

End October, 2016

Well fellow Evergreen Broadacres residents hello again,

DO NOT BLINK...Christmas will be upon us before you know. BUT more importantly right now is that many of us have been living here for 4 happy years already. We have lived through last month I shared some of our wedding and anniversary experiences and requested some of yours. ALAS either you have none or don't read Chatter (which worries me as it takes 2 days of my time!).



But I did get input from Mavis Power.....I must admit that it gave me quite a start when I was reading the latest edition of the Evergreen Chatter this morning. It would have been our 60th Anniversary. We were married in Cape Town on 10th October 1956, it was a Public Holiday, Kruger Day, in those days. Michael was 24 and I was 22. We were both born in CT and started our married life there until the Standard Bank where Michael worked sent us to England in 1968 for a year to get experience. Once we were back in Cape Town it wasn't long before we were transferred to Johannesburg in June 1969 and we moved with our three children to Cresta in Randburg. That started a tour of SA for us as we moved to Durban in 1975, Cape Town in 1984 and back to Johannesburg in 1987 when Michael was made Managing Director of Standard Trust Company and where he was when he retired on his 60th birthday on 8th June 1992. He enjoyed 23 years of being on pension and we travelled extensively during those years. Our three children have given us ten grandchildren and I must say I feel blessed and grateful for sixty years of happiness.

Sincerely, Mavis Power

Thanks for sharing with us Mavis. Much appreciated.

## ➤ CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

We talk about time flying by and it is amazing that the first residents moved in 4 years ago over the month of October. First in were Cecil & Elske Fann.....

*"October 1 2012 - a day never to be forgotten!*

*Up at dawn, everything ready for THE MOVE. I was here at 08:15 with the first car and trailer load of breakables, treasures and garden pots, while Elske waited at home for the removal company.*

*Disaster! The removal company phoned at 09:00 to tell us they were on strike, and could we please move on another day. At the same time the new owners possessions had started to arrive and were being offloaded on the pavement.*

*Elske went into overdrive and managed to cajole the company into providing a truck later that afternoon. At 15:00 all the new owners possessions were safely in the house, while our worldly goods were stacked in the street of the cul-de-sac we lived in for 28 years.*

*Meanwhile I continued ferrying small loads of whatever I could manage here to Evergreen.*

*The removal crew eventually arrived in the late afternoon, with a truck smaller than what was arranged, and proceeded to spend the next few hours packing, unpacking and re-packing the truck in an effort to load everything in.*

*We eventually arrived, after escorting the truck here, after 22:00. Then followed the reverse process of unloading. The concerned supervisor offered to move our bed in first as the Gogo looked as though she needed it.*

*Having not eaten all day we proceeded to polish off the complimentary champagne and chocolates after midnight.*

*So it turned out to be at once exciting, frustrating and exhausting, but looking back, ultimately the beginning of a most fulfilling, rewarding and happy four years. As I have heard it said, we were among the PIONEERS."*





**Fiction catalogues** – the numerical and alphabetical indexes have been updated, thanks to Isabella Labuscagne. These are kept in the green folder on top of the bookshelf [A-C]. Also included are previous book reviews, listed alphabetically according to author. These hopefully will prove useful to those in search of recommended books to read.

**Missing library books** – unfortunately some books seem to have gone AWOL, including the 3<sup>rd</sup> book in the Stephanie and Barbara Keating trilogy. Please could everyone have a search and see if any library books have been misplaced or forgotten in your homes. Concerning this, please ensure that all books taken out are entered in the recording book on the pool table.

Thanks folks, this will really help.

**Evergreen Anniversary album** – we're delighted that a copy of this album, compiled by Kiloran Townsend, will be donated to our library. However, please note that while you may enjoy paging through it at your leisure, **it is not to be taken out or removed from the clubhouse.**

Congratulations and thanks to Kiloran for all her work in compiling the album, it is really a memorable piece of Evergreen history.

**Non-fiction books** – Pat Bayley highlighted some rearrangements in the Non-Fiction section – the one around the corner! These included storing the maps and guide books in the cupboard below the bookshelves, and arranging some of the larger books in boxes on top of the shelves. Hopefully this will make the books on the shelves more visible. But space is still a problem hence many books remain boxed until .....?

Pat also recommended some good reads including

- Boris Johnson: The Churchill Factor – well written and very interesting
- Jeremy Clarkson: How Hard Can It Be?
- Malala Yousafzai: I am Malala – the girl who stood up for education and was shot by the Taliban

**Book reading** – readers were asked to read a passage from a book of their choice, and tell us a bit about it and its author. And this they did with enthusiasm and great interest, thanks to you all.

1. **Elske Fann** read from Eve Palmer's book on gardening and selected a passage describing the drought and El Nino. Sounds familiar albeit this was written in the 1950s.  
This book is a treasured possession of Elske's, however she is willing to lend it on request.
2. **Jean Spurr** introduced us to a new author, Sarah Blake. Her book, The Postmistress, tells the story of an American journalist who was sent to London during the Blitz. Her radio talks informed the US public about what really was going on during the war. Jean describes the book as enthralling. Thanks, Jean, another interesting author to watch out for.
3. **Maira Theron** being a Peter James fan, read a passage from one of his novels featuring Detective Ray Grace. Peter James often introduces an aspect of the paranormal in his novels and there was lively discussion about this. Maira also recommended Jean Auel's Clan of the Cave Bear as a fascinating insight into the lives of prehistoric man.
4. **Marion du Preez** read a passage from one of her long-loved books, Scott Pike's The Road Less Travelled. Although written almost 50 years ago the wisdom and insight is still as fresh and as relevant today as it was then. Some in the group knew the book and also gave it high praise. Marion also read from Jeffery Archer's book, Paths of Glory which tells of George Mallory who died attempting to climb Mount Everest in the 1920s. In Archer's book it supports the claim that Mallory had conquered Everest, a claim that evidently caused a furore in New Zealand.

### **Close and addendum**

The meeting closed with best wishes for the Christmas season.

Our next meeting was scheduled for February 2017 – however -

It was suggested that we have a **Book morning lunch** in December. A brilliant idea!

The best date we could find was Tuesday 13 December 2016

It is late in the year, but I hope many of our book morning group will be around and able to attend.

More later.....*With best wishes and many thanks to all who have so willingly been involved and supportive.*

**Libby**

And from all of us in the village a huge thanks to you Libby  
for your passion, leadership and time!!!!!!

Team Evergreen Walking News from Ernie....

Here's a pic from the Annual Amble many more in the clubhouse. So drop by and have a look see...



*“As there are no planned walks in October 2016, we propose to have another “Evergreen Broadacres Fun Walk” similar to the one we held in March earlier this year on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of October starting at 4.30pm, after your afternoon nap. As before there will be 4 different distances to choose to walk varying from the 600 meter dash to 5kms. Therefore every resident from 59 to 99 years old and all staff members will be able to take part. So dig out your training gear now and start doing some training. In March there were 67 walkers and 13 in the back up team. So let's try and beat that now that there are many new residents and others who could not walk in March as they were either away on holiday, had double dated or were otherwise indisposed. The highlight of the Walk will be Moira Theron demonstrating how to walk in her new line of footwear – a double thick soled slop. Details have not yet been finalised and will be sent to you as soon as possible. Remember to “Keep fit and remain Evergreen” – Ernie.*

#### ➤ ENVIROMENT



Trevor took this picture of Hennie and Ivar working in the wetland.

Envirotalk from Hennie...Isn't it amazing what 34 mm of rain spread over 4 successive days can do – almost overnight our village has visibly greened! Please all pray now for good follow-up rains!

The big news this month comes from the meeting I had with Cobus Bedeker, Amdec's development director, on the day we turned the first sod for our new clubhouse. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss our plan for the landscape development of our village. I'm happy to report that it was a very positive meeting. At the outset Cobus surprised me with the news that Amdec is planning to drill and equip a borehole in our village this year if possible! Isn't that just the most wonderful news! Planning is proceeding.

He explained that drilling and equipping a borehole was about the only thing that Amdec's cash flow allowed before the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2017. One other project we're looking at before then is the grassing of a small area between the road past Crab Crossing Bridge and the 2 ponds. This area is bare earth at present, subject to severe erosion and ugly. With a bit of luck it will be grassed before the end of the year. Beyond that, Cobus accepted our landscaping development plan in principle, including all the walkways. Work to commence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2017. He will be instructing Uys and White, Amdec's landscape architects, to convert our plan into a formal plan for the landscape development of the village.

The water restrictions continue to be a problem. 2 Gardeners are supposed to report for duty at 5 o'clock in the morning, to water the common areas by hand held hose before 6 o'clock. It has worked some mornings, but there have been transport problems and absenteeism, but they have managed to do quite a bit of watering. I repeat our earlier appeal to all residents: **please water the pavements outside your homes!** If you're not able to do so, please let me know so that we may include your pavement onto an already full watering programme. Some of the funds we have left over from Arbor Day will be used to install turf valves on the pavement to permit hand watering there as well.

More of our Arbor Day funds have been used to buy compost and Marigold seeds. These will be planted where the Namaqualand daisies provided such lovely colour through winter at the entrance, in front of the clubhouse parking and in the Löffel stones next to the walkway. We'll also be planting Marigolds on the pavement where we had planned to plant the roses. We are confident that we'll be able to keep them watered even if we don't get regular rain.

We haven't been able to do anything further on the composting site, but with TLB's now working on the clubhouse site, we hope to be able to do something in November.

That's me done for the month! Best wishes, Hennie du Preez

There is a list of all the indigenous trees planted by residents is on the notice board in the Clubhouse.



#### RAIN NEWS FROM CECIL.....

At last the October rains have made an appearance, and the transformation in the gardens is already noticeable. Unfortunately we are not out of the woods yet and we all still need to use water carefully.

A reminder to other avid rainfall followers: the published readings are measured up to the 25th of each month for inclusion in Chatter.

Rainfall, in millimetres, for 2015/16:

Nov '15	77.0	Dec '15	66.1	Jan '16	135.0	Feb '16	64.6
Mar '16	251.4	Apr '16	3.8	May '16	67.8	Jun '16	13.0
Jul '16	12.5	Aug '16	3.9	Sep '16	7.0	Oct 6	40.3

#### OUT AND ABOUT



## Chirps & Tweets *Nature & Birding Group.*

### Random Harvest Bird Walk - Evergreen "Birders" 1st October 2016

*We were instructed - "It's Summer time now so 6 o'clock sharp at the Pitstop".*

*As the designated driver I arrived on time but all the shutters were down and the door closed! Little did I know that Dick was out on the town, with some mates, the night before. The door opens slightly, a head peers out and Dick says - "I've just woken up, please give me 5 minutes". Yet another morning after the night before!*

*Sometime later 4 of us left and we still arrived at Random Harvest by 6:30 in time for coffee and biscuits.*

*As always Andre Marx was the guide. We spent some time at the main centre as there were a lot of birds at the feeders and the surrounding trees. Southern Red Bishops females and males in their red / brown transitional plumage, Southern Masked Weavers, Cape Sparrows, Speckled Mouse birds, Grey Go-away-birds, doves and a few others that did not stay still enough to be ticked off. Andre explained in detail how to distinguish the call of the Red-eyed Dove from the Cape Turtle Dove.*

*Early in the walk, near the farm area with Geese, Chickens, Turkeys and cattle, A Cardinal Woodpecker was spotted quite high in a tree with some dry branches. It clambered slowly up the bark in full view giving everybody a chance to see and identify it. This was one of the three highlights of the day.*

*After a few minutes we left the Woodpecker still pecking in the tree and carried on with our walk towards the dam. On the way we saw African Wattled Lapwings, Crowned Lapwings and even a Blacksmith Lapwing with chicks. We also saw an African Hoopoe and spotted some "slumbering" Thick-knees.*

*Overhead the Pied Crows were gathering watched carefully by the Lapwings. Sacred Ibis flew past and the Hadedda Ibis made its usual racket. A Black shouldered Kite made a low level inspection. At the dam we saw a pair of Common Moorhens. (Maybe that's where ours went?).*

On the way back up the hill we saw the next Highlight. A Brown-backed Honeybird. Andre described its characteristics of the small body, sharp bill and the difference in flight pattern to the "Jiggling" flight of the Greater and Lesser Honeyguides.

Further on, back near the farmyard we heard the Red-Chested Cuckoo (Piet-my-Vrou). It was so close and clear that Andre thought that somebody was playing it on their smart-phone. Sadly we did not see it, but it was the third highlight of the day.

Later, in the private gardens of the owner of Random Harvest, Andre used his smart phone to play the calls of the Bar-throated Apalis and the Black-backed Puffback trying to attract them into the open. We saw the movement of the birds but did not get a clear view.

As always the walk ended with a wonderful Random Harvest Breakfast. Kathy and Dick had a Health Breakfast consisting of Muesli, Yoghurt, lots of fruit and a very large muffin. Hennie and I had a Sunrise breakfast with two eggs, bacon, chipolata sausages with toast etc. Tea and filter coffee was also served. All this cost R125pp. A wonderful way to spend a Saturday morning.

Do you recall the words of the song "Three little words". Well it is difficult to reflect on them in today's society. I am often out and about and find more and more that in today's society the 3 words sadly are not 'I love you' but are "I am important".

I see all too often that the 3 important words that our generation were taught (Respect; Patience; Tolerance) are totally ignored and not practiced. We live an angry, aggressive, intolerant society. SAD to reflect on it but as I have been told a wave starts from a single stone dropped in to the water which becomes a ripple which with energy comes the wave.

Hi Graham

I have been reading a very interesting book about the history of Johannesburg, and thought it might be of interest to 'Chatter', herewith my first chapter, I can follow on with other topics 'Like it was' if you think people might be interested. Cheers, Catherine

**This Chapter is at the end of this edition of Chatter....thanks catherine**

**HATCHES & MATCHES; BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

*These are the villagers who enjoy and celebrate Birthdays in November ....*

- 2nd Keith Coombe
- 4th Ada Rebelo
- 9th Rosemary Ross
- 10th Eddie Zauner
- 14th Elaine Gladstone
- 14th Ronald Bicker-Caarten
- 14th Basil Bold
- 17th Taffy Davies
- 18th Shirley Lombard
- 27th Jimmy Sletcher
- 28th Rod Matheson
- 29th Adi Gough
- 30th Henri Postema



*May each of you enjoy a wonderful day and a Blessed personal year ahead.*



**These couples enjoy an Anniversary in October...**

7th Walter & Rosemary Ross  
12th Eddie & Ann Simpson  
14th Trevor & Heather Morgan  
27th Pierre & Moira Theron  
28th Keith & Sue Coombe



*Congratulations folks May the joys of the past be the norms of a blessed future.*

**HAVE I GOT WHAT YOU WANT????**

**This is a new section requested by a few of the residents. So have you got something you no longer want, or a contact you want to recommend, whatever.....send to Graham and it will go into the next Chatter.**

**LAST WORDS**



*Laugh, and the world laughs with you;*



*Weep, and you weep alone.....*

*This one came from Kathy Mohlig...appropriate following annual big walk*

**Used to be rock around  
the clock, now it's  
limp around the block.**



**WARNING:** .....I thought you would want to know about this e-mail virus. Even the most advanced programs from Norton or McAfee cannot take care of this one. It appears to affect those who were born prior to 1955.

Symptoms:

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice.
2. Causes you to send a blank e-mail!
3. Causes you to send e-mail to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send it back to the person who sent it to you. Aha!
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachment.
6. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished.
7. Causes you to hit "DELETE" instead of "SEND."
8. Causes you to hit "SEND" when you should "DELETE."

Done that!

That too!

Yep!

Well well!

Oh, no not again!

And I just hate that!

Oh No!

IT'S CALLED THE "C-Nile Virus"

Phyllis Diller says... *A bachelor is a guy who never made the same mistake once.*

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Many thanks as ever to all the contributors this month.....

And I ask...have you got something to share? E-mail to [graleen@icon.co.za](mailto:graleen@icon.co.za)

Cheers for now. Best wishes and warm regards to you all. Graham Langmead

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JOHANNESBURG - LIKE IT WAS: from Catherine....

Johannesburg born out of History's biggest gold rush celebrated its centenary in 1986. On 4th October 2016, it celebrated 130 years.



Johannesburg Market.

Like it was: is no dull history, it traces the development of South Africa's biggest city and its famous townships. It tells the story of the first car brought into town by horse and cart, the exciting history of aviation from Johannesburg's perspective, the world of fashion, advertising, technology, crime, theatre and sport. Johannesburg springing up as it did suddenly in the midst of a rural Boer Republic in 1886, was to the Boers an alien city. These pioneering farmers had bled for their Zuid-Afrikaansche Republiek and they regarded the people of "The Camp" as interlopers who knew only one God - GOLD.



Johannesburg's story really begins in the spring of 1853, when Pieter Jakob Marais twice panned alluvial gold in the Juskei river, not far north of the Witwatersrand ridge. For 30 years and more, prospectors kept coming back to the ridge, believing there had to be a mother lode there somewhere. It turned out to be well south of the ridge in the coarse grassveld that characterises the Transvaal Highveld. The earlier diggers had been misled by the dazzling white quartz in the ridge itself, those shining rocks which gave "the white watershed" its name.

In February 1886 George Harrison, a stonemason stumbled on an outcrop of crumbling lichen-speckled rock, crushed a sample, panned it, and saw a glistening tail of gold. He had discovered the Main Reef, a gold reef whose wealth was to excite the imaginations of men across the world. His discovery caused a city to grow, and that city to cause a war, a war that gave rise to a nation, and the gold never ran out.....!