

NEWSLETTER

HAWAAN FOREST ESTATE

DECEMBER
2023

Website: <https://hawaanforestate.co.za>

"ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH."

— HELEN KELLER

As we close the chapter on the past year, we find ourselves on the threshold of a new chapter. It's time for our yearly estate shutdown, a period to take a breath, recharge, and get ready for the bright days that lie ahead. The preceding year has been a shared journey of experiences, challenges, and triumphs within our vibrant community. Together, we've forged memories and friendships that define the uniqueness of Hawaan.

Wishing you all a peaceful closure to the year and a spirited welcome to the New Year. May it be filled with prosperity, joy, and the continued growth of our Hawaan community.

Warm regards, HOA Management

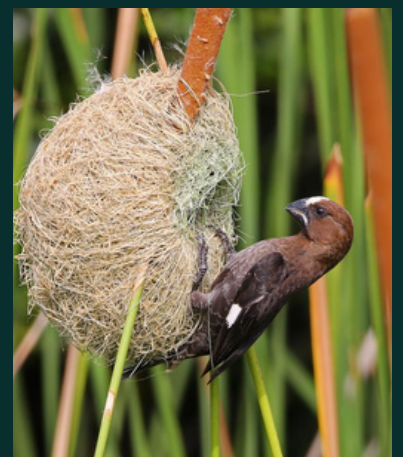
INSIDE OUR YEAR-END ISSUE:



SECURITY UPGRADE AND
THC LAND



HAWAAN YEAR END
SHUTDOWN



CONSERVATION
TRUST



EMAIL

Security@hawaanho.co.za



LANDLINE (OPT.2 - SECURITY)

03I 56I 35I5



WHATSAPP (SECURITY)

076 49I 3099

HAVE A SAFE & BLESSED HOLIDAY SEASON!

YEAR END SHUTDOWN

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE HOA

We want to extend our warmest wishes to all residents celebrating Christmas. May your homes be filled with laughter, warmth, and the spirit of togetherness. Have a safe and blessed Christmas.



SHUTDOWN TIMES – As the festive season approaches, we would like to inform you that the HOA office will be closed from Thursday, 21st December 2023, at 13:00 and will resume normal operations on Monday, 08th January 2024.

During this time, if you have any emergencies, please do not hesitate to contact Security at 0315613515 (Option 2) or via WhatsApp at 0764913099.

Contractors will be permitted to recommence their activities on Wednesday, 10th January 2024, from 07:00.

BUILDING UPDATES – Currently, there are 12 homes actively under construction, and an additional construction project set to commence in the coming months. All developer sites have been sold, leaving us with 9 vacant sites that we hope will soon become exciting new developments.

GOLF CARTS– Please be aware that only licensed drivers are permitted to operate golf carts within our community. Additionally, we kindly ask that the golf carts and quad bikes not be used in the conservation area. Please be considerate of the hard work and dedication put in by the HFCT to maintain our beautiful surroundings.

NOISE – When hosting gatherings or enjoying music at home, we kindly ask that you be considerate of your neighbours. Keeping noise levels down also ensures that everyone can enjoy a peaceful and restful environment. Therefore, we kindly request that noise levels be reduced by 22:30.

PARKING – To ensure the smooth flow of traffic and preserve our verges, we kindly request residents and their guests refrain from parking on verges or non-designated areas along roadways. This helps prevent road blockages and damage to the surrounding verges.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES & ACCESS 2024 – During the Estate Shutdown, essential services such as pool maintenance, fiber-related issues, garden maintenance, and electrical services will be permitted only in cases of emergencies.

To inform security about domestic workers, gardeners, aupairs, and drivers continuing work at your property in 2024, kindly email the details to security@hawaanhoa.co.za.

Contractors intending to access the estate in the new year are required to reapply. To facilitate a seamless process and prevent delays upon arrival, please ensure that they complete the access application (attached) with necessary requirements and email it to security before the 10th of January 2024.

SECURITY UPGRADE

We're thrilled to share that our security upgrade is making good strides and moving forward smoothly. Trenching taking place around the Forest line. However, as with any project, unforeseen situations may arise. Your safety is our utmost priority, and we appreciate your understanding during this process.

THC LAND ACQUISITION

At the Special General Meeting held on Thursday, 07th December 2023, the votes of the THC land acquisition were not only positive but unanimous! This land acquisition represents a significant step forward in the continued growth of Hawaan Forest Estate. We would like to express our gratitude for your active participation and support in this crucial decision-making process.

WORD SEARCH

U	A	D	G	S	C	C	D	I	P	C	U	TURKEY
G	E	N	G	T	I	M	M	U	H	A	M	HAM
S	F	N	Y	U	E	S	U	E	I	N	G	STUFFING
E	C	E	U	F	G	I	L	G	N	G	N	PUDDING
I	A	K	L	F	G	N	L	O	O	I	I	MINCE PIES
P	N	A	E	I	N	U	E	O	G	N	D	YULE LOG
E	D	C	L	N	O	E	D	S	Y	G	D	GINGERBREAD
C	Y	T	O	G	G	E	W	E	M	E	U	CANDY CANE
N	C	I	G	Y	A	T	I	P	U	R	P	EGGNOG
I	A	U	D	E	E	I	N	L	T	B	E	MULLED WINE
M	N	R	I	U	C	K	E	I	Y	R	N	FRUITCAKE
N	E	F	R	K	L	M	R	O	U	E	L	DUCK
D	D	U	C	N	N	P	L	U	P	A	E	GOOSE
G	K	G	N	D	D	U	C	K	T	D	M	

CONSERVATION TRUST

BY GUY NICOLSON (CHAIRMAN HAWAAN FOREST CONSERVATION TRUST)

A year's end is always a good time to reflect and assess its passing, and to also look forward to the future one as well. It is also a time to give thanks for what has gone well, as things generally have with the Trust's management of the forest and, in particular, to those who have contributed towards this. In this regard, on behalf of the Trust, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for the support that the Hawaan Forest Estate Homeowners Association has provided. This is not only in the provision of the levy funds to the Trust to enable the successful management of Hawaan Forest, but also in the administrative support provided in various ways to ensure its smooth and effective running. An especial thanks is due to Charles Sturgess, estate manager, and Malani Reddy, administrator, for all the generous and helpful assistance that they have provided during the year in various ways. So, a big thank you to them from the Trust.

In this article a particular aspect of the management of Hawaan Forest is discussed, hoping also that it might be of interest to the reader, and to possibly provide some new perspectives to some. Although it may seem to the uninitiated that the management of a nature reserve involves not interfering too much and letting nature take its course, this is unfortunately not the case. Active management is still needed, for example, in preventing poaching through the removal of snares, preventing alien plant invasions and in maintaining the trail system and preventing related impacts such as soil erosion. It also involves assisting in the security of the estate through the Trust's camera system installed within the forest that assists in detecting any intruders. However, what may not be so obvious is the setting of management decisions to actively intervene in some natural, ecological processes that are always under way within dynamic living systems, such as forests. I will elaborate on this by choosing the natural phenomenon of ecological succession, where these processes occur in the forest, and why and how there are active management objectives set, and the appropriate management activities enlisted, to achieve certain ends, as is elaborated on further below.

Within the main, central area of the areas of climax forest, which has probably become progressively

"Conservation is a state
of harmony between men and land."

- Aldo Leopold

established after the retreat of the last ice age some 10 000 years ago, there is relative stability. Large trees may fall, creating gaps in the canopy, which become colonized over time by new trees which ultimately take their place.

However, the overall system is more or less in a stable state within the forest, although it will still be influenced by major, macroscopic trends under way over time, for example from climate change. However, this is not the case where the forest interfaces with other types of habitats where, what are described in ecological parlance, ecotones occur.

Ecotones are those fringing areas between two types of habitats, for example between forests and grasslands, along the edges of streams, or between dams and terrestrial areas, or along the littoral zone of the oceans. These areas are biologically rich, diverse and ecologically productive where two distinct habitats intergrade in their various ways. Of our particular interest within Hawaan is the open space grassland area between the nearest residences in the forest and the forest boundary. In terms of the environmental and town planning permissions granted for the estate in its establishment, this open space "buffer area" of at least 40m wide is required to be left undeveloped and managing for conservation purposes by the Homeowners Association in ways that are complementary to the conservation of the forest proper. It is also worth noting that, at the time of the establishment of the estate, sugar cane grew right up to the edge of the forest in most places, with a sharply defined boundary between these two land covers, and with no biologically significant ecotonal interface between them.



Over time, through ecological succession, first through what are called “pioneer species” woody plants progressively encroach into the grassland to the extent that, over sufficient timespans the forest will progress up to the boundaries of the nearest residences in the estate. The management question is therefore: “Should we let this natural forest encroachment occur, or should we actively intervene to achieve other specific objectives through appropriate management measures?” What the Trust has, in fact decided in the context of this particular question, is to actively pursue specific management objectives which are as follows:

- To maximize biological conservation values
- To maintain certain aesthetic qualities
- To enable effective security

For each of these objectives, why they are set, and how they are reflected in the perceived environment are illustrated and elaborated on below within the following recent photographs, as follows:



PHOTOGRAPH 1 – Showing the typical ecotonal edge between the forest and its adjacent grassland. An area of diverse plant species, and also an area where foliage browse is available to the resident antelope that is out of their reach within the forest proper, where accessible foliage is, in fact, quite limited.

“The environment is where we all meet;
where we all have a mutual interest; it is
the one thing all of us share.”

– Lady Bird Johnson



PHOTOGRAPH 2 – Grasslands are one of the most threatened habitats within the wider Durban area. Those in the estate are being actively managed to be maintained and also enhanced, by the introduction through planting and seeding, of those flowering grassland species that should naturally in mature climax grasslands. The burnt remains of recently burnt woody vegetation is also present in this view.



PHOTOGRAPH 3 – An area where there has been a progressive bush encroachment of woody species into previously more open grassland. This encroachment will, without active management, ultimately replace the grassland with a youthful forest type vegetation. In distant view is a worker who is in the process of cutting this vegetation, with the previously cut vegetation in the closer view.





PHOTOGRAPH 4 – Considering also aesthetic objectives, this view an adjacent proper to the grassland allows a wider perspective than would be the case if the home was bordered by forest. Forests can, in fact, be rather claustrophobic, damp and shady, and very restrictive as to outlook. Maintaining open grasslands adjacent to homes is also an aesthetic management objective to be achieved. Note, also the burnt woody vegetation in the foreground, this encroaching vegetation has been recently burnt.



PHOTOGRAPH 5 – Finally, in considering security objectives, the open stretch of grassland in view between the forest and the homes allows for better visual detection of intruders, aided by security cameras. Therefore, for security reasons as well, maintaining the open grassland habitat between the forest and the residences in the estate is also highly desirable.

To achieve these management objectives the Trust is actively employing the following management strategies and also, where appropriate, in collaboration with the Homeowners Association.

One of the strategies employed is a program of controlled burning, where selected blocks are burnt on a rotational basis, for example every two years. This is typically done in late winter or early spring, after the first rains. Burning is a useful strategy but is not always completely effective. To be effective there must be enough biomass available to kill by burning any young woody plants that might occur in this area.

Another strategy being applied is where there is physical removal of encroaching woody vegetation by selective mowing, uprooting or cutting and contact poisoning of undesirable woody vegetation. This method is presently being applied in some areas where there has been significant bush encroachment, and where burning is not likely to achieve the desired outcomes.

Residents may sometimes have been aware of these activities going on, and perhaps wondered why they were occurring. I hope, therefore, that the above illustrated explanations do provide them with some insight, and also encourage the support of homeowners in the implementation of these activities within the 40m wide grassland belt which is the shared responsibility of both the Homeowners Association and the Trust to maintain. This aspect and further activities of the Trust which may be of interest and benefit as well to the homeowners will provide in envisaged future articles.

Wishing all residents all the best for the end of the year festive season and a happy and prosperous New Year on behalf of the Trust.

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