

Dear Ken,

Really great to hear from you again after so many years and to know that you are still going strong.

You may remember David and Margeaux Johnstone and Brian and Lynne Russell who met with you on Mansimvula in 1968. We toured the farm in our Land Rover with both families on the roof carrier-twelve in all- and you guiding me as driver inside the car. Both families liked what we saw and bought a share between us.

You had already built several cottages and sold them to, as we remember, Tim Hamilton Russell, Jack Kay, Gadgy, and Balinsky in the River camp area, and to Friemelt, Zu Bargholz, Schweickerdt and Teuns and Patricia Keyter in Main camp, now Mopani Camp. There were a number of others that had bought shares, Keith and Pam Blundell are the only ones whose names I remember.

The Johnstones and ourselves jointly built a bungalow in 1972 which our architect son, Vaughan, has just turned into something really beautiful.

In 1969/1970, as I remember it, you sold the farm to Tim and Jack who purchased all the 152 unsold shares and split them acquiring 76 shares each. As you would remember, Mansimvula, the adjoining farm, which is now part of Ingwelala, was included in Mansimvula but sadly was not purchased by Tim and Jack.

Those without bungalows shared the Company Bungalow which was mysteriously sold to Mendy Weiner and three partners. The three partners departed soon afterwards for foreign destinations and Mendy inherited the bungalow which is currently occupied by his son Mark. The rondavel located nearby was used as accommodation for some time for members without bungalows until a new Company Bungalow was built.

Jack ran the company and held an AGM at his home once annually when he revealed all the news and presented the accounts and budget for the coming year. I remember that the levy for the first year was R60.00 and it slowly increased from there to some R10000 at present. In the early 1980' Jack sadly contracted cancer and died. David Johnstone had also passed away leaving Margeaux and ourselves as partners. Jack's son took over the running of the Company but had other interests and resigned at the next AGM when Teuns and myself were nominated for Chairman . I was elected and ran the farm for 16 years with a six year gap while we were in the USA and George Nisbet took over. The Keyter's sold their bungalow to Ian Fuller, while Tim, having moved to his famous wine farm near Hermanus, sold to Mick Formato who became the largest shareholder.

Jack's wife Pam, although she loved the farm, with her family disinterested, was unable to visit and offered her 76 shares and bungalow with its contents to the other shareholders but no one expressed interest. When she was about to advertise it on the open market, Margeaux Johnstone, and Lynne and I decided to purchase the bungalow and shares between us obtaining 38 shares each. We advertised the bungalow in the Wild Life Magazine and were delighted when George Nisbet expressed interest and purchased it.

Existing shareholders soon realized that with no document guiding members (shareholders) to what was appropriate/inappropriate for a game reserve like ours to remain a place of pleasure for current and future members to enjoy, a document regulating what was and what was not permissible was necessary. Primarily, we realized that each person with multiple shares, each share entitling the holder the right to build a bungalow and sell individual shares with the potential of having 152 members with 152 bungalows which was very far from what any of the members desired. Clearly it was undesirable

for individual shares in multiple shareholdings to be individually sold and for bungalow rights to be transferred. These were just a few of a number of items that concerned us. We were so anxious to keep numbers down that Margeaux purchased a share that became available.

We thus approached the law firm, Bowman, Gilfillan, Hayman and Godfrey, to compile a legal document for all members to sign. I was delighted to be told that one of their lawyers were preparing such a document for the proclamation of Ingwelala, which was still Sharalumi at the time, but was currently being sold to a group who planned to establish a company similar to Mansimvula.. The lawyer and I, working together, soon had what we thought to be an appropriate Use Agreement. We avoided allowing split shares and sale of shares to single owners such as companies and several other undesirable items which the other document the lawyer was preparing had included.

This document required the acceptance of all the members and that of the Registrar of Companies in Pretoria. The required number of copies were thus made and posted to each member. (There were no home computers or emails at the time). All members needed to reply by post. The replies were all given to the lawyer after I had added my comments. This process was repeated twice more before a document acceptable to all members was ready for member's signature with witnesses. This process has been continued for all new members who have subsequently purchased shares. At the suggestion of the Department, the name of the Company was changed from Mamsimvula Beleggings to Mansimvula Conservation Pty Ltd.

Detlev Friemelt took over from me as Chairman and after a few years handed over to Ian Fuller with Ros Middel ably taking over responsibility for the accounts.

So Ken, there you have it, with a brief history of the venture you started and worked hard at for a number of years. Shares periodically become available and it would be lovely to have you back as a member – the last share sold at R60 000, slightly more than you sold them for!!! Our AGM comes up on the 10th June in the Bedfordview Scout Hall, perhaps you could come along?

Brian Russell