

30 April 2018

### **NEW BEGINNINGS**

I would like to use this opportunity to share some news on what I term “new beginnings” on the farm.

I think most of us are, by now, aware that Don and Anne are expecting their first child in September. Anne will be on maternity leave for much of the last quarter of the year. Our congratulations and best wishes go out to both of them.

Final touches are being made to Unit 23 and the unit members will be celebrating a house-warming in the next couple of weeks. It has been a tough 2 years to get to this stage and our best wishes and warm welcome are extended to Doug and Sue, Neville and Dawn, Richard and Elizabeth, and John and Ian.

We experienced very good late rains in April that will be of enormous help in maintaining water levels in the rivers and keeping the veld moist for most of winter. Ivan Libera has found a new herbicide for use on reeds and Don has done some sample spraying on K4 and M3. Hopefully, this treatment will be effective in general terms and especially in treating reeds and areas that are difficult to access with mechanical equipment.

The Board has been working closely with Gerald Chapman on major civil engineering projects on the farm. These include substantial work on the access road, de-silting K9 and S8, and maintaining the internal farm roads. At present, K33 is a source of silt erosion and this risk will be stabilised.

All of this work requires the use of “yellow machines”, such as excavators, bulldozers, graders, rollers, etc. all of which Gerald will make available to us.

The cost of reconstruction of the access road will be funded out of the existing road levy. The final cost of the work on the farm will be settled shortly. In the interim, I thought it best to alert you now about these exciting projects and the need to raise a special levy to cover related costs. It is anticipated that the amount needed per unit will be less than the normal quarterly levy. Work will be undertaken in August and payment of the special levy will be due not later than early August.

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Some construction work will be undertaken in the village, especially to upgrade the ablution facilities so as to provide privacy and security for single staff members who make use of communal facilities. This work will be funded out of existing resources.

But for Gerald's expertise and access to plant and equipment, we could not easily afford to undertake these major projects. The opportunity to undertake this work at this time is too good to pass over. Special thanks are extended to Gerald and his team.

Should you have any queries or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me on my mobile 082 828 4925 or [mikeb@pelotonconsulting.co.za](mailto:mikeb@pelotonconsulting.co.za) , or link in with other Board members or Don.

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