




*An Alien observation & prediction for 2014: "The human race will continue to struggle in an attempt to make a difference and in order to survive – this especially since e-tolls have come alive."*

*The Ledibeng Wildlife Management Team would like to welcome back all the terrestrial residents living on the Estate. May 2014 be a wonderful year. Perhaps, if all goes well, Medupi will come alive at some point in time during this year!*

## Kudu Bull in Emergency Dam



*On Sunday morning, 15 December 2013, the wildlife management team received a call from the caretaker of the Paarl Municipal Sewerage treatment facility located on the south east corner of the Estate.*

A big kudu bull got stuck in the fence surrounding this facility after engaging other bulls in a fight. Upon arrival it was evident that the kudu bull had managed to untangle itself from the fence but was now located on the edge of an emergency dam. This dam is built at ground level; 40 metres wide, 40 metres long and 4 metres deep with 45 degree sloping sides covered in a thick black plastic. The team knew that it would be catastrophic if the bull landed in

this dam. One of the game rangers decided to approach the kudu bull on foot in an attempt to get it away from the dam. At this point the kudu bull challenged the ranger and attacked him. The rest of the team rushed towards the kudu bull distracting him and giving the game ranger who was attacked a chance to get away from the enraged bull.

Luckily, the game ranger only suffered minor bruises. Momentarily a staring contest developed between the kudu bull and the rest of the wildlife management team but without warning the kudu bull then jumped into the emergency dam! With some members of the wildlife management team on leave it was clear that this would be a job for more than the three people trying to assist. The help of the security team was called upon and four more people arrived on the scene to assist.

Two major questions arose: Firstly, how on earth do you get a 350 kilogram animal out of this emergency dam alive and secondly how do you free this enraged animal, without any more rangers getting attacked, once it is out?



The first attempt was made by throwing a noose over the horns of the bull. This was easier said than done! In the process the bull kept moving further away and towards the middle of the dam and with every throw the bull would attack the rope in the water.

A decision was then made to tie another rope to the noose and to move across to the other side of the dam with the second rope. The noose was lowered over the horns by the team pulling the two ropes and tightening the noose. That was the easy part of the operation accomplished! The next step was to pull the animal out of the dam while the bull was still continuously fighting the tight rope around the base of its horns. The loose end of the rope was then attached to the tow bar of a vehicle and the bull was pulled towards the top section of the dam.

The next problem was getting the rope off of the horns without anyone getting hurt in the process. The team decided to tie the back legs of the animal with a ratchet rope before it got to the top of the dam and was able to stand. At the end of the ratchet rope is an S-shaped piece of metal and this made it easy to undo the rope around the back legs without too much trouble. After the back legs were tied the bull was pulled out of the emergency dam by the vehicle. The game rangers had their hands full in an attempt to keep the back legs off the ground. Whilst holding the kudu bull down on its side with its back legs tied together, the team was able to undo the rope around the base of the horns.

The team members, as well as the vehicles, were then moved a safe

distance away from the animal. At this point the rope around the back legs was released and the animal came to its feet! For a few moments it stared at the rescue party and then proceeded to walk straight to the edge of the emergency dam! In an attempt to get it away from the emergency dam, it was decided to approach the bull with a vehicle. When the vehicle came close to the bull he decided to stand his ground and then launched an attack on the vehicle. During the attack the animal hit the bull bar of the vehicle with his horns three times with full force. At this point, the wildlife management team decided to retreat, leaving the kudu bull to exit the enclosure of the Municipal Sewerage treatment facility in its own time - which he eventually did later that same day. Additional measures have now been put in place in an effort to prevent the wildlife from entering the Municipal Sewerage facility.

**Warning:** The wildlife management team would urge tenants and residents to keep a safe distance away from the wildlife found on the Estate. Each and every animal has a comfort zone and once an individual enters this comfort zone the animal will either flee or it will fight. Of late we've had a lot of problems due to both tenants and residents who are feeding bread and all kinds of vegetables/leftovers to the warthogs that roam around the houses. This could result in people getting injured in the process and the animal responsible having to be shot.

## WARTHOGS FELL INTO TRENCH

Four baby warthogs fell into a trench dug by WK Construction on Ledibeng. The trench is for a new water pipeline connecting the main water supply of the Estate with the newly built water reservoir. The game rangers discovered the four young piglets during a routine foot patrol. The warthogs were caught by hand and turned loose in the nearby bushes. This resulted in quite a squealing contest and was a rather noisy affair!

But as they say...  
All is well that ends well!



# WHAT? THE HECK IS THIS?

*Living on an Eco-Estate will without a doubt bring tenants and residents into contact with strange and sometimes dangerous creatures.*

One needs to consider whether it's dangerous or not; to identify the animal, and then to decide how to react. Many people living on the Estate call on the wildlife management team to catch snakes found inside or in the vicinity of the houses. We thought it appropriate to share with our readers which are the most common snakes removed from within or around the houses on the Estate?



This snake is called a "Mozambique Spitting Cobra" – fairly fast and very dangerous. This snake loves to hide and look for prey amongst rubbish or building materials. For those tenants/residents who are hoarders we strongly suggest that you take action by cleaning up in and around the house and yard or you will most certainly end up with one of these amongst the goods standing around outside or the piled up in your garage. Unless you are a trained herpetologist, any snake needs to be treated as a dangerous creature.

**All of these snakes are dangerous! Call on the wildlife management team on 072 763 6992 to assist, should you come across one of these.**



***From your Wildlife Management Team***



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

This particular snake is called a "Boomslang". It has a slim appearance and can be green or grey in colour. This snake needs to be treated as dangerous! It is very agile and is mostly found in trees whilst hunting for lizards or birds in nests.



This snake is called a "Puff Adder". They are usually found on the ground. It has a rather obese appearance but don't let this fool you, this snake can strike as fast as lightning. It is also very well camouflaged. Houses on the estate with a Westerly stoep area are very likely to have one of these "fatty's" lying there in the early evening when the outside temperature is cooling down. At this time they will come onto the stoep area to warm their bodies. This is a dangerous snake!

## THE SANGOMA SAYS...

**...a negative attitude is just like a flat tyre, you can't get very far without changing it.**

**...enjoy today because ...it ain't coming back.**

**...the key to happiness is not what you give or get, but what you share.**

**...a clear conscience is like a soft pillow.**



**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**