

# MABALINGWE NATURE RESERVE

## SHAREHOLDER NEWSLETTER JUNE 2019



### Dear Valued Shareholder,

We can scarcely believe it ourselves – it's mid-2019! As we stroll along the cobbled paths connecting each unit across Mabalingwe towards the main Entertainment Centre, we realise just how similar our home is to that of the veins connecting to a heart. A heart that swells with joy at the thought of many families laughing and playing in the sunlight; making everlasting memories. A heart which has hosted so many fun-filled events, witnessed so many incredible wonders of nature and beats with excitement at that which it has yet to experience.

But, let us not get ahead of ourselves, we'll still our hearts long enough to fill you in on all that has been happening at Mabalingwe Nature Reserve...

### Reaching for Gold – Our Awards

The **31st Annual RCI OSCAS Gala Awards** this year was a sight to behold!



Top Resorts from around the country battled it out and we are elated to announce Mabalingwe Nature Reserve's achievements.

Not only has Mabalingwe retained Gold Crown status, but the Resort also placed as the fourth runner-up for the prestigious Top Gold Crown Resort – Large Category overall; mere points separating the victor. Congratulations to the Mabalingwe Team!

### A Sanctuary Awaits...

Mbali Day Spa at Mabalingwe Nature Reserve is waiting to pamper you.

Experience utter indulgence with a range of tailor-made treatments from TheraNaka™; inspired by the African bushveld scents, sights and sounds. Every moment caters to your inner need for peace and relaxation.

**Operating Hours:** 09:00 – 18:00 Daily

#### Bookings Essential:

Tel: 014 001 7011

Email: [nicky@mabalingwe.com](mailto:nicky@mabalingwe.com)

Web: [www.mabalingwe.co.za/spa.php](http://www.mabalingwe.co.za/spa.php)

Visit Reception for more information



- Mbali Day Spa -





- Textured Stones -

## Polishing your home-away-from-home

Some exciting new developments have been happening at Mabalingwe and we look forward to you spending a moment, when you next arrive, noticing all these highlights and feeling the same sense of fulfilment our dedicated team does in working hard to improve your bush escape.

Starting on a high note, **Mbali Day Spa launched in 2018**, and after a brief period, made the move from its sweet little spot next to Reception to a larger, more welcoming and purpose-fit one a stone's throw further from Reception.

The newly renovated space boasts two private treatment rooms, the first an exclusive one-person treatment room and another for couples, as well as a lovely set-up on the veranda for soothing foot treatments.

A feeling of peace and calm washes over visitors as they enter through the doors into a space filled with hues of gold, warm mustard and sleepy charcoal. After a blissful TheraNaka™ treatment, guests can also commemorate the experience by purchasing **handpicked, locally-crafted jewellery pieces** on display at the Day Spa.

After a stress-relieving massage, guests can meander back to their chalets where they will be welcomed with a few fresh treats and additions. Unlock the front door and pause to notice the sweet **welcoming chalkboard signage handmade by**

**our team**; head into the rooms for a peaceful sleep in absolute comfort and style with new decorative scatter cushions; and, after a well-deserved rest, serve tea in the living room on beautiful serving trays, also made by our caring and creative team.

With so much to love in your favourite, cosy unit, it sure is difficult to leave; but stroll through the gardens for a couple of surprises outdoors, as well.

Bukwanie Nhlongo and Thabo Rathokolo, our magic green-fingered gardeners have been hard at work to keep our shrubbery lively and bright.

The Mabalingwe gardens have truly **“blossomed” under the tutelage of Bukwanie and Thabo**, who have planted succulents and added textured stones to create the perfect centre-pieces. This is another way to be water-wise in an area which is often hot and dry.

Many other nooks and crannies across the Resort have been given a subtle “facelift” to improve your holiday experience; notice the additions of **modernised furniture in Reception**, with a flair in-tune with the landscape surrounding it, as well as the successful implementation of our **new sewage plant**.

Smaller items and larger projects alike have been expertly executed to keep Mabalingwe fresh and well-maintained; and there are loads more to come – but we’ll update you on all that in your next Newsletter.



- Locally-Crafted Jewellery Pieces -



- Succulents and Texture Stones -



- Modernised Furniture in Reception -



## Fabricating Fantastic

Here at Mabalingwe we believe in and strive for staff development; identifying ways in which team members can learn and gain new skills. These skills are then utilised to create an even better environment for our guests. Lately, our gardening and wood shop teams have been hard at work, and we would love to share their projects with you!

A very familiar face, our Operations Manager, Mariana Ras, thought of adding a unique touch to all the chalets. This sparked the idea for beautiful decoupage serving trays, fun bunting to adorn our fireplaces, and creative chalkboard welcoming signs for every front door. With the help of four skilled individuals, Mariana set off on her mission!

Each tray is cut and styled by our carpenter, Klaas, and is fashioned out of 9mm shutter board. Bukwane, John, and Jonathan then paint the trays using PVA paint before they are sanded down to create a more rustic feel.

The team then use a special technique to transfer images onto the trays; brightly feathered cockerels, rusty windmills or kitchen tea sets. Each tray is carefully sealed with water-based sealant and receives a pair of metal handholds to finish the look. Take a look in Boeretroos Coffee Shop – some of these trays are on display and for sale!

# Make More Memories

## EXPAND YOUR PORTFOLIO

**Expand your holiday portfolio and make even more wonderful memories with your loved ones!**

Uni-Vate Properties has a limited number of timeshare weeks available for purchase at your favourite Resorts!



**CONTACT US TODAY**  
[info@univateproperties.co.za](mailto:info@univateproperties.co.za)  
[www.univateproperties.co.za](http://www.univateproperties.co.za)



- Mariana with Klaas, Bukwane, John and Jonathan -





## Recipe Corner

*Comfort food is at the heart of all South African cuisine;* savoury bites of warmth straight from “Ouma’s” cookbook. Vetkoek, the well-loved South African favourite of lightly fried dough, is the perfect pocket to store away any number of delicious fillings to suit the mood or degree of comfort-seeking. Try one of our suggestions below, or create your own, and send us photos!

### Mabalingwe’s Chubby Cakes! (Or “vetkoek” for the locals...)

**Cook:** 40 minutes (including proving time)

**Serves:** 12

<b>Ingredients:</b>	2 tbsps. Vegetable Oil
1 kg Cake Flour	1 tbsp Fine Sea Salt
120 g White Sugar	1 l Tepid Water
10 g Instant Yeast Sachet	750 ml Vegetable Oil

#### Get Started:

**STEP 1:** Mix all of the ingredients, except the 750 ml vegetable oil, kneading by hand and cover with a damp cloth or plastic wrap. Allow to prove for approximately 30 minutes.

**STEP 2:** Separate the dough into palm-sized balls and place on a flour-dusted surface. The dough should double in size; this does sometimes take longer in cooler weather.

**STEP 3:** Once doubled in size, bring the 750 ml vegetable

#### Filling suggestions:

**Bobotie Mince:** a savoury, chutney-infused Cape Malay tradition. **Grated Cheese and Jam:** try injecting your favourite sticky jam into the centre and add your favourite cheese, too.

**Pulled Pork and Coleslaw:** use leftover shredded pork belly with a crunchy coleslaw. **Brie Cheese and Your Favourite Preserve:** warm the cheese slightly so it’s oozy and drizzle some preserve over the top for a sweet and salty combination.

oil to a boil and drop a few dough balls into the oil.

Cover with a lid, to avoid oil splatter, and allow to simmer for 10 minutes. Flip the vetkoek over and allow to brown on the opposite side.

**STEP 4:** Remove the vetkoek from the oil and place onto a kitchen towel to drain the excess oil. They should be golden brown outside and fluffy on the inside. Serve with a filling of your choice!

## VRS Options

VRS Options is an online exchange platform, exclusive to VRS-managed Resort Shareholders, which allows them to exchange their fixed holiday for availability at various resorts, for alternative dates or unit sizes. VRS Options provides a multitude of exchange availability, which is sourced from the largest exchange companies, including RCI and DAE.

Visit [www.vrs.co.za](http://www.vrs.co.za), click on Resort Shareholders and select VRS Options Info to find out more.





## Painting the Town Red...

In true Mabalingwe celebratory style, our team hustles to bring you, our Valued Shareholders and guests, fun-filled, jam-packed holidays. We want each family who are ushered through our doors to experience the best possible version of the Resort and that starts with making every day an entertaining one!

It all starts with **Reception**... guests push through the doors to experience a different setting each visit. Special holidays and fun, commemorative days are splashed across the foyer; whether that may be a rustic styled farmhouse for Heritage Day, a dome of insects for International Butterfly Day, or reds and pinks for the month of love – we do it all! Not only are our decorative skills on point; our team has hosting down and can often be seen handing out sweet treats and refreshments to everyone checking-in.

One of our favourite times of the year is the **Festive Season**! Excited families, glowing couples, and boisterous groups of friends rain down on the Resort for a December extravaganza! Each giddy child is presented with an entertainment programme and can be seen running across the Resort on all manner of fun adventures with Static Simon and Electric Eddie, while our more mature guests can be found lounging at the swimming pool enjoying a round of Bingo Lingo.

During this happy, Festive month we receive a very special visitor: **Santa Claus**! Our favourite white-beard travels across the Resort to the sound of kiddies squealing and an echo of “ho ho ho”, handing out gifts and spreading merriment. At lunchtime everyone gathers at Le Fera Restaurant for a delicious feast; savoury oxtail, juicy roasts, an assortment of side dishes and decadent spiced desserts and what a jolly time it is!

Saying goodbye to the Festive Season and 2018 was heartfelt, but we could not wait to celebrate the **New Year**. 2019 kicked off with Valentine's Day making an appearance at Mabalingwe in a range of pink and red hues. Loved ones strolled hand-in-hand to enjoy a three course plated dinner at the Restaurant and were serenaded by our live guest entertainment performance: Kabous. Candlelight and the scents of lovingly crafted dishes wafted through the building. Couples even ventured out onto the Reserve on a romantic guided game drive and stopped at our cosy lookout point to pop bubbles and nibble on snacks as the sunset painted the sky.

Entertaining our guests does not stop with the month of love... **Mom's Night Off** remains a firm favourite for families; mom and dad enjoy some alone time with a delicious meal, soaking up each other's company, as the children play and watch their beloved films with freshly popped popcorn under the supervision of our incredible entertainment team. During March we hosted two Mom's Night Off evenings with the accompaniment of Marius Dippenaar, a very talented performer, who kept the parents entertained!



- Valentine's Day at Reception -



- Santa on His Way to Deliver Gifts -



- Santa Spreading Merriment -



- Mom's Night Off -



## A Mabalingwe Kind of Wedding...

Deep in the bushveld, where the rustling of leaves from a breeze and the soft chittering of insects form a melodious note, two hearts come together to be one.

*"You are my today, and all of my tomorrows..."*

Mabalingwe offers bridal parties a unique setting (a truly South African experience), mouth-watering morsels (a Le Fera speciality), craftsmanship (a dedicated team's passion), and a multitude of happy moments and memories (a start to happily ever after.)

Couples have the rare opportunity to design the wedding of their dreams; exactly how they want it. Perhaps an intimate affair at the famous Kalahari Oasis Pub; dancing barefoot on soft sand under a velvety blanket of stars, sharing traditional potjie fare? Or, a classic gathering at the Restaurant; overlooking the thicket of Acacia trees while sipping on glasses of bubbly and feasting on pretty plates?

Allow us to bring your vision to life...

Email: [contactus@mabalingwe.com](mailto:contactus@mabalingwe.com)

Tel: 014 001 7011



The Tractor Factor

Big Wheels  
for Big Dreams

African Blessings needs you to help them raise enough money to purchase an agricultural-use tractor and slasher to better maintain the grassy areas on the Farm, and to provide our children with a safe environment where they can play and enjoy the sunshine.

Please consider donating to this campaign.

*Small change makes a big difference!*

**African  
Blessings**  
"faith and love through action"

**Account Name:** African Blessings **Bank:** First National Bank

**Branch Code:** 250655 **Account Number:** 62065437355

**Reference:** The Tractor Factor



## Striving to be your preferred holiday destination!

Our hearts sing when we receive great news and fabulous feedback from our guests, sharing their experiences at Mabalingwe – each tale puts a smile on our faces and motivates us all to strive even harder! Here's one such feedback communication received from Kelly Johnson, who recently visited Mabalingwe with her family:

*"Hi!*

*I wanted to comment on what an amazing stay we had at Mabalingwe over the period of 11 – 18 January 2019.*

*We wanted to highlight that **Sarah** in Housekeeping really made sure our unit (unit 1) was 100% to our liking and went out of her way to look after us. Even running after the car as I had forgotten an item in the unit on the last day!*

*Also, **Jerry** the Game Ranger took us on one of the best game drives I have ever experienced. He is extremely knowledgeable, has a great sense of humour and made such an effort to ensure we really enjoyed the drive. The entire van was elated when he tracked the elephant herd down. Jerry may have been the most excited of everyone when they were found! It was awesome.*

*I have been coming to Mabalingwe for the last 25 years or so, and the last trip has been the most memorable so far. Next year has a lot to live up to."*



Sarah



Jerry

*"I want to thank **Juan** for actually making my holiday! You helped me have a great relaxing time and your helpful, friendly and 'will-to-make-things-work' attitude cannot be overstated!" – Sandor Milun, E-Mail*



Juan

Kelly isn't the only visitor to make a mention of a few hard-working team members. Behind the scenes, Mabalingwe's staff orchestrates everything, from glistening chalets to intriguing game drives, to make the most of your time having fun, enjoying nature, spending quality time with family and making memories. Take a bow:

*"**Carel** struck us all as being very passionate about what he does, very knowledgeable in his expertise, both about the park itself and generally. We found him to be enthusiastic and we all thoroughly enjoyed his game drive." – Denico Brand, E-Mail*



Carel

*"Baie dankie vir 'n heerlike paar dae by Mabalingwe.*

*Veral baie en groot komplimente aan **Frans Mahlanya** vir 'n onvergeetlike middag van pyl-en-boogskiet, tydens ons besoek aan Mabalingwe verlede week. Frans se aangename, vriendelike geaardheid en vermoë om met veral jong mense te werk is indrukwekkend. Dis duidelik dat Frans omgee vir en belangstel in die welstand van Mabalingwe se gaste. Of mens nou saam met hom op 'n uitstappie was of êrens op 'n stofpad in die reservaat verby hom gery het, dit was altyd 'n plesier as ons paaie met Frans gekruis het. Hy kry dit reg om mens tuis te laat voel en die tyd saam met hom en by Mabalingwe terdeë te geniet.*

*Vanuit ons perspektief is Frans 'n regte yster!!" - Marize De Klerk, E-Mail*



Frans





## Important Notices

### Closure Notice

Please note that our VRS Head Office will be closed on the following days:

**17 June 2019**, we will return for business as usual on Tuesday, 18 June 2019.

**09 August 2019**, we will return for business as usual on Monday, 12 August 2019.

**23 and 24 September 2019**, we will return for business as usual on Wednesday, 25 September 2019.

### Levy Payments

Levies must be paid in terms of the Use Agreement and no occupation or usage of any form is allowable until the levies have been paid. (This applies to usage, spacebanking, renting etc. of the timeshare week.) For alternative payment arrangements, please contact Property Admin: [propertyadmin@vrs.co.za](mailto:propertyadmin@vrs.co.za)

### Spacebanking and Rentals

Please note that a request for spacebanking or rental must be submitted to Property Admin a minimum of five months prior to the occupation date to enable us to process them.

Please contact Jené Milne at: [jene@mabalingwe.com](mailto:jene@mabalingwe.com).

### Occupation Dates

Please note that resort calendars are linked to school holidays, and it is therefore vital that you check the annual calendar to ensure that you occupy the correct week.

Please refer to the 2019 Calendar and Resort Instruction Letter available on the following links:

<https://www.vrs.co.za/docs/2019/calendar/MabalingweCalendar2019.pdf>

<https://www.vrs.co.za/docs/2019/instruction/MabalingweInstructionLetter-2019.pdf>

### Instruction Letters

Please complete and submit your Instruction Letter to notify us that you'll be occupying your week or if you'd like to update your personal information. It can be found here: <https://www.vrs.co.za/docs/2019/instruction/MabalingweInstructionLetter-2019.pdf>

### VRS Website

Be sure to take a look at our website with a dedicated owner's page for our valued Shareholders where you can download Calendars, Instruction Letters and Use Agreements.

### Mabalingwe Nature Reserve Share Block House Rules

<https://www.vrs.co.za/docs/resort-docs/houserules/MabalingweShareBlock-HouseRules2019.pdf>

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## We bid you adieu

Strolling away from the buzzing energy at the Main Entertainment Centre, and back towards the comfort and quiet awaiting us at the chalets, we pause to wonder about the exciting new chapters which lie ahead, yet to be discovered; exciting encounters in the Mabalingwe bushveld, moments of bliss and serenity at Mbali Spa, forging new friendships and bonds with one another.

**"The beautiful journey of today can only begin when we learn to let go of yesterday."** – take our hand, and together, we will commence on this next, great journey as we move towards the second half of the year.

Warm regards

*Marjorie Forssman*

VRS Managing Director



#### Contact Us

t: 014 001 7011

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