



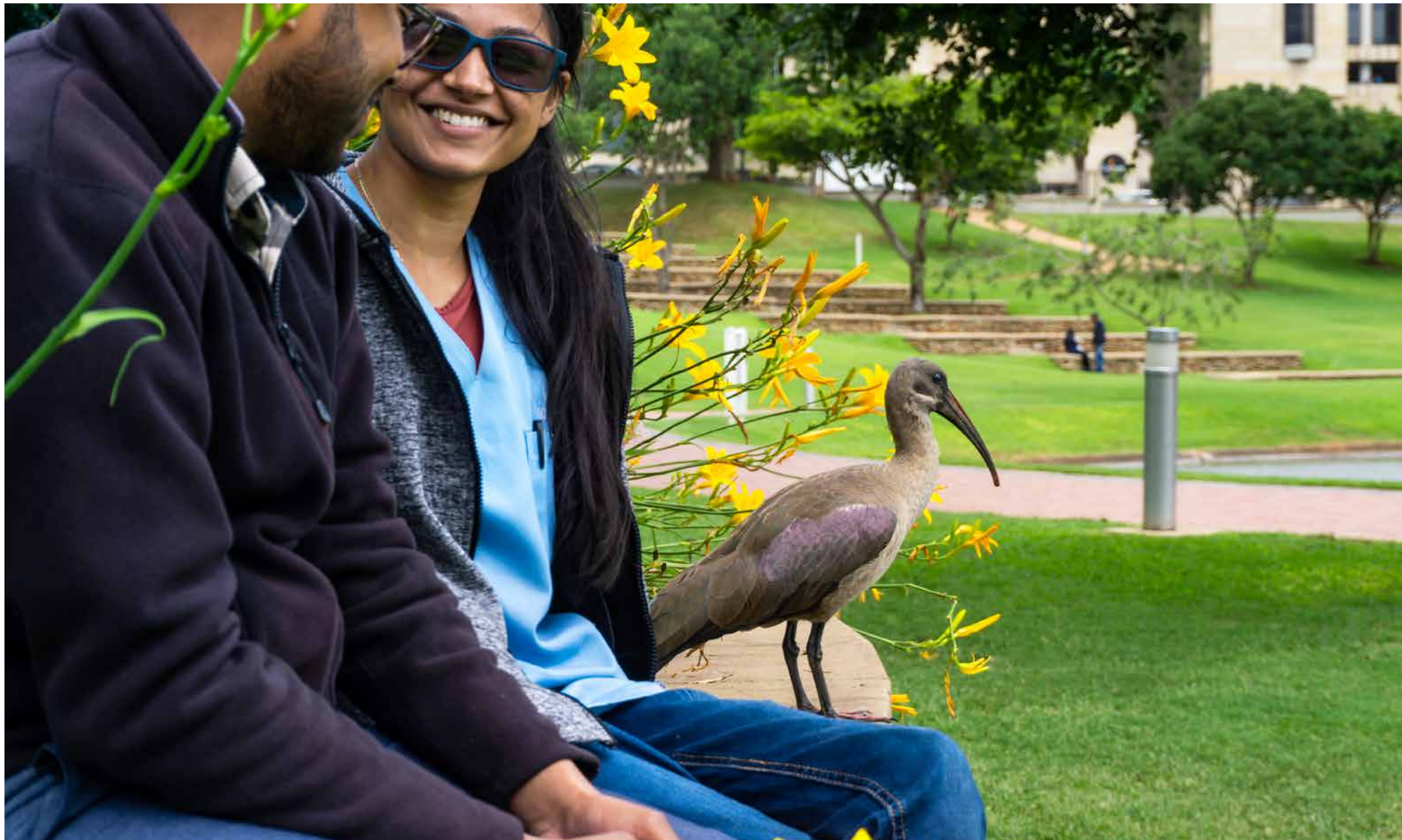
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**ENCOUNTERS**

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

*“If you don’t know me by now  
You will never, never, never know me”.*

lyrics by Leon Huff & Kenny Gamble, Performed by Simply Red





**How many times have you strolled through Chris Saunders Park super impressed by your ability to navigate the pathways while replying to an email on your phone?**

Did you notice the pollen so heavy on stamens that some flowers are almost touching the ground? Or that the pelican lets you get just so close and then swims away so you can't get a decent shot.

I have never been cozied up to by a Hadedah Ibis that didn't want something from me. Their long thin beaks aerate the soil causing all manner of great things to occur. They let you get very close, presumably feeling that we can all get along together providing we don't compete with the morsels in the soil.



The pond closest to park square is home to dozens of bird species, with tiny chicks running between the reeds. They will also let you get close if you **can just** allow yourself to stop for five minutes and let nature come to you.



There is a softness about Chris Saunders Park right now that will smooth your sharpest edges. So what if you are late back to the office. Tell them you were seduced by the park.