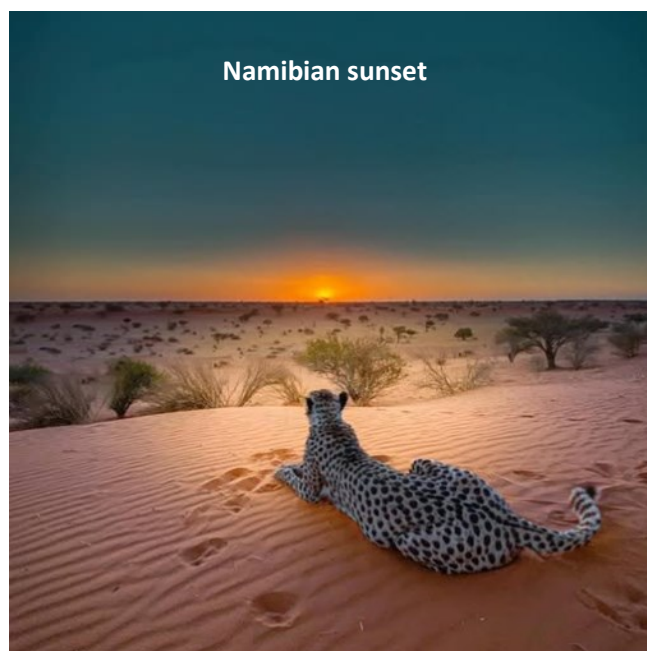




THOUGHTS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

May light always surround you;
Hope kindle and rebound you.
May your hurts turn to healing;
Your heart embrace feeling.
May wounds become wisdom;
Every kindness a prism.
May laughter infect you;
Your passion resurrect you.
May goodness inspire your deepest desires.
Through all that you reach for;
May your arms never tire.
D. Simone/www.facebook.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

2nd Dave Orton
11th Jenjen Mockford
13th Adrian Fuller
13th James Doyle
14th Diana Spiegel
19th Jenni Uys



21st Carol Dalton
23rd Marion Thompson
24th Brian Mawman
27th Haydn Jones
28th Penny Prideaux
28th Jacky Orton

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

9th Amanda and John Bester
13th Liddy and Roger Cummins



Sammy the seal, a regular visitor at an Irish restaurant, often begged for food from the staff. In response, the staff decided to feed him at set times each day - 9am, 1pm and 4pm. Over time Sammy developed a strict routine. He would emerge from the water at those precise times, pausing to check both sides of the road for traffic, would cross the street, and patiently wait for his meal.

Remarkably, he is always punctual, showing up exactly when it's time to eat, never missing a single feed. His daily visits have become a charming and dependable spectacle.

Weird and Strange Times

A GOOD FESTIVE SPIRIT PREVAILED AT OUR END OF YEAR CHRISTMAS FUNCTION



Preparation





Images: Penny Marek and Jamey George

This woman holds the highest recorded IQ ever: an astonishing 228. Far surpassing Einstein (160-190), Hawking (160), and Musk (155). Yet, despite her brilliance, she faced ridicule for her response to a seemingly simple problem.

But she saw what no one else could.

Here's her story:

Marilyn Vos Savant was far from an ordinary child. By the age of 10, she had:

- Memorized entire books

- Read all 24 volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica

- Achieved the highest IQ of 228, recorded by the Guinness Book of World Records. She seemed destined for a life of genius. But reality took a different turn.

"No one paid much attention to me - mostly because I was a girl, and I accepted that," She attended a regular public school, left Washington University after two years to help run her parents' business and seemed destined for an ordinary life. But in 1985, everything changed.

Suddenly, Marilyn was thrust into the spotlight:

- Featured on the covers of New York Magazine and Parade Magazine

- Guest on Late Night with David Letterman

The Rise and the Question

Marilyn joined Parade Magazine to write the iconic "Ask Marilyn" column—a dream for someone with a passion for writing. Yet, this dream turned into a nightmare with a single question in September 1990 - but she couldn't have anticipated what lay ahead.

The Monty Hall problem. The question went like this : there are three doors. 1 door hides a car, the other two hide goats. You choose a door. The host opens another door, revealing a goat. Should you switch doors? Marilyn's answer "yes, you should switch."

The backlash was overwhelming. She received over 10,000 letters, including nearly 1,000 from PhDs, insisting she was wrong:

- "You are the goat!"

- "You blew it, and you blew it big!"

- "Maybe women look at math problems differently than men."

But was she wrong? The math behind the answer

Consider the two possible scenarios:

You pick the car (1/3 chance):

- If you switch, you lose.

You pick a goat (2/3 chance):

- Monty reveals the other goat.

- If you switch, you win.

Switching gives you a 2/3 chance of winning.

Eventually, her answer was proven correct.

Vindication

MIT ran computer simulations confirming her logic.
MythBusters tested it and reached the same conclusion.
Some academics even apologized.
So why did so many fail to see the truth?

The Reasons People Got It Wrong

They "reset" the scenario instead of recognizing the shifting probabilities.
The simplicity of 3 doors obscured the underlying math.
Many assumed each remaining door had a 50% chance.

Marilyn's View

Marilyn blamed the compulsory schooling system for discouraging independent thinking. She argued that it:
Creates passive learners
Stifles exploration
Hinders critical thinking

A Blessing and a Burden

Marilyn admits that her intellect often feels isolating - there's no one to turn to when she needs answers.
Still, she sees her intelligence as a gift, not a curse.

Read more incredible stories: [Stranger Things Drive You Insane](#)



I googled who is the highest IQ person alive. YoungHoon Kim - in April 2024, the Giga Society, a group for people with very high IQs, announced that Kim from South Korea has a score of 276. He advises several organisations, including the World Mind Sports Council and the World Memory Championships.

Its mind





A very pleasant evening with the Cantiamo Chamber Choir



Evergreen sunset

PROGRAM FOR MUSIC EVENING - JANUARY 16, 2025

KARELIA SUITE

by SIBELIUS

PIANO CONCERTO NO.4 IN G MAJOR

by BEETHOVEN

SYMPHONY NO. 41 IN C MAJOR "JUPITER"

by MOZART



I recently had the opportunity to visit The Cat Café in Noordhoek.

What an experience - its an outdoor café filled with hypoallergenic , dog-like Siberian cats. Enjoy home-baked treats, a stunning view over Noordhoek beach, play with the cats, give them hugs and even pick them up if you want to.

Its by appointment only, bookings can be done via the website - google Curiosity Cat Café, Noordhoek



This cat has the most beautiful blue eyes



Jean Lattimer

4 days ago · 🌐

Here's a list of **must-read books** spanning various genres and interests:

1. To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
2. 1984 – George Orwell
3. Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen
4. The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini
5. Where the Crawdads Sing – Delia Owens
6. The Lord of the Rings – J.R.R. Tolkien
7. A Song of Ice and Fire – George R.R. Martin
8. Dune – Frank Herbert
9. The Left Hand of Darkness – Ursula K. Le Guin
10. Sapiens – Yuval Noah Harari
11. Educated – Tara Westover
12. All the Light We Cannot See – Anthony Doerr
13. The Nightingale – Kristin Hannah
14. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo – Stieg Larsson
15. Gone Girl – Gillian Flynn
16. Meditations – Marcus Aurelius
17. Atomic Habits – James Clear
18. The Fault in Our Stars – John Green
19. The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins



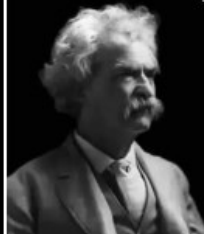
STOICISM DAILY

“Knowledge isn’t free.
You have to pay
attention.”



“The more I learn about
people, the more I like my
dog.”

— Mark Twain



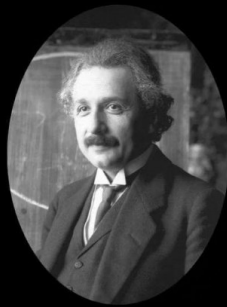
“Hell is empty and all the
devils are here.”

— William Shakespeare



“You are what you do,
not what you say you
will do.”

— Carl Jung



“I have no special talents,
I am only passionately
curious.”

— ALBERT EINSTEIN



“Associate with people
who are likely to improve
you.”

— Seneca

DON'T BIN IT ! THE ENDS OF JARS

To avoid waste in the kitchen here are some tips to make the most of every last dollop and scraping of your ingredients.

PICKLE JUICE - it's thought to be great for a hangover (athletes prone to cramps swear by it too) as it can replenish your electrolytes. Keep pickle juice for a morning smoothie or a bloody mary cocktail - depending on your recovery technique. The tangy brine in a jar of pickles is also good sprinkled over chips instead of vinegar, used for salad dressings or added to a marinade for chicken or meat - so use every last drop.

BRILLIANT BRINE - it's sacrilege to throw away the brine left in a jar of olives, roasted peppers or capers as it's so handy for adding salty depth of flavour to food. When you go to season a dish at the end of cooking, if you are thinking about adding salt and a touch of acidity, add a splash of brine. Taste and adjust as usual. The possibilities of where to use this trick are almost endless, but start with tomatoey sauces, whizzed soups and casseroles. You'll soon be using it on cous cous and adding to noodles.



SPICE PASTES - most of us swill out a tin of chopped tomatoes with water to avoid wasting the stuck bits, then add it to the dish. Don't forget this works with spice and herb pastes too. Curry paste, harissa, pesto Get swilling !



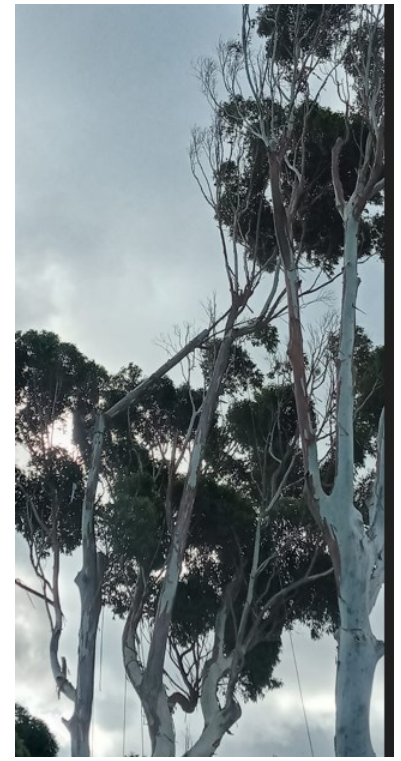
EASY DRESSINGS - the jar remnants that goes into a salad dressing can also become a vehicle for emulsification - mustard, mayo, honey, adding oil or vinegar to the jar will release the stuck bits after a good shake !

ANTIPASTI OIL - any oil used to marinate sun-dried tomatoes, artichokes or anchovies is a gold mine of flavour. Once you've finished the main ingredient, put the jar of oil with your other cooking oils. Fry eggs in it, use for a sofrito or drizzle over steamed or roast veg. Take cooked pasta, soup or crusty bread to the next level with a splash of magic.



Article: magazine / The Cutting Room!

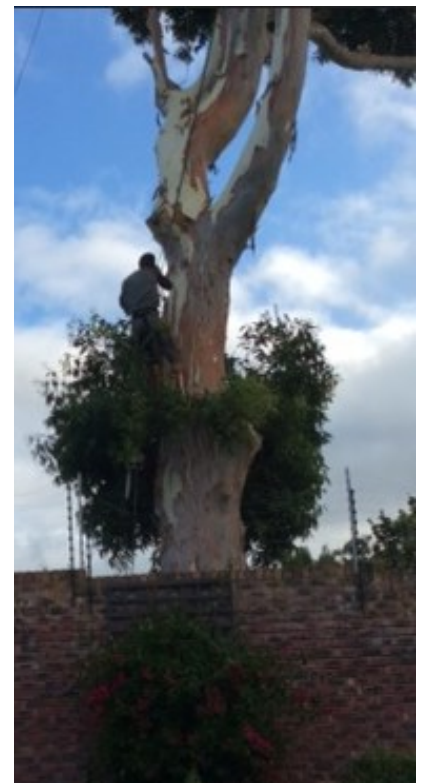
I am sure many residents realized that the pine trees and blue gums on Firgrove Way were getting their branches trimmed - certainly the COCT men who trimmed knew what they were doing - It was mind blowing how far up they climbed.



View from house 44



This 'visitor' landed in our garden all 7m long - house 42



Did you know that rabies is endemic in South Africa and has recently been confirmed in Cape fur seals.

It is a deadly disease for humans and animals, but it is 100% preventable.

Observe seal behaviour from a distance. Avoid close contact with seals, even if they appear calm, if you see seals behaving erratically, contact local authorities to report the sighting.

Refrain from touching, feeding or attempting to help any seals. Ensure children understand to avoid approaching seals and to admire from afar.

Keep dogs leashed on the beach, and don't allow them to approach seals. Rabies can spread to pets, so ensure that their vaccinations are up to date.

If bitten, act fast. Seek medical attention immediately - you will need to start post-exposure prophylaxis as soon as possible.



#CapeNature#RabiesAlert#CapeFurSeals#StaySafe

Keep your contributions coming - February issue cut off date is
20th January - flickiwal@gmail.com

FW