



NEWSFLASH

November 12, 2022

One of our sharp-eyed birders spotted a mistake in the last Newsflash. The time was incorrect – it should have been as follows:

November 15, 2022

Wanderer's Club

18h30 for 19h00

If you'd like to join members in the restaurant, be sure to arrive in good time!

My apologies!



There is space available on this trip. Please contact Dennis Townsend on dennis.townsend4@gmail.com

Wakkerstroom 18th to 20th Nov 2022

We have booked a house in Wakkerstroom Village. There are two rooms with two single beds available now. R450.00 per person per night, excluding meals, transport etc

Interested parties can contact me as I have all details regarding the accommodation etc.

Programme

We'll probably all arrive on Friday afternoon/evening some time. BirdLife Sandton is having supper at the Bistro at 19h00. Anyone wanting to join us for a drink, please do so from 18.30. Anyone wanting to join us for supper please book a table

and we'll all be seated in the same area. This will be for individuals' own accounts. The Bistro is licensed and charge R35 corkage. Restaurant details are:

· Bistro	0722525781	Lizzie
·De Kotzenhof	0834523363	Mark/Karen (by appointment)
·Red Rooster Pub and Restaurant	0795087300	Denise
·The Barn Eatery	0832875977	Crista
·The Mucky Duck Pub	0721272529	Doug
·The Oude Stasie	0824188906	Sharmaine
·Thyme Out	0639455816	No names given
·Wakkerstroom Hotel	0784163712	Hannalie
·Weavers Nest	0659890871	Carmen

Birding

We have three guides booked for Saturday and Sunday mornings for half-day birding, 06h00 to 12h00. The Forum will pay the guides' fees for the mornings.

If anyone/group wishes to bird a full day, i.e. until 16h00-16h30 p.m. Please contact me to arrange: the afternoon cost of R400 will be for your account. That will mean the morning group will peel away, and the afternoon group will continue with the guide/guides for the rest of the day. In this event, please provide for lunch/drink for your guide.

We'll meet at the Post Office in the main street, (van Riebeeck Street), at 05.45 on Saturday morning to divide into groups for birding. It will be useful to know:

- (a) Who is new to the Wakkerstroom area and never birded there before
- (b) Who has birded Wakkerstroom many times and is looking for something specific
- (c) If you're wanting to focus on grassland, wetland or forest species.

If you can give me some indication of this before we get there, that'll be good. If not the purpose of meeting at 05.45 is to spend a few minutes making sure that everyone's birding is catered for.

What anyone may miss on Saturday, we'll have another chance on Sunday.

Generally, the birding at Wakkerstroom is grassland and wetland, with forest species in another direction.

For those who aren't avid birders, or are photographers, the birding from the bridge over the wetland on the Amersfoort road (within walking distance from the village) is excellent with a couple of bird hides.

Just FYI not everyone who's coming is a birder, so not all 50 of us will be birding in case you're worrying about the number of birders per guide!

Saturday evening

On Saturday evening we'll gather at 18h00 at the BirdLife Tourism and Education Centre. You'll see the signpost if you enter Wakkerstroom from Volksrust. The turning to the centre is on the left just as you approach Wakkerstroom. The Forum will provide supper, beer, wine and limited soft drinks. Please bring along your picnic rugs and/or folding chairs because if the weather's good, it's lovely to sit outside and look across the wetland. We'll chat about the day's birding and plan Sunday's routes. The manager at the centre is Kristi Garland.

Weather

Wakkerstroom can have all four seasons in one day – and most often does! Please make sure you bring warm gear and rainwear.

Fitness

For any with fitness constraints or carrying injuries, there's usually not a huge amount of difficult walking, but you might find yourself walking up a gentle hill for a kilometre or more looking for Rudds.

Non-birders

For those amongst us who are not going birding, I'd advise you/them to get hold of the Free Map & Info Brochure on Wakkerstroom from any of the restaurants and probably in most accommodation, alternatively the village is quite delightful

This sound like a marvellous trip! Remember to contact Dennis (dennis.townsend4@gmail.com) for further info – as soon as possible!
