

FINKENSTEIN ESTATE

I am not the Creator, I only capture. Andre de Jager©

Edition: May 2026

www.finkenstein.org

From the Trustees - Newsletter May 2026

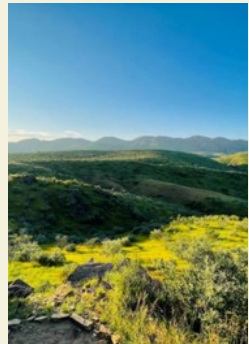
Dear Residents,

As winter settles onto our doorstep, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all residents a warm, peaceful, and enjoyable season ahead. The colder months remind us of the importance of community, consideration, and working together to preserve the unique environment and lifestyle we all value at Finkenstein.

The Trustees would like to remind all residents of the importance of respecting fellow homeowners and adhering to the Estate House Rules and Constitution. In particular, we have recently received several complaints relating to barking dogs and disturbances caused by pets.

We kindly request that pet owners ensure that their animals are properly managed and do not become a nuisance to neighbours. Responsible pet ownership contributes greatly to maintaining harmony within the Estate.

As a reminder, the Constitution and House Rules are available on the Estate website, and we encourage all residents — both existing and new — to familiarise themselves with these important documents



With the dry winter season now upon us, we urge residents to exercise extreme caution regarding fires and smoke pollution, particularly fires outside the Estate boundaries.

Uncontrolled fires present serious environmental, health, and safety risks to residents, wildlife, and neighbouring properties. We ask everyone to remain vigilant and report any concerns where necessary.



From the Trustees - Continued

A very important reminder to all residents is please not to feed the wildlife. While it may seem harmless or compassionate, feeding wildlife disrupts natural behaviour patterns, creates dependency, and may ultimately endanger both animals and residents. Preserving the natural ecosystem of Finkenstein is a shared responsibility and one of the defining features of our Estate.



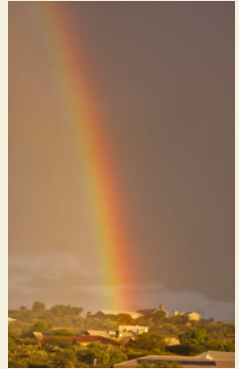
Andre Pretorius



Tania Van Veen



Andre de Jager



Andre Pretorius

We would also like to encourage all residents to continue practicing responsible water usage. Namibia remains one of the driest countries in the region, and every effort to conserve water makes a meaningful difference. Small daily actions collectively contribute to long-term sustainability.

To all new residents who have recently joined the Finkenstein community — welcome!

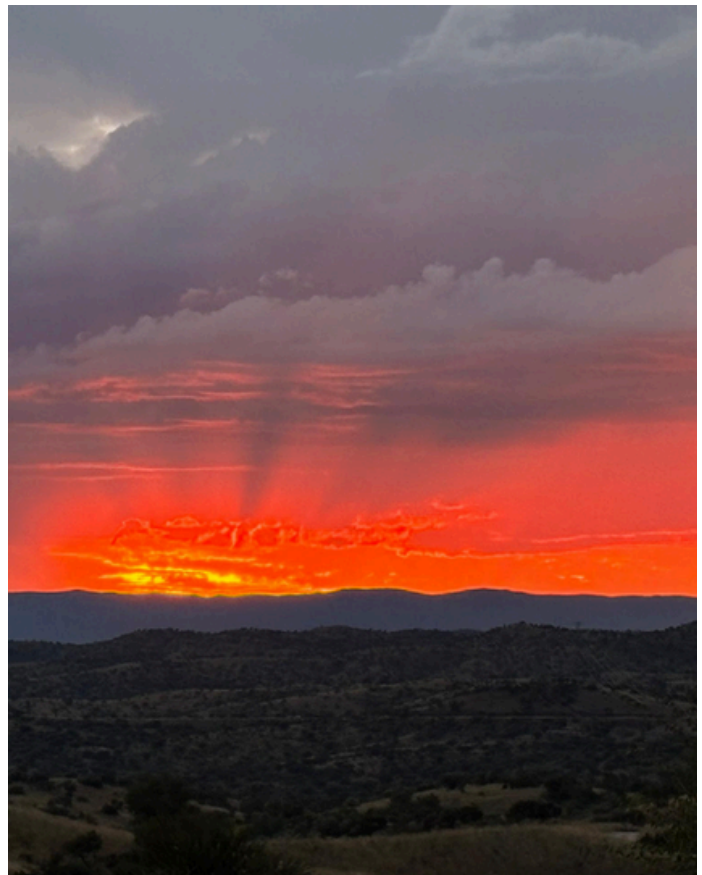
We trust that you will enjoy the beauty, tranquility, and unique lifestyle our Estate offers, and we look forward to your positive contribution to the community.

Finally, we encourage everyone to keep an eye on the upcoming events program and community activities planned over the coming months. These events provide wonderful opportunities to connect with neighbors and strengthen the sense of community within the Estate.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to keeping Finkenstein a safe, respectful, and enjoyable place to live.

Kind regards,

The Trustees

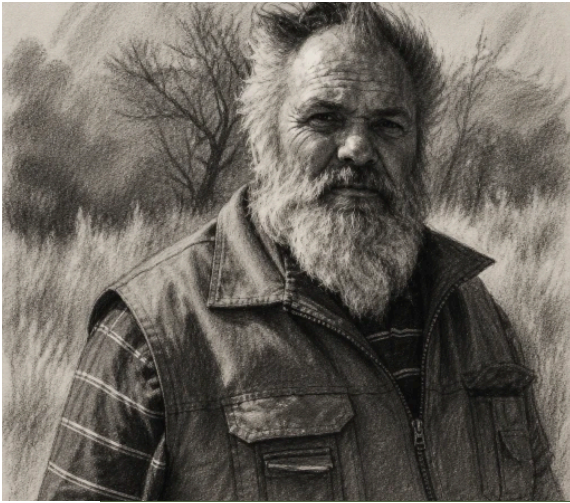


Brigit von Ludwiger



Schalk Krüger





Security Matters

We would like to address a few important matters affecting the safety, comfort, and well-being of all residents within the estate.

SPEEDING AND UNSAFE DRIVING PRACTICES

Speeding on Estate roads remains a serious concern.



Courtesy of FHA Speed Camera

We have also observed dangerous behaviour involving children, including:

- Sitting on the roofs of moving vehicles
- Hanging halfway out of vehicle windows
- Minors being allowed to drive vehicles within the estate

Although we reside in a private estate, the road traffic laws of Namibia still apply. Our primary concern is the safety of our children and residents.

In the unfortunate event of an accident resulting in serious injury or loss of life, the consequences would be devastating for everyone involved.

We kindly urge all parents and drivers to act responsibly and ensure that children are transported safely at all times. Let us work together to maintain a safe environment for all residents.

Barking Dogs and Noise Disturbances

Despite fines of up to N\$5,000 being issued to residents whose dogs bark excessively and continuously, complaints regarding barking dogs continue to increase significantly

HAPPY PETS
ACCESSORIES
Swakopmund

Stop Excessive Barking

Indoor Bark Control
Tone & Vibration

064 464 125 - 081 233 6099 - info@happypetsnam.com



The Impact of Excessive Barking

Persistent barking can negatively affect residents in several ways, including:

- Increased stress and anxiety
- Sleep disruption and fatigue
- Frustration and irritation

RECOMMENDATION: HUMANE BARK-CONTROL DEVICES

- Owners of persistently barking dogs are encouraged to consider bark-control collars that use humane and adjustable correction methods such as:
 - Sound/beep alerts
 - Vibration
 - Mild stimulation settings
 - Smart bark detection technology

These devices are designed to assist with training while avoiding unnecessary distress to the animal.



We encourage dog owners experiencing difficulties controlling excessive barking to consider humane bark-control solutions.

WHERE TO FIND BARK-CONTROL DEVICES

Radio Electronic (PTY) Ltd
Tel: +264 83 375 9120

Garmin BarkLimiter Deluxe:
<https://www.garmin.com/en-US/p/133653/>

Garmin Delta SE Bundle:
<https://www.garmin.com/en-ZA/p/767553/>

For further information, residents may contact Ute at +264 83 375 9120.





Concern from Nampol.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST SCAM CALLS AND EMAIL FRAUD:

The Namibian Police Force, through the Commercial Crime Investigation Division, wishes to warn the residents of Finkenstein and surrounding areas about the increasing number of fraud scams involving phone calls, text messages, and fraudulent emails.

- It has been observed that fraudsters are mainly impersonating bank officials and internet service providers in order to deceive members of the public into disclosing personal and banking information. In many cases, scammers contact victims while pretending to represent commercial banks, mobile banking services, or internet companies, claiming that there are problems with accounts, internet connections, SIM cards, or online banking profiles that require urgent verification.
- Victims are often instructed to provide confidential information such as passwords, PINs, One-Time Passwords (OTPs), banking details, or to click on suspicious links sent through email or text messages. Some fraudsters also manipulate victims into transferring money into fraudulent accounts under the false pretense of securing their funds.
- The Commercial Crime Investigation Division strongly advises the community to remain vigilant and observe the following precautions:
 - Never share banking passwords, PINs, or OTPs with anyone over the phone or email;
 - Do not trust unsolicited calls claiming to be from banks or internet providers without verification;
 - Avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading unknown attachments;
 - Contact your bank or internet service provider directly using official contact numbers to verify any suspicious communication;
 - Immediately report suspected fraud incidents to the nearest police station.

Members of the public are reminded that legitimate banks and internet providers do not request confidential banking information telephonically or through email.

Fraud and cyber-related crimes continue to increase and can cause serious financial losses. Public awareness and cooperation remain vital in combating these criminal activities.

THE NAMIBIAN POLICE FORCE URGES THE COMMUNITY OF FINKENSTEIN TO STAY ALERT, PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION, AND REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES.

**DET. CHIEF INSPECTOR PRADA
HEAD: FRAUD SYNDICATE SUB-DIVISION
COMMERCIAL CRIME INVESTIGATION DIVISION**



Estate Matters

We want to address a few important matters affecting the comfort and well-being of all residents within the estate.

Smoke Concern

Residents of the estate may have noticed intermittent smoke lingering in the air over the past few months.

What began as a concern raised by the community has since been investigated by the Finkenstein Homeowners Association (FHA), bringing some clarity to the situation.

The source of the smoke has been traced to activities on the neighbouring Farm Finkenstein, where wood is currently being burned as part of a charcoal production process. This information was formally confirmed to the FHA in correspondence from the farm owner.

Due to prevailing wind patterns in the area, the resulting smoke has frequently drifted toward the estate, at times creating a noticeable nuisance and raising understandable concerns about potential health impacts.

While the FHA has established that the farm does hold a valid permit issued by the Ministry of Forestry, this is only one part of the regulatory framework governing such operations. The Association is therefore taking further steps to ensure that all necessary environmental and operational requirements are being fully met. This includes verifying compliance with Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) standards, which are designed to safeguard surrounding communities and ecosystems.

The FHA remains actively engaged with the permit holder and relevant authorities to address residents' concerns and to seek practical measures that will reduce the impact of these activities on the estate.

Unfortunately, this process takes much longer than anticipated, since we need to consult various authorities, and responses are at times delayed or contradictory.

Ongoing discussions are focused on ensuring that operations are conducted responsibly and with minimal disruption to daily life.

Residents will be kept informed as more information becomes available and as progress is made toward a balanced and sustainable resolution.



Wildlife Estate Management: Key Position & Way Forward

A position paper was emailed to all which addresses a growing concern on wildlife estates in Namibia: the supplemental feeding of wild animals, particularly warthog. While often well-intentioned, extensive scientific evidence shows that feeding wildlife leads to serious ecological, safety, and animal welfare problems.

Why Feeding Wildlife is Harmful:

Drives overpopulation:

Artificial food increases survival and reproduction rates, pushing animal numbers beyond what the land can sustain.

Causes habituation:

Animals lose their natural fear of humans, becoming bold, intrusive, and sometimes aggressive.

Leads to poor health:

Human and processed foods damage animals' digestive systems and overall condition.

Spreads disease:

Feeding sites concentrate animals, increasing the transmission of diseases.

Creates long-term suffering:

Overpopulation results in overgrazing, starvation, and eventual die-offs or forced intervention.

Real-World Example: Marloth Park

A recent case involving the National Council of SPCAs highlights the risks: Years of feeding led to severe overpopulation and habitat collapse. Animals suffered from starvation, disease, and malnutrition. A 2024 High Court ruling forced urgent population control measures.

Key lesson: Delayed action leads to crisis. Proactive management is essential.

Population Management: What Works?

- Stop feeding immediately — the single most effective action.
- Culling (controlled population reduction) is:
 - Fast and effective
 - More humane than starvation or disease
 - Widely accepted and used in Southern Africa

Proposed Estate Actions

Immediate:

- Enforce a total ban on feeding wildlife
- Educate residents on impacts

Ongoing:

- Continuous enforcement of rules
- Transparent management reporting

Short-term (3–12 months):

- Reduce populations where necessary (primarily through culling) if necessary.
- Address problem animals

FHA ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Strict prohibition on feeding wildlife
- Fines for violations (N\$10,000 per offence)
- Support for lawful population management
- You are encouraged to report violations

BOTTOM LINE:

Feeding wildlife may feel compassionate, but it creates long-term harm: for animals, the environment, and residents and their pets.

Immediate action is therefore required to ensure the safety of our residents and their pets.

A sustainable wildlife estate depends on:

- Natural animal behavior
- Balanced populations
- Science-based management



URGENT WILDLIFE NOTICE
TO ALL FINKENSTEIN ESTATE HOMEOWNERS

KEEP OUR WILDLIFE WILD: DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS

Living in Finkenstein Estate offers the unique and beautiful privilege of sharing our environment with nature. However, human interference is threatening the very wildlife we cherish and respect.

STRICTLY PROHIBITED: FEEDING WILD ANIMALS

Please be aware that the feeding of any wild animals within the estate boundaries is strictly forbidden. While it may seem like a kind gesture or a harmless way to interact with nature, the reality is tragic: by feeding wild animals, you are issuing them a death warrant.

WHY IS IT A DEATH WARRANT?

- **Loss of Natural Fear:** Animals that associate humans with food lose their natural instincts. They can become bold, unpredictable, and aggressive nuisances, which inevitably leads to them having to be destroyed by authorities.
- **Fatal Health Issues:** Human food is highly toxic to wildlife. It causes severe digestive distress, malnutrition, and fatal diseases.
- **Unnatural Dependency:** Feeding disrupts their natural foraging behaviors and creates artificial dependencies that they cannot sustain in the wild.

A FED ANIMAL IS A DEAD ANIMAL.

STRICT ENFORCEMENT & PENALTIES

To protect our wildlife and the safety of our residents, management is implementing a zero-tolerance policy regarding this issue.

Fines for feeding wild animals will start at N\$10 000.00.

Let's work together to preserve the true, untouched nature of our estate. Admire the wildlife from a distance, respect their space, and let them forage naturally.

A fed animal is a dead animal.
Please do your part to protect them.

Issued by Finkenstein Estate Management



Expanding the iNaturalist 'Citizen scientist' coverage at Finkenstein Estate (and beyond)

5072 of 9777 species confirmed in Namibia

REMARKABLE ADVANCES

in digital technology over the past decade have resulted in a growing number of smartphone apps that allow non-scientists to contribute toward the real-time collection of environmental information in a meaningful way. 'Citizen scientists' can now use a wide range of platforms to record and upload data about organisms which, once corroborated, help to build up a vital regional or even global picture of species' distributions over months and years.

With iNaturalist, you can:



Identify
plants, animals,
fungi, & more



Track
species you've seen
worldwide



Discover
nature nearby



Contribute
to real science



Learn
from a global community
of naturalists

iNaturalist is an easy-to-use, free resource that allows people to record, identify, and share observations straight off their smartphones once the mobile app is downloaded and a user profile is created. It relies on location services to pinpoint the time and place where a naturally occurring species is photographed and then (as if by magic!) deploys AI to offer a provisional identification, even if you are offline at the time. Once a photograph (or audio file) is uploaded online later, it is then reviewed by human experts to confirm a name, or suggest an alternative – and you are periodically informed by email if there have been any updates to this verification process.

Then, provided that the species has been definitively identified by 2 different people, the information is added to reputable research databases that scientists can access – to target conservation efforts, for example. Using iNaturalist is a great way to learn more about the local environment around Finkenstein and Moltkeblick – even feathers, eggs and spoor can be included and no previous knowledge of biology or botany is necessary. And it has worldwide coverage too, so wherever you go, you can include observations from further afield. Your archived photographs can also be added to build up a more comprehensive picture of an ecosystem, provided that information about where and when they were taken can be supplied.

Helpful tutorials are available online, but actually the quickest way to master the process is to go out and snap a few different species on the iNaturalist app: trees, flowers, reptiles, insects/arthropods, frogs and toads, mammals, as well as birds – provided you can safely get close enough for a semi-decent picture. I don't include the antelope at Finkenstein Estate in my own records, however, because I don't consider them genuinely 'wild' but have recorded our indigenous mongooses, sengi etc.

I can especially recommend iNaturalist as a fun, educational way to introduce children to all the different types of plant and animals to be found on our Estate due to its user-friendly interface. It is one screen-based activity that they will definitely find rewarding.



Upcoming Events & Programs Calendar

<https://www.whatsonnamibia.com/ev>



1 - 5
JUN
26

Windhoek leather course



3 - 4
JUL
26

NAM Fitness Expo & Conference



4 - 5
JUN
26

Mtc Wine Extravaganza



25
JUL
26

Na/a'an ku sê Gravel Challenge



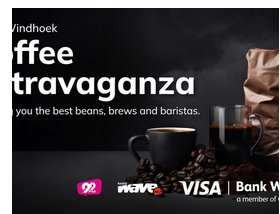
5 - 6
JUN
26

NG Wes Church Basaar



22
AUG
26

Khomas 100



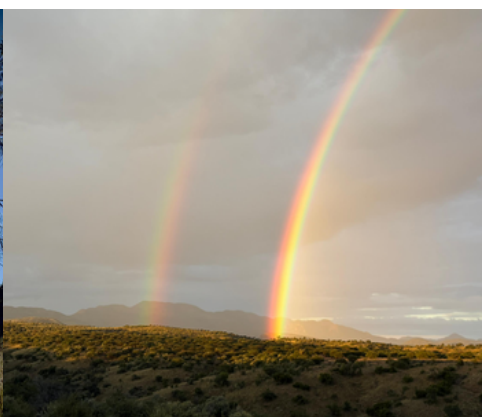
6 JUN
26

Bank Windhoek Coffee Extravaganza

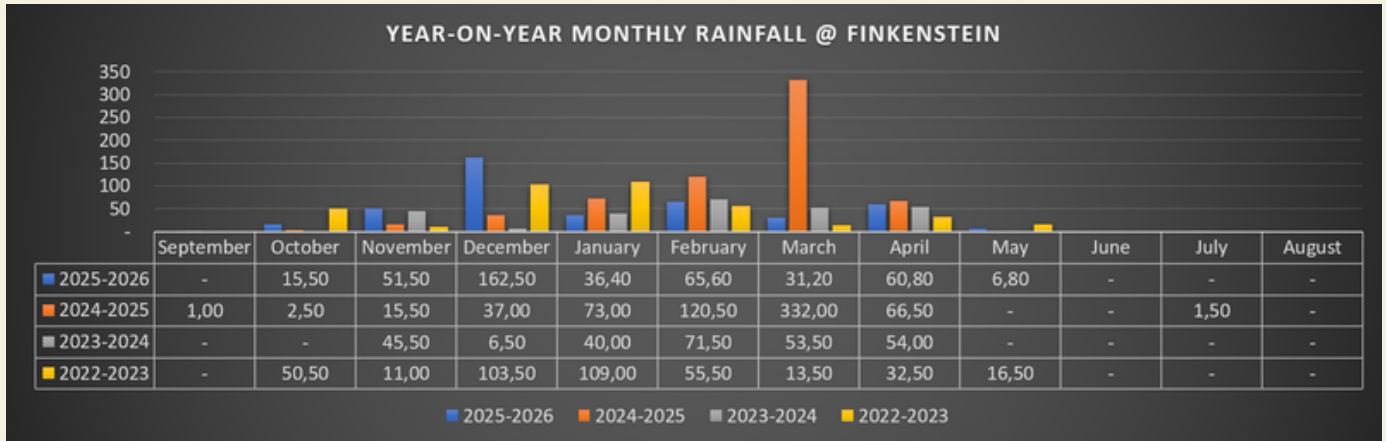
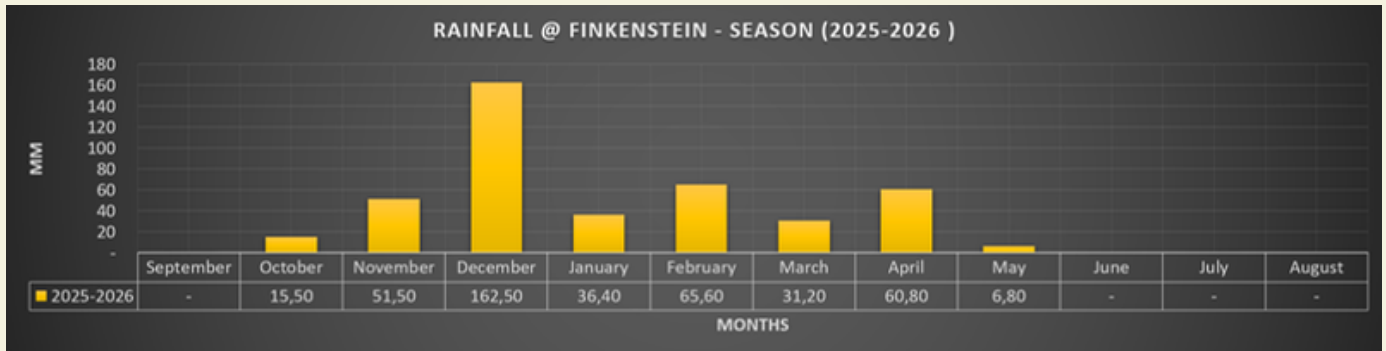


18
OCT
26

Hollard Hearts Foundation Cycling Festival



Rain & Dam Levels



The 2025–2026 rainfall season in central Namibia has been inconsistent, with key catchment areas receiving insufficient rainfall despite broader national expectations of normal to above-average conditions.

This is reflected in dam levels, with the central region currently at around 55% capacity, compared to approximately 85% at the same time last year — a significant drop in available water reserves.

The uneven distribution of rainfall, combined with high evaporation rates typical of Namibia’s climate, has limited effective inflow into dams.

As a result, the region enters the dry season with reduced water security, increasing the need for careful management and conservation to mitigate the risk of further shortages.

	2026	2025
Swakoppoort Dam	80%	98%
Von Bach Dam	66%	82%
Omatako Dam	6%	68%
Sub-Total Central Region	55%	85%

Data supplied by Namwater (18 May 2026)

Water Tariffs at Finkenstein Estate

Finkenstein Estate currently applies three different water tariff structures, each presented in its own table and designed with a sliding scale that increases with higher water usage.

These tariff structures are directly linked to the status of the Sub-Total Central Region dam levels, as outlined below.

The Estate continuously monitors these levels through regular updates from NamWater to ensure a responsive and responsible approach to water management.

Level 1 tariffs apply when Central Region dam levels are at 50% and above.

Should levels drop below 50%, Level 2 tariffs are implemented, while Level 3 tariffs come into effect when levels fall below 30%.

This tiered system is intended to encourage mindful water usage, particularly during periods of reduced water security, and to support the long-term sustainability of our shared resources.

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

hello & goodbye

As new doors open within our Finkenstein family, we warmly welcome those who join us, and fondly bid farewell to those whose journeys lead them onward may every home hold much joy as the one you leave behind.

37

hello Gifford Swart

Blackie & Wilma Swartz goodbye

hello Dominic & Ilse-Mari Stenzel

Josias vd Westhuizen goodbye

130

hello Merwe Johannes & Adri Botha

Peter Karl-Christiaan Bechstein goodbye

99

146

hello Francois Van Wyk

Johannes & Judi von Wielligh goodbye

111

hello Willie & Belinda Bruwer

Robin & Christine Thompson goodbye

hello Richard Meeks & Monique Ferreira

David Nghipunduka goodbye

191

201

hello Marko Visser

Nicolaas Frans Van Tonder goodbye

Members & Tenants

We welcome those members who have moved into their new homes. And those tenants that came to enjoy what Finkenstein has to offer

51

welcome home

Cameron & Hanlie Kotze

welcome home

Arne & Cecillia Blaauw

135

158

welcome and enjoy your time here

Mike & Sue Wassung



In Loving memory

It is with deep sadness that we received the news of Riana Jandrell's passing.

On behalf of the Finkenstein Homeowners Association, we would like to extend our sincerest condolences to Paul (Previous Estate Manager) and his family during this incredibly difficult time.

Our thoughts are with you as you navigate this profound loss. May you find strength in the love and support of those around you, and comfort in the cherished memories you shared with Riana.

Please know that you remain in our hearts, and we are holding you close in our thoughts.

With deepest sympathy,
The Finkenstein Homeowners Association



Riana Jandrell





FINKENSTEIN ESTATE CONTACT INFORMATION

A caring community enjoying quality of life in a tranquil nature estate

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