



RESCOM CHATTER

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

End February 2017

Hello fellow Evergreen Broadacres Residents for the second time in 2017



Yes, February is gone and here we are already at the Ides of March. The Ides of March is a day on the Roman calendar that corresponds to 15 March. It was marked by several religious observances and became notorious as the date of the assassination of Julius Caesar in 44 BC. The death of Caesar made the Ides of March a turning point in Roman history, as one of the events that marked the transition from the historical period known as the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire. [2] Big Julie as we called him at high school was our Shakespearean set book and I well recall the school play where he turned to me and said 'et tu Brute').

Memories are made of these things are they not!

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I look forward to our 1st Midterm report back on 13th March when each ResCom portfolio leader will share with you what they have been doing over the 1st six months of their tenure and what they are planning to do in the coming months. This is a new initiative which we trust you will find useful. It is essential that you RSVP for both seating and catering purposes PLEASE. Use the 'Dear Mr. Chairman' response form provided with the invitation. If mislaid, you can get a copy from any ResCom member or from reception. Whilst talking about 'Dear Mr. Chairman' it has been heartening to receive your inputs of observations, suggestions, concerns and accolades. All have been taken up and attended to so keep them coming and keep us on our toes.



This month we welcome the following new residents to our beautiful village.

Ann Mexter #119

Peter & Angela McMurray #108

Alan Beattie #117

We hope you will be happy, comfortable and relax in our special village



SOCIAL MATTERS



Dear Graham, as you will see the dinner was extremely well attended and the numbers of Phase 3 residents is increasing which is very gratifying.





Please note that Evergreen now has its own EFF supporters club maybe we should look at providing them with red hard hats but only the plastic versions as they could use them as weapons if we have to ever throw them out of the clubhouse or from a meeting.

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 Walter & Rosemary Ross. Also, winning a prize were seen at Mikes Kitchen (see above).

ENVIROMENT

Hello Graham,

Not much to report, mainly pictures, but report please to follow Heather Mutch's report on the Random Harvest report:

The visit to Random Harvest nursery and the purchase and planting of the water lilies has been reported elsewhere. What I can show here are both the Waterblommetjie and Water lily in flower!



Pictures courtesy of Henry Dobrowolski.



And we have a new arrival in the village – a 250 mm long baby Nile monitor!

Pond 8 (above Crab crossing bridge) has sprung a leak. Basil Bold has found the leak and as soon as the water subsides again, we'll fix it.

On a more serious note, we have a serious problem with algae and bulrushes in both ponds. Pond 1 is almost completely covered with what is known as string algae. Unfortunately, there isn't a silver bullet to solve that problem. As mentioned last month, the Tilapia Mozambique will in due course help to control it. As surprising as it may sound, barley hay spread over the water will also help. Henry D. is looking for barley hay, so if anybody knows of a source, please let him know.

Four Seasons assure us that there is an environmentally friendly herbicide for eliminating bulrushes. They have used it elsewhere with success and we're waiting for a quote to start tackling our problem. The picture shows last year's growth in seed in the foreground and this summer's growth without seed in the background. If we left it for another season the whole pond will be overgrown!
Best wishes, Hennie du Preez

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 February 2017:

And the rain continues....

We are told that Vaal Dam will be 100% full by this weekend just past, which is most heartening. Our own gardens and the parkland are certainly showing the benefit! Personally, I would love to see the sun sometime soon again, before rust sets in.

Rainfall, in millimetres, for 2016/17:

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	Feb '17	205.6

For comparison, the previous year's readings for December & January are:

Dec '15	66.1	Jan '16	135.0	Feb '16	64.6
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Regards, Cecil Unit 76

HEALTHCARE

REMINDER!!!! Residents are reminded to activate the YELLOW button on their TeleCare system when needing any form of assistance from our nurses. This applies twenty- four hours around the clock.

OUT AND ABOUT

On Wednesday, 22nd February, residents were treated to a visit, and talk, by Pieter van Niekerk, the head of Public Relations for Guide Dogs Association South Africa, and Christine Voight, one of the many dedicated volunteer Puppy Walkers. Pieter was accompanied by his wife, Susan, and of course his own guide dog, O'Reilly. Christine brought her 13th Guide Dog in Training, Nessa.

We were all held spellbound at Pieter's witty and informative overview of the function and activities of the organisation, and in awe at the ease with which he is able to function.

Afterwards, Christine shared with us not only some trials, but also the many tribulations that come with the vital responsibility of socialising puppies chosen for training, and the lengthy process (one year) before they begin full-time training. She also let us know how desperately they need additional volunteer Puppy Walkers, and if anyone - yourselves, family or friends - wish to puppy walk, please contact her at 073 731-7500, or myself.

Pieter, Susan and Christine then joined us for supper, paid for from ResCom funds, which they thoroughly enjoyed.

O'Reilly, was given the opportunity to meet all present, which he did with his usual aplomb, and made many new friends!

Although the visit was not aimed at obtaining any funds, I am delighted to advise that passing the hat round raised the magnificent sum of R3, 000. We Evergreeners can be very proud of this!

A letter of thanks from Pieter is pinned to the notice board.

Personally, I have been involved with Guide Dogs for 14 years now, and continue to marvel at the joy their work brings to people with disabilities. When the new clubhouse is available, and if residents would like to hear more about the organisation, I can arrange for a more detailed audio-visual presentation to be given.

Elske



Nylsvley Adventure by Kiloran & Hennie

Eleven intrepid Evergreen pensioners decided to regain our childhood to slosh around in the mud in the 4000 ha Nylsvley Ramsar Wetland Reserve in the hope of seeing the abundant and varied birdlife.

With all the rain we had we had hoped that it would have a lot more water but that was not the case. We were given strict instructions by our leaders not to interfere with any nets etc. as the last Evergreen excursion a few years ago had incurred the wrath of very irate scientist whose efforts of tagging birds were almost thwarted by a some of our ladies!



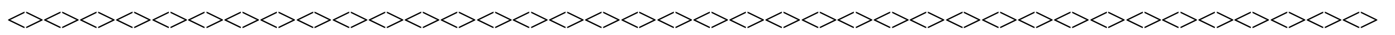
Although the threatening Dineo Tropical Storm definitely had a part to play in the overcast weather it didn't dampen our enthusiastic group who were able to see and identify many birds. Our water bird list included Grey, Goliath, Black-crowned night, Black and Squacco herons, Cattle and Great egrets, Black crakes, Moorhens, Dabchicks, African jacana, Reed cormorants, Three ring plovers, White faced and Yellow billed ducks, Hottentot and Red-billed teals, Spur-winged and Egyptian geese and Blacksmith lapwings. Our bushveld birds included Magpie shrikes, Crested and Swainson's francolins, Crested and Black collared barbets, Red-billed hoopoe and many other.



Female red backed shrike juvenile : Magpie shrike : Squacco heron : Black-crowned night hero

All the men, but particularly Henry D., had great fun setting fire to the abundant wood supplied and we sat under the clouds in this peaceful, bushveld setting and thanked the Lord for the blessings living in Africa gives us. (Okay that is my poetic licence for what it is worth).

Lovely people and lots of fun. Thank you all for making this a fun and worthwhile trip.



REMINDER....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

Hello fellow Nature Lovers & Birders,

Our list started three years ago, when I made the suggestion to neighbour Libby (2), who retorted 'well you do it!' So here we are three years later from a start of forty-one birds we have more than doubled to a total of eighty-eight, such is the enthusiasm of Evergreeners. Thanks to all who have contributed.

Among the more recent sightings are some really interesting and rarely seen birds:

- White-faced Whistling Duck
- Purple Heron
- Southern-crowned Shrike
- African Spoonbill, and
- Red-throated Wryneck.

In other creatures, a Leopard Tortoise has crept into my life. Rescued from 'a road' by René, our Village Administrator, placed in the parkland area then found on Loerie Lane by Cynthia (83) and brought to me for safekeeping in my heavily vegetated back yard. Eventually with assistance from André & Peggy (59) it will be moved to a more friendly environment by an animal rescue organisation.

The fascinating and entertaining talk on spiders was well attended by some thirty residents, and plans are afoot for a talk on nature and birds. A visit to Delta Park and the Witwatersrand Bird Club, the oldest club of its kind in Johburg is also on the cards, in addition to the regular bird walks at Random Harvest Nursery.

Chirps & Tweets, Dick.

Please, a mention to all residents that our Group is open to all, and either Libby or me as contact would be appropriate in view of the number of new residents

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Hello Graham, attached are a few photos from the very interesting presentation by the well recognised Spider expert Astri Leroy. It was attended by more than 31 people and proved to be both informative and entertaining. Astri has a very easy way of connecting with people and the talk centred around South African arachnids which included spiders in their various guises, scorpions and ticks and included the body parts and modifications, webs, eating habits and virtues i.e.. the insects they eat. DickT showed some photographs of John Leroy's photographed that had been illegally used by an artist on a set of stamps issued by the Post Offices a few years ago.

She told us about a presentations she was doing in Krugarsdorp which included children, when she was savagely grabbed by a scorpion who inflicted two nasty punctures on her hand that resulted in her bleeding profusely. A little 8 yr old boy looked up at her and in a very concerned voice asked "Gaan tannie nou vrek?"



Ladybird Spider, *Paraplectana thorntoni*. Fa



Ant-like jumping spider *Myrmarachne solitaria*



Evergreen Broadacres Book And Coffee morning 21 February 2017

Twenty-three residents enjoyed a morning of book reviews with coffee, cupcakes and muffins on a rather cool, rainy day. It was wonderful to welcome several of the Phase 3 residents to our group. Milly Haestier was warmly congratulated on her birthday and many thanks extended to Lynn Turner and Isabel Labuscagne for the delicious eats.

New Clubhouse library

Pat Bayley presented the plans for the proposed library area in the new Clubhouse, together with cut-outs of shelving and furnishings which we'd like for this room. Hennie du Preez suggested we check with Evergreen, via ManCom, about funds that might already be allocated for the library area – we may be pleasantly surprised.

Book Reviews

Sue Edwards reviewed The Widow by Fiona Barton. This book was the thriller of year 2016. It has an unusual format in that it is narrated by several persons and begins at the end and ends at the beginning. The plot, which revolves around child molestation, twists and turns with some decisions being left to the reader. Sue said it was one of the best psychological thrillers she'd read.

Her second book, Pharaoh, by Wilbur Smith is the latest in his Egyptian series. It is a great adventure story, well-researched with interesting descriptions of ancient Egyptian culture, religion and history.

Pat Bayley reviewed Pudsey by Pudsey, a story of a dog's journey to fame written by himself! She found it delightful and great fun.

Her second book, Hippo Love Story, tells the story of a nature conservationist who set up a foundation to save a hippo during floods in Zimbabwe. The book is on the best seller list at the moment and well worth the read.

Eddie Simpson's review featured his favourite author and character – Lee Child's Jack Reacher in Night School. The format of this book is different, Jack travels through Europe, encountering AWOL US soldiers, and Saudi and Hamburg Police.

Hennie du Preez reviewed One Night in Winter by Simon Sebag Montefiore, a book steeped in Russian history and culture. It is a harrowing but riveting story which asks the question, "What would you do if your children were forced to testify against you." Montefiore is himself an historian specialising in Russian issues and had been granted special access to Russian archives not accessible to the public. However, after writing this book and another concerning events in Russian history, this privilege was rescinded!

Elske Fann put forward the suggestion for a reading circle – the format for this circle was debated and suggestions invited.

Libby Baker previewed the topic for our next book morning on Tuesday, 18 April 2017, which will be a guest speaker, Andrew Domanski, who will be talking on Plato, the man, his works and relevance to us in these days. It will be an inspiring talk with, I trust, much discussion and debate from the floor. Please diarise this date, and we'll see you there.

Good reading, Libby

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➤ **HATCHES & MATCHES; BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**
These are the villagers who enjoy and celebrate Birthdays in March

- 5th Peter McMurray
- 6th Dennis O'Connor
- 7th Aileen Langmead
- 11th Charmaine Hall
- 13th David Campbell
- 14th Patti Bromfield
- 15th Judy Stowell
- 18th Ivar Skanke
- 19th Angela McMurray
- 27th Paul Blandin De Chalain
- 30th Janet Thom
- 30th Ian Stuart

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

And these couples have an anniversary during the month of March

17TH	GERD PONTOW & GUNNAR SVENSSON	8
26TH	ERIC & PAULINE SAMPSON	75
30TH	IVAR & PAT SKANKE	77



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

➤ **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.

Hi Graham, A thought for 'Chatter'. As there are a number of residence who support out-reach programmes, I wonder if it would be helpful to set up a 'needs list' together with the name and unit number for drop offs e.g. "Joan #150 ice cream containers"

This could possibly be added to the 'Have I got what you want' initiative you introduced some time back. Regards, Atholie **NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS. ADS FREE : NO VAT!!**

Dare I say it...here we go Marching on into March 2017. Hope you enjoy this edition of Chatter. My thanks to all of the contributors without whom I could not be able to Chatter!!!! I look forward to your contribution for April...ALL WELCOME!!!!
And a special thanks to Kiloran for all of the photographs.
Regards to you all, Graham Langmead

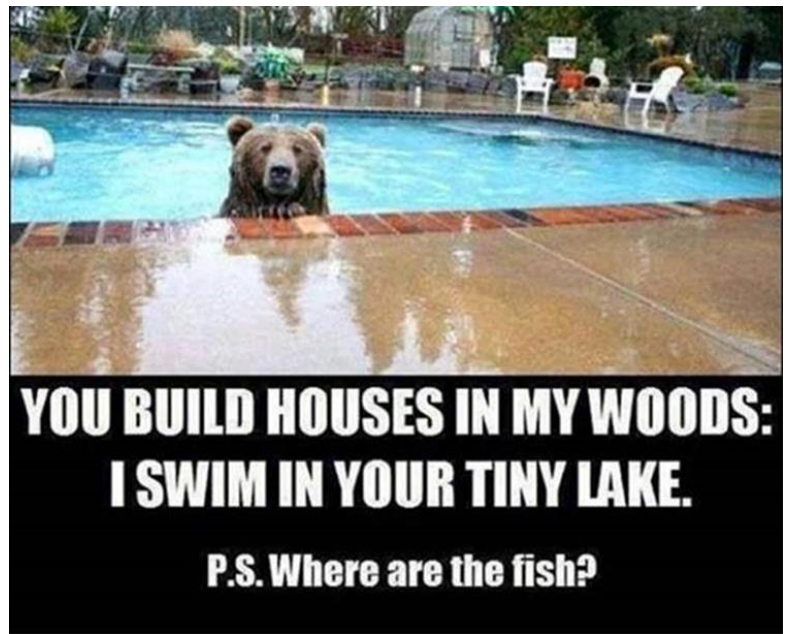
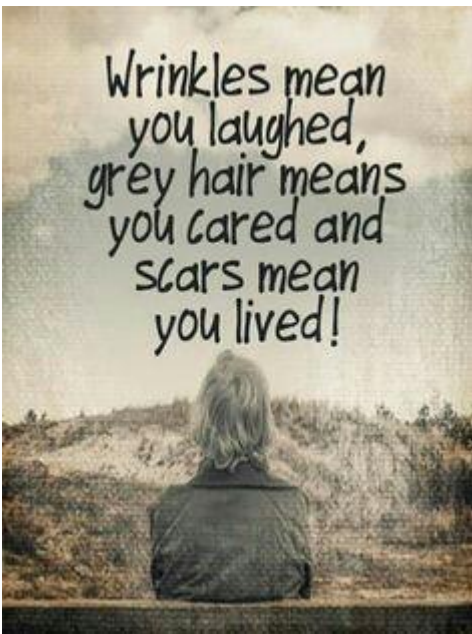
➤ **LAST WORDS**



Laugh, and the world laughs with you;



Weep, and you weep alone.....



One from my cousin who lives in a retirement village in Plett....

God's Plan For Aging

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things thus doing more walking.

And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things requiring them to bend, reach and stretch.

And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise.

God looked down and saw that it was good.

So if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember its God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

Important Facts To Remember As We Grow Older:

No. 9 Death is the number 1 killer in the world.

No. 8 Life is sexually transmitted.

No. 7 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.

No. 6 Men have 2 motivations: hunger and hanky panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.

No. 5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.

No. 4 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.

No. 3 All of us could take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.

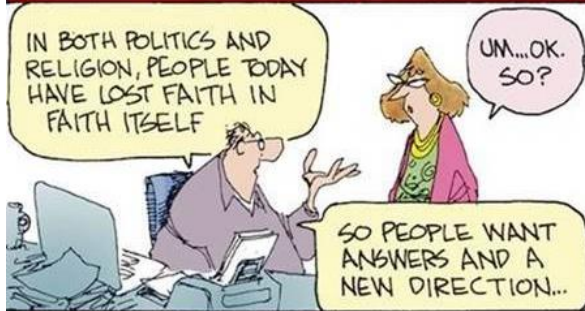
No. 2 In the 60's, people took LSD to make the world weird.
Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.

No. 1 Life is like a jar of jalapeno peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.



Worthy of a patient!!!





'All Creatures Great & Small'

Seen and/or heard at Evergreen, Broadacres.

The presence of birds indicates a healthy environment and thriving biodiversity.

Birds.

Barbet	Black-collared	Barbet	Crested
Bee-eater	European	Bishop	Southern Red
Bulbul	Dark-capped	Cisticola	Zitting
Cormorant	Reed	Cormorant	White Breasted
Coucal	Burchell's	Crow	Cape
Crow	Pied	Cuckoo	Red-chested (Piet-my-vrou)
Cuckoo	Diederick	Dove	Cape Turtle
Dove	Laughing	Dove	Namaqua
Dove	Red-eyed	Dove	Rock
Duck	African Black	Duck	Yellow-billed
Duck	White-faced Whistling	Egret	Western Cattle
Finch	Cut-throat	Finch	Red-headed
Fiscal (shrike)	Common	Go-away-bird	Grey (Loerie)
Goose	Egyptian	Guineafowl	Helmeted
Hamerkop		Heron	Black-headed
Heron	Green-backed	Heron	Grey
Heron	Purple	Honey Guide	Lesser
Hoopoe	African	Hornbill	African Grey
Ibis	Hadedda	Ibis	Sacred
Kingfisher	Brown Hooded	Kingfisher	Malachite
Kingfisher	Pied	Kingfisher	Woodland
Kite	Black	Kite	Black-shouldered
Korhaan	Northern Black	Lapwing (Plover)	African Wattled
Lapwing (Plover)	Blacksmith	Lapwing (Plover)	Crowned
Mannikin	Bronze (Fret)	Moorhen	Common
Mousebird	Speckled	Myna	Common
Owl	Spotted Eagle	Owl	Western Barn
Pigeon	African Green	Pigeon	African Olive
Pigeon	Speckled	Prinia	Black-chested
Prinia	Tawny-flanked	Quelea	Red-billed
Scimitarbill	Common	Shrike	Southern White-crowned
Sparrow	Cape	Sparrow	House
Sparrow	Southern Grey-headed	Spoonbill	African
Spurfowl	Swainsons	Starling	Cape Glossy
Starling	Red-winged	Stonechat	African
Sunbird	Amethyst (Black)	Swallow	Barn
Swallow	Greater Striped	Swallow	Lesser Striped
Swallow	White-throated	Swift	African Palm
Thick-Knee	Spotted (Dikkop)	Thrush	Karoo
Wagtail	Cape	Waxbill	Common
Weaver	Southern Masked	Weaver	Thick-billed
Wheatear	Mountain	Wheatear	Mountain (Grey Morph)
White Eye	Cape	Whyda	Pin-tailed
Wood Hoepoe	Green	Wryneck	Red-throated

Butterflies:

Brown Veined White	Common Diadem
Painted Lady	Yellow Pansy

Dragonflies

Mammals:

Mongoose	Slender	Mongoose	Water
Field Mice		Shrew	
Bats			

Reptiles:

Lizards		Monitor	Nile
Snakes: (All non-venomous)		Brown House Snake	
Grass Snake		Red Lipped Herald	
Tortoise	Leopard		

Frogs & Toads:

Terrapins:

One was rescued from Frederick Road by Heather (No.80)

Crabs:

River crab

Insects:

Mantid	Neomantis Australis [Michael – yellow and green/brown insect eater]
Ghost Mantid	Phyllocrania Paradoxa
Water strider	Heteroptera – harmless
Lady bird	Coccinellidae – helpful eater of aphids, scale and ants.

Spiders:

Rain spider	Palystes [Huntsman] – usually harmless, can give allergic response
Violin spider	Loxosceline – cytotoxic venom

Vermin

Mice
Peacocks
Rats

Compiled 2017.02.15