



Foreword

Many people have spoken of a feeling of humility that accompanies the experience of seeing wild animals in a natural, unspoiled environment. How true this is! And how valuable is the sense of perspective that this gives – when man is the visitor, not the keeper.

The proclamation and development of the Pilanesberg as a nature reserve came, thus, as very welcome news. This large area of land will be preserved in its natural state for many future generations. And now, with the help of this comprehensive book on the Pilanesberg, the value of this haven can be appreciated that much better.

I say this for there is no doubt that the extent of one's enjoyment of a subject or place is enhanced by more understanding and information.

'Pilanesberg' is both highly readable and most informative. I must commend the author for the detailed and sensitive manner in which he has documented the area's fauna and flora. The book deals with mammals, reptiles, birds, the various kinds of plant life, geology, climate and the seasonal changes that take place. Much of this is presented in an interesting selection of illustrations and photographs.

He has given us the benefit of his thorough knowledge of the Pilanesberg area and succeeds very well in imparting his obvious love for it. The book also contains practical information and hints that will make a visitor's experience of the park that much richer, including details on how to spot a leopard and where to get ice-blocks at Mogwase!

I am honoured that the author has seen fit to include a mention of the golf course which bears my name. My personal philosophy as far as golf architecture is concerned is to ensure that a course blends into the natural landscape and not the other way around. When features are added, this is attempted in a manner that merges with the surroundings and enhances the tranquility that is part of the golfing experience. If this is true of the Gary Player Country Club, then I would be most pleased.

As an important addition to our awareness and consequent sensitivity to the world around us, the more libraries and coffee tables that 'Pilanesberg' adorns, the better!

Gary Player