



Wildlife Campus

LEARN PROTECT SAVE

Magazine

**Employment section
With vacancies!**

**Book
sale**

**Heroes and villains
By David Batzofin**

**Space travel, a priority?
By Amy Holt**

Special: career combo!

Game Ranging/Field Guiding and
Front of House Lodge Operations

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The origins of WildlifeCampus

“The show must go on”, a book written by Peter Armitage tells the birth story of a company called AfriCam. Read with us as the story unfolds, AfriCam grows and eventually, WildlifeCampus finds its origin.

Part 2

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Space travel

WildlifeCampus student, Amy Holt, takes us into space. However, why do we seem to know more about space than the deepest points of our oceans?

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Book sale

WildlifeCampus has a limited amount of hard copies of Garth Thompson's The Guide's Guide to Guiding for sale!

Contact us to order your copy!

info@wildlifecampus.com

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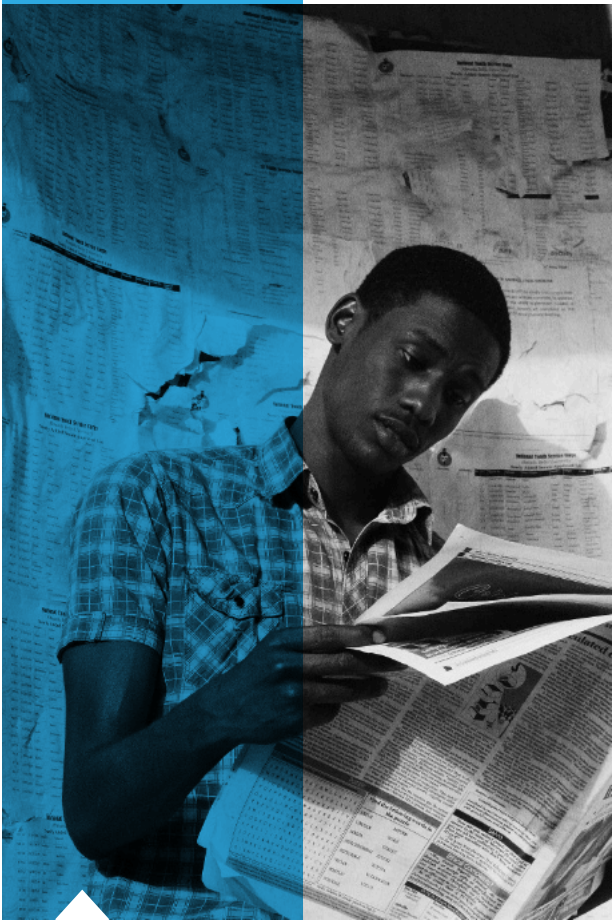
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Thank you!

In this edition, WildlifeCampus would like to thank Luke Kamp for his amazing photographic contribution towards our field guiding/game ranging course.

A preview of some of his photographs used in the course has been included!

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Employment

Looking for a job?

Wild Dreams Hospitality currently has vacancies in Kruger National Park as well as the Hoedspruit, Greater Kruger and Sabi Sands areas.

All the vacancies are listed in this section.

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Animal tracks and signs

Take an exciting virtual adventure with us, as we explore the Animal Tracks and Signs of Africa, written exclusively for WildlifeCampus by world renowned authors - Chris and Mathilde Stuart.

Scroll to try the free component of this course.

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Extra rewards!

WildlifeCampus has got an exciting announcement for our next magazine.

Please hang around and find out in our next issue what extra rewards WildlifeCampus students will be getting.

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Heroes and villains

David Batzofin takes us on one of his many trips trying to spot some sea turtle hatchlings.

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The show must go on!

The origin story of WildlifeCampus

01

By co-founder of
WildlifeCampus and
Anchor CEO

Peter Armitage



Missed the first part of this story? [Click here](#) to the WildlifeCampus magazine where this exciting journey starts.

“On bended knee”

Next up: Herbie Rosenberg, Warren Green and Sharon Jos of Sabi Sabi agreed to a webcam at one of their waterholes. Herbie was nearing the end of an illustrious marketing career for Sabi Sabi and was prepared to try something new. Sabi Sabi has a phenomenal image and wins many awards, but in reality, it is Mala Mala’s poor cousin. A fraction of Mala Mala’s land size and average facilities, but exceptionally well marketed and managed.

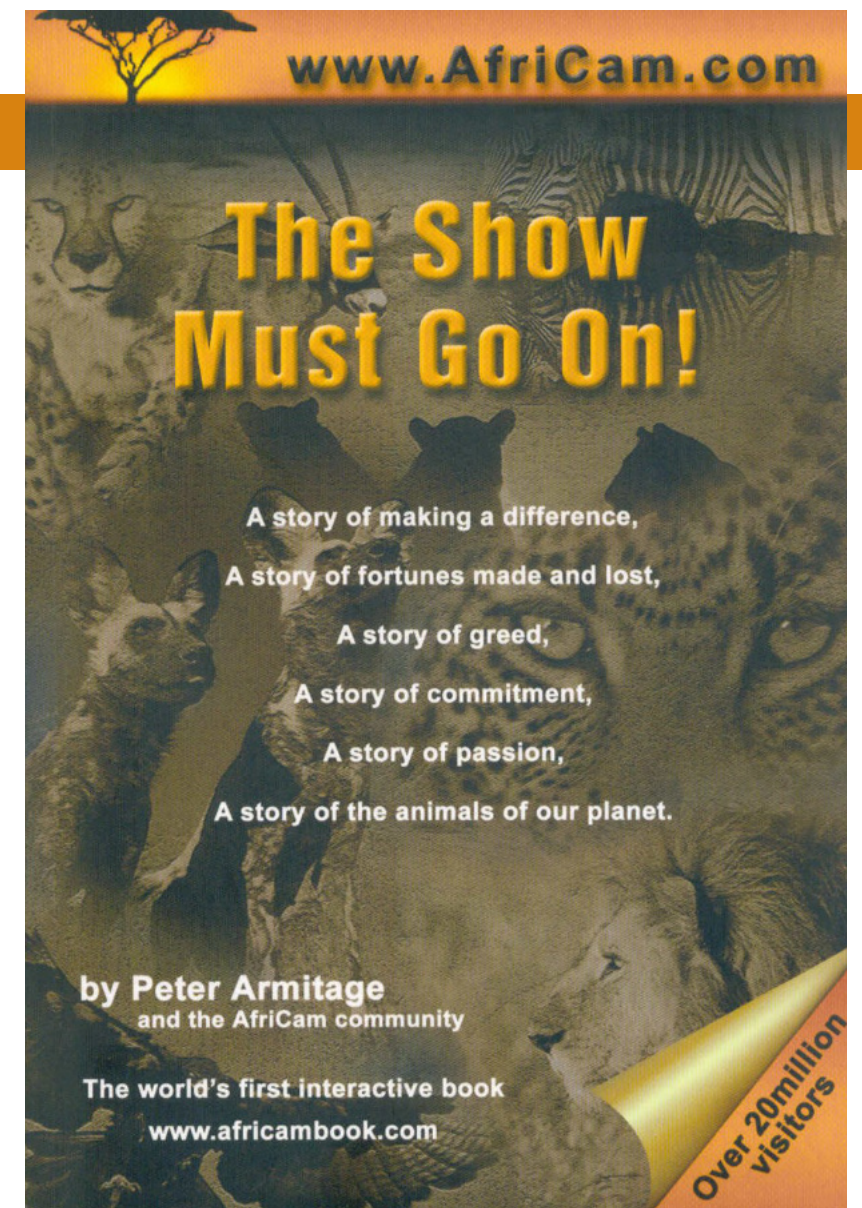
Just when Graham and Paul thought they had secured their first broadcast location, in stepped technophobe Hilton Loon, the MD of Sabi Sabi. Afraid of anything to do with technology, Hilton was not prepared to approve this project. “If it is successful, it will result in a decrease in tourism,” argued Loon. This could not have been further from the truth, and a year or so later, AfriCam was broadcasting from Sabi Sabi.



The begging continued, and Conservation Corporation, Singita, Mala Mala, Sabi Sabi and Exeter all rejected the idea of a camera in a tree at a waterhole. It was looking pretty desperate. The first remotely agreeable landowner was Charl Brink of Chitwa Chitwa.

It was a small piece of land (+/- 350 hectares), but it had a tree, a waterhole and a telephone line.

Paul and Graham were becoming progressively less demanding. Charl, in fact, offered a lot more than a waterhole; he suggested a wild dog den. Paul and Graham salivated. As it turned out, the wild dog den happened to be on Jurie Moolman’s Djuma Game Reserve. This one moved quickly. They all met at Jurie’s second house in Sydenham, Johannesburg and Jurie saw the benefit immediately. He was a pioneer. Charl, Paul and Graham did not make contact again for quite some time. Jurie, and his endearing wife, Pippa, were to form an important part of the AfriCam story. Pippa recalls: “From the start, Paul and Graham were adamant that the site had to be wild and free of charge. For 6 months, there was no income at all. Some companies were offering a paltry \$500 a month to host AfriCam. This was tempting for us in separate ways, even though Jurie and I only had a word of mouth agreement with the guys and no shares. Jurie and my interest was a tad selfish, we saw the



“The Show Must Go On by Peter Armitage and the AfriCam community.”

marketing potential (if it worked) for Djuma, a small business in those days, that had a pittance to spend on marketing compared with our larger neighbours to the south!”

Jurie is one of those characters of the bush. A slightly built, highly intelligent man with a great sense of humour, a permanent 5 o’clock stubble and one of those people with philosophies about everything. Especially after indulging in some of nature’s happy weed. Jurie was born to good stock. His father was one of the founders of Siltek, which was South Africa’s largest distributor of computer equipment (coincidentally, just over three years later, Siltek and AfriCam would file for liquidation on the same day).

Jurie’s father had bought large tracts of African land, and Djuma Game Reserve was one of them. Jurie is a rebel by nature. He was expelled from Linden hoerskool (high school), was a strong anti-apartheid activist (which landed him in jail for a short time) and always did things a little differently. AfriCam was custom-made for him, and the business was to have a larger impact on Djuma Game Reserve and his own life than he realised at this stage.

“Q supplied them with a box of goodies and wondered to himself whether he would ever see them again.”

“Go ahead and install the camera”. This proved to be a visionary move. Paul and Graham now needed one more thing:

A company that would either provide some finance or free bandwidth, which was likely to be the biggest cost.

“The micro deals that never happened”

The technology looked possible, and a waterhole had been secured. This webcam thing was becoming something of an obsession for Paul and Graham. They also knew that bandwidth was going to be one of the biggest costs and wanted somebody to pay for that. Not surprisingly, it was eventually bandwidth costs that would form a major part in sinking the business.

Bandwidth was required to get an image from the game lodges back to the hub in Johannesburg (or later San Francisco). Then the really expensive bandwidth is getting the images from the hub out to viewers around the world. The big differentiator between television and the internet is signal distribution. For television, millions of dollars are required to distribute a signal, but that cost does not change whether one person or a million people are watching. It is dramatically cheaper to initiate a broadcast on the internet, but the broadcaster pays for more bandwidth for every person watching.

This is one of the greatest challenges of internet broadcasting; the more viewers you have, the more it costs the broadcaster. Without an ability to make money out of a viewer, success crippled many an underfunded internet business.

South Africa, at that stage, had three major internet service providers, Internet Solutions, iafrica (associated with UUNet) and M-Web (part of the massive Naspers group). iafrica and M-Web were considered suitable “targets”.

First was Steve Orleo from iafrica. He was offered 70% of the company in return for paying the bandwidth costs, which at that stage looked like being around US\$2500 per month.



Bruce Cohen from M-Web was the next port of call. He was offered 50% of the company for US\$2500 and a contribution towards bandwidth costs. The internet phenomenon was still in its early days, and Bruce was not certain that AfriCam would be a reasonable business.

He initially accepted the deal and then turned it down. For the next three years, this would look like the worst financial decision that Bruce had, or will ever, make. Even though AfriCam was eventually liquidated, it is hard to believe that the giant Naspers group (which owned M-Web) would not have made millions out of the business.

The eventual deal with M-Web was a little more complicated but involved no equity. They would pay for 50% of the bandwidth, pay US\$1000 per month and share in 50% of the ad revenue. They never did sell an ad on AfriCam, I guess primarily because the concept was so wacky and non-traditional. Not too much later, the level of AfriCam web traffic would bring down the M-Web network, and AfriCam would be forced to host its servers in the US to cope with the traffic.

So the building blocks were in place: Q was on sides, Jurie had made his land available, and there was a deal of sorts that helped with bandwidth and potentially revenues (which never materialised from this deal!). It was easy to ridicule M-Web, but revenue was something that would stubbornly elude AfriCam for most of its existence.

Showing the world the wildlife

“Off to the bush” - 1 July 1998

“Up your offer by five grand, and you have got a deal.”

“Two grand is as far as I will go,” replied the car dealer. He knew that he could still sell the green Audi A4 for a handsome profit and make his commission on the sparkling new Land Rover Discovery 4x4. But he did not have to bargain too hard. The Discovery vehicles were selling quickly, and Paul did not look like the type of guy that was going to walk away from the deal.

“OK, that’s cool,” Paul predictably agreed.

Paul had made up his mind that this webcam idea was going to take up a fair amount of his time, and he needed a more robust vehicle than his Audi. After all, the six-hour journey to Djuma Game Reserve included some pretty tough terrain. Like many people living in suburban Johannesburg, Paul had had his eye on one of these vehicles for quite some time. “At least I will be justified in having one rather than the yuppies who drive around Johannesburg looking for potholes,” Paul thought to himself and chuckled.

A few kilometres away at the time, Graham had a more interesting problem. His wife Sarah had given birth to Joshua on 30 June 1998 in the Morningside Clinic in Sandton, and he already bore a startling resemblance to the goat-bearded Graham. As Graham did not have medical aid, the hospital was demanding that he pay the R5000 before his wife and child left the hospital. While Graham told them they were being unreasonable, he acknowledged to himself that, knowing what he knew (a bank balance of R50!), he would be insisting on exactly the same thing.

It was time to call on brotherly love, and Graham paid a visit to Keith, who was to join AfriCam as marketing director 18 months later. “That is what brothers are for,” explained Graham. Keith could hardly refuse, and they made the trip to the bank to withdraw the cash. It was more fulfilling than paying bail, thought Keith. Sarah and Josh were “released”.

Two weeks later, Paul, the new owner of a Discovery and Graham, a proud new dad, set off for Djuma Game Reserve. First, they stopped off at Q’s offices. Q had a vague idea of what they were trying to achieve and supplied them with a box of goodies. Q wondered to himself whether he would ever see them again.

More in our next edition, if Q gets to see the team again...





Space travel an important priority?

By WildlifeCampus student

Amy Holt

We have always been intrigued with the night sky. Ancient civilisations used the stars as a way to navigate and to mark changes in the seasons. The 88 constellations of the night sky are linked to myths and legends. Our fascination for space has allowed us to land on the moon, successfully photograph a black hole, land rovers on Mars, get detailed imaging of the moon, Mercury and Mars, and send a spacecraft to the dark side of the moon. But, the biggest lesson we have learnt from space exploration is that Earth is the water planet.



02

From space, our planet resembles a blue marble—a uniqueness in the Milky Way... the only planet sustaining life.

If the ocean is the heart of the planet, why have we only explored 5% of it? Exploring the oceans is a tremendously difficult task. Vision is limited—after 200 metres light begins to decline significantly, making imaging almost impossible. Deep sea exploration is a battle of the extremes. The further down you go into the ocean, the colder and darker it gets, while the pressure increases dramatically. At the bottom of the deepest part of the ocean, the water pressure is a thousand times that of the standard atmospheric pressure at sea level. Equivalent to about one hundred elephants standing on your head. Making it far easier to send someone into space than down to the deepest part of the ocean.

As the space race of the 1960s captured the public's attention, Jacques Piccard and Don Walsh descended to the Earth's deepest point, the Challenger Deep in the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench. The deepest parts of the ocean are 36,000 feet below sea level. To put that into perspective, Mount Everest could fit upside down in that space and its peak still wouldn't reach the bottom (Mount Everest is 29,032 feet above sea level). Since, January 1960, just 22 people have reached Challenger Deep. More than 500 people have visited space and thousands of climbers have successfully scaled Mount Everest. Deep sea exploration has never captured the public's interest like space exploration and Everest expeditions have.



Fish amongst plastic - Naja Bertolt Jensen

We often gaze up at the night sky and wonder what alien worlds exist out in space, if any. Yet, what lies beneath the surface of the ocean could certainly be described as an alien world to us. Less than 150 years ago, scientists ruled out the possibility of marine life below 500 metres under the sea level. Since then, ocean exploration has proven that there is an extraordinary diversity of life in the ocean. The ghost see-through fantasia is a sea cucumber found about one and a half miles deep in the Celebes Sea. Vampire squid live in the pitch black waters of the mesopelagic zone (1000 metres deep). Known for its vibrant red colouring, the *Crossota norvegica* jellyfish lives approximately 2500 metres beneath the surface. The yeti crab has furry claws and was discovered at depths of 1524 metres on a hydrothermal vent south of Easter Island. Found 3048 metres below the surface, the black swallower fish can swallow fish ten times its size and twice its length thanks to the extended gut attached to its belly. The deep sea may appear as a dark void however, looks can be deceiving. It is estimated that 90% of all marine species have yet to be discovered. The oceans are mysterious worlds in themselves.

The ocean is one of the most vulnerable and least understood places in the universe. Over the last four decades, the oceans have taken up over 40% of heat accumulated, and a third of that extra heat is stored in the deep sea. Further, the ocean has absorbed 50% of the carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere. Thus, studying and exploring the oceans could prove helpful in our fight against climate change.

Nearly 8 million tonnes of plastic enters the ocean each year. Unfortunately, marine life in the deep sea have been found with plastic inside them. Indeed, no place on Earth is immune to our destructive habits. As Jacques Cousteau said: 'The ocean is regarded as a sort of bargain basement. People don't realise that water in the liquid state is very rare in the universe. Away from Earth it is usually a gas. This moisture is a blessed treasure and it is our basic duty, if we don't want to commit suicide, to preserve it.' Continued exploration of the ocean can help us to achieve the thirty by thirty target—to make 30% of the global ocean marine protected areas (MPAs) by 2030.

Space tourism poses a real danger to us. It continues to distract us from the issues that need attention right now, here on Earth. As the billionaire space race took place, July 2021 was the hottest month since records began 142 years ago. The assumption that Earth is beyond repair is wrong. Solutions to climate change and other pressing issues are still far more accessible than living in space. That's not to say space exploration isn't important. It has contributed immensely to Earth science. However, it is not a necessity to send humans into space to achieve this. The Viking Mars landers, Voyager space probes, and Hubble Space Telescope are all alternative ways we can significantly advance our knowledge and understanding of the universe without actually needing to send humans back into space.

Because of satellite technology, we have GPS, television broadcasting, instant banking, meteorology, environmental monitoring, etc. The thinning of the ozone layer was discovered with the help of satellites.

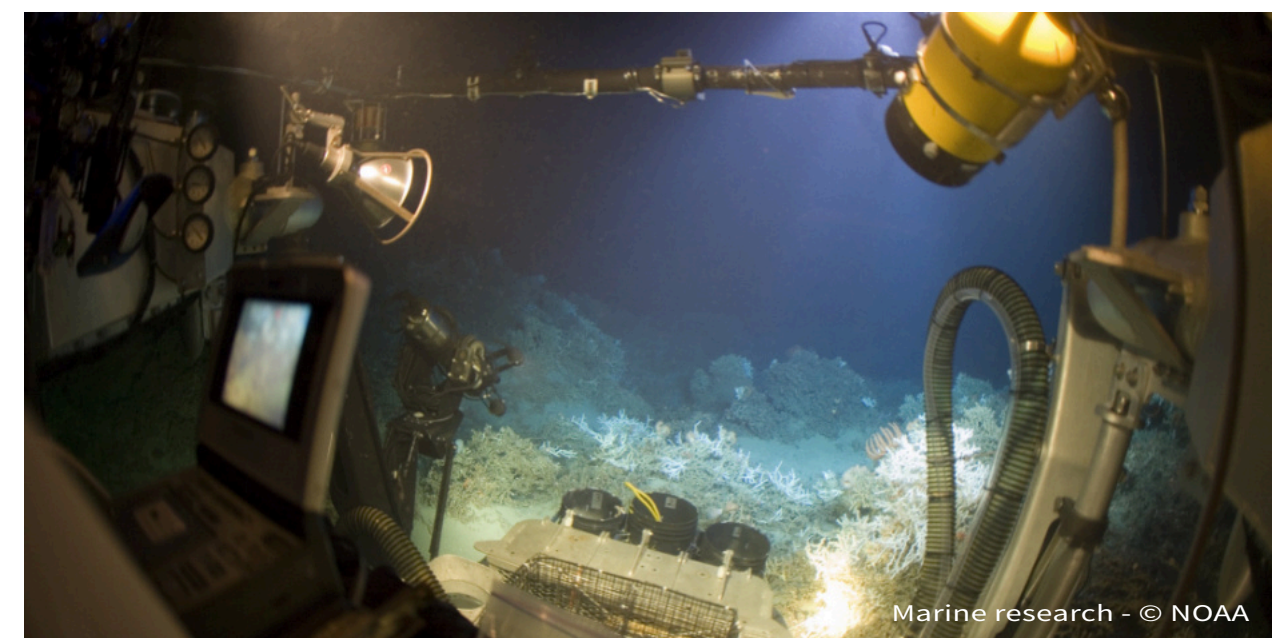
Also, satellites can locate oil spills and areas that have been contaminated by mining activities; as a result, the damage can be quickly contained and mitigated. The information that satellites provide is invaluable in developing innovative solutions and services. It will allow a greater response to the impacts of climate change. Researchers are using astronomical techniques used to study distant stars to survey endangered species. The 'astro-ecology' project at Liverpool John Moores University uses machine-learning algorithms to train the software, normally used to detect distant galaxies, to recognise wild animals using a thermal-infrared imagery drone. Drones are useful tools for conservation because they are relatively inexpensive to run, offer an aerial view of a landscape, and provide access to dangerous or remote areas.

As Carl Sagan said: 'Our posturing, our imagined self-importance, the delusion that we have some privileged position in the universe, are challenged by this point of pale light. Our planet is a lonely speck in the great enveloping cosmic dark. In our obscurity, in all this vastness, there is no hint that help will come from elsewhere to save us from ourselves.' Has life on Earth become so familiar to us, that we have forgotten that Earth is one of those extremely rare, special places in the universe. Undeniably, there is nowhere else quite like our blue marble.

So, is human space travel really an important priority in the near future?



Hubble Space Telescope above earth's atmosphere - © NASA



Marine research - © NOAA

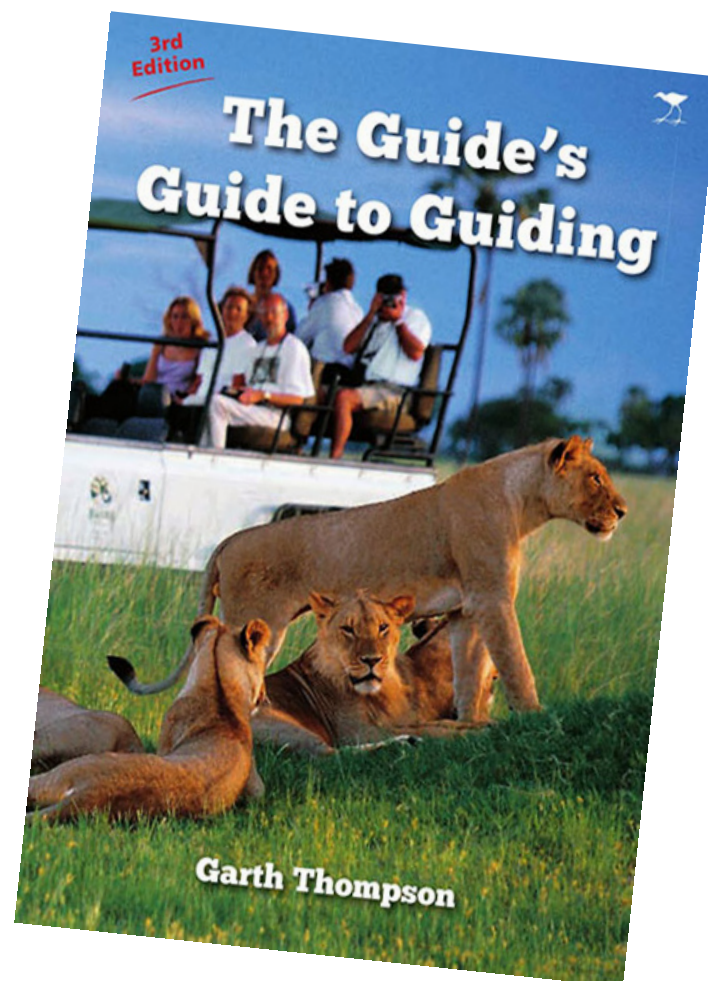
Book sale!

What differentiates the competent from the truly exceptional and successful guide? This book has the answers and the skills you may be looking for. It will remind you of why you chose this career to begin with, impart new skills and perspective and will leave you refreshed and remotivated to provide guiding experiences at the very highest level. Written and revised by Garth Thompson, one of the world's best guides, and illustrated with superb humour by Dov Fedler, this book is quite simply a must for every field guide and game lodge manager.

WildlifeCampus has a **limited amount** of hard copies of this iconic book for sale.

Price **includes** Postnet to Postnet delivery! (South Africa only)

R 249,00



Email info@wildlifecampus.com to purchase your copy!

03



Thank you Luke!

In the beginning of this year, WildlifeCampus launched the **newly updated** Field Guiding/Game Ranging course.

The massive update of this the content was done in collaboration with a FGASA assessor.

However, this update would not have been possible without the valuable photographic contribution of our partners.

Want to be featured?

We would love to hear your story!
Please let us know how the
WildlifeCampus courses influenced
your life!
info@wildlifecampus.com

Career combo

Combine the WildlifeCampus Field Guiding and Front of House Lodge Operations courses at the **discounted price of R 5 999,00***

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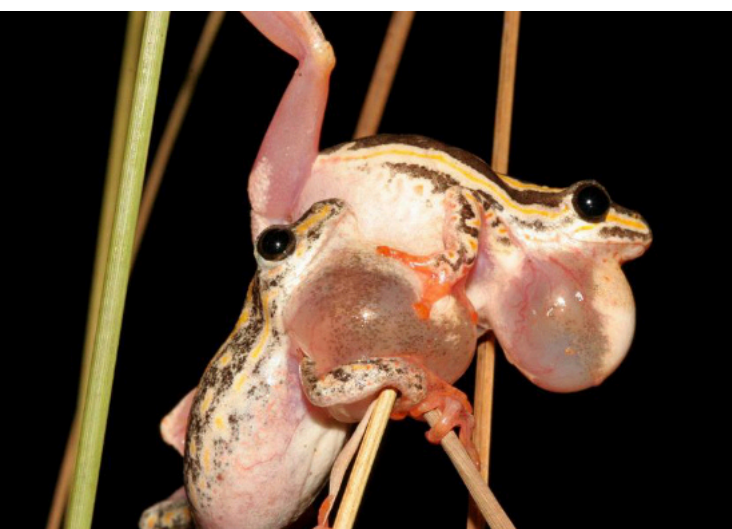
In this this edition, WildlifeCampus would like to thank **Luke Kemp** for his amazing photographic contribution towards our courses.

Luke is South African and works for [African Snakebite Institute](#). He studied Ichthyology and Zoology at Rhodes University.

Luke has an avid passion for wildlife, photography and has photographed critically endangered species such as the Amatola toad (*Vandijkophrynus amatolicus*).

Thank you Luke! We look forward to our students seeing your incredible work throughout the Field Guiding/Game Ranging course.

To try the free component of our recently updated Field Guiding/Game Ranging course, [CLICK HERE](#).



WildlifeCampus offers the industry's definitive Field Guiding/Game Ranging course. This is the perfect course for wildlife enthusiasts, those entering the industry, and for those looking to fully prepare for their FGASA Theory Exams.

To try the free component of this course click the [image](#).

Written by Hayley Cooper of Wild Dreams Hospitality, this course has fast become one of our most popular courses. If you are looking to enter the hospitality industry, want to brush up your current and/or staff skills or merely have an interest in the subject, this course is for you!

To try the free component of this course click the [image](#).



*Special ends 27/05/2022
No monthly payment options are available for discounted packages

Vacancies

Wild Dreams Hospitality currently has vacancies in Kruger National Park as well as the Hoedspruit, Greater Kruger and Sabi Sands areas. We are recruiting for the positions listed below. To view these vacancies in detail, the requirements, packages and how to apply, go to www.wilddreams.co.za and click on recruitment/jobs. Make sure you submit everything as per the job advert and state the title of the position you are applying for in your email subject line. If you need assistance with your CV then use our free CV template on our CV advice page.



05

Admin/Customer Relations
Limpopo
Live-out position

F&B Operations Manager
Limpopo
Live-in position

Junior Travel Consultant
Mpumalanga
Live-out position

Back-up Trails Field Guide
Gauteng
Live-in position

Safari Manager/Head Guide
Gauteng
Live-in position

Trails Guide/Admin Couple
Mpumalanga
Live-in position

Head Chef
Mpumalanga
Live-in position

Lodge Manager
Limpopo
Live-in position

Head Chef
Cape Town
Live-out position

Store Manager
Cape Town
Live-out position

Restaurant Ops Manager
Cape Town
Live-out position

Head Chef
KZN
Live-in position

Duty Manager/F&B
Limpopo
Live-in position

Duty Manager
Limpopo
Live-in position

Assistant Manager
Limpopo
Live-out position

Housekeeping Manager
Limpopo
Live-in position

Trails Guide/Host
Greater Kruger
Live-in position

Hospitality Recruiter
Remote
Live-out position

Financial Controller
Cape Town
Live-out position

Executive Housekeeper
Mpumalanga
Live-in position

Senior Lodge Anchor
KZN
Live-in position

Sous Chef
Greater Kruger
Live-in position

Butler
Western Cape
Live-in position

Stock Controller
Western Cape
Live-out position



Trails Guide & Admin Couple
Limpopo
Live-in position

PR/Social Media Assistant
Western Cape
Live-in position

Head Guide
Limpopo & Greater Kruger
Live-in position

Maintenance Manager
Mpumalanga
Live-in position

Stomatologist
Mpumalanga
Live-in position

Lodge Anchor
Mpumalanga
Live-in position

Guide Instructor
Limpopo
Live-in position

FOH Manager
Namibia
Live-in position

Vegan Recruiter
Remote
Live-out position

Assistant Management Couple
Greater Kruger
Live-in position

Housekeeper
Limpopo
Live-in position

HR Administrator
Mpumalanga
Live-in position

Travel Consultant
JHB
Live-out position

Reservations
JHB
Live-out position

Lead Trail's Guide
Greater Kruger
Live-in position

Lead Trail's Guide
Western Cape
Live-in position

Senior Sous Chef
Greater Kruger
Live-in position

The Wild Dreams Hospitality Front of House Lodge Operations course makes for an excellent add-on to your CV .

[Click here to try the free component.](#)

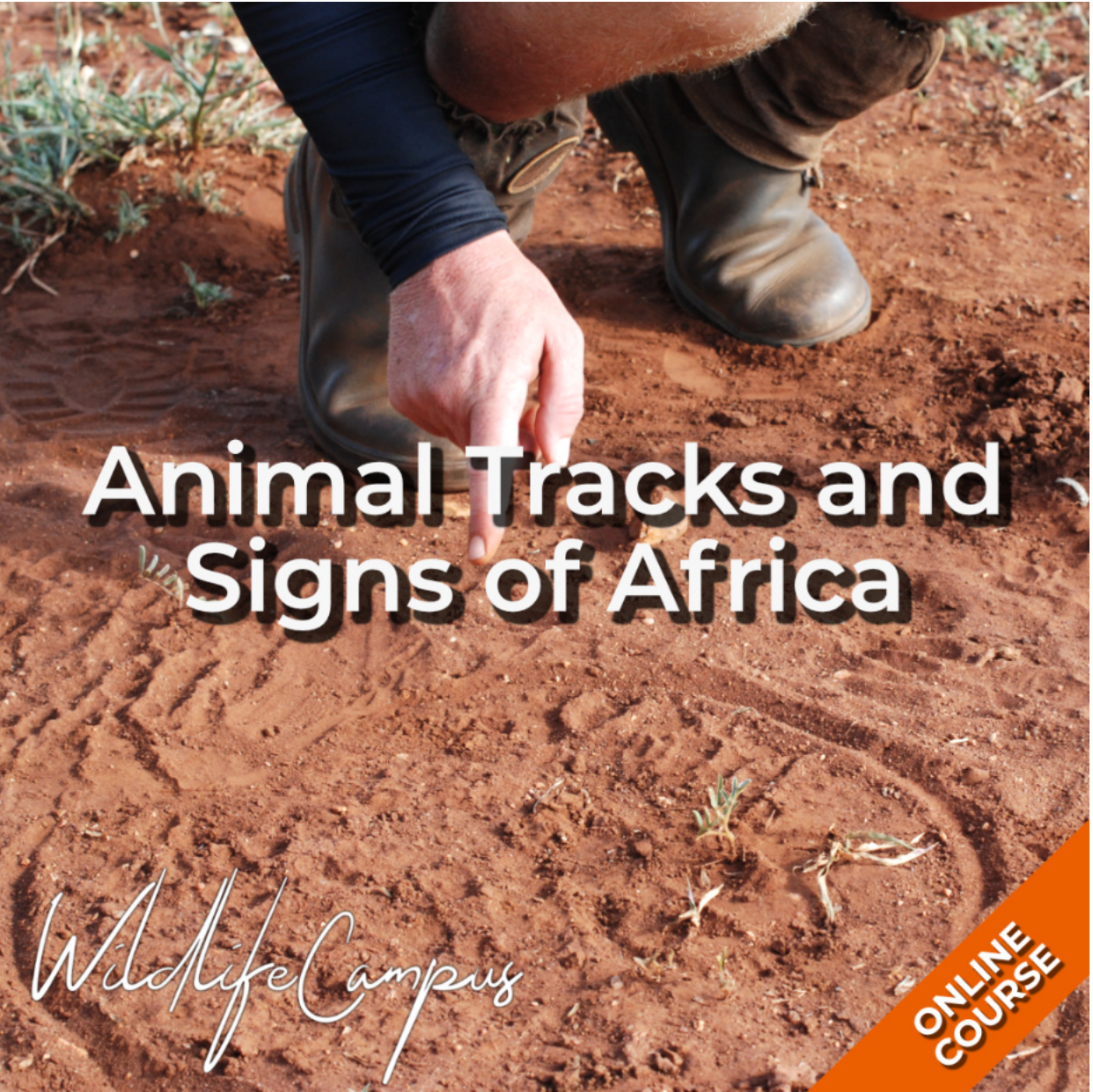



Animal tracks and signs course

Take an exciting virtual adventure with us, as we explore the Animal Tracks and Signs of Africa, written exclusively for WildlifeCampus by world renowned authors - Chris and Mathilde Stuart. Over 1800 pages, featuring hundreds of species; this course takes an in-depth look at tracks, prints, spoor, trails, droppings, feeding signs, kill sites, mud wallowing, rubbing posts, tree scratchings, scent marking, holes, bark-stripping, shed hair, skin & feathers, nests in & out of trees, mammal & invertebrate shelters and skulls. This course will enhance your enjoyment and understanding of the wild, even when no animals are to be seen.

More info: info@wildlifecampus.com

Try the free component of this course by clicking the picture below.





Hang around for our next magazine

**Extra rewards coming to
WildlifeCampus students!**

Heroes and villains

By David Batzofin



Turtle hatching season along the eastern coast of South Africa is always a time of plenty if you are a pink ghost crab.

On a recent visit to a beach lodge, a change of scenery for me, I was hoping to find turtle hatchlings as it was the season...or so I was told.

I arrived just ahead of an impending cyclone as well as a cold front moving up from the Atlantic seaboard, the weather was certainly not conducive to finding tiny turtles scurrying towards the sea.

That did not stop the vast hordes of pink ghost crabs from taking up residence on



the beach, ahead of the possibility of a free lunch. However, as we all know, even in the animal kingdom, there is no such thing as a free lunch as the crabs were about to discover. It was therefore inevitable that the focus of this back-page tale had to change from the turtles to the crabs, seeing that the latter were more plentiful and did not skulk away under the cover of darkness.

That is not to say I did not try. On several evenings I set out with a guide to try to find the aforementioned hatchlings, only to be turned back by driving rain and unexpected winds. Although the guides were willing to continue, I was not given the fact that trying to photograph in a downpour was not an easy task.

If the turtles were meant to be the heroes of this story, then there would have to be villains to act as a counterpoint. Instead of a Disney movie as a template, let us use boxing as the analogy for this tale...

In the blue corner, weighing in at 226 grams, we have many turtle hatchlings who have to try to reach the safety of the ocean and in the red corner just making the weight limit of 15-71 grams, are hordes of pink ghost crabs just longing for an easy meal. It is a relatively one-sided affair with the crabs not only outnumbering the hatchlings but bearing a far more deadly arsenal that can both hold and consume the hatchlings at the same time.

These tiny turtles only take their first breath once they have broken out of their shells and through the sand that covers them. Exhausted from all the exertion, they then have to navigate several meters to the presumed safety of the sea. Unlike most animals, they are born orphans and have neither parent to show them how to survive. They have to rely purely on instinct and their environment. It is a sad statistic that only 1 in 1000 survives to adulthood.

Meanwhile, the crabs had been busy in preparation for their potential evening feast. They can be found scuttling along the shoreline in the early morning, darting around looking for scraps to eat amongst the flotsam and jetsam that washes up

on the beach overnight. During the heat of the day, they dig themselves deep into the wet sand where they can stay cool as well as keep themselves safe from gulls and other seabirds who might see them as an easy meal.

As the shadows lengthen and the day cools down, they reappear to take up an offensive line along the breaking waves. However, not all of the crabs were prepared to wait for a delivery service to bring their meal to them and they scuttled off into the plant life to seek out hatchlings for themselves.

This was the second trip to this lodge to try and see the turtles in action and both were a failure due to inclement weather conditions. That being said, it makes me keen to return next season to try to make the turtles the star of the story.

David is an award-winning blogger whose work can be found at www.travelandthings.co.za



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