

# Finkenstein Estate *Newsletter*

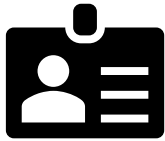


Photo by  
Dewald du Plessis (54 Eland Street)

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# ***From the Trustees***

The trustees have had a busy year! Johan and Dewald have been busy with changes and upgrades all over our beautiful estate. The new freeway is open! What a delight to drive to town now. Our new electric fence has been completed and the palm scanner for all staff is fully operational. Our SGM went off without any hiccups and is a reminder how good it is to get input from our members. Please read about the update below. You are all always invited to attend our trustee meetings. Our new speed camera is working like a charm as some of our members and their guests have found out. Johan has posted an update on this under security. With Spring around the corner, members are invited to go for a walk or ride on our trails and to make use of our lovely seating area outside the office. If you have any suggestions on how to make our beautiful estate even better, please drop us a note.

Warm regards

## ***FHA Trustees***

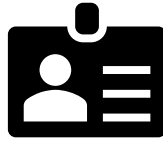
**Helmut von Ludwiger** (Chairman, Security, Village/Manor Liaison, CoW, FDT)

**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)



# *Security Matters*

## **Palm scanner / Wave device**

The palm scanner / wave device installed in conjunction with the turnstile is now fully operational at the contractors' entrance. All domestic workers and gardeners, as well as all construction workers, are obliged to register with their unique palm print at the security control point.

A total of 157 domestic workers, 93 gardeners and 303 construction workers, as well as delivery personnel, has already been successfully registered on the new access control system. This new device marks a significant upgrade to the FHA access control system.

It is envisaged that similar devices potentially be used at the owners' entrance and exit points in the future.

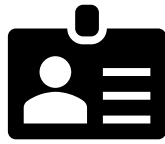


## **Electrical Fence**

The installation of a 5 km electrical fence around the estate is complete. Note that the western perimeter remains open for the game to move freely between the Estate and Moltkeblick farm. The fence is divided in 5 zones to easily and rapidly identify and respond to the specific position where an interference was detected or possible breach. The combination of CCTV cameras, electrical fence and motorbike patrols around the perimeter of the Estate has now created a multilayer of security barriers, significantly improving our security at the Estate.

Residents should not attempt to touch the electrical fence as it will remain permanently energized.

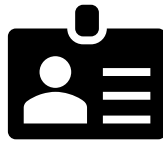
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# *Security Matters*



Our FHA blue-collar staff is currently busy to repair all the warthogs' holes on the fence. Over the distance of Zone 1 to 3, a total of 52 holes have already been repaired and filled with stone. It is an ongoing process with effective results.

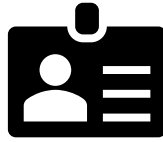


# Security Matters

## Speed Camera

A mobile speed radar display with CCTV recording functionality has been installed in Zebra Street. This system will periodically be moved around to different positions in the Estate.





# Security Matters

## Speeding Fines

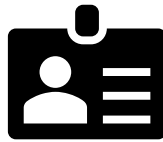
We would like to remind residents that Security will issue speeding fines in accordance with the staggered fines based on the actual speed measured, and the 40 km/h or 60 km/h zone applicable:

Please see staggered fine list below:

40km/h Zone		
Speed (km/h)	Fine	Increment
40-45		
46-50	N\$250	
51-55	N\$300	N\$50
56-60	N\$400	N\$100
61-65	N\$550	N\$150
66-70	N\$750	N\$200
71-75	N\$1,000	N\$250
76-80	N\$1,300	N\$300
81-85	N\$1,650	N\$350
86-90	N\$2,050	N\$400
91-95	N\$2,500	N\$450
96-100	N\$3,000	N\$500
101-105	N\$3,500	N\$500
106-110	N\$4,000	N\$500
111-115	N\$4,500	N\$500
116-120	N\$5,000	N\$500
121-125	N\$5,500	N\$500
126-130	N\$6,000	N\$500
131-135	N\$6,500	N\$500
136-140	N\$7,000	N\$500
141-145	N\$7,500	N\$500
146-150	N\$8,000	N\$500
151-	N\$8,500	N\$500

60km/h Zone		
Speed (km/h)	Fine	Increment
60-65		
66-70	N\$250	
71-75	N\$300	N\$50
76-80	N\$400	N\$100
81-85	N\$550	N\$150
86-90	N\$750	N\$200
91-95	N\$1000	N\$250
96-100	N\$1300	N\$300
101-105	N\$1650	N\$350
106-110	N\$2050	N\$400
111-115	N\$2500	N\$450
116-120	N\$3000	N\$500
121-125	N\$3500	N\$500
126-130	N\$4000	N\$500
131-135	N\$4500	N\$500
136-140	N\$5000	N\$500
141-145	N\$5500	N\$500
146-150	N\$6000	N\$500
151-	N\$6500	N\$500

Members are reminded of **FHA House Rule B3** – *“It is the sole responsibility of the Members to familiarise themselves with the Constitution and all other policies, manuals, rules, regulations and procedures emanating from it and to ensure that their families, lessees, visitors, friends and contractors or service deliverers comply with these.”*



# Security Matters

## Long service awards

We would like to congratulate four of our Security staff members who each received a 10 year long service award. Your dedication to the Estate does not go unnoticed!



Kind regards

**FHA Security Manager**

Johan Kellerman



# *Hello & Goodbye*



## **Hello to ....**

NEW OWNERS

**PTN 21, Eland Street – Paul & Elizabeth Koster**

**PTN 100, Zebra Street – Kai & Ingrid Bessmann**

**PTN 147, Gemsbok Street – Pieter & Sussanna Du Plessis**

**PTN 205, Koedoe Street – Punehi & Daniel Kavishe**



## **Goodbye to ....**

PREVIOUS OWNERS

**PTN 21, Eland Street – Herman Grobler**

**PTN 100, Zebra Street – Cedric & Karin Nieuwoudt**

**PTN 147, Gemsbok Street – Willie & Carol Esterhuizen**

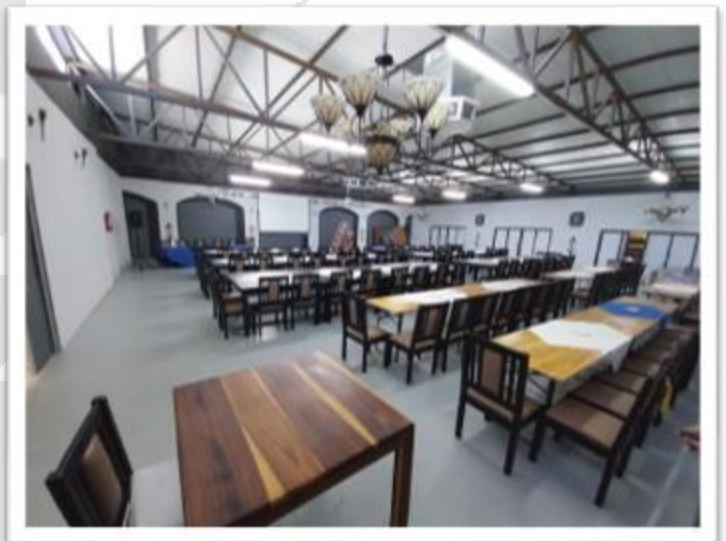
**PTN 205, Koedoe Street – Bernadette Bock**



# *Estate News*

## **SGM**

A Special General Meeting (SGM) was held on 6 August at Eden Chalets & Venue to discuss electrical supply and reticulation issues of concern to members. Topics discussed included the bulk supply to Finkenstein as well as the quality of supply inside the Estate. Feedback was provided from the developer in writing (FDT) regarding the status of a planned Solar PV plant with battery storage capacity, planned to provide bulk electricity to Finkenstein Manor, Village and Green, which will in turn result in only the Estate making use of the Finkenstein sub-station. EMCON Consulting Engineers was represented at the meeting, as they prepared a report on the quality of electrical supply inside the Estate. Options were discussed to hold the developer accountable for the shortage of bulk supply to Finkenstein Estate, as well as options to hold the developers' electrical consulting engineers accountable for potentially specifying sub-standard electrical infrastructure inside the Estate. An electrical sub-committee was elected at the meeting, with two members representing the sub-committee: Mr. Brink van Schalkwyk (Erf.176 Koedoe Street), and Mr. Darren Norris (Erf.174 Koedoe Street). Minutes of the meeting will be circulated to all members soon.



## **Trustee Meetings**

Members are encouraged to discuss ideas, suggestions or issues of concern with FHA Management or the FHA Trustees. Trustee meetings are held monthly and any members are welcome to join. These meetings are an excellent platform to receive detailed information on pressing matters or to gain insight on how the Homeowners' Association is governed. We remain open and excited to more participation from members in issues that affect us all in the Estate.



# *Estate News*

## **Generator at Finkenstein Village**

We were informed that the second generator installed at Finkenstein Village was upgraded on 14 August 2025. The developer mentioned that the total generation capacity of both (two) generators is now of such size that the complete Village can be removed from the grid during peak demand times to only be supplied with electricity from the generators in island mode. Doing this frees up the remainder of the grid (Estate and Manor) to make use of electricity supplied from the Finkenstein sub-station.



## **Moltkeblick Nature Trails**

All members are reminded of the magnificent nature trails that are accessible to Finkenstein Estate residents. The trails have recently been marked with directional signage, and will now ensure that even members exploring the trails for the first time may do so with confidence. A map of the Park Area can be obtained from the FHA upon request. Should you wish to traverse the farm by vehicle on a 4x4 experience, kindly make contact with the Moltkeblick farm manager, Mr. Van Wyk Gerber at 081-240-6910.

## **Contact details**

In order to ensure that all relevant correspondence, notifications and invoicing reaches members, everyone is reminded that it remains your responsibility to inform the FHA office if any of your personal contact details may have changed. We try our very best to ensure that all FHA residents are on top of all information relevant to the Estate, but can only do so with your cooperation.



# *Estate News*

## **Get your garden ready for Spring!**

Chilly evenings have all but come to an end as spring comes out in full force. Flowers are expected to blossom and brighten up our lives but as we transition into spring, there are a couple of things you need to take into consideration if you have a garden.

As you know, plants need care and with every season, there are a number of pitfalls, but that doesn't mean you cannot be a good mediator for them, including evergreens.

### **Proudly Perennials**

Most people are known to have perennials in their gardens. These are plants which last for over two years like peonies which are easy to maintain and do not require much water. They stay in the ground and do not need to be moved or constantly nurtured. Instead, they only require a healthy dose of love and attention, and the rest will be taken care of.

Many wooden plants we have in our homes act as perennials, and they are just one of the things that need minimal maintenance. "People need to take care of their perennial plants," Maria Nel, manager of Ferreira's Garden Centre in Windhoek, explained. "You have a lot of people who have them, so they must be well maintained and pruned well." Although winter sees a lot of trees shedding their leaves, it is important to make sure that evergreens are cut carefully, especially since they grow in different directions if not looked after properly.

### **Deviously Deciduous**

A deciduous plant counts as a perennial, because they last for quite a long time, but initially, they are plants which end up losing all their leaves at a certain time of the year. In Namibia, the transition starts in autumn until winter. Although they may look lifeless, Maria shared some recommendations when it came to these types of plants.

"Deciduous plants need to be pruned before they grow new buds. Spring is also a time to add new fertilisers because the sap flow is increasing." Although it might mean a bit of sweeping up, you can crush these leaves and mix them up with the soil to act as fertilisers. Speaking of fertilisers, did you know banana peels and even coal can act as a great fertiliser for soil?

### **Soil and Water Wise**

The best way to make sure your plants grow well as summer approaches is to make sure that your soil has enough nutrients. "The correct soil preparation has to start now," Maria explained. "If the soil is organically rich, water retention is better. So you can apply new mulch. In winter, it keeps the roots warm, but in summer, it keeps it cool." Because of the heat, make sure that you keep the soil moist enough because the plants depend on it.

The City of Windhoek recommends that citizens use the drip irrigation method to water their plants. This method allows water to drip slowly into the roots of many plants through a network properly designed and installed by professionals to achieve water conservation. The advantages are plenty: less soil erosion, less weed growth and foliage is less dry.



# Estate News

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For farmers out there, perhaps aquaponics would be an option. Practised in areas such as Dagbreek Special School, making a mini greenhouse and storing your plants as you raise aquatic animals such as fish or snails in tanks creates an environment where the plants and animals benefit from each other. "You save 90% of water because it's circulating all the time," Frank Schidlowski from Namibia Future Farming said. "It's not intensive work like a garden. You need maybe half an hour's work a day and that is all. Everyone understands it." To get a peek of what it's like, Dagbreek offers a special public viewing every Wednesday at 14h00 to get a taste of the aquaponics.

## Cool Tools

It's time to take out those gardening tools! Whether it's the spade that rusted up or the rake that's missing a tooth, if replacements need to be done, do it. Stock up on your proper gardening tools, and make sure you keep safe while you are at it. Ask yourself questions, Maria said, such as "are your garden gloves still usable?"

Unfortunately, many people don't take their safety into consideration. Wearing garden gloves and garden goggles are important because splinters could accidentally get into your eyes as you prune or saw off those tricky trees. "There are always bacteria in the soil so you must protect yourself," she further stated. One never knows what could be hiding in the garden. Snakes? Poisonous plants? Prickly weeds?

With these in mind, you can get your garden ready for spring in no time.

*(<https://www.namibian.com.na/get-your-garden-ready-for-spring/>)*





# *Estate News*

## **New freeway towards Windhoek open for use**

Construction on the new freeway, 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 significantly over the past few months.

It was with great delight that the new access road and highway towards and from Windhoek was opened to Finkenstein residents on Monday 18 August 2025. Roadworks are not completed yet, but are expected to come to a close in the next month or two.

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 new on-ramp onto highway from Finkenstein





# Fauna & Flora

## Armoured Bush Cricket (*Acanthopplus discoidalis*)



**Common names:** Armoured bush cricket, armoured ground cricket, armoured katydid, corn cricket (Eng.); *koringkriek* (Afr.); *setotojane* (Setswana).

Armoured like a knight, the armoured ground cricket wears 'armour' of hard exoskeleton, which are covered with sharp thorny spines.

**Description:** The hard, spiny exoskeleton of the armoured bush cricket's colour comes in varying shades of brown, but some show mixtures of green, black and sometimes tones of red. The crickets grow to about 5 cm in size and have long protruding antennae and strong mandibles. Their strong armour and the strong jaw serve as a defence mechanism to deter predators. The crickets stridulate and secrete a blood-like, possibly toxic fluid called haemolymph to deter predators.

**Getting around:** Corn crickets adults are flightless insects and move around using their long strong legs.

**Communicating:** *Acanthopplus discoidalis* make disturbance sounds when in contact with prey and rub their body parts together (stridulation) to scare predators. They also make calling sounds to attract mating partners.

**Distribution:** The species are native and widely distributed in Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. In South Africa, armoured bush crickets are found in Limpopo and the Northern Cape.

**Habitat:** Armoured bush crickets are found mainly in deserts and savannahs and sightings are at corn and sorghum fields during growing season. They prefer dry, arid or semi-arid habitats, where they are active during the day.



# Fauna & Flora

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## **Food**

Corn crickets are omnivorous and their diet varies from leaves and crops to nestlings. They are also cannibalistic and will feed on other crickets when their diet is low in salt and protein.

**Sex:** The mating process is slow and females can mate every 12 hours, laying eggs in random order. Males, however, are picky and prefer mating with virgins as the process is energy intensive.

**Friends and Foes:** Corn crickets serve as food for many animals (mainly birds, including chickens, and reptiles) because they are large and flightless and therefore easy to catch.

**Smart Strategies:** As a defence mechanism, the exoskeleton and spines help to deter predators. The crickets release smelly toxins or haemolymph when attacked. To prevent being eaten by other crickets, they clean themselves up after excreting those substances.

**People:** Armoured crickets can bite humans when picked up. They are an annoying pest to corn and sorghum farmers and need to be controlled as they cause a lot of damage to the fields.

**Conservation status:** *Acanthopplus discoidalis* are currently listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Redlist (Last assessment done in 2013).

**Relatives:** There are 16 species in the genus *Acanthopplus*. The closest relative to the armoured corn cricket (*Acanthopplus discoidalis*) is the armoured katydid (*Acanthopplus longipes*).

(<https://www.sanbi.org/animal-of-the-week/armoured-bush-cricket/>)



# ***Fauna & Flora***

## **Quiver Tree (*Aloidendron dichotomum* / *Aloe dichotoma*)**



The quiver trees are endemic to the southern highlands of Namibia and grow in desert or semi-desert. These trees were given their name in the 17th century when bushmen hunter/gatherers were seen to manufacture quivers for their arrows from the bark of the branches. The quiver tree is in fact the genus, *Aloe*, called *Aloe dictoma* in Latin, so therefore the *Aloe* family is officially a plant not a tree.

A succulent usually 3-7m tall with a sturdy trunk 1m in diameter, it has a dense, roundish crown. The trunk is up to 1m in diameter at the base, tapering upwards. The bark is smooth and yellowish, splitting and peeling with age and the branches are spreading and the leaves held erect. Flower spikes of the quiver tree are yellow, up to 300mm long and are held above the leaves.

Birds, mammals and insects are attracted to the copious nectar and they can be grown from seed, but it requires dry conditions.

They are also known as Kokerboom in Afrikaans, and they produce a bright yellow flower in June/July, common in the southern Namib Desert and the Northern Cape of South Africa. The slow growing kokerbooms occur mainly on rocky plains or slopes, storing water in their succulent leaves and fibrous trunk and branches.

(<https://namibian.org/nature/plants/aloes/quiver-tree>)



## ***Did you know?***



A turtle or tortoise isn't hiding in its shell — it is its shell. Fused to the spine and ribs, this living bone feels every touch and bruise. It's not armor — it's part of who they are. Always handle with care, and respect the being within.



# Events



## Important Dates

26 August – Heroes' Day

10 December – Human Rights Day



## Running & Cycling

5-7 September - Otjivera Experience, MTB

13 September - Hollard G&D, Okajo MTB

20-21 September - FNB Seaworks, Running & Cycling

27 September - Namib DC / Namib 100 Gravel MTB

4-5 October - Paratus Cycle Classic, Road and MTB

19 October - RMB Off Road Triathlon, Lake Oanob Resort

25 October - Mental Health Fun Run, Walvis Bay Lagoon

22 November - Kuiseb Run, MTB

5 December - Nedbank Desert Dash, MTB

14 December - FNB Sandman Triathlon, Swakopmund



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

17 Sep 2025 - Trustee Meeting, 17h30 @ FHA-Office Boardroom

22 Oct 2025 - Trustee Meeting, 17h30 @ FHA-Office Boardroom



19 Nov 2025 - AGM, 18h00 @ Eden Chalets & Venue



# Advertisements

## SIMPLY GOOD FOOD

- Convenience Shop
- Frozen Food "Heat & Eat"
- Daily Lunch Menus
- Simply Good Coffee



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



# *From the Manager*

## **Spring is around the corner!**

Here we are again, it's almost the end of August and the winter soon to be but a memory. In front of us lies the exciting prospect of warm days, comfortable evenings and lots of time spent outdoors. Oh how I have been waiting for this time of the year! Nature is slowly showing signs of awakenings with trees throwing off their leaves to make way for new life, new buds, new flowers, greenery, fruit, abundance!

This time of the year also brings about a feeling that we are approaching the end of the year with only 4 months remaining to fulfil our goals of 2025. Many refer to this time of the year as the start of "silly season", where the few remaining month are used to justify rushed actions, sometimes without thought. Don't be a victim, stay calm and continue the course.

I would like to thank all members who attended the SGM on 6 August at Eden Chalets & Venue. Your presence at the meeting shows that you care about your community. I trust that the presentation delivered and questions answered by the Trustees and Management provided clarity on some electrical issues and informed all on the work that is and has been happening behind the scenes. Thank you to Eden for providing their well equipped venue for this meeting, and to Andre & Jaco Pretorius who assisted with the sound, recording and IT requirements.

My appreciation goes out to our FHA blue collar staff who has been hard at work over the past few months in and around the Estate, keeping our road reserves open, maintaining our nature trails, replacing signboards next to the roads, fixing holes in our perimeter fence, cleaning the streets, fixing water leaks and replacing broken plumbing fixtures. You name it, they've done it! Few realize that these gentlemen's' days start as early as 06h00 in the mornings when they arrive at the Estate. Their work ethic is to be commended and their dedication to be applauded. Thank you Tangy, Rheinhard & Kreigor!

*"Spring is nature's way of saying, Let's party!" – Robin Williams*

Kind regards

***FHA Estate Manager***

*Dewald du Plessis*



# ***Contact Details***

## **\*FHA Estate Manager**

Dewald du Plessis  
081-146-9110 / [em@finkenstein.org](mailto:em@finkenstein.org)

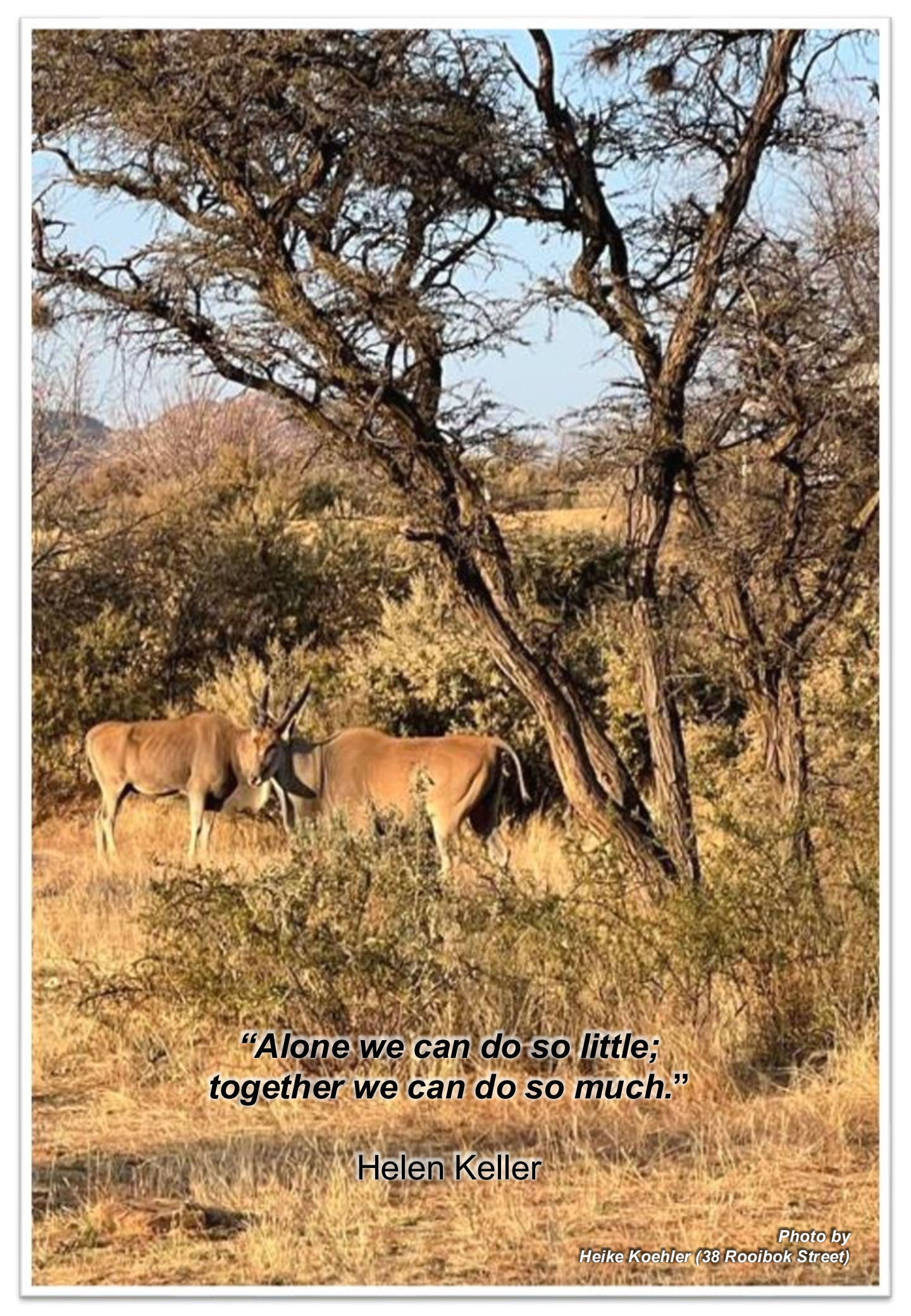
## **\*FHA Estate Security**

Johan Kellerman  
081-284-6562 / [johan@finkenstein.org](mailto:johan@finkenstein.org)

Control Room  
081-612-0772

## **\*FHA Estate Admin Office**

Teresa Keil  
081-143-4820 / [info@finkenstein.org](mailto:info@finkenstein.org)

A photograph of two kudus standing in a savanna landscape. The kudus are in the lower left, facing each other. The background features large, gnarled trees and dry, yellowish grass under a clear blue sky.

***“Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much.”***

Helen Keller

*Photo by  
Heike Koehler (38 Rooibok Street)*