



FRIENDS OF PILANESBERG

SEDIBA

Non-Profit Organization Fund Raising Number: 006-421 NPS

Letter from Editor

August 2025

Lauren Gunn

Dear Friends,

It has been a challenging year so far for the FOPS family.

*In May, we sadly lost **Nigel Adcock**, who passed away after a long illness. Nigel was an integral part of our team, working tirelessly both in and out of the park. His efforts were instrumental in the construction of the new bridge at Malatse Hide. In July, we officially opened the bridge and dedicated it to Nigel's memory.*



*More recently, we also lost **Raimo Sailakivi**, who had been in and out of hospital for several weeks. Raimo was a dedicated FOPS member, attending nearly all of our work parties. He was always prepared, with what felt like a travelling hardware store in his vehicle, ready to help wherever needed.*



Both Nigel and Raimo leave behind a huge gap in the FOPS family, and they will be deeply missed.



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*Much of our time this year has been focused on **repairing the Potokwane fence** after an adventurous elephant took a liking to the area. We are pleased to report that the team's hard work has paid off—the fence is now back up and successfully keeping our elephant friend out. Some finishing touches still remain, including installing a lower electrified line, painting, and a general cleanup around the site. With this major task nearly behind us, we can once again turn our attention to road clearing, hide maintenance, and picnic site upkeep.*

*At **Ruighoek**, high water levels have delayed our rebuild efforts. We remain hopeful that conditions will improve in the coming months so we can continue this important work.*

*Even with the demands of Potokwane, we've managed to make progress across the park. This has included **road clearing, alien vegetation removal, cleaning G-sites, and maintaining cairns and hide walkways**. These tasks are ongoing, and we know we'll need to revisit them again, especially once the rains return.*

*The **Manyane tents** remain a vital source of income for FOPS, and we've been working on upgrading these facilities. One tent has already been fitted with new beds, and our plan is to upgrade the rest in due course. We are also in the process of replacing all the braais to improve the experience for guests.*

Looking ahead, we are eager to attend more work parties throughout the rest of 2025, continuing our efforts to maintain and protect our much-loved park.

Warm regards,
Lauren



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Work Party Photos





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More Work Party Photos



Lenong Viewpoint
before and after



Mankwe Hide Parking before and after



Lenong Hide
Walkway

AFTER

BEFORE





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Notes:

Again - I have used a lot of pictures in this newsletter – thanks to everyone who contributed either via WhatsApp or allowing me to “steal” from Facebook!

We do welcome input from any members who have a feature, a story or interesting information to add. Please send any submissions to fopsnews@gmail.com for consideration.