

SPRING 2025

HORIZON

THE JOURNAL OF PEZULA PRIVATE ESTATE



PEZULA
PRIVATE ESTATE

Papio ursinus

The Chacma baboon is the only primate species naturally found in the Garden Route. Highly intelligent and deeply social, these adaptable foragers are a vital part of the local ecosystem – from seed dispersal to insect control. See page 12 for more.



Content

Welcome	01	CONSERVANCY	12
ESTATE ENHANCEMENT	02	Garden Favourite	12
New Visitor & Contractor Signage	02	Resident Reptiles	13
Estate Trails	03	Living in Harmony	14
News from the Estate Gardens	05	Knysna Schools Heritage Week	15
LIFESTYLE	07	Homeowners Survey & Marketing	15
Hikes & Canoeing	07	STAFF TRAINING	16
Barnyard	08	Building Skills for Safety & Readiness	16
Nursery & Paddock	10	A new tractor	17
The New Nursery	11	EVENTS	18



Johanita Henning
Estate Manager

Welcome to Understory



Coming Soon...

Don't miss the first episode in our new content series: *People of Pezula*. **Madeleine Loots** will be sharing her role in the events and giving a preview of what's ahead for the Estate as our Events Season kicks off in October/November. **Mark Grootboom & Carlon Jumaat**, two of our experienced and certified guides, will talk about his journey, insights, and some of his favourite hidden corners of the Estate.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce you to Understory, the refreshed look and feel of Pezula Private Estate's official newsletter. As part of the ongoing evolution of our brand identity, *Understory* reflects the quiet strength, layered beauty, and rich natural heritage that define our unique Estate. Just as the understory of a forest supports and nurtures life beneath the canopy, this publication aims to offer insight, connection, and a deeper understanding of all that makes Pezula Private Estate so special.

With a cleaner design, carefully curated content, and a stronger visual alignment to the Estate's identity, *Understory* will continue to keep you informed – and inspired – as we share stories from our community, our environment, and our ongoing journey together.

Enjoy the new chapter!

ESTATE ENHANCEMENT

NEW VISITOR & CONTRACTOR SIGNAGE

New signage has been installed at all gates to help ease traffic congestion at our estate gates, especially during busy times when visitors and contractors need to be scanned using their Glovent PINs.

The signs instruct visitors and contractors to park in the designated parking area, where they will be attended to by security. Once their details and vehicle license disc have been scanned, the guard will call them forward and open the gate using the barcode scanner. All access is recorded securely in the system.

Due to the design of our gates, we are unable to create a dedicated visitor's lane, however, we believe the new signage will assist in managing traffic more efficiently and reducing waiting times at the gates. We appreciate your patience and support as we continue to improve access and flow at our estate entrances.



HOA GATE



CONTRACTOR'S GATE

ESTATE TRAILS

Help Us Keep Trail Signage in Place

Trail signage is essential for the safety and guidance of all hikers, especially visitors who may be unfamiliar with the area. We kindly ask all homeowners and trail users to report any missing or damaged signs, or any other issues noticed along the trails.

These signs can be affected by natural elements such as strong winds or wildlife activity. Your assistance helps us maintain a safe and enjoyable trail experience for all.



Forest Trail Improvements

We're excited to share that a new wooden bridge and treated wooden steps have been installed along the Forest Trail. These upgrades are part of our ongoing efforts to improve safety and accessibility on our trails. Enjoy the enhanced experience on your next walk!



BEFORE



AFTER

Garden Trail Upgrades

New flagstones have been laid on the Garden Trail to enhance footing and accessibility. All trails are now in excellent condition and are being maintained regularly to ensure a safe and enjoyable outdoor experience.



Circular Trail Steps

70 treated wooden steps have been replaced along the Circular Trail to the river, making the path more stable and comfortable to use.

Additional improvements will continue on other trails in the coming weeks.



NEWS FROM THE ESTATE GARDENS

Main Road Garden Refresh

Main Road, loved for its forest character, has been the first focus area. To keep this space lush and inviting, we've started refreshing the road in sections.

Thanks to the hard work of our PPE Gardening Team we have been splitting mature *Dietes grandiflora* plants. Although these species are known for being low-maintenance, they benefit from division every 5–10 years. Without splitting, clumps can become too large and untidy. During this process, we also removed self-seeded plants, which have been relocated to the nursery for future use. Along the edges of Main Road, we planted a strip of *Plectranthus neochilus* to create a defined border and soft groundcover. Around the Main Gate parking bays, we grouped all the *Clivia miniata* together to create a stronger visual impact and seasonal flowering display. Lastly, the soil was topped with our wonderful PPE mulch.

Grouping plants effectively helps create interest and ensures cohesion across the planting area. In the coming months, we plan to introduce more flowering species along Main Road to ensure there is always something in bloom for residents and visitors to enjoy.

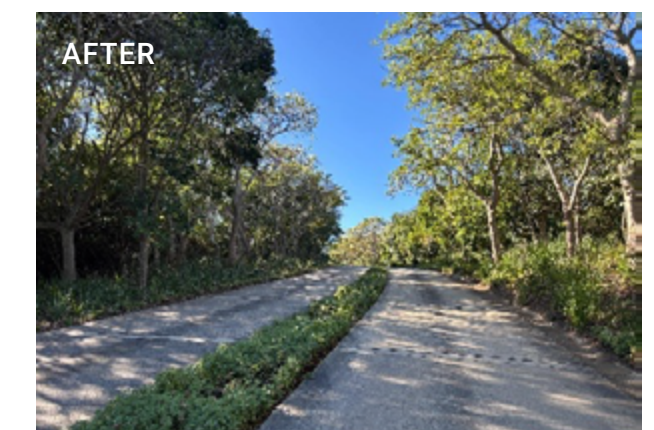
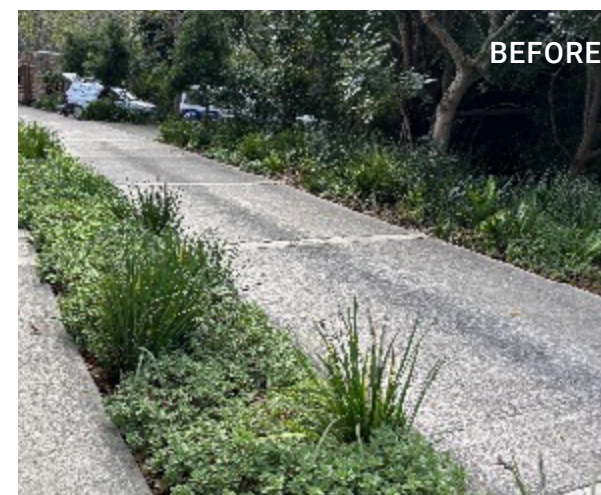
Thank you for supporting these ongoing improvements to our gardens. We look forward to sharing more progress soon.



Since April, a variety of landscaping activities have been underway across the estate—pruning, splitting perennials, clean-ups, and selective replanting. This work, guided by a landscape architectural approach, considers not only maintenance but also the spatial, functional, and aesthetic value of each garden space.

Our goal is to rejuvenate existing planting beds by making small yet effective adjustments, including reusing and relocating plants to new areas. We aim to showcase diverse vegetation themes and planting combinations that celebrate the richness of our endemic Fynbos flora.

Article by: Aimee Schutz – Inside Out Design



Main Gate Garden

Our Main Gate Garden has also received a major cleanup. We spent several days clearing out dead overgrowth, carefully shaped trees and shrubs, and continued our



Plectranthus border right through to the PGE Services Entrance. Planting at the gate is not yet complete, as we are still awaiting plant deliveries.



Pond Circle

Our team has completed the planting of the perimeter garden of the pond circle. Next, we will tidy up the pond verge and will be introducing more aquatic plants into the pond by submerging pots into the water.

Thank you for supporting these ongoing improvements to our gardens. We look forward to sharing more progress soon.



Other upcoming landscaping projects on the Estate include:

- Contractor's Gate Redesign
- Landscaping at the Barnyard Potager Garden

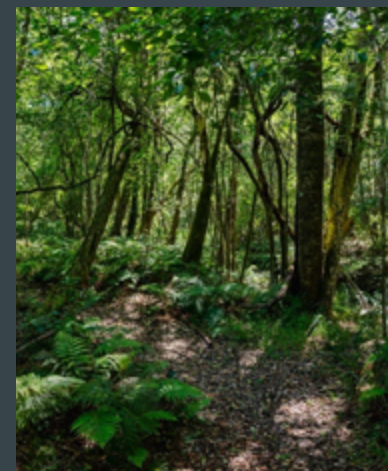
LIFESTYLE

Discover our guided hikes & canoeing adventures!

Embark on a unique journey through Pezula Private Estate's breathtaking landscape. Our guided hikes take you along newly improved trails winding through indigenous forests and vibrant fynbos and offer the opportunity to spot resident wildlife such as bushbuck, honey badgers and a rich variety of birdlife.

Experience a peaceful paddle along the serene Noetzie River. Immerse yourself in Knysna's renowned natural beauty and diverse botanical heritage. Let nature guide your next escape.

Contact the office at 044 384 0988 or email admin@ppehoa.co.za



BARNYARD

Back in the early days of the Estate, the Barnyard in Phase 3 was a haven of connection and lively activity.

Oom Hennie cultivated fresh vegetables for Pezula Hotel’s fine dining menu, trail horses were stabled and trained and there were enclosures for rehabilitating injured or abandoned wildlife. Residents loved stopping by to enjoy a cup of coffee and “roosterkoek”.

Things changed when the developer stepped away in 2014, then the devastating fire in 2017 wiped out the Barnyard’s buildings. This once-beloved space was left in limbo.

Our Estate Manager has a vision to bring new life and energy back to the Barnyard!

The plan is to transform the old vegetable gardens into *The Paddocks Potager Garden*, a place where residents can wander through meandering paths, abundant with herbs, vegetables and climbing flowers. Hidden alleyways, meditation spots, and indigenous plants will create a serene retreat, interwoven with natural waterways. Imagine watching the horses with a cup of hot coffee, or tending to your own little vegetable patch for fresh, homegrown produce.

The dream doesn’t stop here; it includes stables, a tack room, restrooms and an office, hydroponic gardens and mushroom farming. We envisage a cosy coffee shop and deli where residents can connect and buy fresh organic produce. The Barnyard’s story is far from over; it’s just beginning!



NURSERY & Paddock

Groundwork at the new nursery is officially underway! Over 250 blue gum logs have been harvested in Phase Four to help shape the layout and foundation of the area.

The entire HOA team is currently focused on completing upgrades to the nursery and the paddock, with steady progress being made on both projects. We will share updates as exciting additions take shape!



THE NEW NURSERY

Planting in summer is a joyful and energizing experience. The warm weather invites creativity as you design vibrant gardens and experiment with colourful blooms. It's a season full of activity, where tending to plants becomes both playful and rewarding.

A variety of plants and bedding materials are available at the New Nursery:

- *Apodytes dimidiata* - White pear
- *Agapanthus species* – Blue love flower
- *Aloe arborescens* – Rock Aloe
- *Aloe maculata* – Soap aloe, bontaalwyn
- *Aristea species* – Blue star flower
- *Bulbine frutescens* – Bulbine, rankkopieva
- *Coleus neochilus* (*Plectranthus neochilus*)
- *Crassula multicava* – Fairy crassula - green
- *Crassula multicava* – Fairy Crassula - red
- *Curtisia dentata* – Assegai
- *Dietes grandiflora* – Wild iris
- *Ekebergia capensis* – Cape ash
- *Helichrysum petiolare* – Kooigoed
- *Plectranthus ecklonii* – minaret flower
- *Podocarpus latifolius* – Real Yellowwood
- *Portulacaria affra* – Spekboom
- *Rapanea melanophloeos* – Cape beech
- *Salvia aurita* - Valley Salvia
- *Searsia chirindensis* – Red currant, Taaibos
- *Thamnocortus insignis* – Cape/Albertinia reed
- *Trimeria grandifolia* – Wild mulberry
- *Tulbaghia violacea* – Wild garlic
- *Virgilia oroboides* - Keurboom
- *Watsonia knysnana* – Knysna watsonia
- Mulch for Gardens

To purchase plants or for more information please email admin@ppehoa.co.za



CONSERVANCY

GARDEN FAVOURITE

Gazania rigens var. leucolaena



Gazania is perfect as a groundcover, with bright yellow flowers and greyish-white leaves creating a cheerful display. Bright yellow flower heads of up to 40 mm in diameter bloom from August to February, attracting many insects for pollination.

QUICK FACTS:

Family: Asteraceae
Common Names: Trailing gazania (Eng.); strandgazania, strandgousblom, rankbotterblom (Afr.); ububundle (Zulu)
Description: A creeping perennial herb with milky latex. Stems can grow up to 400 mm long. Leaves are densely covered with soft, white, woolly hairs.
Habitat: Found along the Cape south coast from Mossel Bay to Port Elizabeth, typically on sand dunes just above the high tide mark.

WE BELIEVE THAT CULTIVATING GREATER KNOWLEDGE AND BETTER UNDERSTANDING, WILL ALLOW US TO NURTURE AND PRESERVE THE ENVIRONMENT WE CALL HOME AND ALL OF ITS RESIDENTS. KNOW IT, LOVE IT, NURTURE IT!

GARDENING TIPS:

- Frost-resistant, sea spray-resistant, and drought-tolerant.
- Propagate from rooted runners or stem cuttings.
- Plant in a sunny spot; flowers open in full sun and close in the evening.
- Use as groundcover, border, in rockeries, or on slopes.
- Regular watering enhances flowering, though it is drought-tolerant.

Ref: Adapted from the Kirstenbosch National Botanical Garden, published on the PlantZAfrica.com website

RESIDENT REPTILES

Rhombic Night Adder

Photo: J Van Staden



The Rhombic Night Adder is so-named for the diamond or chevron-shaped markings on its back. This venomous snake is typically 60 cm long and is native to Sub-Saharan Africa. It has a blunt snout, 15–21 rows of keeled (raised) dorsal scales, and a distinctive V-shaped mark on its head. Colors range from brown to olive green with rhombic blotches.

QUICK FACTS:

Name: Causus rhombeatus, or rhombic night adder.
Habitat: Found in forests, savannas, shrublands, grasslands, and fynbos, often in areas with many frogs and mice.
Behaviour: Active and capable of climbing and swimming. Mostly nocturnal but basks in the morning and late afternoon. Generally docile but can display aggressive behaviour if provoked.
Venom: Low toxicity, causing pain and minor swelling. Symptoms usually disappear within 2–3 days.

SNAKE-SAFE:

- Adhere to the 30 km/h speed limit on the PPE and watch for animals crossing the road.
- If you see a snake, contact Security Control Room for safe removal. Keep a safe distance and monitor its position until help arrives.

Ref: Article adapted from Wikipedia.



"Baboons return only where there's a reward. Take that away — and they move on."

Living in Harmony

Baboons



The idea of peaceful co-existence with baboons might seem ambitious, yet the truth is these intelligent, resourceful primates were here long before we were. They remain an essential part of the region's biodiversity.

Research by South African primatologists confirms the baboon's ecological importance. They disperse seeds, keep insect populations in check, and even help shape fynbos ecosystems. On our estate, they play a role just as vital as the duiker, bushbuck, or any of the 180+ species of birdlife.

However, baboons are opportunistic foragers and the allure of human food can easily draw them toward homes. A few scraps of bread, a fruit tree, or an open bin can save a baboon hours of natural foraging. To them, it's a logical decision. That's why, especially in the winter months when natural food is scarcer, it's crucial we collectively take steps to discourage unwanted visits.

TIPS FOR COEXISTENCE

- Don't feed baboons (or leave pet food or bird seed accessible)
- Avoid planting fruit trees near your home
- Use baboon-proof bins and secure compost heaps
- Close doors and windows when leaving, especially near kitchens
- Log aggressive behaviour with the Environmental Control Officer at enviro@ppehoa.co.za

Together, through awareness and small everyday actions, we can preserve the unique biodiversity that makes Pezula so extraordinary.

KNYSNA SCHOOLS HERITAGE WEEK ENDS ON A HIGH NOTE AT PEZULA PRIVATE ESTATE ON 25TH JUNE 2025.



The Knysna Schools Heritage Week project, organised by Sarah Mackie of the Ubumama Outdoor Education Program, concluded on a memorable note on 25 June 2025 with a guided walk through the beautiful Pezula Private Nature.

As part of our corporate social responsibility initiative, we had the pleasure of hosting 23 enthusiastic Grade 4 and 5 learners from Riverwood Primary School. Led by our knowledgeable guides, Mark and Carlon, the students embarked on a 3km nature walk—an

inspiring adventure that combined education, exploration, and fun in one of our most treasured landscapes.

After a wonderful guided walk filled, students wrapped up their day with some well-deserved relaxation at our *Field of Dreams*. With the open sky above and the gentle rustle of the breeze, they enjoyed the calming sight of horses grazing in the field. It was a perfect way to reflect on the day's experiences and connect with nature in a peaceful, memorable setting.

Home-owners survey & marketing

Thank you to all the homeowners who have taken the time to complete our recent survey — we truly appreciate your input! Our Marketing Team is currently reviewing and compiling the responses. Once the analysis is complete, we will share a summary report with all homeowners.

Your feedback is invaluable in helping us improve and better serve our community.

Our Marketing team is hard at work restyling our website. Be sure to follow and like our new Facebook and social media pages — exciting content will be uploaded soon!

Staff Training Updates

Building Skills for Safety and Readiness

We're proud to announce that our team has successfully completed a comprehensive round of essential training to enhance workplace safety and preparedness.

Staff members participated in certified sessions covering first aid, health and safety protocols, Hazardous Workshop and a one-day firefighting course designed to equip them with practical emergency response skills. In addition, two employees Mark Grootboom and Carlon Jumaat undertook specialised snake-catching training, ensuring we're ready to handle even the most unexpected situations with confidence and care.



- First Aid Training renewal courses was successfully completed in August



- One Day Fire Fighting Refresher Course successfully completed in September 2025



- Snake Catching Course by Lawnwood Snake Sanctuary completed in September 2025



After successful completion, Johanita, our Estate Manager, personally presented certificates to each individual who completed the training, recognizing their commitment to safety and professional growth.

Snake Catching Course:
Carlon Jumaat (left), Johanita Henning (middle), Mark Grootboom (right) >>>



- Hazardous Workshop completed in October 2025 – All staff attended



New Tractor arrival: powering up Pezula Private Estate

We're thrilled to share the arrival of our brand-new tractor, an exciting addition to the Pezula Private Estate fleet! This powerful machine marks a big step forward in enhancing our operational capabilities, and we couldn't be prouder to take ownership. Our dedicated team members are over the moon and eager to put it to work, helping us maintain the estate with even greater efficiency and care.



EVENTS

Upcoming Event Season Agenda

As we prepare to commence our Event Season this October, we are pleased to share the preliminary agenda and encourage all recipients to save the relevant dates. Comprehensive details for each scheduled event will be communicated individually as the respective dates approach. Kindly note that all event dates remain subject to change, should circumstances require adjustments.

Save The Date ~~~ For Bookings: finance2@ppehoa.co.za

17 OCTOBER 2025

An Evening Under the Stars

Movie Night & Boerewors Rolls

Featuring *Deepwater Horizon*, true story by Mark Wahlberg

Time: 18h30 for 19h00

Price: R150.00 per person

Location: Field of Dreams

01 NOVEMBER 2025

Music Concert at Alkira Lodge

Movie Night & Boerewors Rolls

Featuring *Jose Dias & The Selene Quartet* with *Zanelle Brits*

Time: 18h00, music from 19h00

Price: R950.00 per person, cash bar

Location: Alkira Lodge, Brenton-On-Sea

31 OCTOBER 2025

Exclusive Wine Tasting, Music Pairing Evening & a touch of Halloween enchantment

Signature & Award Winning Wines by David Nieuwoudt: *Ghost Corner & Cederberg Wines*. Music by Jo Dazeley

Time: 17h30 for 18h00

Price: R350.00 pp, limited tickets available

Location: Field of Dreams

Guests are welcome to dress up in their favourite Halloween costumes.

Best dressed wins a bottle of exclusive Ghost Corner Wine.

Food platters available on prior order @ R350.00:

- Cheese platter for two, or
- Cheese & meat platter for two



15 NOVEMBER 2025

Awaken the Senses: A Morning of Indulgence & Insight

- Champagne
- Artisan coffee station
- Chocolate tasting table with handcrafted confections
- Freshly baked croissants
- Environmental Talk - Speaker TBA

Time: 10h00 to 14h00

Price: TBA

Location: PPE Barnyard Potter Garden

29 NOVEMBER 2025

Guided Hiking & Canoeing Adventure, Picnic At Noetzie Beach

Join our team for a guided hike and canoe adventure through our Indigenous Forest, then relax with a scenic picnic at Noetzie Beach.

You're welcome to join us just for the picnic at Noetzie.

Times

10h30 - Guided Hike & Canoeing - Limited Spots Available

13h00 - Picnic on Noetzie Beach

Picnic Baskets available on prior order:

- Deluxe Picnic Basket @ R850.00 per couple
- African Experience Picnic Basket @ R780.00 per couple

Full details of the picnic basket contents will be shared closer to the event date



12 DECEMBER 2025

Carols by Candlelight

A festive evening of gourmet cuisine from selected food trucks, complemented by timeless Christmas carols performed live by various local music artists.

Full event details will be shared closer to the time.

Time: 18h00

Price: TBA

Location: Field of Dreams



**IN SEED TIME LEARN,
IN HARVEST TEACH,
IN WINTER ENJOY.**

WILLIAM BLAKE

**THE COLOUR OF
SPRINGTIME IS IN THE
FLOWERS; THE COLOUR
OF WINTER IS IN THE
IMAGINATION.**

TERRI GUILLEMETS

**Published quarterly by Pezula Private Estate
Homeowners' Association**

We welcome your feedback, suggestions, or contributions for future editions.
If you would like to contact us, or subscribe to this newsletter, kindly send your name, property address, and preferred email address to admin@ppehoa.co.za.

For estate-related matters, our Estate Manager, Johanita Henning, may be reached at manager@ppehoa.co.za.

An open invitation

Homeowners are warmly invited to visit the HOA office at any time should they wish to discuss estate matters in person. On cold days, a crackling fire, a cup of coffee, and a biscuit await you – we look forward to welcoming you.

Disclaimer

The content of this newsletter is intended for general informational purposes only and reflects the views of the Pezula Private Estate Homeowners' Association at the time of publication. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, neither the HOA nor its representatives accept any liability for errors, omissions, or any consequences arising therefrom.



P E Z U L A
P R I V A T E E S T A T E

www.pezulaprivateestate.co.za

