

Ford, we are coming for you!

Our biggest need right now is a reliable set of wheels for Jacques. On rainy day, we cannot leave the farm due to the mud build up. We don't need a 4 x 4 as these are too expensive to maintain and refuel.

We have received an extremely kind offer of \$5000 from a private donor in the US. Now we need to raise the balance of funds. Maybe a local Rotary club would consider a matching grant. Maybe there is an individual who could contribute – any amount is greatly appreciated.

Without reliable wheels, we are going nowhere.



A dream without ambition is like a car without gas, you're not going anywhere

Jacques Nel

Our bird and wildlife count

The latest stats

New intakes this quarter:

- 1 nightjar
- 4 spotted eagle owls
- 1 cuckoo
- 3 Egyptian geese babies
- 3 blue cranes
- 1 greysbokkie
- 1 spotted eagle owl
- 1 peregrine falcon
- 1 booted eagle
- 1 jackal buzzard

Thankfully winter provides us with some respite. Breeding season is over and we put our heads down to get all the big winter jobs done – building new enclosures and erecting more fencing. We are keeping a close eye on the inland bird flu and hoping it doesn't come to the coast this year.

Wildlife released Q2 2023:

- 6 spotted eagle owls
- 4 pigeons
- 3 kestrels
- 1 black shouldered kite
- 1 blue crane
- 1 nightjar
- 1 jackal buzzard
- 1 duiker,
- 1 greysbok
- 1 steenbok

Sadly, we cannot save all wildlife. Some wildlife have been too badly injured or are too sick to recover. We were unable to save the following; 1 blue crane sadly passed away and several owls died as a result of severe injuries due to road accidents.



Borehole exploration

The borehole exploration went extremely well. We did not have to dig too deep to find clean, potable water. We still need a 10,000 litre water tank, 2000 lt per hour solar pump and lots of piping to bring water down to the sanctuary.

Art auction

Please support us

Tania Copeland

We are holding a wildlife art auction at the end of 2023. We need to advertise to sponsors and interested buyers. The event will be live streamed so you can be anywhere and still take part.

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Photo gallery

Cute, cuter and the cutest

Jacques Nel

Our photo gallery is guaranteed to please. Turn to page 4 and view our birds. Feast on all the cuteness we could muster for this quarter. All creatures large and small.

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2023 and beyond

What's planned

Tania Copeland

Our work is never done. As soon as one project is completed, we move directly to the next project. Keep up to date with our projects for the year and beyond. Become informed, get involved.

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Fund Raising: Christmas Art Auction

Our next major fund-raising project

You can image our surprise when we received an email all the way from Jondaryan, Queensland, Australia. Mariette is a born South African living remotely on a farm not far from Toowoomba. She has offered to paint a SA wildlife picture for us to auction for funds. We have had an art auction before, facilitated by Ockert at Benguela Blue in Paternoster. We hope this one will be bigger and better.

Our plan is to have a live stream link between South Africa, Australia, Germany, and England. If you have any international contacts, please let us know so we can encourage them to join us.

We would like to encourage all wildlife artists who have the time to donate a piece of work for this auction.

The more quality art we have, the more funds we will be able to raise.

If any of our supporters can contribute towards this evening, we are aiming for the summer 2023, please let us know, the more help we have, the more successful the evening will be.

Advertising this event and encouraging international buyers is of utmost importance.

All funds will go directly to the Owl Orphanage.

Proceeds from this auction will provide food and cover all medical care needed for our wildlife throughout the summer breeding season. This will ensure we have enough money to continue the essential work we do on the West Coast.



Auctioneers? Artists? Photographers?

To get donate wildlife art, to sponsor the event or to get involved, please contact Tania on taniacopeland@gmail.com



Our new Owl C U Centre

Recently, we have received the very kind and much needed donation of our new Owl C U Centre. Thank you, Rou and Marius, we are so grateful for all you do for us. The need for a separate centre for quarantined birds is crucial. Avian flu has once again hit the West Coast areas, affecting gulls, terns and cormorants. Sadly, many of these birds die, but those we can save need to be kept away from the regular intakes. The centre also provides us with a dry storage area for food which during this wet winter is much needed.



Another job done and dusted....

A day in the life of...our resident expert.

Wake up time is early on this farm. Summer sees me getting up at 4am, 6am in winter. First thing on the agenda is a quick check of all the aviaries – is everyone alright? First I check the medical area and then outside. Are all the structures in place? Have we had any unwanted visitors in the night? Then top of the list are birds in the medical centre. They get medicated and fed first. I then pop off to the local town of Velddrif to collect Christo. Christo helps with the feeding and cleaning of the outside aviaries. He'll top up all the water bowls and do all the morning routine jobs. Shaking out towels, laying new ones down, putting on the washing machine and cleaning the feeding station. We go through an awful lot of towels. Then it's onto all of my messages on Facebook, email and WhatsApp. Together we prepare the list of jobs for the day. General maintenance, closing holes, digging holes for poles, planting plants, and building enclosures. Winter thankfully brings lots of rain so general maintenance of the main house is also needed. Dealing with leaking roofs, checking window seals etc. Although we have been operating for many years, we are still relatively new on the farm, having arrived at the beginning of last year. Expansion is a continuous job these days..... when I find time. We are still growing rapidly with more rescue organizations getting on board and a wider variety of wildlife coming in. I could get a call from as far away as Cape Town or Springbok to collect an injured bird. Rescues are priorities and these can take between 1 and 4 hours just to collect the bird. Thankfully we have volunteers who collect many of the birds from the wild ready for my collection. Feeding is also not an exact science. Some birds are only fed once a day, at night. Others require 2, 3 or 4 feeds a day. Others may need hourly or two hourly feeds depending on their species, age and medical requirements. And, just like children, some are more demanding than others! Before we are ready to release birds their feeding schedule also changes. Our medical centre needs also change depending on whether the bird has suffered injuries, concussion, poisoning or botulism. The sicker they are, the more care and the more regularly we need to tend to them. If the birds are not able to move freely, the responsibility of cleaning bums full of poo falls to me! Not a nice job, but someone has to do it. Birds may need to be readjusted if they are only able to sit in one spot, and we also provide light physiotherapy too. We currently have a bird in a sling due to dislocation. I need to ensure that the blood flows through to its legs so physio is a must. Of course, like any business, admin, emails and messages are constant. I receive many calls to visit the centre but unfortunately as we rehabilitate and release, this is not possible. While the idea of having more volunteers on sight is a wonderful idea in theory, it is not possible in practice as we need to keep human contact down to a minimum. We can only afford one staff member, Christo. He feeds the aviary birds. Then we need to keep up to date with our food suppliers (more details can be found in our feeding article). We can never afford to run out of food. Marlise out vet, also sees me regularly. Collecting or dropping off birds. I often find that personal duties, such as brushing my teeth only happens around lunchtime when I have a moment to myself. Lunch and dinner? What's that? Bedtime is around 10pm but if a call comes in for an injured bird.... Up I get and off I go. My job is 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year. I do not receive a salary. My reward? Releasing birds back into the wild, of course.

Meet our vet
Dr. Marlise Mundell



Without the support we receive from Dr. Marlise, we could not operate.

Wesland Diere Hospitaal is a small animal Veterinary Hospital located in Vredenburg, Western Cape. Their services include: Radiology, In-house Diagnostics, Ultra-sound, Surgery and a Vet-Shop. Contact them on 022 713 4970 for a Consultation. Marlise has supported the Owl Orphanage since it began. She donates her time free of charge. No animal is too large or small, she always gives us her best. Coupled with amazing staff, Dr Marlise is a valuable addition to our team of supporters.



Development
coming to your area
soon?

At the Owl Orphanage we are not against development. Development is inevitable. What we can do is ensure the impact of development on our wildlife, flora and fauna is kept to a minimum.

What we do suggest is the following:

1. Contact us so we can ask volunteers to conduct a walk- through of the land before the developers arrive.
2. We can assess what wildlife lives in the area and how best to relocate them.
3. We will look for nests of breeding birds, tortoises, and buck as well.
4. We can identify endangered plants or plants and bulbs of interest for relocation.
5. Bulbs are ideally identified in winter and relocated in summer.
6. Don't wait until the developer arrives. This may be too late for everyone involved.
7. Call today and make a difference

Owl boxes – a work in progress

With winter upon us and fewer intakes, we set our sights on making owl boxes. We are always looking for wood off cuts, no treated wood please. Once we have some stock, we will advertise the boxes for sale on our Facebook page. Different species require different types and sizes of box. We are building boxes suitable for Eagle Owls, Barn Owls and Kestrels. To donate your off-cut wood, please contact our Secretary Bird and she will liaise with you and arrange for the collection thereof. Everyone needs a warm snug home in winter, the birds deserve this too.



Thank you to our supporters.

Whether you are receiving and sharing our newsletter, or helping with rescues, or have joined our Facebook page, we would like to take this moment to thank you all. The more people involved, the easier our job becomes.

Thank you to the ladies from VLV Moorreesburg for hosting our awareness talk, for our tree and for your generous donation of just over R3000. The proceeds went towards our new phone. Thank you to TIES Immigration, (our Secretary Bird's other job) for your continued support.

TANIA COPELAND
TIES IMMIGRATION SERVICES OWNER

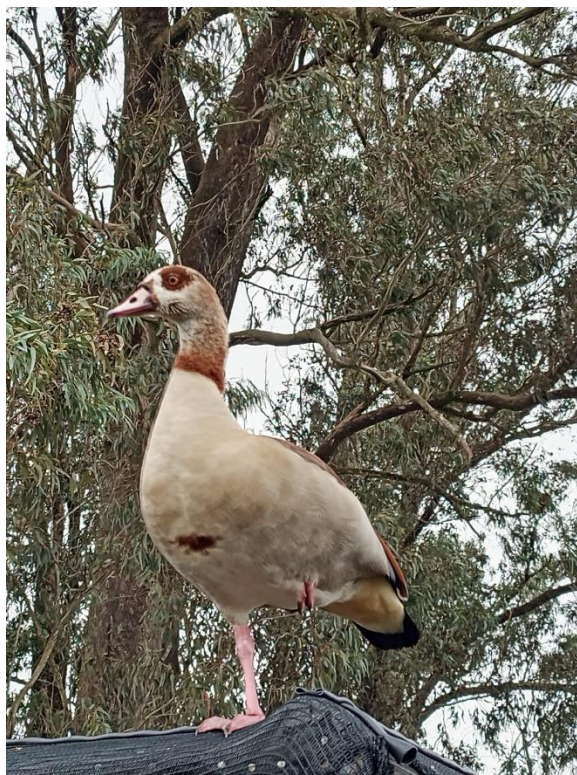
☎ 072-710-3481

✉ info@tiesimmigration.co.za

🌐 www.tiesimmigration.co.za

📍 1 Twin Oaks Centre, Main RD
Somerset West





The Owl Orphanage is not a petting zoo, it is strictly off limits to the public as Jacques releases all wildlife back onto this and other farms. It is not in the birds' interests to become familiar with people.



The Owl Orphanage is run solely from private donations. The National Lottery Fund did not consider any animal charities last year. LOTTO published the new lists in April 2023 and unfortunately only domestic animal welfares can apply for funding in 2023/2024. Please consider making a tax donation at the end of your financial tax year. Contact us for more information on our NPO status. If you would like to become more proactive in the environment, contact us to discuss how you can get involved.

West Coat Environmental Project Fund

t/a Owl Orphanage NPO 236-007

Bank ABSA Account: 4098603515 Branch: 632005

CONTACT DETAILS

Bird and wildlife rescues:

West Coast, contact Jacques on 072 040 5465

St Helena Bay call Rou on 064 5156100

Paternoster call Tania on 072 7103481

Hout Bay Seal Rescue: Kim on 0729885193