

# the CALABASH

**Dinokeng**  
Africa in one day

Sawubona hello goeiedag dumelamolo

OCTOBER 2010

## WORD FROM THE CEO



FANA JIYANE

### Dear Calabash Readers

Spring truly has ushered in new beginnings for us here at Dinokeng. In last month's newsletter I stated that going forward we will be looking at changing our focus and exploring better options for managing our stakeholder relations. The first of these initiatives was to ask for feedback from the landowners on issues or concerns they wanted to voice. This turned out to be a great exercise and I have since received numerous e-mails detailing the trials and tribulations of our landowners. The Dinokeng team and I

took the time to look at each e-mail response individually and reply to the various issues.

The second initiative was to pledge our commitment and continue the discussion of issues and concerns at the Dinokeng Game Reserve (DGR) Land Owners Association Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 18 September at Xombana Lodge. This was also very successful as all those that attended shared their views candidly. As part of our pledge, we contributed R1.84m to the operating costs of the DGRMA and the Land Owners Association (LOA).

We have also issued the tender for the construction of the perimeter wall for the Steve Bikoville community. We anticipate selecting a contractor who can commence work immediately, at the end of the tender process. Doors were opened and pathways to better communications were established.

In this issue of The Calabash, we start focusing on more than the product owners and the landowners. You will notice that the focus is on the consumer and businesses that will produce more traffic to Dinokeng. We will slowly be shifting gears to accommodate this new angle which is necessary for continued growth and development in Dinokeng.

All in all, we are getting back on track and working together. The open line of communication is the first BIG step. Please continue to e-mail your thoughts, compliments, concerns and ideas on how we can improve and serve the Dinokeng area more efficiently to [dinokeng@kagisotv.co.za](mailto:dinokeng@kagisotv.co.za)

Best Wishes

Fana Jiyane  
CEO: Dinokeng Project

## GETAWAY SHOW FEEDBACK



Getaway Exhibition Stand



Getaway Stand seating area

Dinokeng exhibited successfully at the Getaway show which took place from the 10th to the 11th of September 2010, at the Coca Cola Dome in Northgate, Johannesburg. The Stand was designed to attract as well as inform potential visitors. It was well received by more than 300 visitors who left their contact details in order to receive more information from the Dinokeng team.

Not only did the stand attract visitors, it drew the attention of the organizers who complimented us on its originality compared to other stands at the show. The seating interactive features made the stand unique.

The name Dinokeng featured prominently on the stand and its meaning of "a place of rivers" was cleverly used to lure visitors to "take a drop of Dinokeng water". Visitors really liked the idea of receiving water bottles and were even happier to learn that they could fill their water bottles at the stand.

## AGM UPDATE

The Dinokeng Game Reserve Land Owners Association held its Annual General Meeting on 18 September at the Xombana Game Reserve. A new executive Committee (EXCO) was elected which serves as the liaison between

the government and the landowners and also ensures the day to day management of the DGR. The names of the new EXCO will be published in our November newsletter.

### OUTING OPTIONS

It is that time of year again when everyone is thinking about going on holiday and debating where they will go with their loved ones and families. Dinokeng is just a short distance from the cities of Pretoria and Johannesburg, so it makes sense to start exploring all the possibilities available. Dinokeng has many offerings suitable for families, business, couples and single people looking for adventure, relaxation or both.



Mystic Monkeys Safari Tshukudu Lodge

If you are new to Dinokeng, now is your chance to meet all the wonderful people in the area and what they have to offer. If you have been to Dinokeng before, now is the time to rediscover and explore new corners of the area. Some of the places we think will be worth your while are described below. Remember there are many more where these are, so visit our website and visually explore before embarking on your Dinokeng journey of discovery.

#### Mystic Monkeys & feathers wildlife park day trips

Mystic Monkeys & Feathers Wildlife Park offers an amazing animal adventure for the young and the old. It hosts one of South Africa's largest private primate collections featuring 38 species, in addition to a large number of beautiful exotic birds, white lions, cheetahs, chimpanzees, tigers and many other interesting animals. They are open 365 days a year from 9am till 4pm. Day visitors are also welcome to enjoy a mouth-watering meal at their Tshukudu Lodge Restaurant or get excellent value on the Sunday Buffet Lunch for R120.00 per person.

Contact person: Andria Buitendag  
Tel no 0861 287 483, Fax no 012 567 7601 Email bookings@agl.co.za, Website: www.gl.co.za

### VIEW WILD LIONS UP CLOSE



Mahala View

Established in 1983, Mahala View has grown into a true landmark in the Dinokeng area. Mahala View is situated north east of Pretoria and is surrounded by the bush and

wildlife in the Welgedacht conservancy. They are proud to have two unique species of lions, the Barbary lion and the Cape lion. Visitors are offered a unique look into the social environment of these majestic animals, their behaviour and an up close and personal look at a wild lion.

Mahala View offers educational and team building programmes, accommodation and game drives. It is a hidden gem nestled against the Bobbejaansberg mountain range, with a view like no other of the sun sinking into the horizon. With lions roaring at night and a unique accommodation experience, Mahala View is the place to relax and unwind. Bookings are essential.

Contact: Leon van Biljon at Mahala View on 083-7148610 or email him at aha1aview@absarnail.co.za  
Source: REKORD (East), Faerie Glen Friday, 24 September 2010, p. 33

## FROM HAMMANSKRAAL TO CONQUERING THE WORLD!



camp it anatori 2010



Medal ceremony

Tshepo Modikwe has yet to reach his seventeenth birthday and his last two years of school still lie ahead of him, but he may already be the most distinguished sportsperson to emerge from Hammanskraal. The only child of Freddy and Clementia Modikwe has already given his parents, his friends, his educators from Prestige College and the Dinokeng communities plenty to be proud of.

He has represented South Africa at international in-line skating in Spain in 2008, China in 2009 and recently returned from Italy where he earned gold medals for the 500m, the 10 000 m and the marathon (42,2 km). Despite nursing a broken finger throughout the tournament, Tshepo also collected a bronze in the 5 000m relay.

These collectively earned him the silver medal in the international junior category. This month (October 2010) Tshepo will compete in Columbia, where he has every intention of proving that he deserves to be ranked within the top 10 junior skaters in the world.

**He believes that his success owes to “hard work, good coaching and good communication with the coach (Wendy Gila).”**

We believe that Tshepo has plenty more success ahead of him and wish the best of luck to the dynamite dude from the doorstep of Dinokeng. May his rivals eat his dust!

## TALK TO US

From this issue of the Calabash Newsletter onwards, we will be exploring a new section called TALK TO US. This section allows Dinokeng visitors to share their experiences. The section will serve to highlight a few anecdotes and showcase some visitor photos. We want to encourage readers to tell us what you have done in Dinokeng lately. Tell us about your best moments and send us your best photo in high resolution. Also, feel free to share your thoughts about the newsletter. Our first story comes from our very own Asania, Project Manager at Kagiso TV and Communications.

### My Dinokeng - Asania

I had been to Dinokeng before but the second time I went I had a very different and distinct experience. First of all, I went on a steam train, yes, just like Thomas, the famous children's steam train.



The cullinan Train

I arrived 30 minutes early at the station in Pretoria and already there were quite a few people, mostly families. I started walking around taking pictures of the train, it was beautiful; the incredible detail on everything, it was made up of a wide variety of metals- from big and heavy to small and light. From shiny copper to soot covered steel, a contrasting combination that created a fascinating mix of simplicity and magnificence. The superb craftsmanship makes you understand why Friends Of The Rail (FOTR) love these machines. One of them is Steve Smith, who just fell in love with steam trains a long time ago and as he says: "when other people go to play golf, I come to play with steam trains". Lovely man, so I asked him about the logistics of running the train: Firstly, the beautiful, majestic lady (yes, the train) was built in 1937 – just before the Second World War for the history enthusiasts. It takes two people to run a steam train when it's in motion, not when it's being prepared or maintained – that's a whole different ball game. These two people are the driver and



Steve Smith

the fireman, who shovels coal into the fire during the journey. After blowing the whistle, "choo-choo!" (yes, really) and blowing off some steam, she took off, nice and slow and started building up and yes, I could hear the distinct chukka-chukka-chukka as she snaked through Pretoria West and moved on to Cullinan. The train was comfortably full of families with children, young couples and some golden oldies of all hues. Pretty much everybody had a picnic basket and or a coolerbox, except for me – when you're too busy fretting about your time, you don't think about picnic baskets – eish! I sat opposite a very nice couple from Jo'burg who saw the ad about the trip at Computicket and decided to do it. I love people with a sense of adventure!



Kids on the train

The kids on the train were chatting, not making that annoying noise that people without kids hate, but they were excited and chatted about all kinds of random and cute things – I had to smile occasionally. The train travelled through parts of north Gauteng that I never think of and people at some of the small towns we pass waited with their cameras to take pictures of this beautiful lady as she made her way to the historical Cullinan.

When we arrived at Cullinan, there were spectators at the station and I saw the Cullinan station alive for the very first time –charming. It so happened that this was the weekend that SA was celebrating 150 years of trains so a short ceremony was held at the station. People wandered off into town or were ferried into picnic areas.

Cullinan is an interesting mixture of experiences. As a small old mining town it has very distinct architecture. My favourite building is the Recreational Hall – used to be the miners' rec hall: it's majestic, has a presence – big solid and beautiful building. Entering the hall I was greeted by a majestic high ceiling with beautiful chandeliers, and very preciously, the paintings on the wall done by the Italian prisoners of war – beautifully re-touched.

The solid wood floor and wood panelling gave the empty a hall a sense of warmth. As I went around and read and saw the history of the town was told through pictures mounted on the hall's walls, I could imagine miners singing and dancing in the hall. People performing on the high stage - It was like being flung back to period you have never been to before, yet I felt comfortable.

The pictures of the black labourers remind me of the hardships that my people dealt with in the early days. However instead of feeling bitter or angry, I felt happy and proud that as their descendant I can today marvel at, respect and enjoy the work they did with their bare hands under extreme conditions. I also felt proud of the fact that by visiting places like these, I could stake my claim on my people's role in history.

Then I exited the hall on the right hand side and walked into a modern restaurant with gigantic speakers and a pool table – which snapped me right back to the present! This made me laugh – gee, couldn't we try sticking to the theme?! Nevertheless, this does not detract from the beauty of the hall.

I noticed the group of bikers having brunch at the Cullinan Premier Hotel as I walked to the antique shops. There were antiques or millions of very unique quirky things which you could use as a conversation starter or to make your house, apartment or office different. There's also a sweet shop that those in their 40s and 50s would appreciate more because it has those sweets that you can't find a supermarket anymore. My favourite was the 2m long liquorice – I'm 1.4m tall!

I also visited the Cullinan info office where the ever-pleasant Sonja Hayden works. As I walked around,

chatted to people every now and then, and sat at the Lemon Tree restaurant, I notice something; it was quiet. Yes, there were people talking, a car passed by every now and then but it was actually still and serene and I could hear myself think! I bought a pair of handmade earrings and a bracelet to remind me of my trip and to contribute to the lives of those doing business there.

The stillness made me feel so peaceful, and feeling stupid for being anxious about 'wasting a whole day'. By the time the train pulled off at Cullinan station I felt rested and looked forward to the trip home.

On the way back I thought of and appreciated the FOTR team for taking us back in time, making us marvel at the beauty of design and engineering and for showing us parts of the country in a way we'd never see them otherwise. I had a great time- travelling back in time. Take the time out to do the train trip to Cullinan yourself. Cullinan is so close it's almost as if you can get there in no time at all.



Asania with Liquorice

## DINOKENG IS ON FACEBOOK



Please visit the facebook page and drop us a line, as well as add us as a friend or 'like' us so that we can keep you posted about what's happening in the Dinokeng area. We'd also love to hear your thoughts and experiences in Dinokeng so join us!

### Link:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Dinokeng/143088325708696?ref=search>

## DINOKENG ROSTER

### Triathlon - October 10, 2010

The BSG Energade Triathlon series was held at the Roodeplat Dam. The Triathlon incorporates swimming, running and cycling and offers its competitors a multifaceted sporting experience. BSG Energade Triathlon also has a kiddie's series making it a fun outing for the whole family. For more information contact Come Gobbler on 082-568-0301.

### Mahala View - October 15, 2010

Mahala View is sponsoring Rekord's 4x4 women's day on October 15. For information on the 4x4 women's day, phone Elmaric Davies on 012-842-0327.

### Professor Kobus Botha - October 16, 2010

A colourful presentation in Afrikaans about the weather is being presented by Professor Kobus Botha. The talk will start at 09:00 at the Imbabala Tea Garden in Buffelsdrift – close to Roodeplat Dam. It costs R100. Per person. Please visit [www.bushtalk.co.za](http://www.bushtalk.co.za) or call the organiser, Johan Rademan at 082-375-4717.

## SPECIALS

### Ride a steam train with Friends of the Rail (FOTR)

Take one of the very few remaining functional steam trains to Cullinan and enjoy the day in this small mining town. Do a mine tour, have a picnic, have a braai (fires are provided with every trip) or have a divine lunch at one of the many quaint and delightful restaurants in Cullinan. Contact FOTR-012 548 4090 or visit <http://www.friendsoftherail.com> or [sales@friendsoftherail.com](mailto:sales@friendsoftherail.com) for more information.

### 2010 Post Recession Fun in the Sun Yearend Team Function!

Kwalata is a unique venue that offers tailor made team & fun programs accommodating groups from 10 to 250 that can be designed to suit client needs and outcomes! They have a post recession "Fun in the Sun!" team program ideal for the city based teams in need to escape to the bush away from traffic and the city. They also offer cultural and wildlife tours. Wildlife found on the Game Reserve includes Kudu, Zebra, Giraffe, White Rhino, Blue Wildebeest, Red Hartebeest, Eland, Waterbuck and Impala. The birdlife is abundant and diverse. Visit them at [www.kwalata.co.za](http://www.kwalata.co.za) or call 12 711 8200 to find out more and make your bookings!

### Nkosi Sana Game lodge weekend group special

Get together your friends or take your staff members to Nkosi Sana lodge for a weekend and have a blast! They have a weekend special running for 10 or more people that offers accommodation, a game drive and a spit braai for R505.00 per person per night. Visit [www.Nkosisana.co.za](http://www.Nkosisana.co.za) or call 071 500 7818

Still think you can't afford to go away?