

EVERGREEN *News*



DEAR RESIDENTS

I do hope that you enjoyed the turning of the year along with plenty of laughter and light over Christmas. If – like me – you find yourself thinking back to the moments and memories you shared with those you love, you may conclude that we are created for relationship. We enjoy significance when we are valued by others, particularly those whom we value ourselves. Christmas is my proof of this.

Despite the fact that we sing Auld Lang Syne at the end of the year, Robert Burns never intended it to be a holiday song. The title of the 18th century Scottish tune translates to “times gone by” and is about remembering friends from the past and not letting them be forgotten. Friends make life worthwhile.

Our significance lies in the quality of our friendships. Those who live in Evergreen communities have found many new friends and new ways to keep in touch with those who live further afield. In a world that keeps changing, these ‘old faithful’ qualities still set the pace and win the race.

Arthur and I were reflecting once again that one of the joys of our jobs is to share life with all of you, and to help meet its challenges. We are fortunate that we are of an age where we share the same concerns as you do. Like-mindedness and community brings the best out of us, including we who provide the environments where friendships happen. In fact, this newsletter is one way in which we promote the sharing of lives, our friendships with you and yours with one another.

What starts with a Life Right Agreement quickly becomes a life-long partnership - one where we are all in the same boat together. H.M.S Evergreen is most certainly a craft of observably odd occupants, whose puzzling preferences and diverse needs demand deft management, whether in navigating calm seas of contentment or meeting the storms of crisis or loss.

At the heart of it all, one word matters. This word is care. I know that Arthur’s vision is for a caring Evergreen and so I’ll leave it to him to pick up on the theme.

A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR FOR EVERGREEN

Evergreen Group Ceo: Arthur Case



HELLO AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OF YOU

At an Evergreen Muizenberg function, one of our residents, Leslie de Wet, told me that “you build the houses but the residents make the house a home” and he was spot on. It’s almost magic that we develop

a retirement village and within a few months we have a thriving community, representing a diversity of personalities, interests, world views, cultures and experiences.

At the heart of this powerful alchemy lies residents’ care for each other and - I believe - for the Evergreen brand. This is not to say that differences don’t exist; of course they do, but genuine care and respect for one another keeps us together when things get tough.

2017 promises to be more demanding as we up the pace on new developments and village projects. But, whilst we are

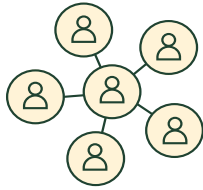
determined to broaden our footprint, we are as determined to deepen the value we bring to our established villages. Getting better and bigger will be challenging, but thankfully we’re all getting older, wiser and hopefully, smarter together: one day at a time. Some of us are just getting to know one another and others are already dear friends – even if we seldom meet.

We are also getting to understand what it means to really care in the context of a community and its varied needs, personalities and opinions. We are learning to accept that it is OK (and often merited) to be otherwise, to hold contrary opinions or to challenge the status quo.

Getting along does not imply always agreeing. Elbert Hubbard offers sage advice to those who tend to get out of bed on the wrong side every day: “Be pleasant until ten o’clock in the morning and the rest of the day will take care of itself.” Care means doing the right thing, giving your best and always showing you care. With his years in the hospitality industry Derek knows this well.

It is not only our purpose but our privilege to share this journey ahead with each Evergreen resident this year. I hope that you will enjoy love, peace and prosperity in 2017.

EVERGREEN Know your Village



The Muizenberg Rescom elected until the next AGM



John Morgan – Chairman

Cometh the hour, cometh John and his wife Gillian. The Morgans have lived at Muizenberg for six years and experienced a number of phases of the village's development. John worked for Cooper Brothers, Bulawayo after moving into the clothing industry, as director and then consultant, two skills that will serve him well in the year ahead.



Chris Bennett – Vice Chairman & Security

Chris and his wife, Meg have lived in Evergreen since the end of January 2016. Chris spent his working life in the SA Navy ending up as Chief of Naval Staff and retired after 35 years. He remains involved with the Naval Heritage Trust as Vice Chairman and as editor and compiler of the various books and journals that are published.



Gill Pearson – Healthcare

Gill qualified as a state registered nurse, working in the neurological field. She spends her free time being a loving mother and grandmother to her family in England and Dubai, reading, painting and illustrating, listening to music and singing in

a Barbershop Group. A frustrated naturalist at heart, Gill has been on Rescom for 3 years since moving to Evergreen.



Stephanie De Haas – Catering & Entertainment

Stephanie has lived at Evergreen for two years and worked as an accountant, farmer and housewife for 47 years. She owned a florist for seven years which gave her the experience to move into wedding arranging. Stephanie spends her free time cooking, sewing, crafting and painting. She really enjoys art classes at the village with her friend Vivian.



David Rosenberg – Finance

David has lived at Evergreen for 13 months and spent 25 years in business, working for American multi national companies in South Africa and abroad, as well as spending 15 years in academia at NMMU and Rhodes Universities.



Chris Turner – Landscaping and grounds

Chris has lived at Evergreen for three years and comes from an engineering background, which should prove ideal for this creative and practical portfolio.



June Orsmund – Secretary - co-opted

June and Guy have four children and nine grandchildren and have been married for 56 years. June is a go-getter: during her working career she owned two gift shops and worked in an architectural drafting business. June has also worked at Lavender Hill High School running the youth empowerment programme, and project managing the establishment of two playing fields over the past 14 years.

MORE FESTIVE FUN AT EVERGREEN CHRISTMAS FUNCTIONS

Here's a selection of pictures from our recent Christmas functions, proving that whilst you can only be young once, you can always be young when needs be.

EVERGREEN MUIZENBERG

It was a happy family Christmas affair as over 80 residents attended the dinner at the Lifestyle Centre on the 9th of December. Stef de Haas organised the Christmas tree decorations and homemade crackers; Melanie arranged for residents to buy or make 'Secret Santa' presents. Phyllis Classe's son-in-law, Tony Hall, provided the music which kept folks on the dance floor until late: resident crooners and song birds' Karaoke accompaniment provided ample proof that **Evergreen's got talent!**



EVERGREEN BROADACRES

Residents wore red and white for their Christmas dinner on the 7th of December, which proved to be another typically enjoyable Broadacres event: in other words, lots of fun and laughs had by all.



EVERGREEN BERGVLIET

A lovely dinner celebrated on the 9th of December proved a sparkling success for residents - the fun and games were clearly enjoyed by all.



EVERGREEN DIEP RIVER

Residents and family enjoyed a delicious three course meal on Christmas Day.



EVERGREEN BROADACRES' WALKY TALKY RAISES BLISTERS FOR SISTERS

As irrepressible Ernie observes, in our December newsletter we missed featuring Team Evergreen's efforts in the "Sisters with Blisters" 5km Fun Walk that they entered on the 26th November. The walk was in aid of "The Prevention of Abuse to Women and Children". There were over 5000 entrants and the event raised R350 000 for this worthy cause. Andre captured the spirit when he said - "If our efforts today can save one woman and one child from being abused, our efforts today would have been worthwhile." Evergreen salutes its tireless Broadacres team. You walk the walk and talk the talk.



DID YOU KNOW?

Ron Scott. Evergreen Muizenberg's intrepid explorer went where no man had gone before.

On 28 November 2008 Ron Scott moved from his home in Diep River and headed South West to his new cottage (number 46) at Evergreen Muizenberg. As the very first resident, Ron lived alone in the village

for a few days. Ron remembers 'a young lass' from Amdec visiting each evening to check whether he was alive and well!

He also remembers the many milestones on a journey that would lead him to love and happiness. Here's what Ron recalls with great clarity.

"Once there were five or six of us we got together to establish the Tuesday night pub club – we only had four bar stools but I was happy to stand. The tiny original bistro was warm and comfy. At that time, Evergreen were selling units on two streets only and early on we had none of the facilities we have today. Nevertheless we were a happy bunch and started creating our own activities – a walking group, gardening club, bridge competitions, and a singles evening for folk like me. We held an

'amazing race' with clues hidden around a half empty village and even built ourselves a Boules court.

Our inaugural AGM was held at the Boardwalk Bistro on 31 August 2009 with Peter Beets of CPOA in the chair. Our first Res Com meeting happened two weeks later with Vernon Sutherland becoming our first Chairman and myself, Vice Chairman. By early 2011 the village was sold out and we eagerly awaited the Phase 2 apartments. A vast hole was excavated, which quickly filled up with water, becoming a favourite for the local birds. A year later, foundations began and floors emerged.

I returned from visiting my son in London on 7 January 2011. New resident Lennox Grobler (the very attractive woman in no. 62) had been looking after my pot plants and I went round to collect them at four in the afternoon. We got talking and she told me about her life. Amazingly we discovered that we had known each other years back in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe), having worked on either side of the same road for a time before going our separate ways. We had both suffered the loss of a spouse, we had so much in common and I left her home at two thirty in the morning. The first village romance was born. We have just celebrated our fifth anniversary and so you can see, goodness can happen to anyone! Good luck to you all."

HELPING HAND – A LAKE MICHELLE RESIDENTS’ INITIATIVE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Helping Hand is a subcommittee on the Evergreen Resident’s Association of Lake Michelle. Its purpose is to involve ‘oldies’ as Brian Hamilton Jones calls residents (he isn’t certain whether to include himself in his collective noun) in providing help and assistance in a variety of necessary ways. Co-ordinated by Judy Venables, and supported via regular correspondence, Helping Hand is fostering true neighbourliness. Those with time and skills are involved, whether providing lifts, hammering in nails, home maintenance, well-point advice, medical advice and so forth.

“Everybody helps in ways they can,” Brian observes. “The availability of help and care is tremendously reassuring, as is the privilege of giving and receiving help from one another. We have a social programme that surfaces needs and desires, which are then considered in the future. In Helping Hand we have a well-established and highly functional initiative that adds tremendous value to us oldies.”

Whilst there are numerous ways in which every village cares for one another and communities in need, villages can take a leaf out of the Lake Michelle book, where formalising and managing the practical aspects of caring is concerned. After all, life goes well at Lake Michelle.



FOR THE BIRDS – THE WINNERS OF OUR 2016 BIRD PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION

Lovers of cameras and birds will tell you that taking that perfect picture is no flight of fancy. Over the last year, we have collected many bird pictures taken by our residents. Amdec Chairman John Wilson is an accomplished wildlife photographer and it was his pleasure to select the overall winner and second and third places. Here’s John presenting canvasses featuring the photographs to the winners.



Winner!
John Wilson with Marian Thompson of Evergreen Bergvliet



John Wilson (center) with Second Place: (left) Hugh Till & Third Place: (right) Martin Harrison. Both from Evergreen Muizenberg.

*Fabulously
Flora*
COMPETITION

OUR 2017 PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION THEME

Cameras, flowers, shrubs and trees from your Village come together in our 2017 competition, so start clicking and sending your pictures and you could enjoy fame and fortune this time next year!



As always, my perennial reminder that we’d like to publish your news, accomplishments, projects, community initiatives and views in our forthcoming newsletters. Please keep sending them to us. I look forward to publishing them next time.

In our next newsletter we will introduce a NEW YOU feature focusing on health, vitality and worthwhile resolutions. I’m really looking forward to sharing life and friendships once again this year and I do hope you are too. Meanwhile, take care.

Derek