



### **SPRING HAS SPRUNG A FLOOD...**

In late August and early September the nature reserve was a spectacular sight with all of the fruit trees in full blossom, the mountains green and the valleys cool and crisp. But before anyone had the chance to see blue skies and sunshine, we found ourselves in the midst of a flood and completely by surprise! In the second last week of August we received approximately 160 mm of consistent rain for a period of 48 hours. The Klaasvoogds river that originates in the Langeberg came down with full force washing away roads, bridges and vegetation growing along the riverbanks. Pat and Karin Busch were marooned on their farm Bergplaas for a good few days, as the roads were not drivable even with a 4x4 vehicle! Thankfully all has returned to normal now and our dams are well replenished for the summer season. Bring swimming gear!

### **IPW CERTIFIED**

Rusticus Vintage Cellar has recently been certified as an IPW member for the cellar as well as the vineyards established on the Pat Busch Private Nature Reserve. The initiative for 'integrated production of wine' is a system whereby Mother Nature is employed to her full potential with as little human interference as possible. It is a system dedicated to environmentally friendly practices such as waste management plans, limited use of agricultural chemicals as well as conservation of sensitive areas such as fauna and flora. The Busch family, who have always been dedicated to minimalist intervention regarding the environment, is very proud to be associated with this initiative.

### **GOING NOWHERE SLOWLY...**

Rusticus Vintage Cellar was recently visited by the cast and crew of the locally produced 'Going Nowhere Slowly' TV series. Arrival was prompt in their vintage red Impala with Ian Roberts & Vivian Vermark thoroughly enjoying a taste of the unique red wines and a tour of the vintage machinery. The production crew spent an evening in the Robertson valley aboard a boat on the Breede River after a rather hectic schedule of things to do in the area. The last series is set to air in May 2007; we'll keep you posted for a definite date!



### **RUSTICUS VINTAGE CELLAR JOINS WINE BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVE**

This month Rusticus Vintage Cellar has officially become a member of the BWI initiative in South Africa. This worthy cause is a pioneering partnership between the South African wine industry and the conservation sector. The goals are to minimise the further loss of threatened natural habitat, and to contribute to sustainable wine production, through the adoption of biodiversity guidelines. In total the BWI initiative has brought the total conserved area to 36 441 hectares, representing some 36% of the total vineyard footprint in the Cape Winelands.

This is a truly unique aspect of South African wines when measured globally. With our partner Klaasvoogds Game Reserve, we have already been actively involved in reintroducing indigenous wildlife since 1998, as well as conserving natural mountain fynbos found in the mountains of the Pat Busch Private Nature Reserve. We are currently home to a previously thought extinct species of Protea (*vexatoella latebrosa*).

### **ROBERTSON 'WINE ON THE RIVER' FESTIVAL**

October sees an overhauled food and wine festival at a new venue with a complete revival. Festival dates are set for 20 – 21 October and a host of activities such as arts and crafts, restaurants, food and wine pairing; kids' activities as well as live music will be featured. Unfortunately, Pat Busch Private Nature Reserve is already fully booked for this weekend but should you be one of the lucky ones to have booked in advance we hope to see you at our Rusticus Wine Stand where you'll be able to taste some of our new wines! For more info see [www.wineonriver.com](http://www.wineonriver.com).

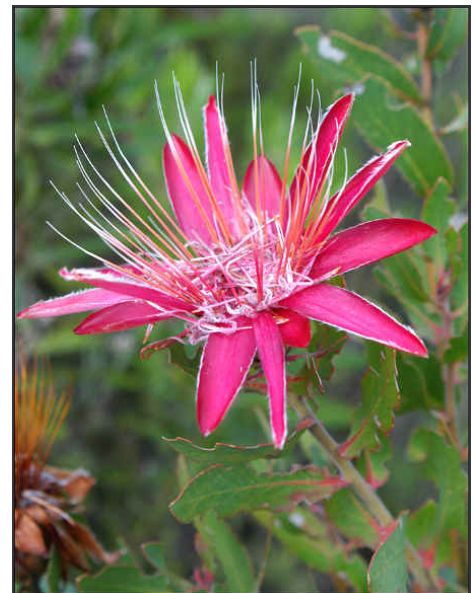
### **KLAASVOOGDS GAME RESERVE**

The reserve was also hit by the downpour of rain we received this winter season. For a good two weeks we were not able to take any guests through the game reserve due to the soil being entirely saturated. Tractors and vehicles would simply sink away into the mud creating quite a crisis for our staff who were transporting tow ropes and other handy items from one part of the farm to another.

All was not lost however, due to the rains one of our fences was forced over which allowed a previously exiled Kudu cow to re-enter the reserve.

There have been a number of births this spring – 5 Springbuck lambs, 1 Grey Rhebok lamb, 1 Bontebok lamb and several Crowned lapwing plover chicks.

Our field guide highlights that the reserve is currently a "dream world of flowers" thanks to the rainfall and is sure to be one of the most beautiful times to visit.





**ADDITIONAL GAME DRIVES FOR ROBERTSON WINE  
ON THE RIVER FESTIVAL**

10h00 & 13h00 on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2006

Refreshments & light snack are provided

Drives are approximately 2 hours in duration.

Tickets R150 adults, R60 children under 12 years.

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!**

**FUTURE EVENTS in and around Robertson...**

**20-21 Oct Robertson Wine on the River**

**21-22 Oct Montagu Rose Show**

**4 Nov Apricot Carnival McGregor**

**24-25 Nov 'Robertson Rocks' Music Festival**

***PLANNING YOUR END OF YEAR FUNCTION?***

***Klaasvoogds Game Reserve offers guided game drives Wednesday – Saturday 10h00 & 16h00 and Sundays at 10h00. Bookings essential. Enquire about our lapa catering for groups up to 20 in size or simply enjoy sundowners. Tel 023 626 2033 or email patbusch@intekom.co.za***

**PAT BUSCH PRIVATE NATURE RESERVE  
KLAASVOOGDS GAME RESERVE and RUSTICUS VINTAGE CELLAR**

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