



SEMESTER 2 1st half of 2009

The second semester is often a difficult one as the students have to get into the study-mode to retain all the knowledge that is offered in class and on practical. It was quite a challenge for some with the amount of knowledge that needs to be absorbed as the average age is high and schooldays are often in a faraway past. We as staff try to cater for the requests on less class, less driving hours and more walks but have to make sure that the program is executed and quality standards are maintained.

This semester we concentrated further on the driving skills of the students as they did their turns behind the 4 x 4 game-viewer wheel. Most students had problems driving the car in the right gear, reversing, avoiding branches and stopping at places from where we could have a good view on the wildlife. A lot of driving hours will be necessary before we can start with the practical exams.

We made good progress on the driver licenses for the students as all passed their theory exam within one or two attempts. For the students this was a slow and inefficient process. They wrongly expected the same service level at the government run organizations that they are used to in their home-countries.

The students helped with dropping fences in Makalali. A great day as the fences came down animals have more room and can sustain a healthier and sometimes bigger population. The advantage for us is better sightings on the long run. It proved difficult for some students to see the conservation benefits of their activities for the animals and the community. Conservation is a difficult topic to grasp and can be not easy to start with as unhealthy habits have to be dealt with. While looking at what other people do wrong we often forget that real changes start within our own change of thinking. As Bushwise staff we have an obligation to point out these effects of our activities and take often not very popular measurements to protect the environment. Conservation activities can be as simple switching off the lights or the fan in your room when you are not there. We all have a responsibility to ourselves to keep this beautiful planet as our home. Start small but think big!

Cheers,

Robin

Bushwise Field Guides

PO BOX 247- Ofcolaco – 0854

+27 82 410 5539

www.bushwise.co.za