld and game management

Dr. L.C.J. Serrurier proposed the following Game Management plan, and as part of the project, we are glad to give feedback to the owners of Marulani.

1. Proposed sale and purchase of game.**Game to be caught and sold by Marulani:**

Species and gender	Numbers	Estimated revenue post-capture
Nyala bulls	5	60 000
Kudu bulls	2	85 000
Blue Wildebeest cows	5	20 000
Zebra family group	10	35 000
	Total	R 200 000

Proposed game to be purchased by Marulani: (will only be done as funds become available)

Species and gender	Numbers	Estimated cost incl. delivery
Sable Mixed group 1 bull 3 cows	4	85 000
Red Hartebeest bull	1	10 000
Common Reedbuck mixed group	5	40 000
Water-buffalo mixed group	3	70 000 [Not an urgent priority]
		R 205 000

We have purchased a new breeding Sable bull and are in the process of negotiating the purchase of some new breeding Wildebeest bulls, a Hartebeest bull and a Waterbuck bull. Some Zebras and Blue Wildebeest have also been sold.

Impala will be traded and swopped on an ad hoc basis to appropriately enhance the gene pool.



New Sable bull on the left. Photos courtesy of Estienne & Petrus

2. Eradication of Alien plants project@Marulani

For the first time, shareholders were part of the eradication project at Marulani. The board, in collaboration with Estienne, our farm manager, organised 2 days in March 2024, to train shareholders on how to assist with the eradication of especially Lantana on Marulani. The other alien plants like Pompom, Bankrotbossie (bankrupt bush) and “Pluisbossie” will be done by the farm team. Several shareholders attended the training.

Arnaud le Roux did a presentation and some practical demonstrations on the alien plants. Owners also learnt how to spray them as well as information on the “Do’s and Don’ts” of eradicating the alien plants.

Several owners indicated that they wanted to be involved and they can contact Estienne as soon as the growing season starts. Together we can make an impact on the eradication of the Lantanas on Marulani. We also received a substantial donation from one of the owners for the eradication of the Lantanas in Silver Valley.

Poison is available in containers for those owners who want to assist. Please contact Estienne or Petrus Lombard if you want to become involved.



Arnaud le Roux did a presentation and some practical demonstrations on the alien plants

Legal & Governance

A one-pager for owners on some of the rules of Marulani was sent out to all designated shareholders and a laminated copy was distributed to every house at Marulani. Please make it available to all your visitors, family and friends.

Security@Marulani

Since last year we have not had any incidents at Marulani. We want to remind you to stay vigilant on the farm. Although there were some incidents on other farms, we want to inform you that our security is being extra vigilant. Please make sure that you lock the doors of your house as well as your cars for the night. Make sure no cell phones, laptops and car keys are lying around. Put them in a safe place.

Key lockers at Marulani gate.

50 key lockers were installed at the gate. Each unit will receive a locker and every owner must put in his code. The locker also has an overriding key that can be used to open the key locker without a combination code. The farm manager will not have access to any locker's combination code, or the security locker and it will be the responsibility of each shareholder to manage their own combination code.

Gas COS certificates

One of our insurance requirements is that each unit with a gas installation must have a valid gas COC certificate. We want to thank shareholders who have made a concerted effort to be compliant in this regard.

There are currently only two units with outstanding gas COC certificates.

Dogs@Marulani.

If you are bringing your dog to the farm, please look at this memo again. Some owners are not keeping to the rules.

Memo: "We are relaxing the bylaw on domesticated animals and pets not being allowed on the farm. Given the stealth nature of the break-ins, an early warning ability would be useful where possible. So with immediate effect, shareholders can, under strict conditions, bring their dogs to Marulani, which can hopefully provide their 'early detection' capability. Under basic conservation and animal husbandry principle's this is normally a 'no-no'. However, we believe the benefits outweigh other considerations at this time. If you do bring your dog to the farm, it must be declared to Estienne (or to the guards at the gate) and the dog is to be restricted to the confines of your house only. It cannot be allowed to run free or accompany you on game drives and, of course, shouldn't disturb the neighbouring houses. Please dispose of dog waste appropriately as it is likely to contain germs and bacteria alien to the farm. The converse is also true whereby your animal may be exposed to a variety of ticks, horse flies, and other parasites if it is allowed to roam the veld. Under no circumstances should the dogs interact, scare or worry the wild animals on the farm. I must stress that this is an interim measure whilst the current abnormal security situation exists. The Directors reserve the right at its discretion to reintroduce the bylaw as circumstances dictate or if the relaxation is abused."

Farm Management.

1. Ash bins@Marulani



The board investigated the feasibility of providing an ash bin at each of the houses (As opposed to at the main gate) which will allow shareholders to dispose of their ash (Hot or cold) directly into their own bins which will then be emptied periodically by Marulani. This option seems to be the most plausible as it will eliminate most of the issues we had to deal with under the current arrangement. We are aware that some shareholders already have their own ash bins and will therefore provide ash bins (Similar to those that were placed at the main gate) to interested shareholders for R 400 once off per bin. We have already bought a limited number of bins and request shareholders who are interested in having their own bins to contact Estienne. No warm ash or refuse will be removed. The first ones will be available shortly.

1. Beehives@Marulani



The board approved the placement of a number of beehives on Marulani. All measures will be put in place to make it as safe as possible for animals as well as people. A beekeeper will handle the beehives with years of experience in bees and beehives. Providing sites with better protection would ensure a healthy honeybee population that can contribute to a balanced natural ecosystem at Marulani. Wooden enclosures like hollows in trees and wooden hives will not give the desired protection, but rock caves or concrete hives will. From these “fortified structures” the honeybees can populate wider through natural swarming. These swarms will not be managed to ensure the upkeep of a much larger ecosystem. The idea is also that the beekeeper will harvest the honey and make it available to shareholders under a Marulani branding. The idea is not to make money out of this venture, but rather to promote a healthy ecosystem with some benefits to shareholders and marketing of Marulani.

Martin Cook will handle the beehives@Marulani. He maintains good relations with fellow beekeepers through Sabio, (South African Beekeeping Industry Organization), Northern Beekeepers Association, and the Southern Beekeeping Association. He currently has hives around Centurion and the Pretoria–Cullinan area, Bela-Bela and Badplaas next to the Komati river.

In the following newsletter Martin will give us more information on bees and their value on a game farm.

3. Upgrading@Marulani.

Over the past few months Estienne, our farm manager and his team did a lot of upgrading on the infrastructure of Marulani. Building a new picnic site at Porcupine Valley which will be completed soon, making firebreaks, upgrading of roads, maintenance on vehicles, fences, and water supply system, putting up signage, catching of game, and feeding of game, are only a few things he and his team handle on a day-to-day basis. I included a few photos just to show some of the work done to make Marulani a place to enjoy.



Jackalberry & Porcupine picnic spots.





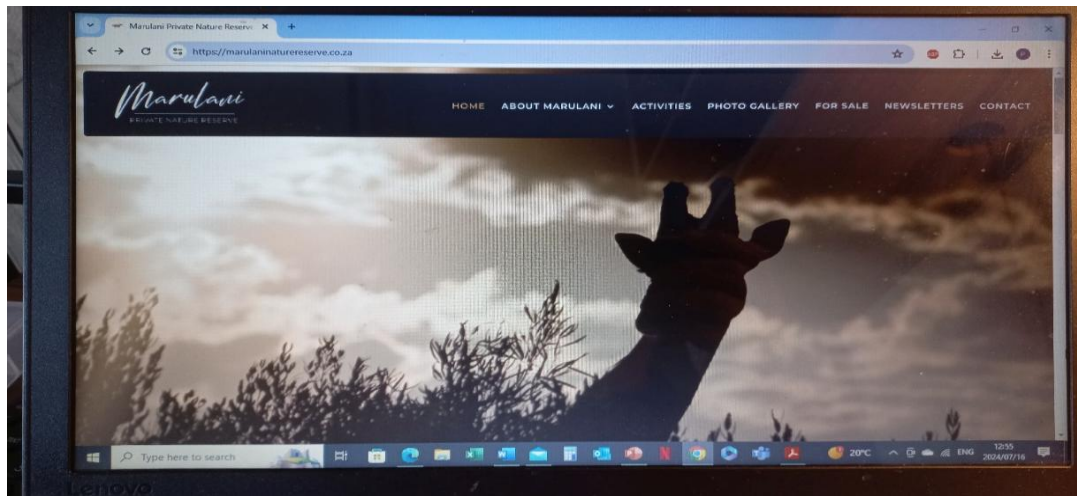
Insurance:

For any insurance-related matters please contact Russell Aird @ 083 289 5119 or airdrussell@gmail.com.

Social media (Use of website, WhatsApp, e-mail, and website).

It was decided that the website would be updated once per term (4 times per year). Please visit our webpage. You can also send photos to us to upload on the website.

Please put your name on the photos. You can e-mail the photos to petrus.lombard@gmail.com. Please visit <https://marulaninaturereserve.co.za/> for the website.



Please be on the lookout for our messages on the Marulani official WhatsApp group, as well as our Marulani Facebook page called Marulani Game Ranch.

IMPORTANT: If you want to advertise a stand or house at Marulani, you can contact Russell Aird at 083 289 5119. Special price until end August 2024: R250.

Birds @ Marulani



Photos taken at Modderspruit dam by Petrus Lombard

The African fish eagle is a large bird. The female, at 3.2–3.6 kg (7.1–7.9 lb) is larger than the male, at 2.0–2.5 kg (4.4–5.5 lb). This is typical sexual dimorphism in birds of prey. Males usually have wingspans around 2.0 m (6.6 ft), while females have wingspans of 2.4 m (7.9 ft). The body length is 63–75 cm (25–29.5 in). The adult is very distinctive in appearance with a mostly brown body a white head like the bald eagle and large, powerful, black wings. The head, breast, and tail of African fish eagles are snow white, except for the featherless face, which is yellow. The eyes are dark brown in colour. The hook-shaped beak, ideal for a carnivorous lifestyle, is yellow with a black tip. The plumage of the juvenile is brown, and the eyes are paler than the adult's. The feet have rough soles and are equipped with powerful talons to enable the eagle to grasp slippery aquatic prey. While this species mainly subsists on fish, it is opportunistic and may take a wider variety of prey, such as waterbirds. Its distinctive cry is, for many, evocative of the spirit or essence of Africa. The call, shriller when uttered by males, is a *weee-ah*, *hyo-hyo* or a *heee-ah*, *heeah-heeah*.



The Common Wagtail. Photo taken by Alin Mason

The **common wagtail** (*Cossypha caffra*) is a small insectivorous bird species that is common in southern and eastern Africa. The bird owes its name to its call, which sounds like the syllables *jan-fre-drik*. It is predominantly a breeding resident bird in southern and eastern Africa

The “janfrederik” is 16 to 17 cm long. The adult is grey-feathered on top, and slightly olive-tinged on the mantle feathers. The sides of the face, in front and behind the eye, are blackish, and separated from the grey crown by a white supercilium. The chin, throat, central breast, cross and covert feathers on the tail are orange, and the central tail feathers are grey-brown. The belly feathers are pale grey.

The black bill is short and straight, with a slightly curved upper bill. The legs and feet are pinkish-grey, and the eyes are brown. The sexes are similar, but the young bird is dark brown above, and pale brown below, with heavy pale brown markings on the upper side and greyish-brown markings on the breast.

It has a scratchy, low, three-syllable alarm note *WHA-dur-dra* or *JAN-fre-drink*. The chant consists of varying short phrases of musical notes, which always kick off with a low legato flute trill, e.g. *jerooo-whiet-whiet-wheet*.

Animals @ Marulani

“Klipspringer” (Rock jumper)



Photos taken by Nigel Dennis

Klipspringer [*Oreotragus oreotragus*] The name Klipspringer is the Afrikaans for 'rock jumper' and alludes to the animal's ability in rocky territory where it can be seen moving freely, seemingly on tiptoe.

Appearance

What is a Klipspringer?

Weighing 11-13 kg and standing 500-600mm high at the shoulders, the Klipspringer is a small and stocky antelope. Ewes are slightly larger than the rams. Only rams have short horns, which are ringed only at the base. The Klipspringer has smallish rounded ears positioned far back on the head and with noticeable dark inner markings.

The coarse-haired coat is variable in colour with shades of grey, yellow, brown or red, with marked white underparts, chin and lips. A prominent feature is the large, black pre-orbital gland.

Diet

What do Klipspringers eat?

The Klipspringer diet consists of the selective browsing of flowers, tender green shoots and fruits of a wide variety of shrubs and herbs. Hardly ever feeds on grass. Not dependent on drinking water.

The Sable



The Sable

Appearance

The Sable Antelope is large and handsome. Sable Antelope are characterised by glossy black coats with white underparts and white facial markings. Cows and young are dark brown in colour. Both sexes have stiff black manes along the dorsal aspects of their necks. The shoulder height of bulls is 1.4 m, which weighs up to 270 Kg.

Cows are slightly smaller. Both sexes have long horns, which are ridged, and which curve backwards. Tips of horns are smooth and sharp pointed. The scimitar-shaped horns of mature bulls can be up to 1.2 m in length. The horns on females are shorter and slimmer. Ears are brick red at the back and shorter than that of the Roan antelope. The horn of the young becomes visible at the age of two months.

Sable Antelope Diet

Their diet consists predominantly of grass. They favour spear grass, red grass and various species of *Brachiaria*, *Urochloa* and *Panicum*. A variety of sedges are also taken around water points. This is a grazer of climax vegetation, which crops grass at a relatively high level off the ground. A fair amount of bones of carcasses left in the veld are chewed to counter phosphorous deficiencies.

Breeding

Cows first become sexually receptive at the age of three years and would drop their first calves at the age of three years. After a gestation period of 270 days, they give birth to single calves weighing 17 Kg at birth. Calves are hidden in tall grass for the first two weeks, during which time they are visited by their mothers for suckling and grooming. Calves show an interest in grass at an early stage and are fully weaned at eight months.

Sable Antelope Behaviour

Sable is most active during early mornings and late afternoons and drinks water at mid-day. This is a gregarious antelope, showing great variation in herd sizes. During the calving season, small groups with pregnant cows separate from larger groups consisting of young and non-breeding animals. During late winter large herds congregate on bunt areas or moist vleis. Territorial bulls will evict young bulls from breeding groups when they become sexually mature at the age of three years.

Habitat

Sable prefer open savannah woodlands or moist "vleis" (Afrikaans), which they select for medium height, good quality grass cover.

Trees/plants@Marulani

Common Name: Lantana



Scientific Name:

Lantana camara (Verbenaceae)

Alternative common names:

Bird's brandy; cherry pie; tick-berry (English), gewone lantana; gomdagga (Afrikaans), sumba (Shona); ubukhwebezane (isiZulu), ubutywala bentaka (isiXhosa)

Description:

A spreading shrub or untidy scrambler growing up to 2m or higher. Stems are usually covered with short, stiff hairs and recurved thorns. Dark green, rough, hairy leaves which are paler below and smell strongly when crushed. Pink, red, crimson, orange, yellow or white flowers in compact, flat-topped heads, often with several colours in one head, appear from September to April. Glossy green fruits which turn purplish-black. Poisonous.

Why is it a problem?

Competes with and replaces indigenous species. Allelopathic suppression of indigenous species interrupts regeneration processes and reduces the biodiversity of natural ecosystems. Dense stands in plantations obstruct access and utilization. Poisonous to humans and animals and responsible for livestock mortalities amounting to millions of Rands every year in South Africa. Reduces the grazing potential of the land.

The NEMBA legislation refers only to the family - Lantana (not Lantana Camara per se). The Category 1b listing therefore refers to: "All seed-producing lantana species or seed-producing hybrids that are non-indigenous to South Africa"

- Seeds have been found on ALL Lantana camara species, cultivars and hybrids. Category 1b.
- Seeds have also been found on the yellow-flowering Lantana montevidensis 'Sundancer'. Category 1b.
- Seeds have not been found - to date - on the white and lilac flowering varieties of Lantana montevidensis. These two varieties remain in the grey zone. Legally you can sell them, but conservationists are constantly reporting landowners and nurseries - for owning, growing and selling these cultivars - to the Green Scorpions (Environmental Management Inspectorate).

What does it look like?

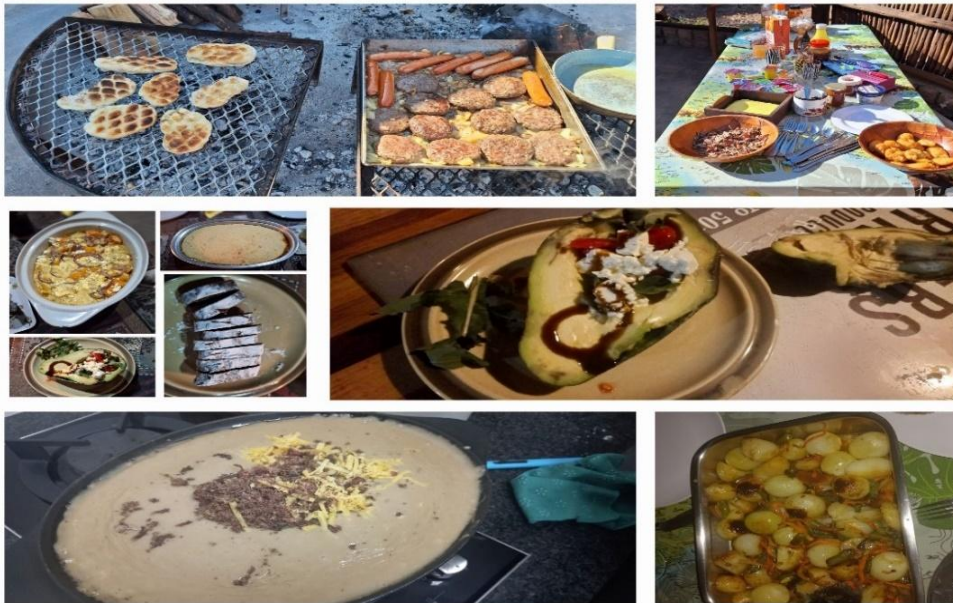
General description: An untidy spreading shrub with four-angled stems and often with thorns growing up to 2m or higher.

Leaves: Oval, dark green, rough, hairy leaves which are paler below.

Flowers: Small, clustered, pink, red, crimson, orange, yellow or white flowers appearing from September to April.

Fruit/seeds: Glossy green fruits which turn purplish-black.

Recipies@Marulani



**Marulani
food on the
menu**

We all believe in “lekker kuier” with friends and family at Marulani and we all know that food and a good wine with special Marulani friends can bring joy to your life. One of my favourite recipes is what we call “Swadini sausages and mash”. This recipe was used when I met Christa my wife more than 40 years ago, and it is still one of my favourites. Easy to make and you can use it for brunch or even an evening meal.

Here is the recipe:

Sausages with peaches. (We call it Swadini” sausages.)

1 kg boerewors (I prefer kudu or Blouwildebess sausages if available)

1 Red onion chopped

410g Peaches with syrup

50ml Tomato sauce

50ml Worcester sauce

50ml Chutney

Salt & pepper

2-4 big potatoes for mash



First, braai the onion in a pot or on your Braai “skottel”. Add the sausage and braai to brown. Add the syrup to your sauce with the rest of the ingredients. Then add the peaches and syrup to the pot. As soon as the sauce starts to cook, add the peaches to the pot. Cut it into smaller pieces. As soon as the sauce thickens your meal is ready.

Serve with mash potatoes or rice and enjoy! (Recipe found in “Wenresepte 2”).

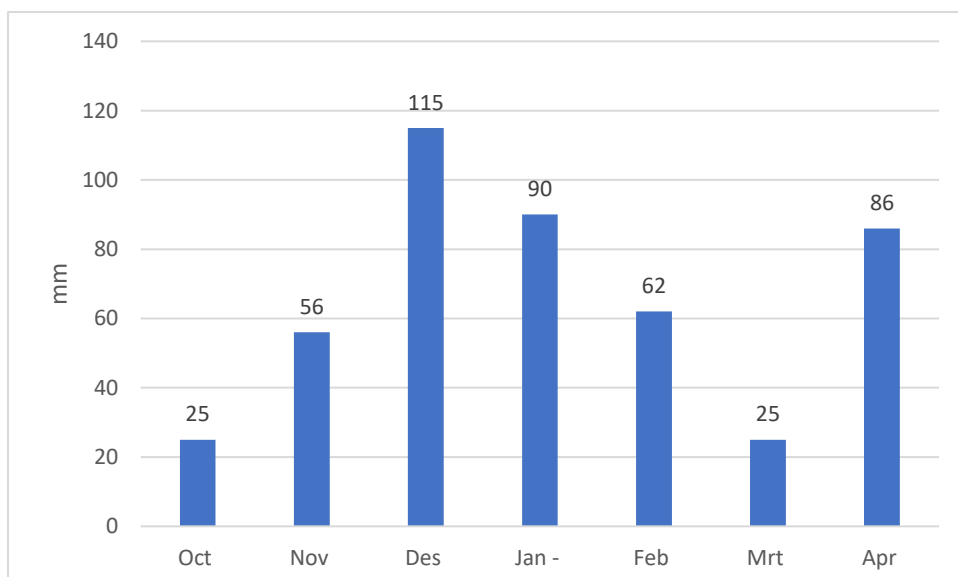
Small “friends”@Marulani (like ants, caterpillars, etc.)



Some of the small creatures on Marulani.

Rainfall figures @Marulani.

Rainfall for the season, starting Oct 2023 till 9 April 2024:



Through our lens



Photos taken by Petrus & Christa Lombard

I hope that you enjoyed the news as well as the photos. Please feel free to send me pictures or any interesting sightings@Marulani.
Dr Petrus Lombard