# Pelican Pouch

Official Newsletter of TAN, Swakopmund

Vol 16, October 2013

## Editor's Note

A new year, new ideas, a workload of New Year resolutions.

Government is looking into our great concerns of NAMLISH TRAFFIC RULES, a horror for each of us being on the road. Let's hope that our Traffic police come to a solution to cope with the ever-increasing number of car accidents due to human error.

Dr Hage Geingob, our Prime Minister, recently invited international investors to invest in our tourism sector. We trust that his suggestions recently made in the USA do not fall on deaf ears.

Kurt Schlenther, president of TAN, is presently compiling rules and regulations for tourist guides to better understand the YES's and the NO's of our profession. Let's hope that every guide working in Namibia becomes a member of the TOURIST GUIDES ASSOCIATION OF NAMIBIA.

Let's see what the new year of 2014 will bring us. I certainly wish you all a very successful working year, keeping professional tourism high on your agenda.

Greetings in guiding ~ Gaby

Unknown Photographer, Swakop Dunes after the Rains

# Want To Learn More About Our Beautiful Country?

Easy - simply become a member of the *Scientific Society Of Swakopmund or Windhoek*!

Scientific Society of Swakopmund Contact Brigitte on 064 402695 www.scientificsocietyswakopmund.com swksociety@iway.na

Scientific Society of Windhoek Contact Waldi Fritsche on 061 225 372 www.kuiseb-verlag.com | nwgoffice@iway.na

# Code of Conduct and Ethics

1) When acting as a tour guide and conducting any tour guide activity a tour guide shall:

- (i) act ethically;
- (ii) behave politely;
- (iii) act friendly and approachable;
- (iv) have respect for the religious beliefs of any tourist;
- (v) have respect for the ethical customs of any tourist;
- (vi) be conscientious to the individual needs of any tourist;
- (vii) be conscientious to the safety of any tourist;
- (viii) be punctual;
- (ix) maintain acceptable personal hygiene;
- (x) dress appropriately; and
- (xi) ensure that the privacy of every tourist is respected

2. When acting as a tour guide, a tour guide shall be prohibited from selling any goods to, or buying any goods from, any tourist or from seeking to make any profit from a tourist, monetary or otherwise, directly or indirectly, which may be addition to the commission or income which the tour guide receives from conducting the tour guide activity.

3. A tour guide shall endeavour to always be mindful of potentially dangerous situations and to acquaint himself or herself with any security risks inherent to any area in Namibia prior to a tour or tour guide activity in that area, which shall include biological security risks such as diseases. A tour guide shall act responsibly at all times, shall always have regard for the personal safety of the tourists under his or her supervision or guidance, which shall include, but not be limited to, not being under the influence of alcohol or other prohibited substances.

4. A tour guide shall at all times, whether it is within the course and scope of his or her duty as a tour guide or otherwise, respect the culture, historical and environmental heritage of Namibia and shall endeavour, if it is within the tour guide's knowledge, to educate any tourist who partakes in a tourist activity of Namibia's cultural, historical and environmental heritage.

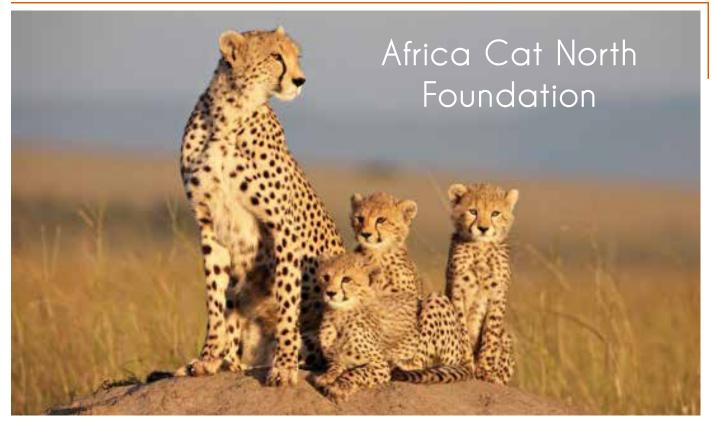
5. If a tour guide contemplates cancelling a tour, notification of this cancellation must be made as far in advance as is reasonably possible, either to the tour operator or to the tourists concerned, as the case may be.

6.If a tour-guide operates in accordance with an itinerary set by a tour operator or the tour guide personally, the tour guide shall, as far as is reasonably possible, follow that itinerary and act in accordance with both the contents of the itinerary and the time frames set by the itinerary.

7. Tour guides shall co-operate with each other in a professional and respectful manner and shall endeavor to cultivate a positive relationship with all professional persons involved in a tour guide activity out of mutual respect and with the aim of promoting the cultural, historical and environmental heritage of Namibia.

8. A tour guide shall not discriminate in any way from rendering tour guide services to any tourist, whether this be on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity, nationality, physical challenges or age.

9. A tour guide may be required by the board to attend training courses, seminars or other informative activities organised by the board, or any person or institution acting on instructions from the board, for the purpose of continued professional development in the tour guiding industry. All tour guides shall be required to attend such courses, seminars or activities unless compelling circumstances justify their absence from these events. In the event that a tour guide is absent from such a training course, seminar or activity he or she shall be required to provide a written explanation for his or her absence, which shall be sent to the board by no later than 14 days after the training course, seminar or activity takes place.



**AFRICA CAT NORTH FOUNDATION** has come to the conclusion that medium to long term solutions to the ever-present Human-wildlife conflict are imperative to the success of Namibia's Wildlife Conservation programmes as well as to poverty reduction amongst a large number of communal farmers.

Livestock farmers obviously wish to farm efficiently with maximum yield, without regular losses due to predation. At the same time conservancies are concerned that the wildlife needed to attract tourists to the community lodges, may be destroyed as a result of conflict with farmers.

AfriCat's initiatives will effectively educate communal farmers on how best to improve their livestock protection methods, thereby minimising predation. With the conflict situations reduced, fewer farmers will insist on the lions being destroyed; thus the Namibian lion population will be better protected.

The Lion Management Unit/s will be well-positioned to provide regular and reliable feedback to the AfriCat North Research and Monitoring teams, as well as to the Ministry of Environment and Tourism. This data will not only support research and much-needed information on the lions of Namibia, but also support the development of the National Lion Management Policy.

With the Lions Conservation Strategy draft proposal awaiting approval, the development of the Lion Management Policy will soon follow. The long term survival of the Namibian lion depends on sound management of our valuable lion population, but workable solutions to the Human/wildlife conflict, especially the farmer-lion conflict, should first be in place.





# Bird's Eye View

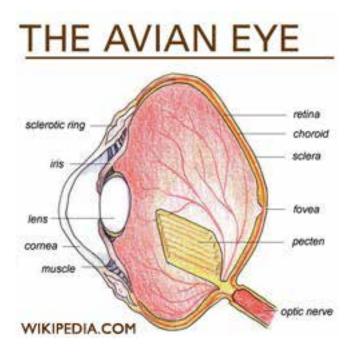
When I asked Dr Hu Berry about the possibility of birds seeing colours he replied : "Gaby I do not know. I am colour blind." ........ so much for the help of my professor!

Well apparently we human beings are colour-blind in comparison to birds. Birds in fact can see double the amount of colours than we can, because birds can recognise light in ultra violet rays.

Birds can see a kaleidoscope of colours - not imaginable in our human dreams - because birds do not have a UV filter in the eye which we humans have. Human eyes have three different color receptors, or cones, that are sensitive to light of different wavelengths and they mix together to reveal all the colors we see. Birds, by contrast, have four cones, so they see potentially more colors than humans do. In addition, they have oil drops which filter the UV light, something not found in any mammal. With this filter birds see colours much better than humans. They can localise the sun and its position despite a thick cloud cover.

Men and monkeys have three cones, birds have four. Most mammals have only two cones.

UV light increases brightness for birds. It helps to get a contrast of the foliage of trees and bushes, which helps with the search of food as well as with finding a partner. Ripe berries for instance, reflect UV light; worms can be seen, and falcons, for instance, can find mice as mouse urine reflects UV light!



When it comes to mating, birds have a real 'allcolour guide to sex." Take the ostrich : a male in mating mood presents red legs, white wings and black plumage. The healthier he is, and the stronger his immune system, the more shinier and brighter his red, white and black colours stand out and he has the best chance of females wanting to mate with him. He is an alpha bird with whom females choose to have offspring. A diseased/ injured ostrich would have less shiny colours, signaling that he is not in the best of condition and might therefore produce offspring of second class rating.

Take our flamingo: With his handsome pink feathers he signals that he has eaten well and is consequently healthy and strong. He aims to intimidate rivals while wowing the ladies with his potential as a provider. In fact he goes even further - he applies rouge! (This applies to Greater and Lesser Flamingos) Using their heads male



flamongoes pick up a colour pigment - or carotenoid - from the preen gland. This applies colouring to their necks, breast and back feathers. The more pigment they rub on, the brighter and the more eye-catching they appear. Those who are the most colourful start nesting the earliest.

It is thus understandable that the female goes for the most colourful male, whilst she herself, is the reverse. She has to start breeding and has to conceal herself, so her colours are dull and camouflaged. The male bird loses his bright colours soon after mating too, as in his colourful condition he is more prone to predation.

In the next edition I will elaborate on which colours of attire bird watchers should use to blend into their surroundings.

Gaby Tirronen with the help of:

AFRICA BIRDS AND BIRDING Vol 15 /16

AFRICA GEOGRAPHIC April 2011

Ann Marie Ackermann So sehen uns Voegel



## Pelican Pouch



# How to Save Fuel

With increasing fuel prices, people are beginning to think twice before taking their vehicles out for a drive. Here are some tips on how you can save on fuel.

- Keep your tyres properly inflated. If a range is recommended by the manufacturer, the higher pressure should be used to maximise fuel efficiency. Deflated tyres run hot, jeopardise safety, and hurt the fuel economy by increasing the rolling resistance.
- The tyres should be checked at least once a month.
- Avoid high speeds for better fuel economy. In highway driving, over 50% of the power produced by the engine is used to overcome aerodynamic drag. Drag and thus fuel consumption increases rapidly at speeds above 90km per hour. On average, a car uses about 15% more fuel at 100km/h, and 25% more at 110km/h compared to when it is doing only 90km/h. However, the fuel consumption of an average car increases sharply at speeds below 50km/h.
- Clogged air-filters increase fuel consumption by restricting airflow to the engine, and thus should be cleaned replaced when or necessary.
- When starting modern cars allow the car to Idle no more than 30 seconds. Avoid sudden acceleration before the engine has warmed up sufficiently.
- The engine runs most efficiently between around 1500rpm and 2500rpm. To maintain these low revs gear changes should be done as soon as practical.
- Avoid carrying any unnecessary weight. On average, every 50kg added load will increase fuel consumption by 2%. Anticipate traffic conditions ahead and adjust speed accordingly to avoid unnecessary braking and acceleration which waste fuel. Do not follow too closely and slow down gradually when approaching a red light. It takes up to six times as much fuel to move a car from a dead stop for one moving at just a few km/h
- Stop the engine whenever your car is stationary for an extended period of time. Idling more than a minute consumes much more fuel than restarting the engine.
- Air conditioners can use about 10% extra fuel. However, at speeds over 80km/h use of air conditioning is better for fuel economy than an open window.

# Flamingo Magazine Collection

Hi there, I am looking for the April 2011, May 2011 and December 2011 edition of the Flamingo magazine to complete my collection. Who would be kind enough to lend me theirs so that I may photocopy them? Gaby Tirronen | 081 127 5442 | holiday@mweb.com.na

# Know Your Field Guiding

When field guiding, use the following indicators as the North-West / South-East axil :

## **RED BILLED BUFFALO WEAVERS**

build their nests on the NORTH-WEST corner of large trees.

## LICHEN

grows on a tree's SOUTHERN side.

## MONGOOSES

defecate on the **NORTH-EAST** side of a termite mound.

## **TERMITE MOUNDS**

usually lean in a NORTHERLY direction.

## Some Interesting Facts...

A young elephant feeding on the dung of a passing adult is called **COPROPHAGY**. A young elephant feeding on the dung of a passing adult is called **COPROPHAGY**. This type of feeding enables him to obtain microbes necessary to help digestion.

AFRICA GEOGRAPHICAL November 2012

## ELEPHANTS .....

are very sensitive to CAPSAICIN the molecule that makes chillies hot, and farmers can repel the animals by mixing it with grease and smearing it on fences or burying it.

**BOTSWANA....** will not issue any more HUNTING LICENCES.

CAPE FOXES: The female is termed a VIXEN. She WHELPS, and has CUBS.

A GIRAFFE'S BLOOD SUPPLY.... can weigh up to 10 kg.



KALAHARI.... means "a dry place."

(Origin from the Tswana word KGALA : THE GREAT THIRST.)

# Amazing!

Sonja is an unsual russian cat. She had only one of her own babies but a big hart of motherlove to adopt porcupine baby orphans. They had been only a few days old, eyes still closed.



# Interesting Tourism Facts

- An unusual aloe species, Aloe viridiflora, which is endemic to Namibia, is found in the central region of the country and in the mountains around Windhoek. The plant flowers in August and in September.
- The Gibeon Meteorite shower is the largest ever discovered in 1838 by the explorer Sir J. Alexander.
- Arnhem Cave is the longest cave system in Namibia. It is situated on the farm Arnhem, 120 km east of Windhoek. There are six bat species in the cave, including the giant leaf-nosed bat.
- The Tsumeb mine which was once the richest source of lead and zinc in Africa is up and running again. More than 200 different minerals have been found in and around Tsumeb.
- Dragon's Breath is the largest underground lake in the world and is situated on the farm Hariseb, 46 km north west from Grootfontein off the road C42 to Tsumeb.
- Hoba Meteorite, discovered in the 1920s, is the largest known meteorite in the world and situated 20 km from Grootfontein. The meteorite is approximately 80 000 years old and its weight is more than 50 tons.
- Namibia has the largest free-roaming cheetah population in the world an estimated 2 500.
- The major export product in the southern part of Namibia is karakul pelts. The karakul sheep was brought from Asia and introduced in Namibia in 1907.
- The word "safari" means "travel" in Swahili.
- The first railway line in the country was built at Cape Cross by the Damaraland Guano Company in 1895.

٦.



## **A Visit To** Konakontis In 1874

**GERALD McKIERNAN (4)** 

Gerald McKiernan writing of his visit to the no-man's land of South West Africa between 1874 and 1879 wrote that on one of the two days that they stopped at the mouth of the Swakop River he walked up the river to Konskontis, to call on a white man who was trading there, Mr. Anthing who had formerly been a British magistrate at the copper mines in Little Namaqualand, a dependency of the Cape Colony

He was a very intelligent but eccentric man. He had two huts, built on the bare rocks - it is all rocks and sand there - and seemed to pass his time in running from one to the other, with a book in one hand and a plate of cooked rice in the other, eating a little, reading a little and swearing in Dutch and English at the Hottentots and Bastards in his employ. He was very much excited about a supposed

case of lungsickness amongst his oven. He treated me very kindly, but what with lungsickness, rice, books, natives and brandy, gin and wine - which he drank all three mixed together - I did not get much satisfaction out of

I have never seen another such place in my life, and my lot has been cast in hard places Rocks: such rocks as were never seen elsewhere, am sure. Bare, time-worn boulders two- or threehundred feet in height, on both sides of the river, the sandy bed of which glistened in the sun, which seemed to shine out of a sky of brass, hot enough to fry the brains in your

While I was there, a party of Bastards came in, who had made the attempt to reach the interior by a new route, but had found no water, and were obliged to turn back. Their oxen had no ater for six days, and they themselves were three days without water. They were in a bad condition, almost dead from thirst and blistered feet from the hot sand. Anthing lent them his oxen to bring in their

cart which they were obliged to leave on the plain, and drive their own thirsty brutes to the water

Bidding farewell to Mr. Anthing, I returned to the wagons, and the next day the Hottentots drove up on the plain, on the north side of the Zwachaub and on the east side of the Kaan River (Khan) which unites with the Zwachaub at Hykamkop. The road was a bare wagon-track and seemed to be little used.

We travelled mostly in the night, the oxen be ing driven away in the morning and back in the evening. What they ate or drink I did not know I saw not a single blade of grass, nor a drop of water, except what came out of the water-keg which people brought with them when they returned with the bullocks.

I was fortunately well supplied with reading matter, pipes and tobacco - conversation was out for the question - and had a quiet time of it.

DID YOU KNOW - APRIL FOOLS' DAY The custom of playing a joke on somebody on the first of April - which is tomorrow is believed to have originated in mediaaval times, when Ist April was celebrated as New Yaar's Day.

When the French created a new calendar, New Year's Day was changed to the first of January. Many people, confused with the new calendar, continued to celebrate New Year in April. These people were teased and called a "polision d'avril (april fool) - as is now known in English. It is said that you may only play a jake on so-

meane before midday, and not in the after-noon, or you, the joker, will become the 'fool.'

## WEEKEND ANGLING PROSPECTS With the rivers in full flood, discolouring the water, catches likely to be erratic this weekend. It will be hightide tomorro wat 01 23 and 13:45 with lowtide at 07:29 and 19:47. Hightide on Sunday is at 01:59 and 14:20 with lowtide at

08:04 and 20:21

Some steenbras possibly at Mile 14, Mile 30 and Horingbaai with Kabeljou at Wior-zkabaken and Jakkalsputz. For details in respect of angling regulations in

force in Namibia contact the Fisheries Inspec-torate at tel. 40-5744.

## THOUGHT FOR THE WEEKEND

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0 LOOKING BACK INTO THE PAST

#### · Friday Ist April 1966:

A bitch gave birth to a double-headed puppy at a home in 7th Street. Walvis Bay last week The puppy was still-born but the other four born after it are all doing well.

NAMIB TIMES

#### e Friday 30th Match: 1984:

The Walvis Bay Town Council had given Mr. T L Dodwell and his two British property my visit. Surely, if a man could live at Konakontis erection of Cape-Dutch chalets on a piece of without being crated, he would be proof ground over-looking the lagoon. NAMIB TIMES developers the green light to go ahead with the ..... NAMIB TIMES



PAALTHES: MO

DOLFYNPARK: Moondik dasres LANGSTRAND: Gujoen en moondik VIERKANTKLIP: Dassies en barbers with habeling

- MYL 4: Moontlik sienbias MYL 8: Daters MYL 14: Sienbres en dasses

## WLOTZKABAKEN HOBOOMSGAT: N MYL 30: Steenbras BENNIE SE LORRIE: Galgorn **Courtesy of Namib Times**

JARKAI SPUTZ: Kabeljou HENTIESBAAI: Sizenbras en dasses MVL 72: Moonilik sizenbras

- \* KAAPKRUIS: Galjoen \* HORINGBAAI: Steenbras en dasties

### HIERDIE NAWEEN

Hierde namerk val 'n paar dat na laavie kwarser en die algemene soorspeling is dat vangstes redetik behoort te were indien die were saamspeel

HOOG				LAAG
4	0040	1306	D631	1911
8	0123	1345	0729	1947
5	0159	1420	0604	2021
M	0234	1455	0616	2055
D	0308	1531	0913	2129
	0344	1608	ONI	2205
D	0421	1645	1074	2241

## VISVERBOD.

Daar is weite ien opsigie van beheer, vang en vervoer van vistoorte Namib Times publiseer vlegs rigtore aan hengelaars in Namibie Vir meer bevondelhede kan die stene Seesimerse, tel 403744 Swakopmund grikaket Min

#### · WITMOSSELS

Daar mag viegt 23 wirmolself in 'n persoon se besir weet. Wirmolsels mag nie met instrumente van enige aard ver-samel word nie. Die minimum genorie is 3 6cm breed

### SWARTMOSSELS

In Namible mag net 30 sware, bruin, of gerible movies ner persoon gevang, cervoer of besir word. Swarrminstels more met die hand aepluk word.

ALIPMOSSELS: Slegs 15 klopmossels mag in 'n persoon it bew wees en slegs 'n inuriumeni met 'n vity of skepgedeelke met 'n maksimum wydie van 40mm mag gebruik word.

#### . KRELF:

AREEF: Die kreefsnieden is nou oop en sal ior 30 April 2000 duur Nismand mag meer as seek krewe per dag unhaal/vang nie 'n kieef mei 'n dop korter as 6.5 om mag nie gevang word nie Geen wyfiekreiker mei eers mag gevang word wie en ook mag geen kreef besit word waar daar iekens verwoordig is dat die eiersafgestroop is nie. Daar mag wok me meer as 21 krewe per voerlaag vervier word nie

HENGEL IN NAMIBIE:
Henger word steps loegelaar in die volgende gebiede Terracebaar. Torrabaar, van die Ugabriviermonding op hy Walvubaar en van Pelikaargoum zoo by Sandusthaver.
Geen persoon mag op enige dag meer as 30 vijse in toraal

van een of meer van die volgende spesies in 55 besii hê nie-kabeljou, iseenbras, dawie of galjoen maar van hierdie 30, mag daas nie meer as ag aljoen ween nie. \* Vii vervoer doeleindes mag niemand meer ai 30 viise van

die bogenoemde spesies vervoer nie en indien hul nie heel is nie 30kg in gewig. Van hierdie gefal mag daar nie meer as sy heel galjoen wees nie of in die geval waar die vis nie heel

40) here gangen were men in view gesten in ander hengelaar vervoer in Hengelaar mag vis namens 'n ander hengelaar vervoer mits daardie persoon saam is op die voerling. In suike gevalle mag tol 60 heet vives of 600g in geving as hulle nie heet is nie, vervoer word. Indien die helfte van die heer vis gefüler is, saal al die vis dan as gewig bepaal word en mag die gefüler is, saal al die vis dan as gewig bepaal word en mag die gefüler is, saal al die vis dan as gewig bepaal word en mag die saat before vis die al word en herefer 60 vis mag dus me meer as 60.4g beloop me. Van hierdie 60 vis daar me meer as 16 heel galjoen vervoer word nie of 16kg inden die galjoen nie heel is me - Strand of boothengelaars mag nie meer as een vick of een tyn of handlyn mei meer as twee hoeke aan die tyn

gebrunk nie • Mer virjag mag geen kunsmanige asemihalingsvoerunsing, behalwe snorkels, gebruik word nie. • Handeidryf mei galjoen is stieng verbode en daar val geen permisie uitgereik word vir die verkoop van galjoen

#### . ROOIAAS

Niemand mag meer as 2 kg ungedopre rooiaas bein hie WURMS

\* Normand mag enige polychaete wurms van watter spesies cookal, in sy/haar bevit hê me.

#### . ALCEMEEN

Permisse word vereis in die handeldryf van vit-

In Rooiving most aan alle semt wat by voeruse utsteek gebood word. In Vissok mag nie in die rigting van aanko-mende verkeer uitsreek me. Hierdie stems moet is alle tye binne die hepalings van die Namibiese padvervoerweile op voertuie vervoer word. • Sandvishawe is gesluit tot 15 April vanjaar vir hengel.

## VISMERK:

• VISMERK: Die Nambere Dept, van Visserye es Marienehulpbronne vra die hulp van hengelaars met hul vismerk projek. Enige besonderhede in verband met vis wat met plaatjint gemerk is en wat gevang mag word moet arsebief vernets, word an die Seksie Lonivi, kantoor van Ministene Visterye, Navoering Sentrum, Strandstraar, fel. 064-403744 Swakop-men.

WORKS SPEAK ON MANY LAYERS CONTRIBUTED

Pedro Yorster's exhibition of multi exposed photo col-ages and oll paintings that opens on Saturday, 1 April, al 17800 in the Engethands Gullery in Swakopmund,

speak on many levels. The photographs have Namibia elements in the compositions, but they are ot representational. Their subject matter is often sym bolic ant surrestissic Rocks become liquid and people hide behind masks To To reach his destination he uses a variety of photographic techniques and fater prints

Three are a number of un-manipulated photographs of abstract shapes on rocks or tree bark thas become painterly in their form "I like to create ambiguous tension in the work," tass Pedro And to he does A creeping free root travis with erotic allusions; a shark heads for a bloody spot and an ego symbol seem to crawl free of a

term to chain free of a in his four oil paintings landscape elements dominate Figures are secondary, placed well within the wide spaces Again the shapes have tom bolic intent "Our land scape always inspires me

with its colour and unique institution in generations. Been in Genorformein he previously held a two man phorographic exhibition in the Studio of the National Ari Gallery of Namibia (NACN) in Windhoek Pedro participated in numerous group exhibitions in Swakopmund, Win-dhoek South Africa and

Germany. He won the amateur photographers prize and a ment prize for painting at Standard Bank Blenn-als. In 1996 he won the first prize in the National Broad casting Corporation/Coca Cols Enviro Photographic competition His work is in competition Hi work is in the permanent collection of the NACN, and at the Ministry of Trade and in-dustry. His works is in private collections locally, in South Africa, Germany, Italy, England and England

America America The exhibition "Lightning that Mocks" is taken from a poem by Shelly. Short fragments of poetry themasically categorize the work in the gallery space. "The lightning that mocks the night, from which the to-tie was taken, is that flash of light that illuminates the of spin risk intermediates the negative, kept in darkness within a camera." It is intorpent of bright insight into a previously dark part of one's consciousness.

Art lovers have until April 26. after the Easter Weekend, to be illuminated ai the Engethardi Design Gallery for Jewelry and Am in Swakopmund's Kaiser Wilbeim Strees.

> Closing Time For Classifieds 10:00 Day Prior To Publicatio

# Have You Seen an Elephant in the Swakop River Lately?

No, not one of those which grazed here some 200 years ago, but recently. You can see the elephant from the new military course of the stables, near the SFC and SPCA.

At least, from far it looks like an elephant.

As you see from my photo, it is a hollow cement block. It was used as a water reservoir during earlier German settlement times, about 1890. I am not sure whether there was a windmill to extract the water via a Lister pump (perhaps one of the readers can enlighten us on that). This water was used by the residents of Swakopmund. According to my grandmother it was a very unreliable source of water as sometimes they had water - and sometimes not! There was an iron pipeline from the "elephant" towards the centre of town, starting at the breweries (!) and then to the bakery and the harbour, passing Prinz Rupprecht Heim, Hotel Europa Hof, Hotel Bismarck and other establishments too.

Drinking water came from Germany by boat, and later by ship from Cape Town. There was great concern about the possibility of a ship coming in late! According to my grandmother a water supplier from Cape Town was caught in a storm and was late by 4 days. At that stage my Grandmother had water left for only a few more hours.

The quality of the water extracted from the Swakop River was, according to reports from the Schutztruppenzeit, "not to be used for drinking by either men or animals." It caused diarrhea and tasted awful. From this came the term: 'SWAKOPMUNDER' which was an upset stomach which lasted for at least three days.



We children of those times (I am talking of those who were born around the thirties and forties) became immune against the side effects of Swakop River water and drank the water straight out of the taps.

During the sixties the German Lutheran Church received a new Pastor from Germany to attend to the needs of the German Lutheran Community. The Pastor was warned about drinking water from the tap. He was advised to buy 1 gallon of water from the railway station where the drinking water was tapped from a tank railed from Walvis Bay, costing a tickey at the time. However he watched us children drinking water from the tap and wondered why he had been warned against drinking tap water. On the 2nd day after his arrival he had to conduct a funeral ceremony at the Swakopmund cemetery. In those days the cemetery was not as green and filled with flowers, bushes and trees as it is today. In fact the bushes were scarce and small. As the Pastor was preaching and singing, and the coffin was being lowered into the grave, the prayer spoken by the Pastor increased in velocity. All of a sudden he started running, lifting his black priestly robes. Mumbling AMEN from a distance, he disappeared behind the only bush nearby ........ and then the mourners heard the unmistakable noises of a SWAKOPMUNDER.

This story is taken from the book "Schmunzeln mit ner Prise Sand," written by Gaby Tirronen, published by Peter's Antiques, Swakopmund.



Editor: Gaby Tirronen Layout: Andrea Leech Tel: +264 64 463608 Mob: +264 81 1275442 Email:holiday@mweb.com.na

