

## CHIT-CHAT No.8a

### WAKKERSTROOM.

Dear Friends from Wakkerstroom,

Sorry I am a bit late - I have been away. But am now back on track and rearing to go!!!

- 1) **OUR OTTERS** - Some time ago Mary Scholes transported a road kill otter to a museum where it was formally identified. Our otters are the Spotted-necked Otters ( *Lutra maculicollis* ). In Wakkerstroom their diet is augmented by freshwater crabs and frogs and they have been seen to catch birds as well. (more often than not, Yellow-billed Duck). They are breeding in the area as well and many birders have had wonderful sightings of the youngsters at play.
- 2) **FUTURE HAPPENINGS** - a) 27<sup>th</sup> August - Car Boot Sale at DeKotzenhof Guesthouse - always a lovely social event and lots of fun. b) 9<sup>th</sup> September - SAMCO Magic Convention to be held at Papillon but I have heard that they will be putting on a magic show or two. c) 17<sup>th</sup> September - two happenings that day - Ina Millman is having an art workshop at Papillon. The theme is "Skies". All you budding artists need to be there!! and the second one is the 23<sup>rd</sup> Citizen Scientist Day to be held at Birdlife from 8.30 until 4.30. Entrance is free and everybody is invited to attend. There is no charge for this event but it is essential for planning and catering purposes that you book for this event. If you would like info on this event a poster will be put up in the info centre. d) 24<sup>th</sup> September is Heritage Day and there will be a number of activities in town. Details coming soon.
- 3) **WAG** - The Wag inoculation drive was very successful. The Wag people with Dr Gin managed to inoculate 173 dogs. They hope that this will put a dent in the distemper outbreak. A large amount of money was raised by Dirt Maniacs and this money was spent on vet bills so our wonderful WAG people are appealing again for donations. Thank you guys - you do a wonderful job!
- 4) **ICE CREAM TUBS** - A number of organisations and groups are needing old ice-cream tubs. Please all you ice cream eaters wash out your finished

tubs and drop them off at the info centre so that I can distribute them to both WAG and the various crèches and needy schools who use them for all sorts of reasons.

- 5) **DISCHEM** - A number of people commented on Facebook that they have recently been in Newcastle and that they saw a sign by the new shopping centre next to the Ocean Basket announcing "Dischem Pharmacy opening soon ". What great news!
- 6) **BIRDLIFE RECYCLING PROJECT** - Business category -1<sup>st</sup> Dana with 662kgs total; 2<sup>nd</sup> DeKotzenhof with 487kgs total and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bistro with 247kgs. Well done everyone -that is impressive. Then in the Home category 1<sup>st</sup> place was Kevin Twomey with 566kgs total; 2<sup>nd</sup> Carol Preston with 377kgs total and 3<sup>rd</sup> Colin and Moira Anderson with 245 kgs total. Fantastic and also very impressive. Kristi would like to make special mention of Country Kids College who have collected a total of 178kgs of recyclables to date for 2016. Well done all and keep it going!
- 7) **COMPUTER COURSES** - A number of people in the village have asked Eric Anderson (the Computer guy) if he would give some tuition on computers, so he is going to run a beginner's course at the Crowned Crane Pub! The course will start on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September from 14h00 until 15h00 and will run for 7 weeks. There will be a R10 charge for each of the 1 hour sessions, or R50 for booking all the sessions up front. An advanced course will be run after the beginners course for any interested people. If you would like to see the program of what will be taught each week I will put it up at the info centre.
- 8) **SUNDAY BRAAI** - The Crowned Crane will be hosting a Bring and Braai on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month, starting from the 11<sup>th</sup> September. Bring your own meat and everything else will be supplied at reasonable prices. Children and dogs on leashes are more than welcome.
- 9) **COMEDY EVENINGS** - The Crowned Crane is also introducing comedy evenings starting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 16h00. Each evening will feature a different comedian. Artists will include stars such as Barry Hilton, Jeff Dunham, Dame Edna Everage, Bennie Hill, Monty Python etc.
- 10) **STRAY CAT** - Wendy Cloete has a rather friendly stray cat that needs a home urgently. Anyone who would like to offer the cat a loving home can please phone Wendy Cloete.

- 11) **ALPACA MANURE** - Spring is coming and now is the time to think of your garden! Alpaca Manure does not smell and also contains wood shavings, urea, and some hay. Excellent as a mulch or to dig in. No weeds. Cost per 40kg bag is R20. Please phone Romney or Fen.
- 12) **HISTORICAL FILMS** - John Devlin has about 80 films in VHS format. He is looking for a good home for his collection which he has assembled over the years. There are numerous operas and Shakespeare's plays, featuring the world's top performers ( think Pavarotti, Domingo, Carreras, Sutherland, Freni ). In addition, many films regarded as outstanding: inter alia *Gone with the Wind*, *Casablanca*, *Jungle Book*, *Dances with Wolves*, *Cabaret*, *Zulu*, *The Longest Day*, *Saving Private Ryan*. He does not want to break the collection up for sale piecemeal, as for instance on a charity stall, but wishes to give it in its entirety to anyone who will enjoy watching and keeping all these historical films. Please phone John Devlin for more information.
- 13) **Dana Events - DIARISE -**
- 1** DANA BAZAAR - at the retirement village on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October from 9h00 until 16h00. More details next time.
  - 2** Spring Lunch - on Sunday, 4 September, 12.30 for 13.00 in the Dienssentrum. Cost R120 p.p. for a yummy meal. Proceeds will go towards Dana's project to purchase special beds for frail care patients. Phone Alet (0828369509), Susan (0736036841) or Max (0822248550) if you'd like to attend.
  - 3** **CAKE AND COFFEE MORNING** - Cake and coffee morning for pensioners. First and last Mondays of the month starting from 5<sup>th</sup> September. Plus, bonus of 10% off goods purchased from the farm stall deli on the same morning. See posters in town and Dana library. What a wonderful idea Mark and Karen.

Hope I have included everything. If I have missed out something important, please put it down to Old Age!!!

Have a lovely next two weeks planning your spring gardens!  
Sue 0823785637