

Hi All,

This semester we had our big FGASA level 1 National test coming up and the students were getting into their books more often. In between we did a lot of practical activities and even managed to book our Learners License exam for next semester at the always lively Traffic Department of Acornhoek. The practical activities were very successful and we enjoyed two wonderful days in Kruger National Park. Our Combi bus during the trip was not letting us down and the atmosphere among the students was excellent. Sophie came over for individual evaluation talks with students and this was very appreciated by all as there were many things to talk about.

Three students were already going on interviews for placements around the area in lodges and it is clear to us all that we are finishing off the course soon and also the placements will be happening in the near future. On the first day of the semester we planted around 15 trees at the kitchen area and at the toilet area to get more shade around camp in years to come. We planted also the seeds of Ana tree, Baobab, Nyala and Coral tree and now 4 weeks later all seeds have come up nicely so the students can take care of them further. We are planting some of them around our dam area to combat erosion and attract more birds. It is still very dry at Bushwise Mahlahla and have not had any rain since February! Some times we see thunderclouds and lightning in the distance but the important rains are not falling yet. Also the animals around camp starting to get very thin as all green plants and grasses are now very dry and brown.

The students provided us in their evaluation talks with valuable information on how we can run the school better and we have the opportunity to learn and make those improvements for next course.

We went this semester with the students through the complete Advanced Rifle Handling exercises but this proved to be very difficult for most of them. Aiming a rifle accurately under time pressure is not for everyone. Hopefully the students will be able to practice more in their off week(s) and do better the next time. The National test of FGASA level 1 went well. It was easier than most expected and the passing rate will show the excellent level of training we have at Bushwise and the value of the Bushwise exams.