

Newsletter on our Ngutuni Fund Raising Drive on the 6th July, 2019



Hello Friends,

Our trip to Ngutuni was such good fun this year and the amount of game at the waterhole was amazing – it was full the whole time we were there. On the Saturday morning, the 6th July it was estimated that there were between 450 and 500 buffalo there. Elephants came in large numbers and there were many babies who were more than enjoying themselves in the water much to everyone's delight.

We had a couple of different things this year. Seed Balls Kenya donated 2,500 acacia seed balls and Robert Jessop also donated a large number of desert rose seed balls. For those who do not know what these are, these are seeds covered in charcoal so that animals, bird and insects won't eat the seeds. Everyone going on the game drive bought loads of these seed balls and as they drove around threw them out of the car windows. Hopefully, when they get the rains, the charcoal will wash off and at least some of these seeds will grow. Robert also brought up desert rose seedlings and plants which people bought and some were planted at Ngutuni. This also brought in some extra funds for the KSPCA.

We also had a 'Bush Bar' selling beers, wine, sodas and water. Anyone finding the bush bar and buying a drink got extra points. All drinks were donated so this also brought in a bit of extra cash for the KSPCA. They also saved me as my little car was overheating and I couldn't see where I was losing the water. Fortunately, I always carry 5 litres of water and as I had no cloth to cover the radio cap to remove it was topping up the radiator by pouring the water in through the coolant container. I was trying to get back to the Lodge as I was running out of water when I found the 'Bush Bar' and knew there were two mechanics running it – Phew! It turned out my radiator cap was the problem and the Lodge got a new one in Voi for me.

We had more people taking part this year – a total of 46 people and some new faces too which was great. They have all said that they are coming back next year.

Christopher, the Manager is getting a 4 x 4 (in fact he may already have it by now) with a proper game viewing roof so that anyone who would like to go up to Voi by train and save the drive and the traffic, can be picked up by the Ngutuni vehicle and taken to the Lodge and enjoy some game drives. A great chance to go on and enjoy the SGR train, in comfort and the journey is very quick and too.

There was so much game to be seen everywhere on the Conservancy, including a pride of lion which also came to the waterhole during the night.



Just some of us who were there. Ngutuni Lodge donated the T-shirts on the left and Sean Garstin of Garstin Motors the ones on the right.

My very sincere thanks to John and Julie Webb for organizing this super fun event with the help of Howard and Sue Lawrence-Brown and to all the others who helped in various different ways. A very big thank you too to Christopher, the Manager, and his staff who always make us so very welcome and provide huge quantities of delicious food. Very many thanks too for all those who provided the prizes.

To all those who came for our Ngutuni Game Count Drive – without you it would not have been the success that it was – so big hugs to you all.