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1 March 2026

## **ECO-FRIENDLY; GREENING OUR BUSINESS**

Pumula Lodge was established in 1997. The Lodge is geared towards birders and lovers of nature, so a general awareness of the environment is an integral part of the ethos of the establishment.

### **What we do to be an Eco-friendly Knysna B&B:**

#### **1) ENERGY**

##### **a) Lighting:**

- All external security and garden lights use energy saving Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL) or Light Emitting Diodes (LED). These are controlled by either timers or day/night switches.
- The lighting in the guest bedrooms and bathrooms use LEDs. Elsewhere normal low voltage down-lights are in use and these are systematically being replaced with LEDs.
- A timer to switch off at midnight controls the pool light. This light is not used in low season.

##### **b) Heating:**

- Normal geysers are used for generating hot water. Four out of the five geysers have solar panels (vacuum tubes) installed. Thermostats and timers control these geysers to minimise any unnecessary heating. The thermostats are turned down to a minimum acceptable temperature.

- The guestrooms are heated using under-carpet heating. These are controlled with thermostats and timers which optimise the heating of the rooms. No electric blankets are used but hot-water bottles are supplied.
- c) **Thermal Insulation:**
- All the geysers are covered with insulated ‘Geyser Blankets’. Exposed hot water pipes are also lagged with isotherm.
  - The first floor ceiling is covered with 50mm isotherm.
  - The lodge faces due west. During hot summer afternoons 80% shade-cloth dropline curtains are lowered along the entire ground and first floor thereby keeping the building cool and eliminating the need for air-conditioning. Fans are supplied in the rooms
  - Roof surfaces are painted a light beige colour lead-free paint to reflect heat from the sun, thereby assisting in cooling the building in summer.
- d) **General:**
- During low season fridges not in use are switched off.
  - Small kettles (2 cups) are supplied in the guest bedrooms thereby eliminating any unnecessary boiling of water.

## 2) WATER

- a) **Harvesting:**
- All gutters and down-pipes are directed into storage tanks with a total storage capacity of 36 500l of rainwater.
  - A 3m deep well has been dug in the garden from which ‘ground-water’ is pumped to a dedicated tank. The water table varies but on average about 1 300l of water is pumped daily from this well and used for irrigation purposes.
  - The stored water is essentially used to water the garden, top-up the pool and act as a backup should there be a problem with the municipal supply.
- b) **Showers:**
- All showerheads are fitted with low-flow devices.
  - Signs are posted in each bathroom encouraging guests to save water.
- c) **Grey Water:**
- Water from the washing machines is directed into the garden to assist with irrigation.
  - The waste water from the shower, bath and basins on the first floor (private section of the house) is directed into a dedicated Grey-water tank. This water is then in turn used for flushing the 2 x toilets on the first floor (private section) and the servant’s toilet in the courtyard.
- d) **Plants:**
- The majority of plants in the garden are indigenous to the area and therefore ‘water-wise’.
  - The few non-indigenous plants are non-invasive, waterwise and comply strictly with the CARA legislation.
  - A small herb garden supplies the needs of the kitchen.

### 3) RECYCLING

#### a) Glass/Paper/Tins:

- All glass, paper, tins etc. are separated from the normal kitchen garbage and deposited in dedicated plastic bags for collection by the municipality.
- Guests are also encouraged to separate their garbage accordingly.

#### b) Containers:

- Containers for foodstuff such as fruit juice, eggs etc. are returned to suppliers for re-use.
- Containers for liquid handsoap and air fresheners are re-filled by the staff.

#### c) Compost:

- Garden refuse such as grass and leaves is deposited on the compost heap.

#### d) Worm Farm:

- All biodegradable kitchen waste (except meat) is liquidized and fed to the earthworms.
- Partly decomposed garden refuse is also fed to the earthworms.
- The worms are given additional lime and grit to help digest the waste and produce pH-balanced compost for use in the garden.
- It is not feasible to harvest the 'Worm Tea' as the crates containing the worms are exposed to rain.

#### e) Birds:

- Two bird feeders (seed and nectar) are filled at regular intervals. However, care is taken that the birds do not become dependent on these feeders. A bird bath is also installed in the garden.

### 4) WASTE DISPOSAL

#### a) Garbage:

- Any garbage, which cannot be re-cycled, is put in black plastic bags and collected by the municipality once a week.

#### b) Toxic Materials:

- Any toxic materials such as batteries, energy saving bulbs, neon tubes, paint etc. are deposited in dedicated containers supplied by the municipality in town.
- Printer cartridges are returned to the supplier.
- Expired medicine is deposited in dedicated containers at selected pharmacies.

### 5) POISON

#### a) Pesticides

- The use of pesticides is reduced to the absolute minimum and is almost non-existent.
- Weeds are removed by hand

#### b) Flyscreens

- At least one window per bedroom is fitted with a flyscreen thereby eliminating the need for mosquito repellent.

## **6) GENERAL**

- Local suppliers are supported as much as possible
- All soaps used are biodegradable.
- The pool uses a salt-chlorinator to generate the required chlorine