

# W A T E R F A L L

ISSUE 8 2020



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A message from

# WATERFALL

**W**aterfall recently launched a fresh new, fun and fit-for-the-future website, positioning the award-winning development as a lifestyle destination of choice. The world-class site is user-friendly, easy to navigate and captures all the entertainment, shopping, work, residential, health, travel and education options on offer in this lifestyle and commercial hub. To celebrate the launch of the all new [waterfall.co.za](http://waterfall.co.za) site, we are running an exciting competition where a few lucky website surfers stand a chance to **Win Win Win** - with over R50,000 worth of prizes up for grabs over the next 7 weeks. All the details can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this magazine. Ready? Steady? Surf!

In keeping with the topic of new advancements, another recent hi-tech development is the introduction of a parking app for the Mall of Africa, enabling hassle-free, touchless, ticketless parking - perfect in these times of constant hand sanitising! If you download the app this month, you will get your first 5 Mall of Africa parking visits for free, if used before the end of September 2020. Check out the article telling you all about the app and how you can register.

In this issue, we also have an article featuring gardening tips from experts at Life Landscapes and Southern Turf Management. They recommend choosing water-wise plants and creating a multi-level effect with powerful bursts of colour, as well as suggesting some particular species to help you do just that.

Despite the disruptions to the current school year, Reddam House Waterfall has been planning ahead and will be introducing the globally acclaimed International Foundation Year (IFY) course in January 2021. The IFY is a 7-month stepping-stone course designed to help post-Matric students from any school gain the opportunity of securing a place at respected universities in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA. Reddam House will be the first institute in South Africa to offer it. You can read more about it in our magazine, and if your child is approaching Matric, it could well give them new ambitions!



On the commercial side of the development, this month's news from Attacq features an interesting Q&A with the CEO of Astute Financial Services Exchange – a new tenant to the Waterfall Precinct. The piece shares some insight into why the company selected Waterfall City as their new home, reinforcing the key aspects which make Waterfall a world-class city that attracts commercial interest.

Meanwhile, an article by PSG Wealth tries to predict how the financial markets will perform in the months ahead. It reminds us that short-term spikes smooth out over time, and even if the COVID-19 crisis looks set to last a while, long-term thinking will help your investments survive the volatility.

In addition, we have an article from Michael Davies of ContinuitySA, where he shares some lessons learned from the current crisis, including the need to have a practised plan in place, then act swiftly and decisively to execute it.

Finally, while in the midst of this global pandemic, it is fitting that our medical article this month is from Cipla, which holds a licence to manufacture remdesivir. This antiviral medicine has been found to shorten the recovery time for patients hospitalised with COVID-19, so do have a read and take heart that brighter days may be on the horizon.

Until next month, continue to stay safe!  
Waterfall Management

W A T E R F A L L

# CORPORATE SPACE TO SUCCEED



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# OUR NEW WEBSITE PUTS THE 'ALL' INTO WATERFALL.CO.ZA



Discover all the excitement Waterfall has to offer from the comfort of your screen!

**G**auteng's most desirable and exciting lifestyle destination just got the digital makeover it deserves. The newly launched website offers an exhilarating and immersive experience of the Waterfall world.

The new, fresh, fun and fit-for-the-future website is designed around an easy to navigate and engaging experience. From the first glimpse of the landing page, one is presented

with a view of Waterfall as a true destination. Simply select any of the exciting options in front of you, and you're immediately transported into an incredible world of entertainment, shopping, work, residential, hospitality, health, travel and education options.

Based around seven core areas: Play, Shop, Work, Stay, Health, Travel, and Learn, the new website perfectly captures the diversity of what's on offer in this lifestyle and commercial

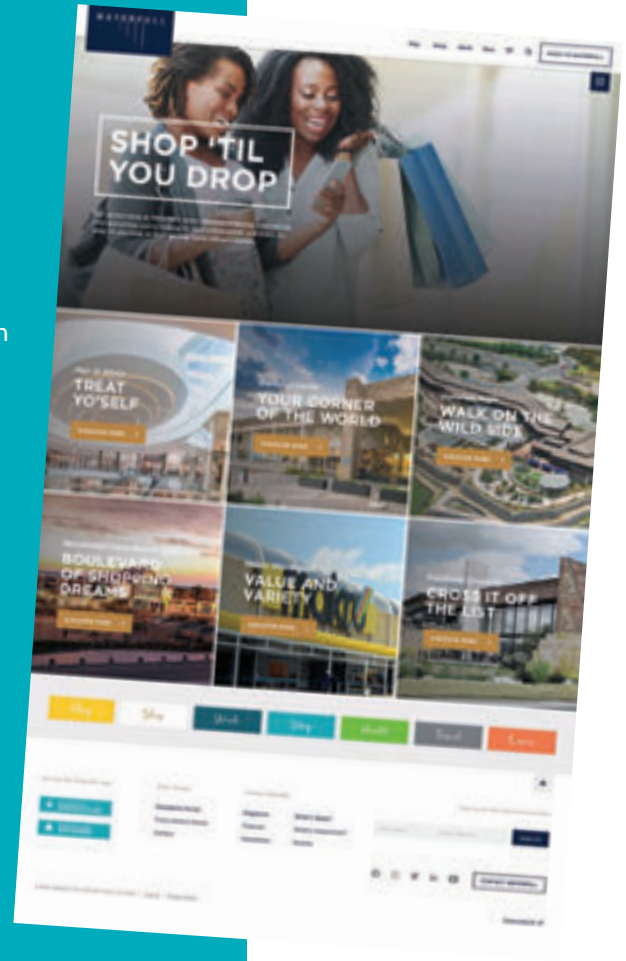
hub. Get a taste of our 53 restaurants and incredible outdoor and indoor entertainment options, browse the amazing residential choices in beautiful HD detail, take a scroll through all the shopping centres, choose a new office to move your business to, select a school for your little ones, or put your mind at ease with a look at our state-of-the-art security and community values. It's now all in one convenient place . . . [www.waterfall.co.za](http://www.waterfall.co.za)

# WIN WIN WIN

And if that isn't engaging enough, the site has built in even more excitement to celebrate its launch. A few lucky Waterfall Website Surfers (that's you, by the way) stand the chance to win super exciting prizes valued at more than R50,000! These include:

- **PLAY** - Two BMW X-lifestyle Park half-day drive experiences to the value of R7,000
- **SHOP** - A R2,500 shopping spree at Mall of Africa and the following spot prizes
  - Specsavers: 2 Pairs of Police sunglasses valued up to R2,500 each
  - C-Squared: 5 x R2,000 vouchers
  - Pick 'n Pay: 1 x R500 voucher
  - Spur: 5 x R100 meal vouchers
  - Eden Perfumes: 2 vouchers
- **WORK** - A gift pack from PSG Wealth valued at R2,000
- **STAY** - One night's stay for two at Riboville Boutique Hotel and Restaurant including dinner and breakfast to the value of R5,000
- **HEALTH** - A 10-session package from Bodytec Waterfall valued at R4,750
- **TRAVEL** - A 20-minute helicopter flip for two over Waterfall from Ultimate Heli valued at R4,500
- **LEARN** - Waiver of Enrollment Fee plus 10% discount on 2021 school fees for your children at Curro Waterfall valued at R12,000 per child.

**Check out the boxed-out section below for details of this 7-week competition extravaganza, with a new prize up for grabs every week!**



With access to dynamic content and innovative tools, our new intuitive website is designed to meet the needs of contemporary living, where digital connects people, places and opportunities. Whether you're a

Waterfall resident, employee, visitor or client, you can now discover the precinct, the community, the businesses and the services that call Waterfall home. And should you want to move to Waterfall, your options are a click away.

As a lifestyle destination of choice, Waterfall is THE place to play, work, stay, eat, shop, see and be seen. We hope you'll find our new website just as thrilling as our world-class destination. So grab your 'netsuit'! It's time to surf...



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WITH

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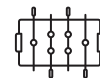
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# ASTUTE FINANCIAL SERVICES EXCHANGE

chooses Waterfall Precinct as its New Home

**H**ave you ever wondered how many people actually read the Terms & Conditions when signing up for a financial product or service? As you have probably guessed, not many. According to a recent survey by ProPrivacy.com, only 1% of people read the fine print.

If you form part of this shrewd 1%, you have likely heard of the Astute Financial Services Exchange, the industry-owned and managed body responsible for ensuring that your financial information is protected and only shared with authorised bodies.

We recently chatted to Astute's CEO, Jacques Rossouw, to find out a bit more about the company and their decision to relocate to Waterfall.

## How long was Astute FSE operating at its previous offices and what prompted the move to Waterfall City?

We initially moved to Rosebank in 2010 and spent about ten years



*Jacques Rossouw, CEO of the Astute Financial Services Exchange*

in that office. Early last year, we decided to relocate to new premises in light of the rapid growth we were experiencing as a business. As a fintech company, the nature of doing business has significantly changed in recent years, and we recognised the need for an office

space that fostered creativity and collaboration amongst our various teams. We looked at several options in Rosebank and Sandton but felt that Waterfall's mix of accessibility and ideal central location aligned perfectly with our business strategy.

## Increasingly, many blue chip financial services firms are moving to Waterfall City. Did this in any way inform your decision to move to the City?

Funny enough, no. The real selling points for us included Waterfall City's accessibility and transport networks. Having worked at the Rosebank office for ten years, the team was tired of the constant traffic congestion and lack of nearby amenities. However, when you look at Waterfall City, the whole Allandale interchange was created to allow access into and out of the area with high volumes of traffic. Further to that, the array of amenities within walking distance of our new offices made the move to Waterfall a no brainer.





**Waterfall places a strong emphasis on best in class urban design, corporate accountability and sustainability. How is this commitment reflected in your own business and values?**

For us, it all boils down to the Rands and cents. For instance, if you look at a more energy-efficient building, the benefit is a reduced energy footprint with resultant cost savings for us. What's been quite interesting is that I've recently spent some time in our new office and noticed that even without turning on the air-conditioning, the building, which consists of quite a lot of glass, can sustain a warm temperature throughout the day - which, in my view, shows what is possible when a building is built properly.

In terms of layout and design, we were inspired by WeWork, who as you may well know, place a strong emphasis on creating spaces that encourage collaboration, innovation and creativity. The layout of our office speaks to that.

**Astute Financial Services Exchange is an electronic information exchange company, enhancing the movement and integration of data in the financial services industry. Can you please explain your services to the average man on the street?**

Astute is owned by the industry, with three main shareholders: Sanlam, Liberty and Old Mutual. We are guided by the Financial Services Conduct Authority (FSCA) and by the POPI Act and help facilitate the sharing of confidential financial data between authorised bodies. We have almost 170 integrations in the industry, directly into the backend systems of banks and insurance platforms. We provide data upon the consent from clients.

Our data services are divided into three sections which include:

- Consolidate Client Portfolio of Financial Information – where we ensure that consumers are provided

with the right product and that they are advised correctly – which is holistic financial planning.

- Risk Mitigation Services – we help monitor and flag any potential fraudulent and suspicious activities in the financial services industry.
- Compliance Services – we deal with all the regulatory and compliance processes related to the opening and placing of new business on the product provider platforms and act as a gatekeeper for the FSCA-registered stakeholders.

**Where do you see Astute FSE in the next 20 years?**

The company is currently in its 20th year of existence. We continuously work hard to drive down the cost of the value chain associated with a financial transaction in the industry. We aim to make financial products more broadly accessible and inclusive and to disrupt the value chain to the extent that we create great value and cost savings for the end consumer through the disintermediation\* of traditional financial services value chains.

\* reduction in the use of intermediaries between producers and consumers.

***We aim to make financial products more broadly accessible and inclusive***



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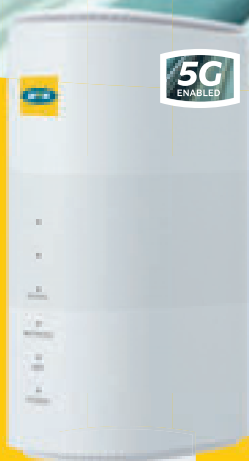
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# TIPS AND TRICKS TO LANDSCAPE YOUR WATERFALL GARDEN

The uniquely South African feel of the entire Waterfall development has been carefully crafted by landscapers and gardeners, who have made use of an indigenous landscaping policy that ensures that plant life thrives in the Highveld climate.



**T**he tranquil residential estates in the vibrant urban development that is Waterfall, are managed by a team of dedicated professionals. Two of the people responsible for maintaining the aesthetic of the residential estates on Waterfall are Lizelle van Eck, Landscape Maintenance Site Manager from Life Landscapes, and Emile Bolton, Landscaping Project Manager from Southern Turf Management.

We recently spoke to Lizelle and Emile to glean some insight into Waterfall's unique landscape, as well as to gather some useful tips for residents to employ, to keep their own gardens 'Africa Zen' as Emile puts it.

Both are quick to mention that residents should avoid exotic plants. While Waterfall's landscape is made up mostly of Highveld flora, Lizelle

mentions that some plants from the Western Cape, like Proteas and indigenous shrubs, do well within the development and adhere to the water-wise policy. "Some of the plants and trees in Waterfall Hills Mature Lifestyle Estate, for example, are from the Cape, and they adapt very easily," she says.

We asked Emile what types of plants would suit a home garden in Waterfall. "A good one to start with would be Aristida grass for a back border, in the middle perhaps look at Aloe Cooperi and for the front, low-growing plants, such as Aptenia, work well," he says. This combination makes for a beautiful multi-level effect, and the Aptenia is a ground cover that grows quickly and is frost resistant.

"For splashes of colour, we use Vygies," he continues. "They produce a powerful explosion of colour,

and come in red, yellow, orange and purple." The added benefit of these hardy plants is that they bloom in winter, ensuring a year-round colourful environment.

Aloes also get a lot of attention within the estates and are excellent as focus pieces. They are hardy, colourful, and water-wise. Specific varieties mentioned by Emile, that residents can consider planting, include Aloe Cooperi, Aloe Marlothi, and exciting hybrid varieties such as Aloe Egoli and an Aloe Fire Chief.

Lizelle and Emile then shared some great tips for trees – something that can often be neglected.

"There is quite a bit of sand in the area, which means a lot of your fertiliser will leech with a good 5mm of rain, which triggers a lower





pH level. As a result, I recommend that a lime application be used when planting trees,” Emile notes.

Shrubs tend to take up fertiliser before it gets to the trees, Lizelle warns. She provides some key tips for fertilising trees. “Make holes with a spade, about 20cm deep and a spade-width wide, 2 - 3 metres apart around the circumference of the tree, not right by the trunk. Mix your slow release fertiliser with some of the soil from the hole, place the mixture into the bottom of the hole and then close the hole with the balance of the soil.”

She adds that pruning should be done sparingly – no more than 30% of the tree should be cut, however, do not leave tree crowns overfull. Indigenous shrubs also need to be thinned out regularly, as they become very dense. Her final trimming tip

focuses on Cycads. “Do not remove the old leaves before the new crown is fully developed,” she warns.

Another feature that seems simple, but can underperform, is grass. Emile explains that this is due to thatch or insect activity. “I would recommend that lawns are scarified in spring, followed by a top dress and fertiliser - and an insecticide application,” he says.

Lizelle then went on to share some advice for healthy garden beds. “Do not cultivate garden beds too deeply, especially with forks, as this can damage the shallow roots of shrubs. Focus rather on mulching, as this helps with water retention, reduces weed growth, and decreases heat on shallow roots.”

Occasionally, plants will pick up

diseases and it is important to look out for this. For example, Aloes get scale, however this can be treated with Oleum or Cypermethrin. Should your plants pick up any diseases, Lizelle suggests calling in the experts, as incorrect treatment can be damaging to the plant and the environment.

In keeping with the development’s emphasis on environmentally-friendly living and awareness, Waterfall’s indigenous landscaping policy aims to promote bird life and reduced water requirements – by recommending the use of indigenous plants and trees that are hardy and have very little or no impact on our fragile water table.

We hope these tips will help residents manage their indigenous gardens and see them flourish all year round!





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# REDDAM HOUSE WATERFALL INTRODUCES PRESTIGIOUS IFY COURSE

Reddam House Waterfall and Constantia campuses chosen to pilot the International Foundation Year programme based on their central locations and ease of access.

**R**eddam House Waterfall, along with its sister campus in Constantia, Cape Town, will be launching the globally acclaimed International Foundation Year (IFY) course in South Africa in January 2021.

The IFY is a 7-month course designed to afford post-Matric students the opportunity of gaining entry to dozens of universities based in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the USA. Participating universities include the University of Bristol, University of Birmingham, Kingston University, Liverpool Hope University, Manchester Metropolitan University, and the University of Leeds.

Says Sheena Crawford-Kempster, Managing Director of Reddam House:

“Even though we offer an internationally respected curriculum up to matric level, an additional foundation qualification is normally required for students who have completed high school outside of the UK education system and/or in a language other than English. The cornerstone of our schools’ education is to ensure that students are adequately equipped to meet life’s challenges in a globally competitive world. We are therefore proud to partner with the Northern Consortium of UK Universities (NCUK), to take that one step further by offering a syllabus to bridge the gap between matric and the first year of university study.”

The IFY has existed internationally since 1987, however, Reddam House is the first educational institution in

South Africa to offer IFY - through a partnership with NCUK. As an international institution itself, Reddam House, as part of the Inspired Group of Schools, recognised the need for a programme within South Africa that would provide students with the opportunity to gain entrance to internationally acclaimed universities. Brookhouse in Kenya has been running the IFY course for more than 10 years with great success, inspiring the South African branch to follow suit.

During its 33 years of existence, close to 40 000 international students have been through the IFY course. Of the participating students, 90% get into their first-choice university, while 80% of NCUK students achieve a first- or second-class degree at university.

With statistics like these, it was easy for Reddam House to see the value in the partnership, which was an equally good fit for NCUK. Says NCUK’s CEO, Professor John Brewer: “Reddam House demonstrates all of the crucial



## Waterfall News

attributes that NCUK demands from any partnership: Quality education in an optimal learning environment for students, which will guarantee access to over 4 000 degrees across the global NCUK University network."

The course, however, is not only open to Reddam House alumni. Anyone over the age of 17 with a university exemption matric certificate may apply.

The course is run in-classroom and, given that it starts in January, it gives qualifying students ample time to apply to their university of choice and start the international school year in September. Currently, Reddam House offers two directions of study, which require students to complete three academic modules.

These are:

### **Business/Humanities**

- Business Studies
- Economics
- Maths (Business)

### **Engineering/Science**

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Maths (Engineering).

All curricula, examinations, course work, and moderation are provided externally by NCUK. If a student achieves a 'C' grade (96 points) in each of their academic modules and a 'C' grade in English for Academic Purposes for Proficient Users (EAPPU), they are guaranteed a place at a NCUK University.

The NCUK assists students with their university applications, obtaining their study visas and applying for scholarships, if required. Full guidance and support are also provided by the NCUK's Student Support Team, making the integration process as smooth as possible for students.

For more information on the course, or to apply, visit [www.ncuk.ac.uk](http://www.ncuk.ac.uk) or email [enquiries.ncukify@reddam.house](mailto:enquiries.ncukify@reddam.house).





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# WATERFALL-BASED CIPLA TO BRING COVID-19 TREATMENT TO SA

**Antiviral medicine, remdesivir, approved as a treatment for COVID-19.**

**C**ipla, through a landmark agreement with Gilead Sciences Inc.<sup>1</sup>, has been granted a license to manufacture and distribute the antiviral medicine, remdesivir, in 127 countries, including South Africa<sup>2</sup>, to support treatment measures of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Cipla will include several sub-Saharan African countries within the distribution of remdesivir, as many of these states are low-income countries and emerging markets that face obstacles in accessing healthcare.

The Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for remdesivir was first issued by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on 1 May 2020<sup>3</sup>, mainly based upon a study funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) in the USA. This study showed that remdesivir shortened the time to recovery in patients hospitalised with COVID-19<sup>3</sup>.

This authorisation for emergency use was granted by the FDA on the basis that SARS-CoV-2 can cause a serious or life-threatening disease or condition; their view that the known and potential benefits of remdesivir outweigh the known and potential risks; and the fact that there is currently no adequate, approved alternative treatment available for COVID-19<sup>3</sup>.

Remdesivir is also approved for emergency and compassionate use in India, Japan and Singapore on similar grounds<sup>4</sup>. More recently, in June 2020, remdesivir was recommended for a conditional marketing authorisation by the European Medicines Agency, a regulatory mechanism to facilitate early access to medicines that fulfil an unmet medical need, including in emergency situations in response to public health threats such as the current COVID-19 pandemic<sup>5</sup>.

## CARING FOR LIFE

CEO of Cipla South Africa, Paul Miller, says: "As part of our ethos of Caring for Life, Cipla always aims to ensure that everyone has



*CEO of Cipla South Africa, Paul Miller*

access to life-saving medication. In much the same way that Cipla pioneered affordable medication during the height of the HIV crisis about two decades ago and helped to save the lives of millions of people, we're committed to help find a solution in the fight against this unprecedented global pandemic."

Cipla will, therefore, ensure that the price of its remdesivir will be less than or similar to prices offered in other emerging markets, thereby facilitating access to this medicine.

Cipla commenced manufacturing remdesivir in June 2020 on a dedicated line at one of its FDA-, WHO- and SAHPRA-approved production facilities.

Additionally, Cipla will continue to engage with the South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (SAHPRA) to explore avenues of accelerated access to remdesivir in the country.

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# MALL OF AFRICA'S NEW PARKING APP

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic has brought many dramatic changes to our lives, however, one positive change led us to be able to park for free at Mall of Africa for a few months! This was done to protect and ensure the safety of customers by means of

lifting the booms to minimise the potential risk of contracting the virus through the parking equipment. After thorough research on the best and latest technologies available to ensure a seamless and contactless parking experience, Mall of Africa has now introduced a new parking

system called 'Tap and Pay', for your shopping convenience.

The Mall of Africa's new 'Tap and Pay' system allows you to pay for your parking by simply tapping your bank card at the pay stations the same way tap and go works. Alternatively, if you

## Go ticketless & touchless today!

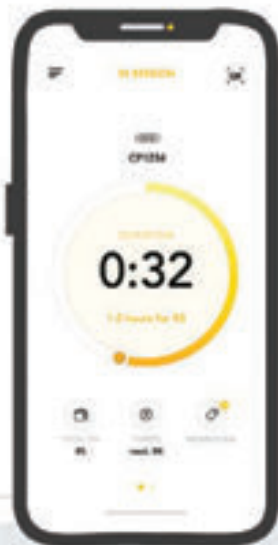


Register on [www.admyt.com](http://www.admyt.com) or download the admyt app today and receive **5 FREE parking visits** to the value of R 50.

To qualify, enter the Promo code "MOA5" on registration.

Terms & conditions apply.

- You need to register with admyt before 31 August 2020 to qualify for the limited offer.
- Your 5 free parking visits are valid until 30 September 2020.



MALL OF *Africa*

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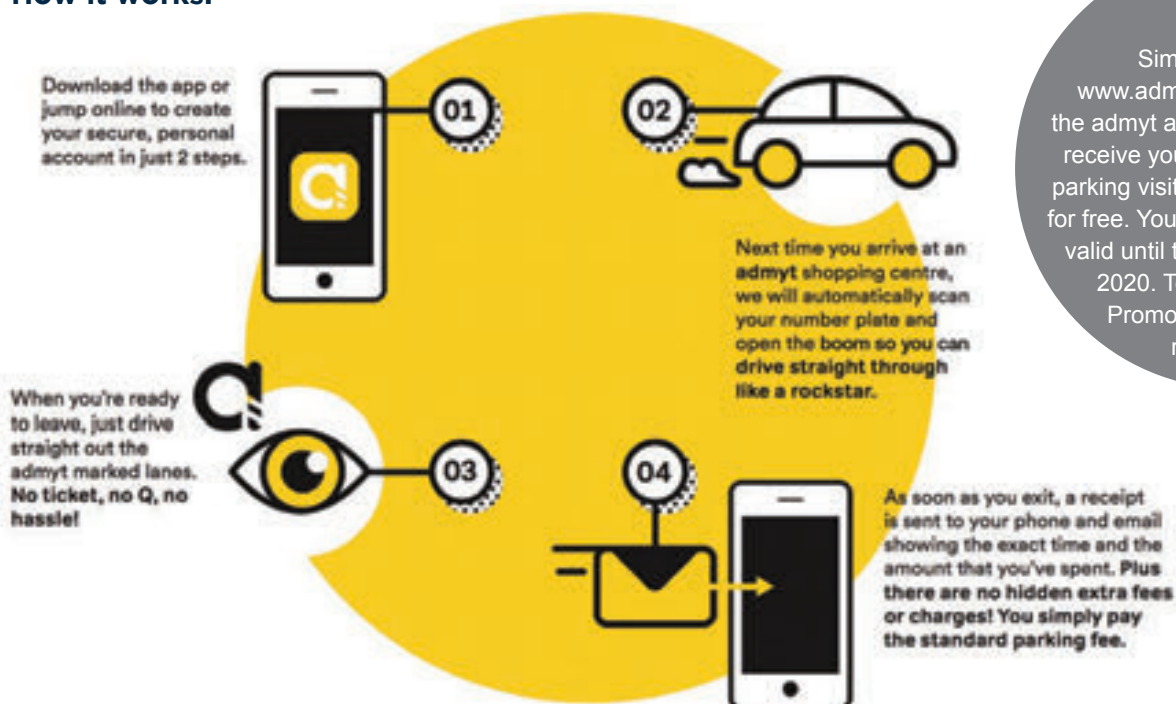


# MAKING. Parking A LITTLE Happier

would like a completely touchless and ticketless experience, you can register on [www.admyt.com](http://www.admyt.com) or download the newly-launched admyt app to park without having to touch a thing or stand in queues to pay! And if you register before the end of August 2020, you will get your first 5 parking visits for free (to the value of R50) to redeem until the end of September 2020! To qualify, enter the Promo code "MOA5" on registration.

The developers of South Africa's leading ticketless parking system, admyt, are the team behind the new system at the Mall of Africa. This is a project that supports the brand's ambitions to expand its footprint of parking sites.

## How it works:



The system uses advanced license plate recognition cameras to speed up entry and exit times and makes paying for parking more convenient for shoppers and tenants.

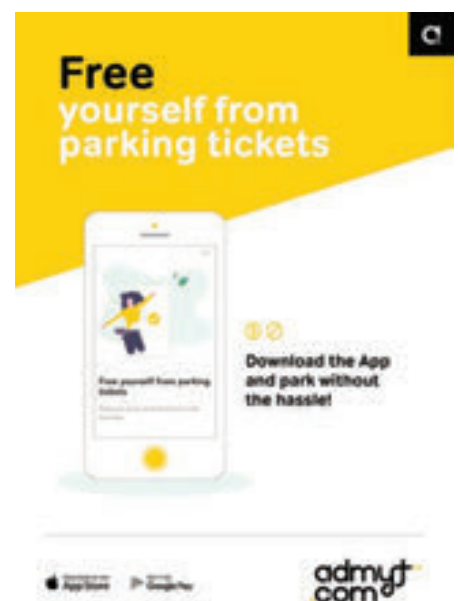
According to Lindi Serebro, General Manager of admyt, the system is easy to use and super-convenient. "You simply register on the app or website and drive straight in without taking a paper ticket or standing in queues at the pay stations. We call it hassle-free touchless and ticketless parking," she says.

The admyt app, available on iOS and Android, allows users to track their time at the Mall, validate their parking, as well as view any special offers available at the Mall of Africa stores. Customers can use their credit card or a prepaid wallet to pay for their parking.

Since launching in 2016, admyt is available at most of the major shopping malls in South Africa and is proving to be a great success. "We are excited to work with the Mall of Africa and provide shoppers with a totally seamless, touchless and secure way to park,

making shopping more convenient and better than ever before," adds Serebro.

Johann Fourie, General Manager at Mall of Africa concludes: "The Mall of Africa is consistently seeking ways to improve the shopping experience for customers and with admyt, we're delivering on our promise of a better, contactless parking experience. This new system will enhance the safety and security of our shoppers, ultimately leading to a world-class customer journey."



## Special Offer

Simply register on [www.admyt.com](http://www.admyt.com) or download the admyt app in August 2020 and receive your first 5 Mall of Africa parking visits (to the value of R50) for free. Your free parking visits are valid until the end of September 2020. To qualify, enter the Promo code "MOA5" on registration.

# WHAT'S AHEAD FOR FINANCIAL MARKETS?

By Adriaan Pask, Chief Investment Officer, PSG Wealth

Volatility returned to financial markets in 2020 due to various events, including the novel COVID-19 pandemic, the oil price war and credit rating downgrades.

**T**he path ahead remains highly uncertain, but emerging markets may be more resilient than many people anticipate. Here are three possible outcomes to watch out for.

## #1 UNEMPLOYMENT NUMBERS WILL RISE

The South African Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SACCI) has warned that the country's unemployment rate could peak at as much as 50%, particularly due to the impact that the lockdown to contain the spread of COVID-19 is having across the formal and informal sectors. National Treasury anticipates that more than 2,5 million jobs could be erased, with wages and salaries expected to fall by as much as 30%. In context, the country's unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2020 – before the national lockdown – rose by a percentage point to 30,1%.

These numbers will increase for the second quarter – and the status by the end of the year remains to be seen, however, the CCMA has already received over 16 000 referrals and it has been reported that about 1 800 of these cases deal with retrenchments. It may take a few years to get the unemployment rate to revert to pre-crisis levels, but we expect these numbers to normalise in the long-term. It is also important to note that this prevailing rise in unemployment is not just a distinctively South African problem, but a global one.

## #2 THE IMF EXPECTS EMERGING MARKETS TO BE MORE RESILIENT THAN DEVELOPED MARKETS

The growth of the Chinese and Indian economies will drive the global rebound after 2020 according to the IMF, which predicts GDP growth in emerging markets (EM) and developing economies to rise to 5,9% during 2021, while advanced economies are forecast to grow by 4,8% next year. According to their June 2020 report, the prospect of a weaker US dollar and low interest rates globally will allow key central banks of EM countries to be more aggressive with their monetary easing. EMs are expected to recover in the years ahead and potentially outperform the US stock market. With a lower cost of capital, private sector investment will also likely recover.

## #3 ON THE JSE, SHORT-TERM SPIKES SMOOTH OUT OVER TIME

When tracking the movements of the ALSI over the past 24 years, we can see how short-term spikes similar to those prompted by the global pandemic smooth out over time. This indicates that, while these short-term spikes may be painful, they have a smaller impact on the upward trajectory of investments over the long-term.

In retrospect, South Africa has dealt with its fair share of headwinds over



the past 15 years. The 2008 global financial crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic have caused the largest market pullbacks in recent history. The impact of the strong US dollar has also placed massive strain on EM economies and investments, and South Africa was no exception. Furthermore, political turmoil in the country added an element of uncertainty, which has placed considerable strain on both business and consumer confidence.

Yet, despite this, equity markets have been able to deliver a return of around 13% for the 15 year period.

This is in line with our forecast for the period of inflation plus 7% for this asset class. This illustrates why long-term investing is important, but also that the assumption remains realistic, despite being aware that various challenges will be experienced over the investment term.

## KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE LONG-TERM GOAL

Reacting to short-term noise isn't helpful. Market volatility is part and parcel of any full investment cycle. Good investors anticipate and prepare for some level of turbulence along the journey and remain focused on their long-term objectives.





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# RESILIENCE IS ESSENTIAL IN OUR POST-PANDEMIC FUTURE

Of the many lessons we have had to learn from the current pandemic, perhaps the most crucial one is to ensure that business strategy and operations are founded on resilience. Michael Davies, CEO of ContinuitySA – enterprise resilience specialists that recently made Waterfall their home – shares his insights.

**F**or years we have been faced with a VUCA world, exacerbated by accelerating change, and have needed to be prepared for almost anything. VUCA stands for Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous, and it has always seemed to me a useful way of conceptualising the fast-moving, slippery context in which we have to survive.

The truth of that observation has been borne out by the way the COVID-19 emergency has unfolded at a magnitude very few had ever expected. Of course,

***“VUCA stands for  
Volatile, Uncertain,  
Complex and  
Ambiguous”***



*“Those that acted swiftly and decisively were able to get back up and running quicker”*

most business continuity plans had made provision for a pandemic, but nothing on this scale. Specifically, who could have predicted that the worldwide response to the crisis would ultimately cause more disruption than the pandemic itself?

Judging from our clients' experiences across the continent, there are many lessons that we, as resilience professionals, have learnt from this emergency. The most obvious are: those that acted swiftly and decisively were able to get back up and running quicker, and the more digitalised an organisation, the better it was able to adapt to radically changed circumstances.

Certainly, allied lessons were the need for robust ICT infrastructure and systems to support remote and home working, and excellent cybersecurity. But the one that I really want to highlight, is that those organisations with practised business continuity plans managed better than those that either had no plans in place or had plans, yet never rigorously tested and practised them.

This isn't surprising. Business continuity plans focus on identified risks, but they also recognise that crises do not unfold according to a 'plan', and the unexpected usually occurs. Good business continuity planning is therefore designed to be adaptable.

As anyone who has lived through a crisis knows, having a plan, even if you are adjusting it all the time, is half the battle. But the other half is encapsulated in the word 'practised'. A crisis is inevitably a time of high pressure. Trying to adapt



Michael Davies, CEO of ContinuitySA

and then follow a plan when the chips are down is nerve-racking, to say the least. People who have participated in regular tests and simulations are innately better prepared and more empowered to keep their heads and act calmly in a changing context.

That is why the military conduct so many 'exercises' - to prepare their soldiers for the combat situation; and anticipate the 'unseen' that can quickly change the combat situation, and strategy.

Resilience comes from this combination of a plan, the ability to adapt it on the fly and to execute at pace when the risk materialises. The concept also encompasses the ability to recover when a crisis hits. Returning to the military analogy: a reverse – or even retreat – may be necessary to ensure future victory and long-term survivability, but does the organisation know how to regroup and recover?

## FORGING RESILIENCE IN YOUR DNA

Here are my top thoughts and tips for forging resilience in an organisation, to ensure it, you and your teams become more resilient, better able to respond to, and recover quicker from any changing circumstances:

*“crises do not unfold according to a plan”*

*“The more digitalised an organisation, the better it was able to adapt to radically changed circumstances”*

- **It all begins with the business continuity plan.** This must be a living document, constantly improved upon, and incorporated into the organisation's overall strategy and milieu.
- **Practise, practise, practise.** You don't know if the plan works if you haven't tested it. More testing is the only way to improve it and get your people combat-ready.
- **Create a holistic resilience culture.** As most CEOs know, it's the people that make an organisation. Plans and processes will be background noise if teams don't buy into them. Like all issues relating to culture, resilience culture must come from the top and be managed effectively to become more than a project but inherent in the way you do business. If you get this right, then the organisation will naturally be resilient.
- **Build operational resilience by rethinking your approach to office space.** COVID-19 has driven home just how reliant we are on being able to access our premises. There's consensus that the remote working experiment is likely to herald the emergence of hybrid working models that are themselves more resilient. A total move to remote working is not sustainable, but many of our clients are planning to build in resilience through, for example, relocating one third of their staff to our campus, one third to remain on site, and one third working remotely.

There can be no doubt that more lessons will emerge over the coming months, but one thing is clear: the ability to adapt to the unexpected or improbable will itself become a critical business capability.

# A HIDDEN GEM ON OUR DOORSTEP

By Amanda Pillai



**T**his month, I was welcomed to a place that has served kings and queens, presidents and prime ministers, musicians and actors, and anyone looking for something beautiful from Africa.

The business is a family-run enterprise started by Dennis Cambanos who had a passion for African crafts. Fast forward 30 years and today this shop supports hundreds of craftsmen and women from all over Africa.

You can get lost perusing their range of gems and goodies - such as Ndebele beadwork, beautifully carved and painted wooden animals and hand-painted monkey balls - whilst sipping one of their famous Ethiopian blend coffees.

I fell in love with some of their rare, coloured gems which I found to my

delight didn't break the bank. They also stock stunning Tanzanite collectors' pieces, diamond jewellery and ethnic gold pieces from exclusive designers. And if you prefer to have something custom-designed, they have an on-site jeweller who can design and make something exclusively for you.

I spent a couple of hours there and will definitely head back there soon, to see what else I can find. Next time, I may grab a bite to eat at their on-site coffee shop, aptly named 'The Watering Hole', which is child-friendly, with a jungle gym and ample space for the kiddies to run around.

Directly across from the Gallagher Convention Centre, with secure parking and very helpful and knowledgeable staff, Cambanos and Son Agencies is one of the biggest of its kind in South Africa, supplying the world with African

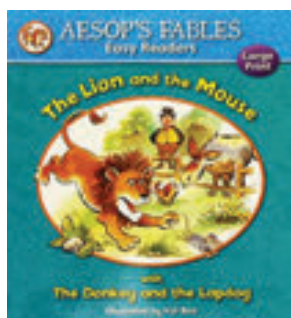
curios. They are currently open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but if you are unable to get there, be sure to check their online shop for a selection of authentic African curios and jewellery.

Their pledge, "Make sure the customer is happy", has not changed since those early days when they had their small wholesale office in the centre of Johannesburg. Their mission is to offer their clients only the best quality, service and prices in South Africa and they love it when their regular customers also become their firm friends.

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# CURRO WATERFALL IS A COMMUNITY HUB



Curro Waterfall is proud to bring you a free webinar series on family, school, and community engagement.

**R**esearch over the last twenty years has shown that engaging families in their children's education increases student achievement and learners feel more motivated when parents support their goals. Effective family engagement is not a one-time programme or a choice of a good school, but rather a set of day-to-day practices, attitudes, beliefs and interactions which support learning at home, at school, after school and during the holidays.

"To ensure that the learners of today are ready for the careers of tomorrow, families, schools, and community groups need to work together to promote engagement that is systemic, sustained, and integrated into school development initiatives, such as our webinars," says Dr Wilfred Bock, Executive Head at Curro Waterfall.

"At Curro Waterfall we want to instigate a supportive schooling environment

for learners and parents as it is not only critical to their health and well-being, but essential for them to learn, and succeed academically and professionally. Parents of the 21st Century thrive on collaboration and it takes a 'village to raise a child,'" says Dr Bock.

The school continually engages with the parental and learner community through innovative mediums, such as: the monthly masterclasses, the virtual newsletters, career webinars and the virtual in-touch sessions. The new addition of the community webinars will be another innovative engagement platform that they can add to their collection.

The webinars will run from 15 August until 17 October 2020 and families can tune in every Saturday from 3 - 4pm. The webinars will cover a range of topics, such as mental toughness, potty training and separation anxiety for the little ones; as well as innovation, inquiry-based learning and the benefits thereof; the benefits of role play, robotics and Lego building - and parenting tips, especially during the time of COVID-19. Some of the webinars will offer practical sessions such as craft making, cooking classes and question-and-answer sessions. Learners can join in and participate in live sessions involving various creative models, using design apps whilst exploring their creative and problem-solving skills.

"We want to engage with as many families as possible, therefore we would like to open our webinars to every learner and family out there irrespective of whether they are part of the Curro community or belong to other educational institutions. We are one large family with a common goal, and that is: To explore and live the best true version of ourselves..." says Dr Bock.

Over and above these offerings, the focus at Curro Waterfall has always been to innovate and inspire learners to become well rounded leaders in a global and competitive society. "At our schools, learners are exploring the true sense of 21st Century learning when they explore coffee blending; drone programming; app development; and sound engineering - therefore, the interactive webinars will come as no surprise to their innovative minds," he adds.

Once again, Dr Bock and the Curro Waterfall team are bringing solutions and innovation forward that benefit the school and the community at large.

Details of how the community can register for the webinars are available on Curro Waterfall's social media platforms: Facebook: Curro Waterfall Independent School  
Instagram: curro\_waterfall.



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# MOVING BRAVELY INTO THE FUTURE!

Educating through the pandemic . . .



**T**he 2020 academic year has been a challenging, yet inspiring year thus far. It's challenging in that we all had to adapt to a new kind of life – the pandemic has forced us to find new ways to do things. The entire education sector and school had to quickly move and set up measures to continue to facilitate an environment where students can continue to receive the promised education.

As St Peter's College, we stand proud of the swiftness and efficiency with which this was done, ensuring that no student is left behind. The academic programme continued with online teaching, and upon the return of the first group of students, our matriculants, the school



simultaneously managed to provide a nurturing environment for students to learn both online and in class.

St Peter's College is grateful for our staff who have ensured that they keep most of our offering going, despite the

lockdown. In addition to the Academic programme and online teaching, the College continued to offer an online co-curricular programme for the students, and the public at large, through social media platforms. The sports department offered fitness and skills coaching through video instruction, and the cultural department ran online workshops, musical showcases and exhibitions, as well as the music sessions where students showcased their skills and talents. Our student wellness department continued with the social responsibility community programmes where the school urged its community to collect food parcels for a school in Tembisa. Over 300 food parcels were collected and delivered. We remain proud of our students, parents and staff for supporting this initiative.





Our educational psychologists and chaplain continue with telephonic or online sessions with the respective students and staff. It has been the Executive team's objective to continue with the same well-rounded and broad education and exposure for our students online, as we do when they are physically on campus.

We are extremely proud of the partnership with Infundo Consulting during this pandemic. Infundo has developed focuses on education and social development projects, management consulting, systems thinking, organisational development and strategic coaching. Some of their activities include their community development project with PG Bison, encompassing 22 high schools in

the rural Eastern Cape; involvement in teacher skills development; management and leadership training; infrastructure development; technology integration; stakeholder management; youth employment and tertiary access; and donor funding/budgets. Through our partnership with Infundo, the schools in the rural Eastern Cape will have access to the online teaching material prepared by our expert teachers, the College's IT team will support the schools with some of their technical issues, and some teachers will work in partnership with the subject teachers in specific schools.

As a school, we remain mindful of our duty – to South Africa as a country, especially at this challenging time – and to our students as individuals,

as we strive to continue our commitment towards maintaining our position as a truly representative South African school. We are and remain proudly South African!

As a co-educational school, we ensure that the students learn from one another and develop mutual respect which will assist them in preparing themselves for tertiary education and their future success in the business environment.

We invite you to explore how we can be partners, in moving bravely into the future.

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**Kyalami Schools Group (NPC) is reimagining education! Led by the Group Head of Academics and Innovation - Mark Naidoo, along with his dedicated team of deputies, Tammy Odendaal, Kim Deirino and Denise McKee (Kyalami Preparatory), Bobby Bain, Debbie Kromm and Debbie Waldron (Beaulieu Preparatory) and Jorge Ruiz-Mesa (Beaulieu College), they have worked to modify the academic offering to our community of schools.**

**Here is a snapshot of the considerations and actions that our amazing academic staff have been unpacking as they move to online teaching.**

## THE EDUCATIONAL LANDSCAPE IS CHANGING!

Are brick and mortar schools a thing of the past? Will online learning become the new norm? Teaching and learning is fundamentally a social activity – can this be replicated with an online learning approach? Recent media articles and interviews voice their opinions on the above questions, a number of which are given by technology experts and the corporate sector; I wonder if teachers will have their say.

Our schools have been fortunate enough to transition to an online learning model given our access to existing technology infrastructure, the agility of staff and availability of pupil devices. The rapid response by our management teams has also helped us in preparing for the inevitable changes that will take place, post Covid-19.

However, we are acutely aware of the inequalities in South African education as we note that the majority of pupils in government schools do not have access to infrastructure, data and connectivity to support distance learning. In many of these schools, education has ceased for the past few weeks, driving apart the education gap.

### NEW CHALLENGES

Schools thrive when pupils, parents and staff actively contribute to the learning experience that does not simply focus on academic prowess. Kyalami Schools Group has a holistic approach to education; the emotional, social and physical well-being of our pupils and staff are of paramount importance. While we have modified our programs to offer holistic development, it has become a challenge given the Covid-19 situation. Social interaction and play, especially for younger children in the pre-primary phase, is a necessary part of their development.

Teachers also depend on a social cues to guide their pedagogy. Subsequently, questioning techniques, facilitating a meaningful discussion and debating opinions become complicated in an online learning environment. However, adapting to these environments and learning to navigate an online meeting has propelled the pupils forward, teaching them an important skill they will need in the fourth industrial revolution.

Parents who have to manage the availability of devices and ensure uninterrupted connectivity, while their employers have expectations of them, adds a tangible level of stress to many households. Therefore, we have adopted an asynchronous approach to allow for flexibility, especially where more than one child needs to access a device per household. We remain committed as a Group to finding ways to improve the situation, within our means.

### THE BENEFITS

In some ways the move to remote teaching and learning has yielded positive outcomes for education, with the understanding that the experience is pronounced in independent schools. We are witnessing an accelerated development of more resilient pupils. Better time management, active self-discipline, an increase in independent thinking and the use of multiple technologies have become a norm in the current approach to learning. Teachers are finding new ways to engage their pupils and at times, pupils experience a greater level of personal attention through one-to-one interactions. Teacher creativity, peer collaboration and peer review of learning material, critical thinking and the ability to communicate succinctly via online mediums have strengthened our 21st century skills.

### WHY CONSIDER ONE OF THE KYALAMI SCHOOLS?

Teachers across our campuses accepted the challenge, albeit at short notice, to present their subject content remotely, in a professional manner. They have also become more innovative in their delivery and continue to find ways to sharpen their online skills. As a community of schools, our ability to work closely as a team and leverage our collective expertise has aided staff to feel secure during these challenging times. Online teaching and learning demands a range of teaching modalities; our staff continue to explore these modalities and determine to remain adaptable. We also maintain the view that technology remains an enabler – great teachers know how to leverage technology to reach a predetermined objective.

As a Group, it has always been our values of Integrity, Consistency, Accountability, Respect and Excellence which have driven our commitment to our pupils and parents. Our values determine who we really are. Access to the Kyalami Schools staff and management is seamless, which is important for constructive engagement. The staff go the extra mile (I know this sounds cliché) so that each child is nurtured and feels part of the greater community. There is an innate generosity which our teachers express to pupils in their care and our service to parents and pupils remains our core focus.

### IS THERE A LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

When all is said and done, our values as a community will determine how we respond to a completely new approach to learning. We control our response, irrespective of the circumstances imposed on us. How we respond now will certainly have lasting effects on how we reform education in South Africa. The education system has been reset, not by choice. I see this as an opportunity to reimagine education – if we are completely honest, it's about time!

**#REIMAGINING EDUCATION**





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The measure of success isn't always in awards and trophies, sometimes the measure of success is most noticeable in the efforts of humanity, community and caring. We salute the success of our staff, children and parents who have bravely accepted the challenge to keep working during the Covid-19 lockdown. Thank you for your inspiration and for helping us reimagining education in the Kyalami Schools Group.

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# A CULTURAL AND BIRDING TRIP TO BHUTAN

(Part 1)

With its astonishingly significant forest cover, the Royal Government's commitment to both the environment and sustainable development, plus the largely Buddhist population's deeply ingrained respect for nature, Bhutan is in many ways an ideal model for conservation.

By Ron Searle, Photography by Merl & Marty Arnot, David Shackelford and Ron Searle

**K**nown as 'Land of the Thunder Dragon', Bhutan, a land-locked monarchy located in the Eastern Himalayas – bordered to the north by Tibet, the Indian states of West Bengal and Assam to the south, Arunachal Pradesh to the east and Sikkim to the west – is a destination like no other, boasting breath-taking mountain scenery and vast forests covering 71% of the total land area of 46 620km<sup>2</sup>. Apart from a few narrow strips of the Indian plains which penetrate the southern borders of Bhutan, the country is completely mountainous with steep slopes and altitudes ranging from 180m to 7 550m above sea level. The main Himalayan chain on the southern edge of the

Tibetan Plateau is the northern border of the country, an area above the tree-line, largely inaccessible and accordingly unexplored and pristine.

The wide range in altitude and topography produces an equally great range of climatic conditions responsible for the very considerable forest coverage. Three climatic zones have been identified, viz: sub-tropical 180 – 1 800m characterised by steep slopes and broad-leaved forest (both warm and cool); mid-montane 1 800 – 3 500m with coniferous forests (Chir and Blue Pine, Spruce, Hemlock and Fir); and alpine > 3 500m with tundra vegetation, alpine meadows, snow-covered peaks and glaciers.

*Old Timer (DS)*





Thimpu Dzong (DS)



Trashigang Dzong – Monastery Monks (DS)

Possessing unusually high biodiversity and enlightened conservation practices, the Kingdom of Bhutan is the jewel of the eastern Himalayas, having one of the world's most valuable, unique and intact ecosystems. The extreme variations in altitude and climate also account for its remarkable assemblage of vertebrates.

There are:

- more than 100 species of mammals including Snow Leopard, Bengal Tiger, Blue Sheep, Musk Deer, Bhutan Takin, Red Panda, Greater One-horned Rhinoceros, and Golden Langur (an endemic primate);
- 620 bird species including Rufous-necked Hornbill, Black-necked Crane and Pallas's Fish Eagle;
- and more than 5 400 plant species, of which 750 are endemic to the eastern Himalayas and 50 to Bhutan itself.

The progressive and enlightened conservation policies adopted by the Royal Government operate on the premise of environmental and cultural connectivity with socioeconomic development thereby controlling both its pace and direction to ensure sustainability. Foreign visitors are required to pay a minimum tariff of US\$250 per day, making it a very expensive destination – as they believe that sustainable tourism and Gross National Happiness matter more than Gross Domestic Product. Unlike its nearby neighbour, Nepal, whose economy is largely financially dependent on tourism, Bhutan has



Chorten (Shrine) and Prayer Flags - Dochu La (Pass) (DS)

limited its investment in tourism to the upgrading of infrastructure, roads and accommodation in the western part of the country.

Bhutan's population is around 770 000, and the people are industrious, very hospitable and friendly, but greatly influenced by religion – Vajrayana Buddhism (75%) and Hinduism. Small in stature, they are thin but tough (only one person overweight, a priest, observed during my travels). Attire consists of a *gho* for the men (a long, knee-length robe tied around the waist with a cloth-belt known as a *kera*) and a *kira* for the women (an ankle-length dress made of a brightly-coloured finely-woven fabric with traditional patterns). The National sport

is archery although shotput, darts and wrestling are also popular, and the staple diet consists largely of red rice, wheat, maize, meat (pork, chicken, beef or yak), cheese and chillies (used as a vegetable, not a spice).

Our 850km journey commenced in the warm south-east and we travelled west across the breadth of this remarkable country on a single-lane paved road which followed the contours of the land, regularly crossing dramatic mountain passes – like the famed Dochu La (pass), littered with prayer flags and chortens (shrines) – and passing through magnificent forested landscapes often dominated by imposing and impressive dzongs (fortresses of



*Rufous-necked Hornbills* (MA)

towering walls surrounding a complex of courtyards, temples, administrative offices and monks' accommodation).

West of the Black Mountain range running from north to south, western Bhutan was only equipped for tourism relatively recently. This included the provision of wide roads and luxurious accommodation, etc. At the time of my visit, eastern and central Bhutan were almost totally devoid of any tourist infrastructure and hotels (if any) in the widely-spaced towns catered only for indigenous travellers. For this reason, as well as for birding logistics, we camped for 11 of our 19-day tour, which necessitated that all of our food and camping equipment be transported in advance to the informal view sites carefully chosen for our camps.

Having spent the previous day travelling through the Assam state of India, our group of eight arrived at the Bhutan border an hour and a half early, so our Bhutanese guides (Tserin, Solaam and bus driver Oula), who we were relying on to arrange our visas and guide us through the border formalities, were nowhere to be found. They finally arrived and shortly thereafter we were stepping through a shallow trough of disinfectant into Bhutan and making our way to the border town of Samdrup Jongkhar for the night.

The next morning, we set off for our first birding excursion, with the road winding through patches of evergreen



*Himalayan Brown Goral* (MA)

forest northwards into the foothills of the Himalayas. Both Great and Oriental Pied Hornbills showed well at a fruiting ficus tree, as well as Black-backed Forktail, gorgeous Scarlet Minivet, Crimson and Black-throated Sunbirds, Black-naped Monarch and a pair of Scarlet Finches. Climbing out of the lowlands, it was not long before we were adding mid-montane elevation birds to our list, including Rufous-bellied and Black Eagles, Chestnut-tailed Minla, Crimson-browed and Gold-naped Finches, Green-tailed Sunbird, Black-eared and Green Shrike-Babblers, secretive Spotted Wren-Babbler, Brown Bullfinch, Himalayan Swiftlet, and Streak-breasted Scimitar-Babbler. We also secured brilliant views of the globally-threatened Rufous-necked Hornbill.

Our campsite at Morong (1 700m above sea level) comprised of five tents for the eight group members, a tiny loo tent and a dining tent. In the evenings we received a small bowl of water to bathe in (no shower) and at dinner a hot-water bottle. A body-bag which was to be used inside our sleeping bag was so difficult to get into that I abandoned mine for the duration of the camping. We were also given a booklet listing the daily menus for that part of the trip. Broadly speaking, breakfasts comprised of either corn flakes, muesli or porridge, followed by eggs (to order) and toast. Lunches usually included rice and vegetables of various kinds and dinners always started with soup and



*Golden-throated Barbet* (DS)

then moved on to rice or noodles, mixed vegetables, sometimes with cheese, and shredded beef, pork or mutton (occasionally curried). By and large, the food prepared by our chef was perfectly adequate in terms of both quality and quantity.

Travelling further north towards the town of Trashigang, we climbed a further 650m to our view-site camp (2 350m) which was 100km south of the town and bitterly cold. Birding in the morning was washed out by heavy rain followed by a surprisingly quiet (for birding) afternoon. A Mountain Scops Owl called all night.

Birding companions on these trips are often 'just a little odd' and on this trip an eccentric German fellow fitted this description perfectly. His appearance could be described as having been slightly dishevelled, with relatively long, uncombed hair, old-fashioned spectacles and ragged and worn clothing. He was obviously of high intellect, and married to a financially-independent woman who hated travel of every conceivable type (because of motion sickness) and was accordingly more or less confined to the village in Germany where they lived. They had two grown-up children and he was retired. Apparently, having secured a doctorate (PhD) in forestry science after leaving school, he found his way into commerce, making a small fortune in trading derivatives, before being shut-down

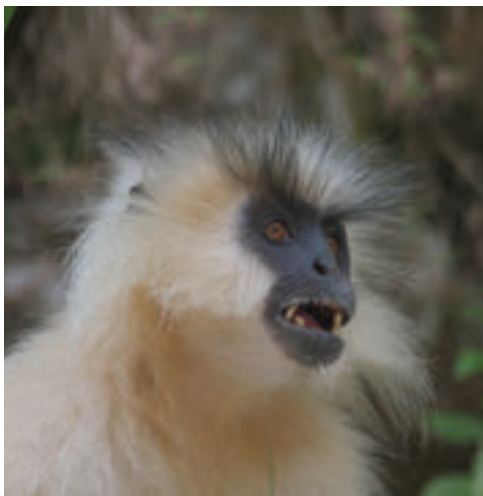


*Black-necked Crane* (RS)

by legislation introduced by the German authorities. Then, aged 55, he devoted all his time and a good deal of his resources to birding, producing his own bird field guides for every trip undertaken. But what was, in my view, remarkable about him was his diet whilst on birding trips, which consisted exclusively of cheese and chips/crisps (if available) for breakfast, and three 750ml bottles of the local beer for both lunch and dinner, supplemented again by cheese and chips/crisps. He collected the labels of the beers he drank, pasting them into a scrapbook of sorts, had a lovely dry sense of humour, was very bright and knowledgeable, surprisingly physically fit despite his unusual trip diet, and never suffered any stomach upsets. Totally contrarian in almost everything he did, he was a very interesting character!

Commencing the 100km journey to Trashigang, we stopped alongside a cliff-face where Giant Rock Bees had constructed massive combs clinging to overhanging ledges. These were attended by a single Yellow-rumped Honeyguide, (one of the only two Asian representatives of this African bird family), which was intent on helping itself to bee grubs in the combs.

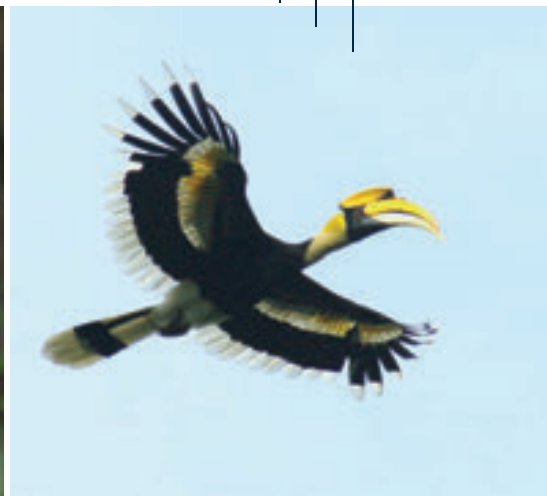
After passing through forests of flowering magnolias and colourful rhododendrons on the slopes of the Yongphu La en route, we eventually reached the settlement of Trashigang,

*Golden Langur* (DS)

located at the foot of a steep wooded valley, at midday. During the afternoon, we indulged in a bit of local culture, visiting the very impressive Trashigang Dzong overlooking the confluence of the Drangme and Gamri Chu (rivers). It was constructed over 100 years ago, and we were given a guided tour of the establishment by Salaam. It was interesting to see how monks as young as four years old live their lives of dedicated Buddhism every day.

In the town, we were also treated to a visit to a true oriental bazaar market replete with a great variety of grains, garlands of chillies, silk, hand-woven bamboo crafts, hocks of yak meat, fermented cheese balls and colourful textiles. Nearby, Blue-capped and Blue Rock-thrushes, noisy White-crested Laughingthrush, Grey-winged Blackbird and Black-throated Parrotbill were spotted, whilst in drier scrub, encounters with Rusty-cheeked Scimitar-Babbler, Striated Prinia, Himalayan Bulbul and Three-banded Rosefinch, were made.

Departing from Trashigang, we travelled through Chir Pine forest to our next campsite located in broad-leaved forest 20km east of Mongar (largest town of eastern Bhutan). Crossing the Kulong Chu, we passed a hillside studded with Royal euphorbias, a very African scene, before making a surprising discovery – on a rocky hillside, we saw a pair of Himalayan Brown Goral (type of goat). Following the contour, the road took us through

*Great Hornbill* (MA)

subsistence farms, which were mainly terraced lands of rice paddies and fields ploughed (two oxen and a wooden plough) for potatoes and beans, largely on the lower slopes of the valleys. Birding stops along the way produced Darjeeling Woodpecker, Smoky Warbler, White-browed Shrike-Babbler, Red-tailed Minla and Nepal Fulvetta.

Onwards further west to Yongkhola (1 800m), we reached our next campsite for two nights. Birds seen during the day included Golden-throated Barbet, Large Hawk-Cuckoo, Common Green Magpie, Rufescent Prinia, Grey-bellied Tesia, Yellow-vented Warbler, Steaked Yuhina and Large Niltava. Rain accompanied by strong winds right through the night resulted in the collapse of four of the five accommodation tents, most of my companions emerging in the morning wet and cold.

Continuing on to the fabled Limnethang Road, a birding hotspot which can produce some of the most awesome birds on the planet, we encountered even more rain and mist, resulting in very few new birds for the day, other than Golden-spectacled Warbler, Collared grosbeak and Golden-breasted Fulvetta which braved the weather.

Having now dealt with almost half of the new bird species (lifers) I was hoping for during the trip, this concludes the first part of my chronicle about my Bhutan adventure.

# WATERFALL CONTACTS

Capacity	Name	Contact Number	Email
Estate Manager - Waterfall Country Estate and Waterfall Village	Grant Poole	083 399 9334	grant@waterfallcountry.co.za
Estate Manager - Waterfall Equestrian Estate	Alwyn de Bruin	078 800 8177	alwyn@waterfallequestrian.co.za
Estate Manager - Waterfall Hills Mature Lifestyle Estate	Shae Braithwaite	081 810 0770	shaeb@trafalgar.co.za
Estate Manager - Waterfall Valley Mature Lifestyle Estate	Anton Lotter	072 856 6705	estatemanager@waterfallvalley.co.za
Property Manager - The Polofields, Waterfall	Theo Marais	060 759 1580	theo@elgaruwaterfall.co.za
Property Manager - Kikuyu, Waterfall	Elizah Knipe	011 553 7163	elizah@elgaruwaterfall.co.za
Property Manager - Ellipse, Waterfall	Elizah Knipe	011 553 7163	elizah@elgaruwaterfall.co.za
Property Manager - Waterfall View	Mpho Masikhwa	072 104 3547	waterfallview@elgaruwaterfall.co.za
Security Manager	Shawn Benningfield	076 144 8197	shawn@waterfall.co.za
Environmental Manager	Ruan Spies	083 307 4783	ruan@waterfallcountry.co.za
Attacq Leasing	Justin Smith	082 362 0800	justin@attacq.co.za
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<b>Midrand Trauma Support</b>	076 979 9017
<b>Netcare 911 Emergency</b>	
<b>Medical Services Waterfall</b>	010 209 8365
<b>Netcare Emergency/Ambulance</b>	082 911
<b>Netcare Sunninghill Hospital</b>	011 806 1500
<b>Netcare Waterfall City Hospital</b>	011 304 6600
<b>Police/Flying Squad</b>	10111
<b>Police Midrand</b>	011 347 1600

### PETS & ANIMAL RESCUE

<b>Animals in Distress</b>	011 466 0261
<b>Midrand Veterinary Hospital</b>	011 315 1575
<b>SPCA</b>	011 265 9935
<b>SPCA Midrand Emergency</b>	083 441 1564
<b>Sunninghill Village Vet</b>	011 803 1221



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