

The Hooting Owl Guest House

Lofty and Amanda

The Hooting Owl is located in Marina Beach, on the KwaZulu Natal South Coast – not far from Mpenjati, and the owner, John Skene, was very instrumental in the negotiations regarding the approval of Mpenjati Beach as a naturist friendly beach. At that stage, John was responsible for Marketing as a member of the Management Committee (MANCO) of the KwaZulu Natal Naturist Association (KZNNA). Amanda and I attended the first AGM of KZNNA which was held at the Hooting Owl in 2014 and Christo Bothma was elected as the first Chairman. Within the first month, KZNNA applied for a Naturist Friendly Beach at Mpenjati which fell under the

Hibiscus Coast Municipality (now called Ray Nkonyeni Municipality). Christo doesn't waste time – he makes things happen.

The short story of what happened next, is that the Mpenjati Naturist Friendly Beach was approved by the municipality after numerous meetings with various stake holders including the Hibiscus Coast Municipality, the Department of Environment, the Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, SANNA/ KZNNA and other organisations such as Ratepayer Associations. John Skene was the KZNNA representative at all of those meetings.

Within a year of approval of the Mpenjati Naturist Friendly Beach, some of the church groups approached the Public

Protector which later gave the Municipality 30 days to withdraw the approval and so the approval was withdrawn. The beach is still used by naturists, but it is an unofficial naturist beach.

John's guesthouse, the Hooting Owl is really nice. He provides the visitor with good quality, affordable self-catering accommodation. He welcomes all race groups, cultures and sexual orientation. The guesthouse can also be booked as a clothing optional retreat for naturist groups by special arrangement.

Here is some information about the accommodation:

1. The Wood-Owl Lodge.

There are three double en-suite bedrooms under thatch, with queen-sized beds sleeping two



people each, i.e. a maximum of SIX people. Each of the double rooms has an en-suite rock effect shower, rock effect basin and a toilet which Amanda and I loved. The rooms are located on a separate wing with their own entrance overlooking the pool. There is a large comfortable TV lounge with a "smart monitor" adjoins the fully fitted kitchen, both overlooking the pool area. The kitchen is equipped with cutlery, utensils and crockery for six people. The main appliances are gas and electric countertop hotplates, double oven, microwave, toaster and dishwasher.

The large dining room contains two sets of tables and chairs, which can seat six or eight people respectively. A shutter opens on to the dining room from the kitchen for ease of access when serving food.

2. The Scops-Owl Suite.

The Scops-Owl Suite has its own entrance, via a private patio, ideal for a sundowner or braai. The suite has rustic features in a modern style with a queen-size bed, en-suite glass shower, modern basin and toilet. A small, fitted kitchen, with stove, microwave, toaster, and all utensils and crockery. There is a small dining nook and TV area



with an OpenView HD Decoder. This unit is ideal for a couple on an intimate getaway weekend.

3. The Eagle-Owl Cottage.

The self-contained guest cottage is double storey, which can accommodate up to a maximum of eight people. On the ground floor the master bedroom with queen-size bed, has an en-suite bathroom, which also boasts an outside shower area in a secluded garden. The second bedroom, also with a queen-size bed, shares the second bathroom with the upstairs family room.

The open plan kitchen/dining/TV lounge area completes the downstairs floor plan. The TV has an OpenView HD Decoder. The kitchen is fully fitted with counter top stove, under counter

oven, dishwasher, microwave, kettle and toaster. The unit has utensils and crockery for eight people. Upstairs, there is a very spacious family room with four three-quarter sized single beds.

