

Finkenstein Estate *Newsletter*

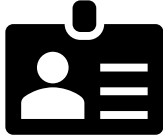


Photo by
Marnus Mans (Architect - 51 Eland Street)

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From the Manager



From the Trustees

It's almost unbelievable that we are in Autumn already. What terrific rains our estate has been blessed with. It's wonderful to see all the green grass, trees and baby animals frolicking around.

The progress on the freeway was severely delayed due to the heavy rains, so progress will remain slow with no confirmed opening date yet.

The installation of our electric fence is progressing well and should be complete by June 2025. We are very satisfied with the subcontractor's performance and know that this will make a big improvement to our security barriers. Johan will also start using the palm reader for domestic workers and contractors in May. Happy to report that we have had no incidents this year. Thank you Johan and Team.

Teresa Keil will be taking over the reigns from Tiffany at the FHA office. We wish them both all the best with the new chapters they are embracing.

Dewald and his team is feverishly trying to get up to date with all the maintenance and clearing of bushes after the rainfalls. Members are reminded that the office will gladly clear the weeds and overgrowth around your boundary fence for a nominal fee.

We are also busy migrating to the WeConnectU system that will make the running of the estate a breeze. Please carefully read through the attached information page to familiarise yourself on how to access your profile on the system.

FHA Trustees

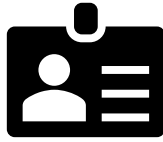
Hellmut von Ludwiger (Chairman, Security, Village/Manor Liaison, CoW, FDT)

Anri Parker (Deputy Chair, External Affairs, Legal and Governance and Human Capital)

Pieter Reyneke (Strategy and Building)

Sirk Krugel (Finance)

Andre de Jager (Infrastructure, Services & Nature)



From Security

New Security Staff

We would like to welcome Mr. Orion Sankwasa to our security team, who was appointed as Control Room officer in February 2025.

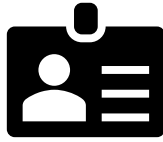


Electrical Fence

Good progress has been made on the installation of the electrical fence around the perimeter of the Estate over the past few weeks. The fence will be managed and installed in 5 different sectors. Sector 1, along Springbok Street, is completed and has already been activated. Sector 2 is to be finalised soon along Koedoe Street with the installation of Sector 3 which also commenced this week. We look forward to the enhanced security that the electrical fence provides to our community.



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From Security

Security upgrade at Main Entrance

Additional access control measures have been implemented at the Main Entrance for domestic workers and contractors. The installation of a turnstile and palm reader access control has recently been completed and is operational. Security personnel are currently busy with the enrolment of domestic workers and contractors in this regard.

All residents are reminded to notify the Security Manager if a domestic worker or contractor is no longer employed at your residence in order for the database of access allowed to be updated accordingly. The system can only be effective if we get the required cooperation of all residents in this regard.



Private Security – Cancellation of patrols

During December 2024 the FHA appointed a private security company to patrol and guard the perimeter fence on the southern and eastern sides of the Estate. These were the two areas which suspected criminals used to gain access into the Estate following a couple of incidents last year. Due to a lack in the performance of the private company, their contract was terminated, and another company appointed in March 2025. This company's contract was subsequently also terminated for the same reasons. FHA Management has taken the decision to make use of current FHA security staff to take over the patrols on a rotational basis.

Kind regards

FHA Security Manager

Johan Kellerman



Hello & Goodbye



Hello to

NEW OWNERS

PTN 103, Zebra Street – Rene & Brigitta Gilli

PTN 112, Zebra Street – Stefan & Michelle Malan

PTN 113, Zebra Street – Johan & Ida Swanepoel

PTN 145, Zebra Street – Cobus & Corlie Opperman

PTN 148, Gemsbok Street – Siegfried & Hildburg Wilckens

PTN 192, Hartebees Street – Johannes & Tersia Rossouw

PTN 193, Gemsbok Street – Eckart & Wanita Urban

PTN 206, Koedoe Street – Manuel Savic & Anouk Nel

NEW TENANTS

PTN 226, Wildebees Street – Janco de Villiers

NEWBORN

PTN 56, Eland Street – Noah Joone (4 April 2025)



Goodbye to

PREVIOUS OWNERS

PTN 103, Zebra Street – Hendrik & Patti Swarts

PTN 112, Zebra Street – Rolf Peters

PTN 113, Zebra Street – Rolf Peters

PTN 145, Zebra Street – Marco van den Heever

PTN 148, Gemsbok Street – Late Fanie & Ciska Smith

PTN 192, Hartebees Street – David Nghipunduka

PTN 193, Gemsbok Street – Rhett Taljaard

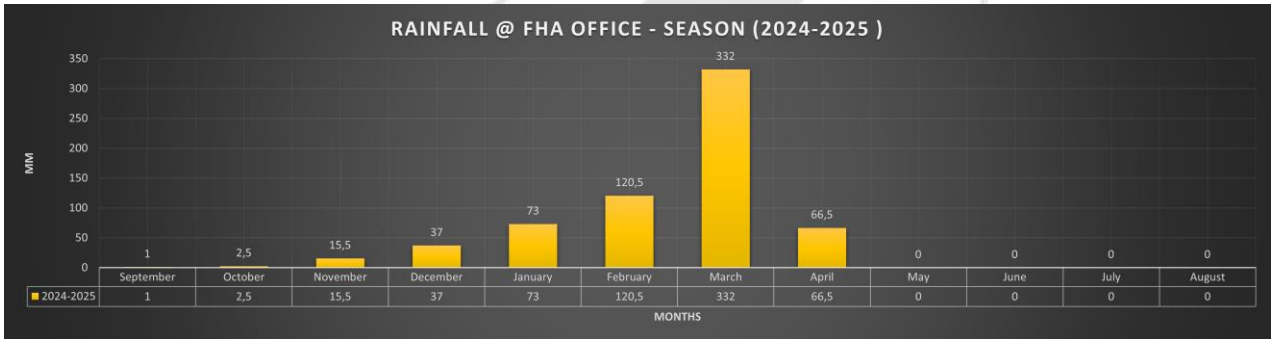
PTN 206, Koedoe Street – Tommy & Anette Bayer



Estate News

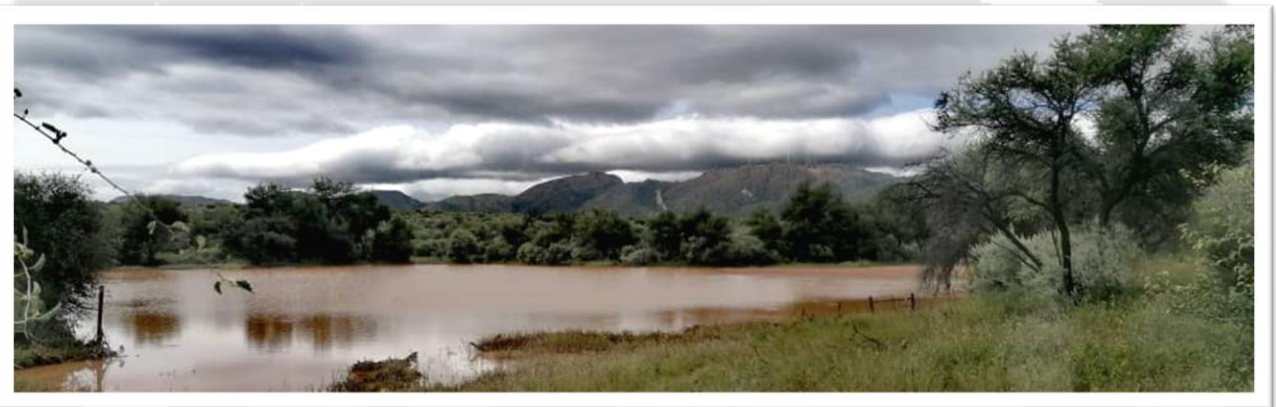
Summer Rain & Dam Levels

Over the past few months Finkenstein Estate was blessed with abundant rain. To date as much as 648mm has been measured at the FHA Office! See attached rainfall chart with figures shown from September 2024 to April 2025. Following two years of below average rainfall and dam levels that were nearing depletion, the drought was broken, with dam levels also recovering remarkably well. See attached table with figures of all three major dams supplying water to the Central Region of Namibia. I am sure that our community is enjoying the relief of water security and that our animals are enjoying the astonishing recovery of the surrounding fauna.



	2025 Level	2024 Level
Swakoppoort Dam	100,6%	36,8%
Von Bach Dam	80,4%	11,5%
Omatoko Dam	78,6%	0,2%
Sub-Total Central Region	88,2%	18,7%

**Data supplied by Namwater (22 April 2025 @ 16h20)*





Estate News

Water Tariffs at Finkenstein Estate

Finkenstein Estate currently makes use of three different water level tariff structures, indicated as three different tables, each having its own sliding scale tariffs for increased usage. See tariff structure tables indicated below.

The different tariff structure tables are based on the current status of the Sub-Total of the Central Region dam levels, as indicated on the previous page. We are constantly monitoring these dam levels with the assistance of regular updates from Namwater. Level 1 is used when our Sub-Total for the Central Region has reached a level 50% and above, Level 2 is used when the level falls below 50%, and Level 3 is used when the levels falls below 30%. We believe that these different tariff structures motivates members to use water sparingly in times of water insecurity.

LEVEL 1 : NORMAL	
1-70m ³	N\$ 27.25/m ³
71-80m ³	N\$ 40.00/m ³
81-90m ³	N\$ 60.00/m ³
91-100m ³	N\$ 80.00/m ³
>100m ³	N\$ 100.00/m ³

LEVEL 2 : CAUTION	
1-50m ³	N\$ 27.25/m ³
51-60m ³	N\$ 40.00/m ³
61-70m ³	N\$ 60.00/m ³
71-80m ³	N\$ 80.00/m ³
>80m ³	N\$ 100.00/m ³

LEVEL 3 : DROUGHT	
1-30m ³	N\$ 27.25/m ³
31-40m ³	N\$ 40.00/m ³
41-50m ³	N\$ 60.00/m ³
51-60m ³	N\$ 80.00/m ³
>60m ³	N\$ 100.00/m ³



Estate News

Bypass Road

Our bypass road between the Manor & Village has been the source of much frustration over the past few months, as the above average rainfall and subsequent stormwater run-off caused severe damage to the driving and sub-surface thereof, to such an extent that the road had to be closed and reconstructed. See attached photo. Finkenstein residents were diverted to use a temporary gravel bypass road between the Estate and the Manor, the road that is destined to become the new permanent access road into Finkenstein, but currently still under construction. After much anticipation the bypass road between the Manor and Village was re-opened on 15 April. We anticipate that the new access road will be operational before the end of this year.



New FHA Office Assistant

We are delighted to introduce our new FHA Office Assistant to everyone, Ms. Teresa Keil. Teresa is a resident of Finkenstein Estate and has already commenced with her duties. Feel free to come and say hello to Teresa, as she will be your first point of contact and assistance at the FHA Office.

At the same time we would like to make use of this opportunity to say farewell to Ms. Tiffany van Wyk, who has been our Office Assistant over the past two years, and who has provided everyone in the Estate with an immaculate administrative service. We wish her well on her future endeavours, and would like to thank her for everything that she has contributed to the success of Finkenstein Estate.



Estate News

New Blue Collar Staff

The past few months has seen the departure of two of our long time serving Blue Collar staff members, Mr. Josef Haixwema and Mr. John Haushiku. They have been an integral part of maintenance in the Estate, and will surely leave deep footprints to fill. We wish them well on their future endeavours and would like to thank them for their dedicated service to Finkenstein Estate over the years.

We are delighted to introduce two new Blue Collar staff members, Mr. Rheinhardt Nawabeb and Mr. Kreigor Tjingoma whom have taken over the duties. Be on the lookout for them in and around the Estate and feel free to welcome them to our community.

Mulch @ Finkenstein Estate

Members are reminded of the mulch service that the Estate provides. Mulch is made from de-bushing done inside the Estate where removed vegetation is milled into fine wood particles. Mulch can be used to not only cover garden beds and thereby protect the soil against the cold of winter, but also to retain the existing moisture already contained in the soil. Mulch can also be mixed with soil to start the process of composting in your garden.

Please support this initiative as it is a sustainable way of recycling biomass inside the Estate.

WeConnectU & Invoicing

FHA Management is excited to announce that we are in the final stages of migrating to the new WeConnectU platform as presented at the 2024 AGM. This platform integrates management, accounting, utilities and sharing of invoices, reports, minutes and other documents between the FHA Trustees, FHA Management, FHA Members and relevant service providers. Note that we will start sharing information from this platform with members during the month of May.

Should you however notice any information that may be indicated incorrectly, needs to be updated, or just have a general question, we will appreciate your feedback.





Estate News



Welcome to the future of
transparent Community Management



Powered by
WeconnectU

Dear valued member of **Finkenstein Estate**










We are thrilled to present to you WeconnectU's Community Management Solution – a cutting-edge, transparent, and all-in-one software designed exclusively for Bodies Corporate and Homeowners' Associations. As our chosen technology partner, WeconnectU offers a host of solutions that cater to the needs of property owners like yourself.

As an Owner, we'll grant you exclusive user rights to our Estate portal, accessible anytime and anywhere. With any internet-connected device, you can now log into our Owner Portal. This online platform provides you with convenient access to a wealth of information pertaining to your property and your community.

Conveniently access real-time and relevant information related to your property finances, day-to-day operations and all community documents.

Your Owner Portal offers unparalleled accessibility, convenience, and complete transparency.

Key Trustee Benefits:

-  Online portal accessible anytime, anywhere
-  Secure 2-factor login
-  Access to all community documents
-  Communication module to send community emails in bulk
-  Realtime community KPI dashboards and user-friendly reporting
-  Access to community finances info and bank balances
-  Online supplier invoice approval
-  Updates on maintenance, repair and insurance jobs
-  Convenient online community meeting and voting portal



Helpful Tools:



Download

[Owner login Guide](#)



Watch

[Owner login How-to Video](#)



Already a user?

[Login here](#)

Next Steps:

Set-up your log in details

A "reset-password" email will be sent to your inbox by your Property Manager OR follow the set-up password link on your next invoice or statement email.

Log into the Owner portal

Use your username and password to log into the Owner Portal. [Login here](#)

Need assistance?

Contact your Property Manager for more information or assistance with your log in details.





Estate News

Protect your plants from frost this Winter!

Certain parts of Namibia and South Africa can reach extremely low temperatures in winter, which can kill many plants and vegetable crops. Frost does not necessarily occur in freezing temperatures; it can occur between zero and two degrees Celsius.

Here are a few strategies to protect your plants from frost this winter:

1. Bring delicate plants indoors. Bring susceptible plants inside if possible. Potted plants, small container gardens and plants still in their nursery containers are usually easy to relocate indoors. It is not always important to have a heated area, but smaller plants should not be left outside on a very cold night. In most cases, an unheated garage or garden shed will suffice.

2. Cover your plants to prevent frost. If you have any bedsheets, old blankets or towels, place them loosely over your outdoor plants. Use sticks to keep the cover off the plants and make sure it stretches down to the ground to form a small canopy of insulation. If it is windy outside, anchor the fabric to the ground with bricks or other heavy objects. It is better to use woven fabric than plastic sheets, as these are more breathable – but if you want extra protection from the cold weather, cover the fabric with a plastic sheet. Remember to remove the cover before midday to ensure your plants do not wilt from the heat.

3. Use a cloche. A cloche is a rounded cover that functions as a mini-greenhouse. These are easy to make, or they can be purchased at a reasonable price. Simply cut the bottom of a three-litre jug and place it over a small plant to create a makeshift cloche. Be sure to push the bottom of the jug about three centimetres into the soil. You can even tie the handle of the jug to a nearby pole or tree to prevent it from blowing away. Keep the lid closed at night for protection and remove it during the day so the plant can breathe.

4. Water the soil in the mornings. It may sound counterintuitive but moist soil can hold more heat than dry soil. Moisture in the soil conducts heat to the soil surface, warming the region around the plant by two to three degrees. Water your plants in the morning to thaw any frost that has built up overnight, and to allow the sun to warm the damp soil throughout the day.

5. Mulch can prevent frost. Pour mulch (shredded tree bark or compost) over the soil and around the base of plants. This will protect and insulate the ground and plants from frost. Mulch also helps to keep moisture in the soil by reducing evaporation.

As seen from the points above, this is a good thing when trying to prevent frost. In addition to these frost prevention techniques, homeowners can seek guidance from their garden maintenance providers. Do not let your garden die this winter.



Estate News

New Highway

Construction on the new highway through Finkenstein, as well as the Otjihase interchange and new access road to the west of the Manor, which then turns east towards the entrance gate of the Estate, has been progressing steadily over the past few months. Unfortunately we cannot reliably report on the expected completion dates to the different components of this project.

View towards Windhoek from new bridge at the Otjihase interchange



Permanent tunnel structure being built to pass underneath highway



New permanent access road between Estate & Manor



View towards Airport from temporary bypass over the new highway





Fauna & Flora

African Wild Cat (*Felis lybica*)



Introduction: It was in 3,000 BC that the Egyptians domesticated the African wild cat (*Felis lybica*) to control mice and rats raiding granaries. From these tamed animals, the domestic cat was bred, hence the similarity between the two. A striking difference is the much longer legs of the wild cat, which allows it to sit almost vertically upright, a feature not possible with a domestic cat. They also have a completely different walking action; the longer legs and high shoulder blades resemble the movement of a cheetah. Wild cats readily interbreed with domestic cats and there are few countries that have pure wild cats left. Namibia does not have many domesticated cats, the shortage a clear advantage in maintaining the country's pure-blooded wild cat numbers. With interbreeding, the cats lose the ear colouration and long legs. They are almost entirely nocturnal creatures and are adept at climbing trees when under stress or for hunting.

Distribution: The African wild cat occurs widely in Namibia except in coastal regions.

Diet: The diet mainly consists of rodents, with mice and gerbils a particular favourite, but they are also partial to birds (e.g. black korhaan, red-billed quelea and weavers, plus poultry such as ducks and chickens), hares, reptiles, frogs and insects.

Colouring: The colouring is light sandy with an indistinct darker band down the mid-back from the forehead to the base of the tail, which is darker than the main body. The back of the ears are orange-pink in colour.

Breeding: The female has a gestation period of 2 months and will then give birth to a litter of between 2 - 5 kittens (mostly 3). They are born in holes in the ground and are often excavated by aardvark or springhaas. Unfortunately, they are not capable of 'digging themselves into a hole'. Females giving birth in rock crevices, under thick underbush, in tall grass and in the shelter of standing maize have been recorded.

Size: The African wild cat can reach a shoulder height of 35cm and weigh between 2.5 and 6kg.

(<https://namibian.org/nature/mammals/carnivores/african-wild-cat>)



Fauna & Flora

Wild Asparagus (*Asparagus africanus*)



Description: A scrambling shrub up to 1 m tall, or a climber with stems to about 3 m long, with rhizomatous roots, producing many slender stems. The stems are glabrous (with no hair), but mostly have spines and grow in a twining way. The spines are straight or curved, 2–10 mm long, sharp and reddish brown. It has short, spreading branches with leaf-like cladodes (modified branchlets) in clusters of up to 12 along the branches. The true leaves are minute scales, whereas it is the cladodes that function as leaves. The cladodes are 6–15 mm long and only 0.5 mm wide and end in a sharp point. They are produced in clusters above each leaf scale. The flowers are also produced in small clusters in the axils and each cluster contains several flowers, in spring and summer (Sept. –Feb.). Each flower is about 7–12 mm long, on stalks which are 5–10 mm long. They consist of 3 sepals and 3 petals, both of about 2.5–4.0 mm long. The sepals and petals are whitish in colour, extend outwards horizontally (spreading) and appear to be 6 petals, due to their similarity. Flowers have 6 stamens 2.0–3.5 mm long, usually with white filaments and yellow anthers. After flowering, a rounded berry of about 5–6 mm diameter and containing a single seed, is produced. They are sometimes present throughout most of the year. Initially the berries are green and turn orange-red as they mature

Conservation Status: *Asparagus africanus* has been given a conservation status of Least Concern (LC) according to Red List of South African plants, checked on 01.12.2016.

Distribution and habitat: This species occurs in southern Africa, in Namibia, Zambia, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Lesotho, Swaziland and South Africa, where it is found from the Cape Peninsula, along the Eastern Cape coast to KwaZulu-Natal, Mpumalanga and Limpopo. It is also widely distributed in tropical Africa and occurs on the Arabian Peninsula, and in India. It is often found in moist places, and occurs in a variety of habitats, including rainforest, temperate forest, grassland, thicket, coastal scrub, forest margin and semi-desert, and in a number of vegetation types, including Fynbos and Strandveld

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Fauna & Flora

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Ecology: This species is pollinated by insects. The white colour and fragrance of the flowers attracts insects, such as bees, and they serve as pollination agents. After flowering, red berries are produced and birds and animals feed on them. The seed is dispersed through their gut. Some species of *Asparagus*, such as *A. officinalis*, *A. schoberiodes* and *A. cochiniensis*, are dioecious, which means male and female flowers are on separate plants.

Uses: The shoots, roots and the underground stems of *Asparagus africanus* are used to make medicines to treat ailments, such as rheumatism, arthritis, eye problems, nausea, colic, pulmonary tuberculosis, and bladder and kidney infections. The root tubers are boiled and mixed with milk and given to women just after childbirth to release the afterbirth. The branchlets, stems or roots are pounded, soaked in water and the fusion is drunk 2 or 3 times a day for the treatment of mental disturbance. Powdered dried roots are rubbed into scarifications on the back, stomach and legs of boys undergoing circumcision.

The new shoots, or spears, of this plant are eaten as a vegetable. It is believed to be a good source of dietary fibre and a good source of vitamins A, E, C and B6. They are harvested in the same way as *Asparagus officinalis*. Root tubers are also cooked for several hours and consumed. The ripe fruit is collected and juice is sucked out and the solid part is thrown away. The fruit is mostly eaten during famine periods.

The berries of some *Asparagus*, including *A. officinalis* and *A. densiflorus* are poisonous. The berries contain chemical compounds such as furostanol and spirostanol saponins. Rapid ingestion of more than 5 to 7 ripe berries, can induce abdominal pain and vomiting. Sulphur compounds in the young shoots are also considered at least partially responsible for mild skin reactions in some people who handle the plant.

(Extracts from : <https://pza.sanbi.org/asparagus-africanus>)





Pictures from Members



The Beetle & Praying Mantis – by Andre de Jager, 175 Koedoe Street



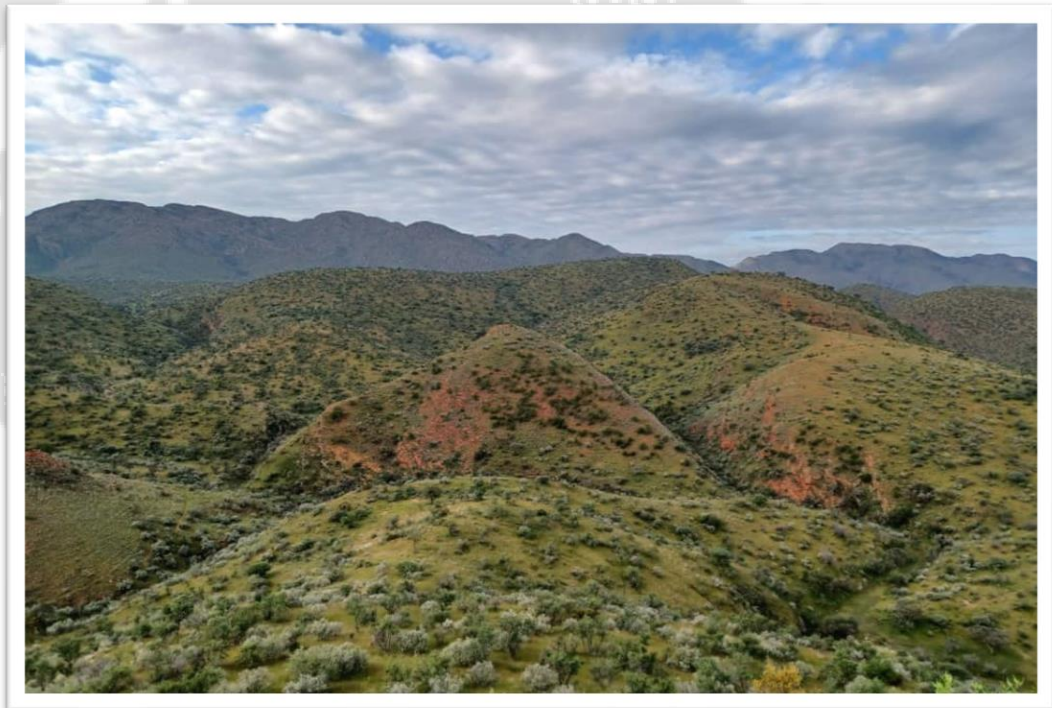
Rumbling Water – by Dewald du Plessis, 54 Eland Street



Pictures from Members



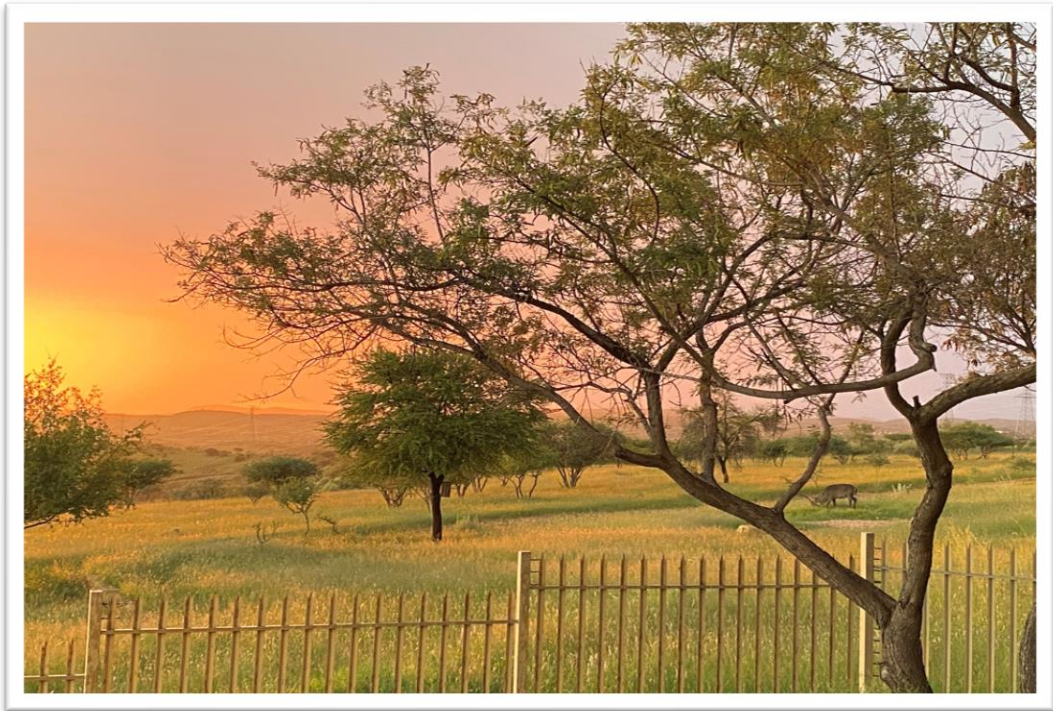
Upside down Spider – by Andre de Jager, 175 Koedoe Street



Rolling hills of Moltkeblick – by Heidrun Preschel, 172 Koedoe Street



Pictures from Members



Magnificent Finkenstein – by Birgit von Ludwiger, 7 Eland Street



Flowering Succulents – by Anja Boshoff, Visitor to Finkenstein Estate



Events



Important Dates

1 May - Workers Day

4 May (Sunday) - Cassinga Day (5 May, Monday - Public Holiday)

25 May (Sunday) - Africa Day (26 May, Monday - Public Holiday)

28 May - Genocide Remembrance Day

29 May - Ascension Day



Running & Cycling

10 May - Hollard G&D, Friendenau MTB

16-18 May - Munga Le Dur, MTB

24 May – Vivo Energy Windhoek Marathon

14 June - Hollard G&D, Vaalgras MTB



Meetings *(Contact Teresa Keil @ 081-143-4820)*

21 May 2025 - Trustee Meeting, 17h30 @ FHA-Office Boardroom

18 Jun 2025 - Trustee Meeting, 17h30 @ FHA-Office Boardroom

23 Jul 2025 - Trustee Meeting, 17h30 @ FHA-Office Boardroom



Advertisements



**Fitness at Finkenstein
Contact Elzke for more
information- 081 277 2676
elzke@goede@icloud.com**



Advertisements

An advertisement for 'SIMPLY GOOD FOOD' on a light brown background. At the top, the words 'coming soon' are written in a bold, red, sans-serif font, slightly arched. Below this is a central graphic of a brown fork and a yellow spoon crossed at their handles. The cutlery is surrounded by four yellow curved lines. Underneath the graphic, the word 'SIMPLY' is written in a large, bold, black, sans-serif font. Below 'SIMPLY', the words 'GOOD FOOD' are written in a smaller, bold, black, sans-serif font, flanked by two yellow horizontal bars. Below the logo, the text '@ FINKENSTEIN, HEIKE - 081 6576578' is written in a small, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom center, there is a large yellow circle containing the words 'stay tuned' in a black, cursive script font. Small red and yellow horizontal bars are located in the corners of the advertisement frame.

* **PS** : The shop at the containers opposite Finkenstein Manor



Advertisements

Finkenstein Estate



Bush Trimming Service

Contact the FHA Office to book our Team to come and trim around your fenced-in area on the outside. We also trim branches and bushes within 1,5m around your fence to ensure easy access and visibility all around.

Estate Manager

081-146-9110





From the Manager

Rumination

Meaning - A deep considered thought about something. Let's all pause for a moment, take a deep breath, and realise that we are already at the end of April 2025...let's take that into perspective and realise that we have been travelling at such speed to arrive at this point in time, and that a third of the year has already passed. What have we accomplished and what lies ahead, questions that may sometime lead to anxiety and put pressure on oneself, perhaps unnecessarily. The month of May lies ahead filled with public holidays. Perhaps this is a good time for rumination, to slow down, to reflect, and to make use of these meaningful days to recharge again.

I want to start by expressing a massive sigh of relief in thankfulness of the rain that Finkenstein Estate has been blessed with over the past few months. Not only has our environment, animals and plants included, recovered to a healthy and abundant ecosystem again, but our central region dams are now filled to the brim, providing much needed water security for us all.

Construction on the new highway from Windhoek to the international airport has progressed significantly over the past few months. It may not look like it from Finkenstein Estate, as this section of the highway still requires a lot of the contractors' attention. We look forward to perhaps already start making use of the new highway towards Windhoek in the next couple of months.

Our Blue Collar maintenance team has been working tirelessly during the summer to keep our roads clean and road servitudes open. They have also been assisting many members in cutting grass around their fenced-in areas and to keep electrical fences and boundaries open, visible and free of any obstructions. Please take the time to greet these gentlemen when driving or walking past them, as a kind word will go a long way in keeping this team motivated. I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication that they put into their daily routine to serve the members of Finkenstein Estate.

With the winter season fast approaching, our houses and gardens will be exposed to extreme cold again. Take caution to prepare your house for winter, take the time to cover vulnerable plants outside, and remember our furry and feathery friends as well.

"Winter forms our character and brings out our best." – Tim Allen

Kind regards

FHA Estate Manager

Dewald du Plessis



Contact Details

***FHA Estate Manager**

Dewald du Plessis
081-146-9110 / em@finkenstein.org

***FHA Estate Security**

Johan Kellerman
081-284-6562 / johan@finkenstein.org

Control Room
081-612-0772

***FHA Estate Admin Office**

Teresa Keil
081-143-4820 / info@finkenstein.org

*Photo by
Heidrun Preschel (172 Koedoe Street)*



***“If a tree does not know how to
dance, the wind will teach it”***

African Proverb