



Hello all Residents of our special village.....So here we are at the end of May and now nearing the solstice. That's when we have the longest night and shortest day of the year. It is on 21<sup>st</sup> June and I know it only too well as it was my late Dad's birthday and he always joked that he emigrated to SA so as to have the longest party night on his birthday.

Last month I raised a question about place names and sadly I have had a disappointing response of only 1.⊗ Here are some of the places on our recent journey and I wondered how they got their names .... Patataneke; Oogies; Machadorp; White River; Graskop; Middleberg; etc. Well here's the one response.....

*Hí Graham, here are some answers to your poser in the last Chatterbox.*

*Patataneke - Can't find any mention of this place, we think you made it up!*

*Oogies - was laid out in 1928 on the farm Oogiesfontein, 'fountain with many "eyes" or springs'.*

*Machadorp -The town grew around a station originally named Geluk, after the sheep farm it was built on, but in 1894 the name was changed to honour the Portuguese Major Joaquim Machado, an engineer who had surveyed the land for the proposed Nelspruit-Delagoa Bay railway line through the Crocodile River gorge.*

*White River - A settlement for demobbed soldiers from the Anglo-Boer war was established on the farm 'Witrivier'. A canal was built 26km long which channelled water from the Manzemhlope (White water) river to the farming area around the settlement.*

*Graskop - Abel Erasmus (had a pass named after him in 1959) had a farm called 'Graskop' (grassy hill) which developed into a terminus of the branch railway from Nelspruit and a centre of the timber industry.*

*Middleburg - Lies halfway along the route between Pretoria and Lydenburg (help with the answers from 'Illustrated Guide to Southern Africa' and the Internet)*

*Maybe we can get some ideas from Chatterboxers on these places: Steynsdorp, Ixopo, Ugie, Hotazel, and Onderstepoort. Cheers Chris and Sue Edwards*

If you can throw any light on any of these or other town's villages and cities of our beautiful country Chatter would love to publish them....share your knowledge with us please.

## CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I remind you that occupation of the permanent clubhouse and frail care is nearby as we can all see. Derek Drew MD of Evergreen Villages assures me we should take occupation well before the year end. Should you wish to see the floor plans, Roy has them just ask to view. As there have been a number of folks asking for detail of costs and booking timing Derek has suggested that you contact him in the first instance... [derekd@evergreenlifestyle.co.za](mailto:derekd@evergreenlifestyle.co.za)) and he will provide the information you require. As a part of the final stages of development it was essential that the hoarding be moved and parking now is in the open area next to the pool. All in the interest of progress. A bit of inconvenience for a short while.

**HAVE YOU DIARISED .....**

**ANNUAL RESIDENTS MEETING...4pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> July in the Clubhouse**

**followed by ResCom provided snacks & your choice of sundowners**

**EVERGREEN AGM...Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August at 4pm in Clubhouse**

## WHY OH WHY OH WHY....



....Do so many RESIDENTS, as well as visitors and deliverers, think this village is a practice place for budding next generation Jody Schechter's.

**PLEASE RESPECT THE VILLAGE SPEED LIMIT IT IS 20KPH MAXIMUM**

**NOT THE MINIMUM. Remember that residents have right of way!!!**

**SOCIAL MATTERS**

SEGOVIA SINGERS ON FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup>.....There was a good attendance of +/- 60 residents for lunch with a sprinkling of others who came to enjoy the performance. All round, a lovely lunchtime event and such a great group of ladies.



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**ENVIROMENT...**

News from Hennie....

Not much to report this month! The Namaqualand daisies are growing vigorously and should start blooming before the end of June. The 30 mm of rain received in the month is working wonders to ensure that most of our parkland still remains reasonably green.

The Easter Friday efforts of your fellow villagers have certainly been worthwhile. Some algae have survived in the top pond, but the colder weather is inhibiting its growth so both ponds are looking pretty good. The effects of the poison applied to the bulrushes are also clearly visible, so once the warmer weather arrives we'll continue the exercise.

Last month I reported that Henry Dobrowolski frequently saw our fish. Sadly, he hasn't seen any fish recently so have they all been taken by the cormorants and monitor lizards, or are they hiding in the deeper water? The grass growing underwater certainly provides good hiding places, so hopefully we'll see them appearing as much bigger fish in the spring.

The bulrushes in the stream bed have been cut, and the long grass on either side will be cut as soon as we've had our first frost.

The latest on the borehole is that the drilling machine has broken down and we await a new date for the drilling of our hole.

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## RAIN NEWS FROM CECIL.....



Hello Graham,

The passing cold front this month, apart from causing winter clothing to be hastily retrieved from storage, brought more welcome rain. One can safely predict that winter, and ever-shortening days, will be a fact of life for the next few months. The national drive to conserve water remains so we all still need to use water carefully.

Rainfall, in millimetres, for 2016/17:

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	Mar '17	16.8	Apr '17	116.4	May '17	27.0

For comparison, the previous year's reading for May is 67.8, and the average for May since 2013 is 22.0. Regards, Cecil Unit 76

## HEALTHCARE



Since the last Chatter we have had many folks contact us to give wonderful, positive feed-back on Sister Linda and her abilities and caring nature. Many have heard that she is distraught at the questioning of her qualifications and as a result is considering a transfer. Some have asked me how we can prevent this happening. The best way is to tell her yourself you appreciate her.

**OR USE THE DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN BOX IN THE CLUBHOUSE FOYER.**

**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

### From Jean about her recent overseas holiday....

If there's one thing to be said of Evergreeners it's that they travel widely and frequently.

I have just enjoyed 5 weeks, mostly in the UK with family, but taking time out with my daughter to spend 6 days in Amsterdam. We travelled on the Eurostar to Brussels's where we changed onto the Thalys line which runs between Belgium & the Netherlands. Both extremely comfortable, efficient and precisely on time. St Pancras has 2 passport controls as French border control is handled there. That meant 2 lots of security checks but in today's uncertain conditions no-one complained. Once in Amsterdam we consulted reliable "Dr Google" to familiarise ourselves with the tram network which, again, is super-efficient and then to find our way to our accommodation at Hotel Victorie on Victorie Plein. Stopping just around the corner was tram route 4 which took us into central Amsterdam to Dam Plein or the main Railway Station in about 15 minutes. We quickly learnt how to purchase passes which lasted from 24 hours to 7 days and were constantly reminded by the voice-over to "check in and check out". Failure to do the latter resulted in your pass being deemed used up and thereby cancelled.

We did all the usual things first-time visitors do which was to take a Hop-On-Hop-Off trip on both bus and canal boat to decide what, when, where and how we would spend our days. We were told the city wasn't over busy but of course the 7-week period between the third week of March and mid-May is flower season so very popular and the queues for all the main attractions were l-o-n-g! The touring companies, which operate the buses and boats, have some preferential bookings but anyone wanting to see the Ann Frank House and Museum would be wise to either book well in advance or be prepared to wait literally for hours in the hope of getting in. We secured booked times for both the Rijks and Van Gogh Museums which makes a huge difference as you do actually queue-hop. These both take hours to navigate but to see Rembrandt's "Night Watch" and the three Vermeers on display in the Rijksmuseum as well as over 100 of the famous, as well as lesser known, Van Gogh works was such a highlight and is one more tick off my bucket list. Both his "Sunflowers" and "Irises" are among the most popular of the 3-floors of paintings, sketches and other



personal items on display. Photography is strictly forbidden but almost impossible to control among the crowds all with cell phones. A further highlight, and another tick off the bucket list, was a small, guided tour to Keukenhof and the sheer breath-taking beauty is difficult to describe. We stopped en route at a bulb farm where we met the farmer/grower/exporter who taught us a bit more about growing, the worldwide demand and all the varieties before embarking on many hours of simply wandering, in awe, at the number of shapes, heights, sizes, colours and quality of the gardens and pavilions.



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**Hennie & Marion's Autumn excursion**

Two days in the Addo Elephant Park, a week in our time share at the B.I. in Plett and finally, 3 days at Bakubung in the Pilanesberg – a last break before winter for the du Preez's!



There had been rain so everything was beautifully green and fresh. Addo didn't disappoint with many sightings of elephant, kudu, eland, red hartebeest and huge tortoises – Marion's favourite! Unlike the Kruger and Pilanesberg elephants, the Addo elephants are not aggressive so we could enjoy many very close-up sightings. The B.I. and Plett were a treat with many days of blue, blue skies, sunshine and very little wind. Reflections on a windless afternoon on the Keurbooms and a full moon rising over the bay gave some wonderful photos.

**ERNIE & HEATHERS ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO KRUGER**

**PARK/SABI RIVER**

This tradition started about 15 years ago when a small group of 14 of us started going to Sabi River Sun to play golf & visit the game reserve each year.

We set off at 6.15am on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> May to meet our friends for breakfast at Harries Pancake in Dullstroom. Of the 8 who gathered there, 7 have known each other for nearly 50 years going back to Durban days when we all worked together. From there we moved on to Phalaborwa. Tony pulled into the petrol station with his Lexus to fill up with petrol. He handed the attendant his card to pay. The attendant took it and said "It doesn't work". Indignantly Tony told him that it does work & he must try again, which he did. Again he said "It doesn't work". Tony took the card from him & saw that he had given him his golf handicap card. Panic set in as he frantically looked for his credit card before finding it in his top pocket. That qualified him for the "monkey award".

Everyday a monkey is awarded to someone who has done something, said something wrong. We also have a contest to forecast the number of animals & birds we will see during our trip. Another one is to forecast the first animal to be seen. Once we have seen our nominated animal we have to nominate the next animal we will see that has not already been spotted. 5 animals are equivalent to Honours and 7 to cum lauder. (I was one of 2 who achieved Honours with a Zebra, Kudu, Wildebeest, Hyena & Jackal).

We spent the 1<sup>st</sup> 3 nights at a private camp called Boulders. It consists of a large dining room/lounge with kitchen attached, a large viewing deck and a passageway down to 5 units, all built on stilts into the surrounding boulders. It also has a great braai area built into the boulders next to the passageway and a manmade drinking trough about 100 meters in front of the buildings with a light next to it. Every evening the sand grouse fly in at sunset for a drink & then fly out again. We have seen Leopard, Elephant, Buffalo & Impala there before. In fact on the 2<sup>nd</sup> night, just before sunset, approximately 100 Buffalo drifted silently in for a drink & by morning they were nowhere to be seen. Every night we heard Lions roaring & Hyena laughing.

On the first night we light the braai to cook the traditional meal of prawns and spare ribs, both of which we could not finish even though we made gluttons of ourselves.

On the other nights we enjoyed pre-cooked meals from Sloane's.

We had hand radios for each car so that we could report animals & birds spotted and of course the comments flew regularly between the cars. (Last year Heather had the radio & reported that there were Elephant up above?? She got the monkey). This year luckily she was not on the radio when she told me to look at the wings flapping on an approaching Elephant that kept walking down the road towards us for about 500 meters.

Everyday we left camp as soon as it was light, at about 06.15, enjoyed brunch at about 11.00 and invariably returned to camp at about 16.30 for sundowners before supper, even though the lads had enjoyed more than a few beers during the day. Several pit stops had to be made in the park for them to splash their boots.

We saw everything except Cheetah, Wild dog & Leopard (although Tony & Dave saw one when they went to retrieve Tony's cell phone). He had been travelling with his window down when a huge (according to him) locust flew in and landed on this leg. He panicked; open his door & chased/kicked the locust out and unknowingly also kicked his cell phone out. Denzil following behind allegedly rode over it. The person who found it somehow phoned a friend of Tony's (who was unable to make the trip this year), who then phoned a member of our party to tell Tony where he could fetch his phone from – a place called Biyamite, which took him two & a half hours to get there the next day & the same time to return.

We saw Lions eating a giraffe, 3 Lions watching people walking in the park with rifles looking for poachers (they were actually following footprints), 3 young male Lions sleeping in the sun & another 3 magnificent male Lions sitting in the shade. We have never failed to see Lion on every trip we have made to the park. We also travelled through about one kilometre of Buffalo with plenty of young ones – comment "They must have heard about the child grant available". There was plenty of game in this area, including lots of Jackal which is unusual.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> night we stayed at Satara where we moved into a cottage right next to the fence. There was a water hole a short distance away. While we were waiting for supper, Elephant ghosted in and then disappeared; a hyena and 2 Jackal walked up and down outside the fence & an African wildcat which came to the water for a drink.

On Friday morning we set off for our time share at Sabi River Sun where we joined 22 others who had come down for this traditional week, mainly to play golf. However it started raining hard on Friday afternoon and continued all day on Saturday. Only a few golfers braved the elements but retreated home after paying just 3 holes. On Tuesday we all went into the park & gathered for brunch at a picnic spot, Nkuhlu, between Skukuza & Lower Sabi. This was our day to provide food for 29 of us. Different couples have to provide food for lunch or dinner each day. The food is always very good and it is like going to 7 different restaurants in 7 days.

Keeping with tradition, the 'monkey' is replaced by a 'stirrer's wooden spoon' and awarded each night. I received it on the last night last year after confiding to a 'so called friend' that I had never received it before. Keeping it, safely in my suitcase, for a year, it was me who had to award the 'wooden spoon' on the first day. Heather and her good friend Lydia, look alike, so I was able to award the 'so called friend' mentioned above with the wooden spoon, who when seeing Lydia greeted her by saying "Hello Heather, nice to see you again". Twelve wonderful days spent with good friends and looking forward to next year.



Brand new baby hip



Two magnificent black manned lions



Elephant



## 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**

### **NOW OPEN FOR BUSINESS. ADS FREE : NO VAT!!**



I have 1 x gas heater as good as new and 1 x 12 fin oil heater for sale as per attached pictures. We no longer require them as we have installed aircon / heaters.

A new gas heater costs R1,000 and the oil heater is R600. I would like half of that if possible. Ivar Tel 177 (Unit 77)



## THE JOHANNESBURG STORY –CHAPTER 5:

### **JOHANNESBURG LIKE IT WAS: The 1890's:**

**THE ANTAGONISTS:** Johannesburg's business leaders were in conflict with the government in the years leading up to the 20th century. They believed that the town through the gold mines was providing the Republic with most of the revenue, but getting very little in return. They smouldered over the number of monopoly concessions granted by Pretoria, the worst case being the dynamite monopoly with its extortionate prices. They accused the government of turning a blind eye to bureaucratic corruption, and of being repressive towards the mining town. Pretoria was becoming more and more wary of Johannesburg and with good reason, it was a hotbed of intrigue against the Boers, just as the British had unilaterally extended their Cape Colony to take Kimberley after diamonds had been discovered, so Britain might have the same notion about the Witwatersrand. Kruger must have been aware that the Sheffields when they were running the 'Eastern Star' in Grahamstown had published an edition in 1887 suggesting that Britain take over the Transvaal with its gold mines so that the Dutch (as the paper put it) could carry on with what they were best at, tilling the soil.!

**THE GREAT EXPLOSION:** If the decade of the 1890's was bad, 1896 was awful. That year will stand recorded as perhaps the most deplorable in the chronicles of the country. Apart from the subsequent trials and imprisonments, there had been a desperate drought, then came a plague of locusts, then the Rinderpest (a cattle plague, a malignant and contagious fever). It crossed from Rhodesia in March 1896. Despite fences and cordons, and heavy sentences for carelessness in moving cattle, the epidemic, the worst livestock disaster in South Africa's history. killed 4,5 million cattle. But for Johannesburg the most horrifying event of all was the great dynamite explosion in Braamfontein on 19 February 1896. On the day of the disaster, a few hundred metres from the town centre, a string of railway wagons was cooking in the hot summer sun. The wagons containing 55 tons of sweating dynamite, had been there 3 days. All that was needed was a slight jolt. On that day 19 February, a railway shunter's locomotive tried to shunt the wagons. Some claimed they heard the bang as far away as Klerksdorp, 100km west. The explosion left a crater 250m long, 60m wide, and 20m deep. 78 bodies were identified, another 700 were injured and 1,500 lost their homes. Horses and mules by the score were blasted to death.

In searching for somebody to blame for the disaster, people turned on the dynamite monopoly. The monopoly, was a bitter bone of contention between Johannesburg's mining magnates and Pretoria.

The dramatic 1890's were scarred by rebellions and disasters, and finally full scale war.....

Cheers, Catherine

## ▶ LAST WORDS



*Laugh, and the world laughs with you;*



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

### RETIRED HUSBAND having fun.....

After I retired, my wife insisted that I accompany her on her trips to Wal-Mart. Like most men, I found shopping boring and preferred to get in and get out. My wife is like most women - loves to browse & leaves me with endless time to fulfill. Yesterday my dear wife received the following letter, from the local Wal-Mart...

Dear Mrs. Harris:

Over the past six months, your husband has caused quite a commotion, in our store. We cannot tolerate this behavior and have been forced to, ban both of you from the store. Our complaints against your husband, Mr. Harris, are listed below and are documented by our video surveillance cameras:

1. June 15: He took 24 boxes of condoms and randomly put them in other people's carts when they weren't looking.
2. July 2: Set all the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5-minute intervals.
3. July 7: He made a trail of tomato juice on the floor leading to the women's restroom.
4. July 19: Walked up to an employee and told her in an official voice, 'Code 3 in House wares. Get on it right away'. This caused the employee to leave her assigned station and receive a reprimand from her Supervisor that in turn resulted with a union grievance, causing management to lose time; and costing the company money. We don't have a Code 3.
5. August 4: Went to the Service Desk and tried to put a bag of M&Ms on layby.
6. August 14: Moved a 'CAUTION - WET FLOOR' sign to a carpeted area.
7. August 15: Set up a tent in the camping department and told the children shoppers he'd invite them in if they would bring pillows and blankets from the bedding department to which twenty children obliged.
8. August 23: When a clerk asked if they could help him he began crying and screamed, 'Why can't you people just leave me alone?' EMTs were called.
9. September 4: Looked right into the security camera and used it as a mirror while he picked his nose
10. September 10: While handling guns in the hunting department, he asked the clerk where the antidepressants were.
11. October 3: Darted around the store suspiciously while, loudly humming the, 'Mission Impossible' theme.
12. October 6: In the auto department, he practiced his, 'Madonna Look' using different sizes of funnels.
13. October 18: Hid in a clothing rack and when people browsed through, yelled 'PICK ME! PICK ME!'
14. October 22: When an announcement came over the loud speaker, he assumed a fetal position and screamed; 'OH NO! IT'S THOSE VOICES AGAIN!'
15. Took a box of condoms to the checkout clerk and asked where is the fitting room?

And last, but not least:

16. October 23: Went into a fitting room, shut the door, waited awhile; then yelled very loudly, 'Hey! There's no toilet paper in here.'

One of the clerks passed out.

***Enjoy Life - It has an expiry date..***

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### REFLECTIONS ON AGE - WE ALL GET OLD IN THE END.....

I changed my car horn to gunshot sounds. People get out of the way much faster.

*You know that tingly little feeling you get when you really like someone? That's common sense leaving your body.*

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

*When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small vacation.*

The biggest lie I tell myself is..."I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

*I don't have gray hair; I have "wisdom highlights", and I'm just very wise.*

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

*Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.*

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

*Of course I talk to myself; sometimes I need expert advice.*

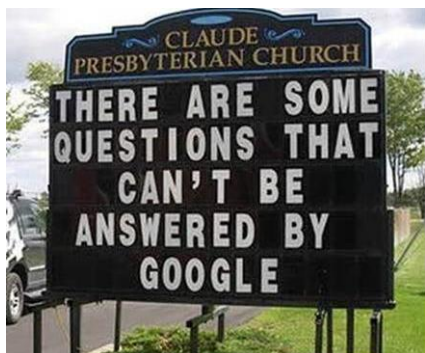


I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager) I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant. And I don't have acne.

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**CLEAVER SIGNS**



Thanks to Mary Pitt for these seen at different churches. Fun yet incisive.

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One from Chris Edwards.....  
The oldest computer can be traced back to Adam and Eve.  
Surprise, surprise.....It was an Apple.  
  
But with extremely limited memory.....Just 1 byte.

**Then everything crashed.**

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*I Hope you enjoyed 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 end of June...ALL WELCOME!!!!*

*So dear folks of Evergreen Broadacres there you have it for Chatter May 2017.  
Enjoy the short cold days of June remember summer is not far off!!!  
Cheers, Graham Langmead*

