

"Together let's make EVERGREEN the village of our dreams"

End January, 2017

Hello fellow Evergreen Broadacres Residents for the first time in 2017



My how time flies. Seems like just a few days ago we were all looking forward to Christmas and the turn of the 2016 calendar for the last time replacing it with a new one for 2017.

Of course many of you will have set your New Year's resolution knowing they will not last but what the h...just do it as Nike says in its slogan. Well here is one for you to try for the rest of the year....>>>>>>



And now here we are already the end of Jan U Worry. That's a phrase I heard on the radio they used in an advert for a company that helps one out of debt problems! On a different topic, haven't the rains over the past week been wonderful! Aileen and I have season tickets at Centurion and a couple of Friday's ago we were all ready and packed for the T20 SA vs Sri Lanka and ready to leave at 3 when the heavens opened and we ended up watching the Trump inauguration....at 5.30 I switched to the cricket channel to see what was happening and saw the one commentator Mike Haysman on the field umbrella up, mobile phone in hand, saying to the camera... "the weatherman tells us no rain here so what is this stuff falling down on us" he then kicks the watered field and says "sure looks and feels like water to me".

➤ CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

You might not have noticed that the construction folk have started the big job of refurbishing the roads. They have begun the task down at the bridge near the construction site and will steadily work their way up and around to attend to all roads. There will be some traffic calming measures included in the work they do so hopefully we will then be able to remove the unsightly barriers and cones. On the topic of roads, how do you like the road names now in position? Adds character to the place do they not? **BUT PLEASE DO NOT** use it as a postal address as it will confuse the post office even more as they are not registered...they are for internal use only!

➤ SOCIAL MATTERS

Christmas at Evergreen is a really excellent time. This is evidenced by the photos below by Kiloran





Seeing the New Year in was evidently a fun time at Evergreen for those who attended the function, here is what Kiloran has to say about the evening...for those who didn't well there is always 2017!!!

"Hendra and the Reef staff agree to give us a really lovely meal on New Year Eve. Hendra said that she had ordered the biggest sheep they had available as two days before she already had in excess of 75 people who had booked and she was expecting a lot more late bookings. I would estimate there were in excess of 80 people there on the Saturday night. Since there were only 4 staff members, each table was pre-laid with plastic plates and knives and forks, together with salads, cheese and biscuits, colourful tablecloths, balloons and other decor.



There was a worry that rain might put a damper of things so Hendra made arrangements that the spit kiln (not sure of the correct name which looked more like a stainless steel coffin) was covered with umbrellas. The meat was superb, tender and tasty and there was more than enough even for second helpings, this was served with roast onions and potatoes.



Dick S and Bev provided music later in to the evening and that started the dancing. No one knew how to get the TV to work for the count down so they relied on their own phones for count down, sing Auld Lang Sign get some more wine and eventually get home around 01.30am. Henry Dobrowolski said they missed New Year's Day and woke up on the 2nd.



We had to celebrate hopefully our last year in our old friend, the prefab clubhouse, and we all look forward to the much anticipated new one this year."

Next function was the **annual Robbie Burns night**. According to all I have heard 'it was a really lovely evening" Thanks to Jean and Sue for organising, to Judy and Committee for the menu, to Hendra for the table décor and the meal and the service, to Marius for the floral decorations. James Campbell, our senior Scot was resplendent in attire and proposed the toast to The Bard.

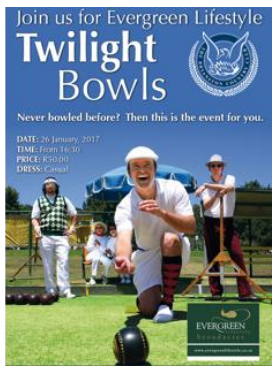


Jimmy Sletcher unveiled his hidden talent and played 'Scotland the Brave' his harmonica. A beautiful rendition and sooo very appropriate for the evening.

Of course no special function is complete unless the Evergreen singers Raise the roof in appropriate song.



A special thanks to Judy for providing the lead piano without which it would have been well you decide.....



Some 21 of us headed out to The Bryanston Country Club under dark threatening skies. Organised by Ivar with help from Marilyn, a good time was had by all. The rain held off until each team had completed 15 ends...see caught the jargon already. The event was sponsored by Evergreen and Pierre was there to hand out the prizes. Winners were Team Graham consisting of him as skip (yep and other bowls jargon word) more than ably assisted by Walter and Rosemary Ross. A nice supper to round off the event and all safely home in the rain that was then falling. One other notable prize was for the most creative biases which was won by Judy Stuart. Another one in Feb...don't miss it, it is FUN 😊

ENVIROMENT

This month's news from Hennie.....

The fish have arrived!

Full marks and a big gold star for Henry and Hennie Dobrowolski! Earlier this month, after many phone calls and much frustration, they got the word from Hartebeespoort fisheries that they had fish to sell. Off they went and arrived back with 3 bags, each containing 125 Mozambique Tilapia (River bream, Bloukurper). 125 fish were released into Pond 8 (the bottom pond) and 250 into Pond 1 (the top pond). Their quest started at the end of winter. An order was placed with another (unnamed!) fishery for 200 Banded Tilapia (Swamp bream, Vleikurper). All the literature pointed to this being the specie best suited to our colder winters and water, although its Mozambique cousin would also do. Then the phone calls and frustration started, but what nobody told Henry until after Christmas, was that the banded variety was very scarce. To cut a very long story short, Henry eventually abandoned the original fishery, decided to change to the Mozambique variety and on Thursday 19 January collected them from the Hartebeespoort fishery.

The Mozambique Tilapia occurs commonly in east coastal rivers from the lower Zambezi system in Mozambique south to the Bushman's river in the Eastern Cape. It prefers fast flowing rivers but also thrives in standing and even brackish waters. It can grow to 400 mm in length and the S.A. angling record is 3,265 kg. It is doubtful though that ours will grow much beyond 250 - 300 mm, 0, 50 – 0,75 kg because of our colder water and the size of our ponds. They reach maturity in a year and breed in summer. The females raise multiple broods every 3 to 4 weeks. Ours were bred a few weeks ago, so if they survive the cormorants, kingfishers, monitors and cold we should have our first brood well before Christmas – and then the population will explode!



The good news is that they feed on algae and aquatic vegetation. Larger ones will also take insects and other invertebrates and when I was a small boy I caught many a bream on hooks baited with earthworms! So with a bit of luck we may soon see the algae disappearing and can look forward to helping our grandchildren bait up their hooks!



But without Henry and Hennie's persistence, this would never have happened. What is more, they sponsored 125 of the fish so we owe them a very big THANK YOU! The rest of the fish were paid for out of our ResCom funds. By-the-way, Henry recommends a visit to the Hartebeespoort dam area, including the fishery where there is a restaurant with craft beer and a trout fishing pond, as a very pleasant day's outing.

Picture and information on Tilapia taken from A complete guide to the freshwater fishes of Southern Africa by Paul Skelton that is available in our library.

A surprise visitor! Ardi Gough sent me a WhatsApp picture with the question: 'What might this be?' As I suspected it turned out to be a Giant African snail (*Lissachatina fulica*), and a beautiful specimen it was. The shell was all of 70 mm long, with the top more or less the same height above the grass. The body, when fully extended was at least 120 mm long. This is the first time I've seen one of these on the Highveld as its normal habitat is the warmer bushveld and coastal areas. *Inter alia*, this is what Wikipedia has to say about it:



This snail is native to East Africa but it has been widely introduced to other parts of the world. Outside its native range this snail survives in many types of habitat in areas with mild climates. It feeds voraciously and is a vector for plant pathogens, causing severe damage to agricultural crops and native plants. This snail is listed as one of the top 100 invasive species in the world.

So as pretty as it was, it isn't good news and if you see any more about, please destroy them immediately! Fortunately, our winters can hardly be described as mild, so it's doubtful that survive here. How did it get here? Probably came in with a plant purchased in the bushveld or coastal regions – a lesson of the risks associated with bringing plants in from such regions!

We continue to be blessed with good rains and what a wonderful effect that's having on our gardens and parkland – long may it continue!

Have you seen our bat boxes? Or better still, have you seen any bats using them? The boxes are mounted on the outside of the downstream parapets of the two bridges. The bats need a clear approach to their boxes so that explains why we're keeping the reeds cut below the bridges. Hopefully, once a bat colony has been established we can allow the reeds to grow again! The only time you'll see them using the boxes is shortly after sunset when they will be seen streaming out. And Kiloran says you won't be believed unless you can prove it with a photograph!

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

RAIN NEWS FROM CECIL.....



Herewith rainfall report for December 2016 & January 2017:
 We continue to enjoy the welcome increase in rainfall at Evergreen. Readings for both December and January are significant improvements over the previous year.
 Water levels in the country's dams is still a concern and we all still need to use water carefully.

Rainfall, in millimetres, for 2016/17:

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 '16	40.3	Nov '16	130.3	Dec '16	101.1	Jan '17	173.4

For comparison, the previous year's readings for December & January are:
 Dec '15 66.1 Jan '16 135.0

➤ OUT AND ABOUT

Hi Graham,
 Could you post a reminder to our Evergreen residents regarding any items they can donate for our adopted school in the Eastern Cape. We are looking for stationery items, old magazines, forgotten toys, picture books, and anything which might be ready to be thrown out which could be used for this school. We are going to drive down in the middle of March 2017 and hope to deliver a SUV full to them! Thanks, Chris and Sue Edwards; Unit 89; Internal Phone 1089; Cell 084 582 9129



Chirps & Tweets

We are going batty.....

Dick Sheppard consulted an expert regarding the installation and construction of the bat boxes which are excellent at controlling mosquitoes and are used extensively in many of our game parks. Dick had the boxes made and Dave Bromfield was instrumental in erecting them on the northern sides of our two bridges. The bats need quite a few meters to swoop down and enter the boxes from below so the reeds in front of the bat boxes have been cut to accommodate this.



We now wait for the bats to find them and to make their homes there. The bats we are hoping will soon find their new residence are very small and we appeal to everyone to please keep their eyes peeled to see one either entering or exiting the boxes but remember they will only emerge just prior to the sun disappearing completely in the evenings before they will emerge.

Evergreen Broadacres Book and Coffee morning and lunch

13 December 2016



Our book mornings ended the year on a lively note as we gathered in the Clubhouse to discuss our favourite readings of the year and a delicious Christmas buffet.

Library rules: The Library rules were approved.

These will now be included in the General House Rules for our Evergreen Village.

New Clubhouse Library: Pat Bayley had been reviewing these plans. Unfortunately she'd recently been involved in a serious motor accident was not present. We missed her and wished her a speedy recovery.

Suggestion: that a 'wish list' be compiled a 'wish list' for submission to Evergreen management.

Library review: Isabel Labuscagne briefly reviewed some new additions to the library shelves.

Reader's reviews of their best reads in 2016.

- **Nadia Hashimi's House without windows** [Sue Edwards]
- **Susan Blake's The Postmistress** [Jean Spurr]
- **Steven Manchester's Thursday Night Club** [Jean Spurr]
- **Paul Coehlo's The Spy** - not enjoyed [Marilyn Maclachlan]
- **Jojo Moyes' [title]** [Sue Jackson]
- **Paula Hawkins' Girl on the train** [Sue Jackson]
- **Deon Meyer's 22 days** [Sue Jackson]
- **Pickles' Daughters-in-law** – not enjoyed [Sue Jackson]
- **Jean Auel's Clan of the Cave Bear** [Moira Theron]



Hi Graham

As you know I have been reading a very interesting book about the history of Johannesburg, and you published my first and second reviews in the 2 most recent editions of 'Chatter', herewith my third chapter, Cheers, Catherine

This Chapter is at the end of this edition of Chatter....thanks again Catherine

HATCHES & MATCHES; BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

These are the villagers who enjoy and celebrate Birthdays in February

2nd Peta Nesbitt
15th Shirley Dempster
17th Eric Sampson
18th Val Hutton-Wilson
20th Bev Jackson
21st Milly Haestier
22nd Ozzy Kauzil
23rd Joanna Wrogemann
26th Atholie Preacher
27th Barry Forbes



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

And these couples have an anniversary during the month of February

18TH	CHRIS & TESS SLEIGH	68
21ST	GUNTHER & JOANNA WROGEMANN	67
25th	CLIVE & MARY PITT	92



May you have a great day and good start to your next year together.

LAST WORDS



Laugh, and the world laughs with you;



Weep, and you weep alone.....

We have Jean to thank for these words of wisdom.....

~ Betsy Salkind...

Men are like linoleum floors. Lay 'em right and you can walk all over them for thirty years.

~ Jean Kerr...

The only reason they say "Women and children first" is to test the strength of the lifeboats.

~ Prince Philip...

When a man opens a car door for his wife, it's either a new car or a new wife.

~ Harrison Ford...

Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself.

~ Spike Milligan...

The best cure for sea sickness, is to sit under a tree.

~ Jean Rostand...

Kill one man and you're a murderer, kill a million and you're a conqueror.

~ Arnold Schwarzenegger...

Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have 50 million dollars, but I was just as happy when I had 48 million.

~ W H Auden...

We are here on earth to do good unto others. What the others are here for, I have no idea.

~ Doug Hanwell...

America is so advanced that even the chairs are electric.

Female Medical Examination

During the medical examination of a female patient, the British doctor says,

"Your heart, lungs, pulse and blood pressure are all fine. Now let me see the part that gets you ladies into all kinds of trouble."

The lady starts taking off her undies, but is interrupted by the doctor.

"No! No! ... Just stick out your tongue!"



You will never guess which of our villagers sent me this one...think it was a man????

And the finale....

Russ and Sam, two friends, very old and frail, met in the park every day to feed the birds, watch the squirrels and discuss world problems.

One day Russ didn't show up. Sam didn't think much about it and figured maybe he had a cold or something. But after Russ hadn't shown up for a week or so, Sam really got worried. However, since the only time they ever got together was at the park, Sam didn't know where Russ lived, so he was unable to find out what had happened to him.

A month had passed, and Sam figured he had seen the last of Russ, but one day, Sam approached the park and -- lo and behold! -- there sat Russ! Sam was very excited and happy to see him and told him so.

Then he said, "For crying out loud Russ, what in the world happened to you?"

Russ replied, "I was in jail."

"Jail?" cried Sam. "What in the world for?"

"Well," Russ said, "you know Sue, that cute little blonde waitress at the coffee shop where I sometimes go?"

"Yeah," said Sam, "I remember her. What about her?"

"Well, one day she filed rape charges against me; and, at 89 years old, I was so proud that when I got into court, I pleaded 'guilty'."

"The damn judge gave me 30 days for lying under oath."

So there you go the first edition of Chatter 2017 is done and I do hope you enjoy it. My thanks to all of the contributors without whom I could not be able to Chatter!!!!

And a special thanks to Kiloran for all of the photographs.

Regards to you all and best wishes for 2017 may it be a really good year for you.

Graham Langmead

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

The next important camp to Ferreira's was the Natal Camp - the name given to the one on Doornfontein and which attracted many Natal diggers and speculators. Although Ferreira was a natural leader and by all account a pleasant and innovative individual (he even sold his gold interest and died a successful farmer) it was the Natal Camp which produced the most leaders. John Shorten, author of "Johannesburg Saga" (1966) says it was the superior camp. It also had some fine homes and Johannesburg's first tennis court laid by a Mrs Wolhuter in 1886.

Ferreira's camp just off the main Cape to Pretoria trail was where most people went to hear the "buzz" including Rhodes when belatedly he decided to see the gold fields for himself. In the event, Rhodes was unimpressed. He thought the gold would run out, many people thought that. How wrong they were and how Rhodes hated the Rand from then on.

Kruger first visited the mining camp on 14 February 1887. The town built an archway (in Dutch) "Long live the President". The President listened to the address of welcome, but when it came to his turn, he noticed some people were talking. He was furious, and told the gathering he would resume his address at 4pm. There he gave them a Dutch finger-wagging.

The town's first public building was a jailhouse, built in November 1887, but at least it was allowed to double as a hospital, and the prisoners helped with the patients. Before the '80s ended the town had a fairly substantial hospital. The site on Hospital Hill.

One feels a pang of sympathy for Pretoria's top representative in Johannesburg, the mining Commissioner Captain Carl von Brandis. This 60 year old Hanoverian whose grandfather had served under the Duke of Wellington against Napoleon was a gentleman. He fulfilled two functions in Johannesburg's early days, that of mining Commissioner and of Landdrost (Magistrate). Eventually Kruger promoted von Brandis's assistant to the post of mining Commissioner, and named von Brandis special landdrost.. von Brandis could rarely find it within himself to punish a woman, and when forced to fine a poor person he would pay the fine himself. He died in 1903, one of Johannesburg's most loved pioneers.

The Big Fight:

During the 19th century, the police were wary of allowing crowds to gather anywhere in Johannesburg. In July 1889 when the world heavyweight boxing champion with a purse of 4 500 pounds was to be fought in the town, the authorities insisted it be held out of town at 7.30am. So it was scheduled 10km away out of town at the Eagles Nest mine near Baragwanath. J.R Couper the local Scots-born heavyweight champion, he was 35 years old and 5'6" was meeting Wolf Bendoff, 27 years old and nearly 6' of London. Couper won in 26 rounds which lasted 30 minutes. A round incidentally, was declared every time one of the boxers was knocked down (sometimes deliberately!) Couper was to shoot himself in 1897 while Bendoff who stayed in Johannesburg took to drink.

Entertainment: in town had its limitations. The first organised show was Fillis's circus in Ferreira's camp in September 1886, then came Waller's circus in June 1887. In 1889 Frank Fillis described as a refined, clever and amusing performer, built a permanent Big Top of wood and iron in Bree Street, between Loveday and Harrison. By 1888 there were advertisements for the Trocadero Concert Hall, which staged variety shows. That same year Johannesburgers watched Verdi's Il Travatore at the Theatre Royal. The theatre was brought to Johannesburg from Durban by ox wagon, was on the site later occupied by His Majesty's theatre, and then there was the Globe which opened on 4 June 1889 with a Gilbert and Sullivan comic opera and which later put on Shakespeare.

In October, the theatre burnt down as patrons stood in the street and watched. There was still no fire brigade, so people laid bets on whether the bar next door would go up in flames. Finally they did the sensible thing and rescued the liquor.....! The bar went.....Cheers Catherine