



The year is

2013

The Wildlife Management Team would like to welcome all the residents back on the Estate. We trust that those who have returned had a good holiday / festive season and are ready for the New Year. To date no strange creatures have descended on mother earth, so it's best to take 2013 by the horns and run with it.

There is only one thing that is certain in this New Year and that is "change".

Another Species Added to the Ledibeng List of Indigenous Trees

At the end of October a shrub with bright yellow flowers started to bloom on the Estate.

Over the last three years these shrubs have not blossomed at all for whatever reason. The shrub is called a Short-thorn pomegranate / Kortdoringgranaat or *Rhigozum brevispinosum*. Only two of these shrubs have been observed on the Estate, one being spotted on the sidewalk, across the street from 22 Duiker. This shrub species will be added to the Ledibeng List of Indigenous Trees.



A Dragon Fly or **WHAT?**

It is difficult to believe that this dragon fly like creature and the common antlion are closely related.



Antlions belong to the Order called Neuroptera. The characteristics of this adult antlion are the following; the antenna are large and clubbed at the tip, the wings are folded back over the body at rest, they are active at night and are easily recognisable by their clumsy flight.

The antlion larva usually lives in soft sand, constructing conical pits. They then hide just underneath the ground at the bottom of these pits and when an insect enters the pit, the antlion larva will throw sand on the insect causing it to struggle and slip to the bottom. The larva will then grab the insect and start feeding on it by sucking the body dry. The larva usually moves around backwards at night, leaving a visible trail. The conical pits are made at dusk.

New & Old Wounds



It can only be the largest rodent in all of Africa responsible for the stripping of bark from a Tamboti tree in this way.

On Ledibeng this is a fairly common sighting and it is interesting that this is only done to Tamboti trees. In some situations the bark is stripped all the way around the tree trunk, and in some cases small bits and pieces are stripped off and eaten. This ring barking of the trees can very well result in the trees dying. In some cases where smaller sections of bark have been

removed the tree will recover by sealing off this area. Once the bark has been peeled off, the next layer of wood is cream coloured and this section is very soft. Wood borers can very easily damage this part of the tree trunk contributing to the tree eventually dying. The next section in the Tamboti tree trunk is the core section. This section is very hard and will take years to break down by nature's elements. This core section is virtually indestructible when it comes to insect damage, but by this time the damage has already been done thanks to the porcupine and the wood borers.

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Veld Flower

This veld flower is known as a Veld Lily or Grass Lily (Crinum graminicola) and was photographed on the school stand across the street from the Ledibeng Marketing Office.

Crinum is a fascinating genus of the large equally captivating *Amaryllidaceae* family. The name Crinum originates from the Greek Krinon which means white lily. The time of the year when the rains come has a lot to do with the various veld flowers observed.

Certain veld flowers have the ability to disappear and then one day just re-appear out of the blue. In the Steenbokpan area a farm owner called on the wildlife management team in 2009 to try and identify a certain veld flower that emerged after the area had received good rains early in the season. This farm owner has lived in the Steenbokpan area on the same farm for 21 years and in all these years he has never seen this particular plant and flower.



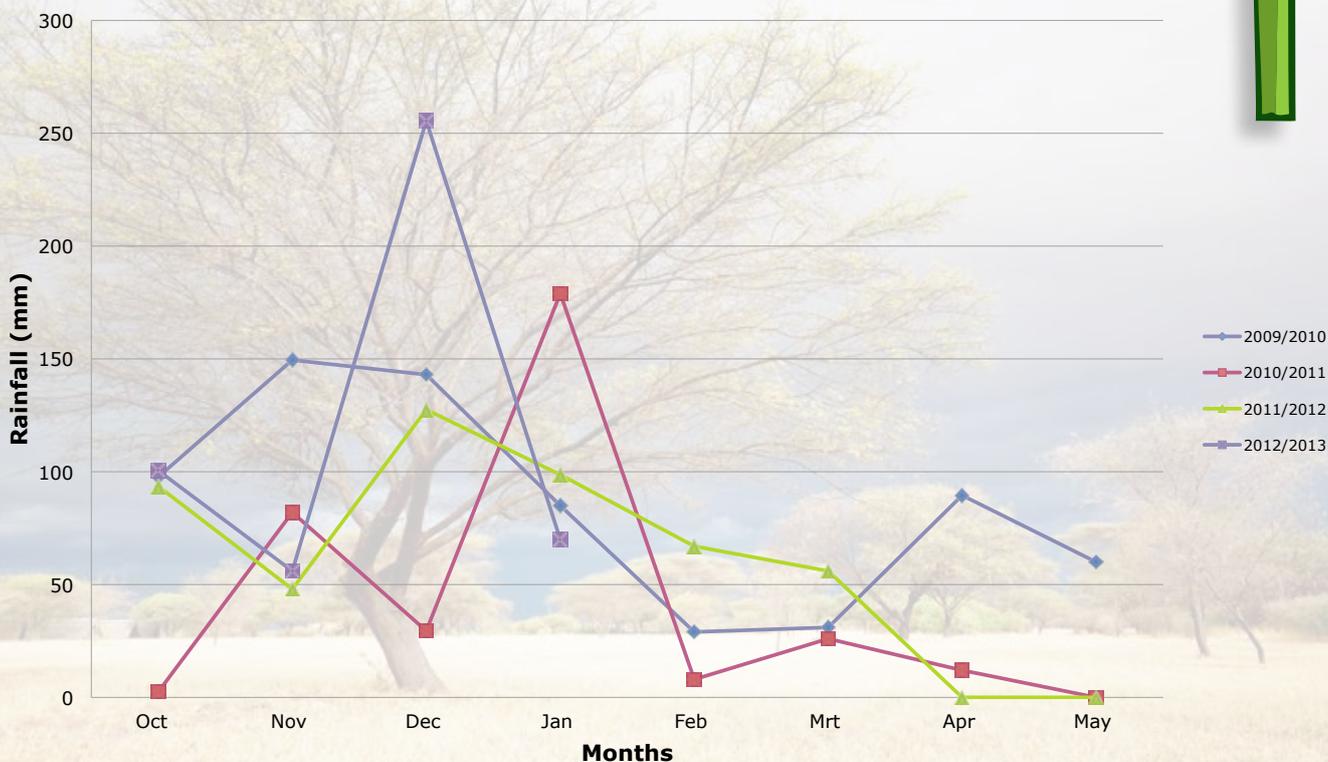


The wildlife management team called in the help of the clever people with the thick glasses. Some of them thought the plant was an impala lily, but the fact that the leaves and stems above ground, of this particular plant, disappeared after it produced flowers, was strange. There is also the possibility of the wildlife utilising the leaves and stems above ground and in this way removing it all. Underneath the ground this plant had a bulb the size of a 25 litre container. An impala lily will maintain the leaf and stem structure above ground from year to year. Up to this day we are still not 100% sure what this plant is called. Perhaps it is an undiscovered and undocumented plant species!!

The pitter patter of *raindrops*



Rainfall numbers (mm) recorded over the past three rainy seasons from October 2009 to May 2013.



Wildlife Quiz (Part 2)



1.	A honey badger has five toes on the front foot and five toes on the back foot.	True or False
2.	A hippo has five toes on the front foot and five toes on the back foot.	True or False
3.	A leopard and a lion have a "floating bone"	True or False
4.	Bears occur naturally in some parts of Africa.	True or False
5.	The male grey duiker is territorial.	True or False
6.	The male bushbuck is territorial.	True or False
7.	A weaver bird is a seed eating bird.	True or False
8.	A group of spotted hyena is led by a female individual.	True or False
9.	A night jar feeds on mice.	True or False
10.	A mouse bird feeds on mice.	True or False
11.	An octopus has eight legs.	True or False
12.	A terrapin lives in sea water.	True or False



From your Wildlife Management Team



For information on property sales contact:
Tel: **012 665 5308**
Email: **info@cranbrook.co.za**

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**



Answers: 1.(True), 2.(False), 3.(True), 4.(False), 5.(True), 6.(True), 7.(True), 8.(True), 9.(False), 10.(False), 11.(True), 12.(False).