

IFAFA BEACH, GOLDSTONES AND THE LAND

Ifafa Beach is a small coastal resort town on the South Coast. It is situated on the lagoon of the Fafa River mouth. Shaka named the river and area Ifafa - or "place of the sparkling waters".

There are 54 households and the permanent population is only a few hundred - 48% 'Coloured', 33% Black African & 15% white (2011 Census). Many born in Ifafa return 'home' to holiday as there is a strong community sense of identity. The arrival of the Chiba Ring members will have a considerable impact, which we hope will be for the good.

The Land

The two sites were purchased in 2004 (called Wetlands on the Elysium border) and 2007 (called Woodlands in Ifafa Beach), since when there has been a thorough and continued land development programme driven by our Land Manager. The 11year programme of removal of invasive alien vegetation, has brought huge improvements and local employment. A plant nursery has been established with the aim of post construction regeneration and land improvement. All protected species have been mapped by GPS to ensure their protection.

Per its name, Wetlands consisting of mainly the estuary and floodplain wetlands associated with the Mvuzi river, which falls under public conservancy. There is an existing house, currently used as our timeshare, but for which we have BAR approval for a wellness centre. The small piece of land on the South side of the wetlands, adjacent to the municipal beach parking area and where there was a cement brick factory, has been approved for mixed use. Being at the entrance of Elysium it is conducive for small scale economic and/or social activity.

Woodlands belonged to Ben Goldstone. It is this piece of land which is to be developed for Chiba Ring residential use.

The Goldstone Heritage

The Goldstones have a long history in the area, owning the greater part of Ifafa/Elysium between the Mtwalume and Ifafa Rivers. The original Samuel Goldstone, from Darlington in England, was granted 180ha by the local Zulu clan in the mid 1800's in appreciation of his hard work and the building of schools, churches and missions. He married into the local Zulu clan. Some land was subsequently donated to the Catholic Church. After the death of his first wife Samuel married into the Fynn family, thereby uniting two powerful and historically important coloured families.

The 'Woodlands' property was part of a subdivision within the family in the early part of the 20th century, leaving four brothers owning equal portions. In recognition of their heritage Chiba Ring

agreed that the Ben Goldstone descendants will take legal transfer of Parcel F on Woodlands, once sub-divided, so they may continue to enjoy their ancestral home.

Ben Goldstone died in 1967 without a will and since when there has been no formal documenting of the family events. It took 4 and half years to wind up the estate, requiring archival research, and to transfer ownership. Assistance and legal expertise were given to the family to put their records in order, including legalising a divorce, drawing up wills, formalising inheritance, handling the ramifications of death and pursuing eviction procedures.