



Ledibeng Garden competition

Residents are reminded of the annual garden competition to be held on the Estate.

The judges will visit the gardens that were entered on Tuesday, April 17th and the prize ceremony will take place on Friday 20 April 2012. The winners of last year's competition cannot enter the competition in 2012. However the 1st and 2nd place winners of last year's competition will receive a plant provided the gardens are of the equivalent standard to last year.



New Ledibeng residents

This year the Easter bunny came early.

A white, black and brown rabbit was seen hiding underneath the marketing office. The wildlife management team immediately started looking for Easter eggs!



This white goose has decided that the dam on the north eastern side of the Estate is just the place to be. It came from Onverwacht and simply walked through the security gate, made a left turn and headed to the dam. It has been hanging around the dam ever since.

Bird Nest Spotted

The bird nest that featured in the previous edition belongs to a Crowned Plover or *Vanellus coronatus* and was photographed near the second big traffic circle on the Estate. Of the three eggs only two hatched.



Ledibeng Butterflies



Shortly after the summer rainy season started, butterflies of all shapes and colours started showing up all over the Estate.



The **Guinea Fowl** butterfly or *Hamanumida daedalus* are usually found in sandy and rocky areas and fly from one shady spot to the next. The larvae of this butterfly feeds on the **Large Fruited Bushwillow** / Raasblaar or *Combretum molle* and the **Silver Cluster Leaf** / Vaalboom or *Terminalia sericea*. Significant numbers of these two tree species occur on the southern and south eastern part of the Estate. This butterfly prefers sitting on the ground.

This butterfly is known as **Diadem** or *Hypolimnas misippus*. The picture is that of a male diadem. The top side of the wings are black with circular violet or blue ringed white patches on each wing. A smaller white patch can be seen close to the fore wing tip. The females are orange in colour. The larvae of this butterfly feeds on plants like *Portulaca* and *Talium*. *Portulaca* species are often confused with



so called "Vygies" and many residents have planted these plant species in their gardens, thus attracting these butterflies.



The **Dancing Acraea** / Small Orange Acraea or *Hyalites eponina* is not a very strong flyer and can often be seen in the vicinity of **Silver Cluster Leaf** / Vaalbos trees and shrubs such as Maagbossie / Spinnekopbossie or *Triumfetta sonderi*.

The butterfly in this picture is a male. This species usually settles on low vegetation and favours long grass at edges of wooded areas.

The **African Monarch** or *Danaus chrysippus* is a fairly common butterfly occurring all over South Africa. The larvae feed mostly on milkweed / melkbos or *Asclepias* species.



The males have four black spots on the hind wings compared to the three black spots on the hind wings of the females. In the Northern Cape regions a certain milkweed species (*Asclepias fructicosa*) is fed to springbuck to combat an external blood sucking parasite called blue keds / blou luisse. This is very unusual since milkweed is considered to be a poisonous plant. Under normal conditions springbuck will not feed on milkweed unless they are plagued by blue keds / blou luisse.





The **Blue Pansy** or *Junonia oenone* is a butterfly mostly seen sitting on the ground. The male butterfly is very territorial and will chase away any other butterfly venturing into its area. The larvae of this butterfly feeds on plant species like **Chinese Violet** (*Asystasia gangetica*).

The **Yellow Pansy** or *Junonia hierta* is similar to the Blue Pansy; a ground dweller. The males of this particular species will establish a territory and chase off other butterflies moving into their territory.

The picture is that of a male. The female butterfly has two and in some cases even three smaller blue spots on the fore and hind wing. Yellow Pansy is also the name of a garden flower. Sometimes this flower is referred to as a Viola.



The **Sandmen** or *Spialia occurs* widespread all over South Africa. This butterfly is not very big and is regarded a fast flier, often settling on foliage, flowers and on the ground. The larvae feed on a variety of plant species but prefer Hibiscus species.



The **Banded Golden Tip** or *Colotis eris* is a medium size (wingspan 43 mm) butterfly. It is a fast and erratic flyer, usually flying close to the ground. This species is often found in the vicinity of the **Shepherd's Tree** / Witgat or *Boscia albitrunca* and is widespread in the bushveld regions, preferring hot dry areas. Lepahalale is just the right place for this butterfly if it is looking for HOT!!

The **Scarlet Tip** or *Colotis danae* is a medium sized (wingspan 44mm) butterfly. The picture is that of a female. The males have a lot less black markings on the hind wing. Larvae of this butterfly feed on the **Bead-bean tree** or *Maerua angolensis*. This butterfly is usually a low flyer and often settles on the ground.





The **Common Hairtail** or *Anthene definita* is a fairly small butterfly with a wingspan of 27 mm. The upper side of the wings of the males are purplish blue. Larvae of this species feed on *Acacia* spp.

The butterfly is often seen on the flowers of the Langklits / **Chaff flower** or *Achyranthes aspera*.



Garden Acraea or *Acraea horta* is another medium size butterfly. The forewings are translucent and the butterflies like to visit the flowers of a tree called the **Silver Cluster-leaf** / Vaalboom or *Terminalia sericea*. The larvae of this butterfly usually feed on **Wild Peach** (*Kiggelaria africana*) and some granadillas (*Passiflora*).

The **Painted Lady** or *Cynthia cardui* has black forewing tips marked with several white spots. The hind wings have three rows of black spots parallel to the outer margins. This butterfly is a rapid flyer and often settles on the ground or on low vegetation. It has not been established which host plane the larvae prefer.

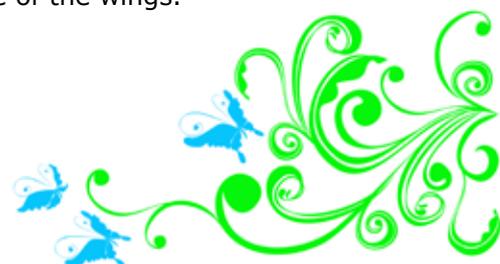


Natal Acraea or *Acraea natalica* is considered a medium sized (wingspan 59 mm) butterfly. They are often seen in the vicinity of Vaalboom or **Silver Cluster-leaf** trees. The males have a pinkish red colour (picture) and the females are brownish red. The larvae of this species of butterfly feed on the granadilla - *Passiflora*.



The **Citrus Swallowtail** or *Papilio demodocus* is considered to be a large butterfly with a wingspan of 85 mm. The caterpillar stage is commonly known as "orange dog caterpillars" or "orange dogs". As the name suggests it often feeds on citrus trees.

This butterfly is known as a **Common Dotted Border** or *Mylothris agathina*. During November this species can be seen all flying in a north easterly direction. The reason for this is unknown. The ones on the picture are all males. The females have a pale yellow colour on the outside of the wings.



Good Looking Bird

The bird on the picture below is called a **Paradise Whydah** / Gewone Paradyvink or *Vidua paradisea*.



This picture was taken at the corner of Lephalale street and Ledibeng Avenue. The bird with the long tail feathers represents a breeding male whilst the other bird with the speckles is a non-breeding male. The long tail feathers make the males

very vulnerable when it comes to predators. To overcome this disadvantage, this particular species is always seen feeding in large groups and often with other bird species like doves. This bird is a seed and insect eater and feeds on the ground.

'Slang in die Gras'

On a sunny morning in February two game rangers were called to Phufane street where the distress calls from an animal was disturbing the peace.



Upon close inspection it was evident that the distress calls had been coming from a shrub hare that had been caught by a 1, 2 meter python. The hare was already dead and the python made it clear that he was not going to surrender his "prize catch". A decision was made to leave

the snake and the hare and to move away from the kill site. When the game rangers returned to the location a few hours later the snake and the hare were gone. The wildlife management team has had numerous calls from residents complaining that cats and small dogs have gone missing. It could very well be as a result of pythons lurking in the dark.

'Krokodil in die Dam'

It is official. A 1 metre crocodile has been spotted in the dam located on the north eastern side of the Estate.

Over the last couple of weeks the wildlife management team had been searching for a 'crocodile' spotted by one of the residents. The presence of monitor lizards around the dam is a common site. Some of them grow up to 3 feet long. The abundance of prey around the water's edge keeps the monitor lizards close to the water. The question now is: How did the crocodile end up in the dam? Crocodiles are known to walk significant distances to find suitable water and the Mogol River is at least 6 kilometres away from the Estate. At this time we can only speculate as to how the croc ended up in the dam!



Note: the pic on the the right is NOT the actual croc.



**FROM
YOUR WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**We would like to hear
your story!**

Should you have an event or story you would like to share, please send us your photos and a few words to **wildlife@lantic.net**


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