



RESCOM CHATTER

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

End February 2019

EDITORIAL - CHRIS

Well, it looks like the oppressive heat wave is over. I always wondered what people meant when they said that February humidity at the coast can be a killer. We had several nights in Johannesburg where the air was so thick, it was difficult to breath.

That, made me think about the old joke when a old Doctor was examining a young lady. 'OK....., Big breaths' he said holding the stethoscope to her chest, 'Yeth' she said, and I've had them thinth I wath six..thteen'

FROM OUR CHAIRMAN - HENNIE

Dear fellow residents,

Our editor is a hard task master and his deadline forces me to write this before we've held the ResCom mid-term feed-back meeting. And it also forces me to keep it brief because everything I have to say would have been said at that meeting, so I hope you were there and found the meeting constructive!

HOUSEKEEPING

WhatsApp Groups: -

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| WATERHOLE GROUP | - (50 participants) still growing |
| INFO EVERGREEN GROUP | - (88 participants) come on, let's try for 100 ? |
| MOVIES EVERGREEN GROUP | - (59 participants) |
| CHAT EVERGREEN GROUP | - (31 participants) so, get chatting? |

Forming a group. Go to the CHATS page of Whatsapp. Go to the top right of your screen click on the three vertical dots. A small window opens. Tap on New Group and start adding the participants you wish to be in your group (they need to be WhatsApp users). When you have finished selecting the group members, tap the white arrow in the green circle at the bottom right of the page. Type in the group name, et voilà, you have it.

I would like to invite all new residents with iPhones and Android smart phones to join any group or groups. We try to limit 'chatter', so if your previous group experience had lots of it, rest assured we try to be a little more controlled.

WhatsApp is really a quick (make that **instant**) and easy way of passing on information between users and of course it is totally **free** (apart from any transport medium used i.e. Wi-Fi, Fibre etc.)

Just contact me (Chris on ext 1089 or 084 582 9129) and I can add you to any group of your choice or show you how to get WhatsApp.

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What with the social evening on the 27th February being cancelled, Ivar will be calling out the 100+ Club winners on Wednesday 6th March.

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Did you know that a new group of batteries will soon be available made from Recyclable Carbon (Carbon-Ion). They are fast charging and hold power as long as present batteries. This year we are seeing eScooters (a rental favorite in the USA to avoid traffic) taking 5 minutes not 8 hours to charge. Next year, rechargeable drills and vacuum cleaners will be taking 15 to 20 seconds, And soon eCars, self driving, rechargeable in 35 seconds. Cell phones the same by 2022! (from Zap&Go, Oxford, UK)

RAINFALL

February is our wettest month of the year, and this year brought a return to some of the better earlier years readings. Hopefully this pattern will continue in March.

Hopefully, also 2019 will usher in (eventually) the implementation of the borehole irrigation system. Remember the drive to conserve water remains a national imperative.

Yearly Rainfall for February

2013	115.2
2014	251.9
2015	91.0
2016	64.6
2017	205.6
2018	58.0

Rainfall, in millimetres, for 2018/2019:
by year:

Mar '18	184.0
Apr '18	42.0
May '18	12.7
Jun '18	6.0
Jul '18	1.0
Aug '18	Nil
Sep '18	3.6
Oct '18	54.7
Nov '18	29.6
Dec '18	84.3
Jan '19	147.5
Feb '19	217.0
12 Months	782.4

The average for February since 2013 is 143.3 mm.

Summary of ResCom expenses for January 2019

It is of necessity a month in arrears as the current month is still open by publication date.

For the record:

Summary of ResCom transactions for January 2019

	Income	Expense	Balance
Cash on hand at 31 December 2018			17661
Pump & Fittings for Top Pond		1 668	
Payment to Burn's Night Piper		800	
Social functions & decorations		1 495	
Gifts & Presentations		108	
Admin & Library costs	23	83	
Total for the month	23	4 046	
Cash on hand at 31 January 2019			13 638
Reserved funds:			
Activity Portfolio Float	(1 000)		
Library Expenses Float	(200)		
Lyn Huddy Memorial Fund	(3 887)		
White Elephant Sale	(1 734)		
Top Pond Pump Cost Recovery	1 668		
Total Reserved	(6 126)		
Cash available at month end			7 512

By the way, I send 'Chatter' to over 30 people, local and overseas, just to make them jealous of what we get up to in Evergreen!

If you want me to include any friends or relatives of yours, just drop me a line, and I can add them on to my email list.

Chris

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SOCIAL HAPPENINGS (Kiloran, many thanks for the lovely pictures.

Valentine's Evening Social - 13th February 2019

Another successful event by Judy Stuart and her team.





My Suzie - after an extra orange juice - her song of choice only has two words "Mr Wonderful", her faithful fan Adi wants more, but maybe 'SA has got talent' is missing a beat.

Butterflies from Hennie

Hello Chris,

Sitting at our desks this late afternoon, looking out over the wetland, Marion drew my attention to 10's of white butterflies fluttering by. She googled 'White butterflies migrating' and found many articles. The two we read came up under:

- BUTTERFLY MIGRATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, an article posted in 2016 by Johan van der Walt;
- Butterfly migration comes to Johannesburg, an article from News 24's archives.

Basically the same story, but interesting and something that your readers might like to follow up on.

Marion and Hennie.

PS after sending this forwarded mail another 'flight' of butterflies came and started settling in the long grass behind our house. I took a few pictures and the attached is the best.

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Days to Construct - Minutes to Deconstruct
Back garden exercise!
Thought you might like it

Dave Campbell

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This is a first for Evergreen, you may like to include in the next Chatter.....

At around 07h00 on the 14th February , we saw two ducks in our 'Pond'.....the attenuation dam behind #73.



What fun!!

Kind Regards,

Maureen Slogrove

DRAKENSBERG BIRDING - SEPTEMBER 2018 from Robin Davey, with brilliant photos from Wally.

Wally and I visited the Champagne area of the Drakensberg, staying at the Drakensberg Sun Timeshare with the purpose of photographing the elusive White Starred Robin which can be seen on the hotel forest walk up to the waterfall. A couple of years ago in September we had previously seen the Robin but not managed to get pics. This bird frequents dark damp forests where it flits about silently and lands temptingly onto a branch for one second at a time. Very frustrating. It has a beautiful call although we have seldom heard it call. Difficult to see let alone get a shot. No joy after four hours on our first morning, but incredible opportunity the next day. Pretty brief view, but my photographer totally nailed it, making his quality controller very happy!



So next morning having accomplished our Robin mission, we decided to go up to the Champagne Castle Camp and Caravan Site. We parked on the tarred parking area where there is not a blade of grass within sight, and climbed out of the car to the nearby call of a Cape Grassbird.



Wally Davey

There he was perched low on a scrubby bush on the edge of the tar. Wally snapped away, and then for an hour or two we walked round the campsite, hoping for a view of Barrett's Warbler which we had previously seen there, but without luck this time.

Finally on our way back past reception, we found the Cape Grassbird again calling away, this time from a lichen covered dead tree right next to our pathway. Perfect photo op, and while Wally was taking his pics, we heard another call which we well remembered from our visits to Verlorenkloof. A pair of Lazy Cisticolas thinking about making whoopee. The second perfect photo



Wally Davey

opportunity, and we came home well satisfied with our efforts.

Taking the Drakensburg Sun forest walk to the waterfall is a must for anyone visiting the Champagne Castle area of the Drakensberg. One doesn't have to stay at the hotel or timeshare. Pop in for coffee or breakfast and take yourselves on the walk. It is an awesome birding experience.

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Dick and Kiloran's trip to Kaapse Hoop:

In an attempt to investigate an astronomical and historical riddle, we were obliged to base ourselves on the edge of the Eastern escarpment in Mpumalanga at Kaapse Hoop (Cape Hope). We stayed in the delightful Kaapse Hoop Gastehuis owned by Ria and Neels Bothma who appeared to follow the eccentric esoteric vibe, although tilting towards the more conservative excesses, that this beautiful but unnerving little town dishes up in bucket loads.

The little town has a number of unusual attractions; The Blue Swallow Reserve, the Kaapse Hoop wild horses that roam the town feely, the lichen covered sandstone and more recently Adams Calendar with its weird and intriguing collection of rocks. The place is inhabited with a surprising selection of artistic, maverick and nonconformist characters.

The day we arrived it was bitterly cold and the whole place was covered in a thick mist which was a major contributor to the eerie feel about the place.

The town was established as a gold camp in 1884 by alluvial gold diggers and was called *Die Duivels Kantoer* (The Devils Office), no doubt as a consequence of the shenanigans of those early pioneer types. Today it appears to be fighting off development that could increase the allure of the place which is already happening. Our guesthouse owners are passionately conservative and pooh-poohed all the recognized explanations of where Kaapse Hoop's name came from or the origin of the wild horses. The guesthouse has an abundance of books and photographs which we were at liberty to consult.

In 1912 Pom Pom Peacock found the largest single nugget of gold yet discovered at 5.1kg. He subsequently died and his widow wrapped it up in a piece of thick material and used it as a doorstop for 2 years before selling it.

The origin of the wild horses is still a mystery although one theory was that they had been abandoned after the Boer War. I asked Neels who dismissed all the stories as fables. He was adamant that a farmer just abandoned them?





The Magic Adams Calendar Circle, consists of rocks - huge carved boulders - formed roughly in a circle , marking points of the compass. Three of these monoliths could be lined up with Orion's Belt, but only as it's layout 75 000 years ago. This place is intriguing and can no longer be a dot on a map. It needs serious investigation which will take far longer than a weekend visit.



PICTURE COMPETITION

We are having a photo competition of Evergreen studies.

This month we have a very dramatic entry from Chairman Hennie. Try your luck, prizes could include a bottle of Porcupine Ridge wine. Remember, these are mostly taken with cameras attached to phones, so give it a go!



RESTAURANT CHOICE

Been to any good restaurants lately? Let us know your favourites.

Here is one more;

From Kiloran

Dear Chris

We were invited for lunch last Friday to a restaurant that we haven't been to since we arrived at Evergreen or had heard of, so we were really pleasantly surprised.

Cesco's at the German Country Club in Paulshof, 131 Holkam Rd.

Dick and I had Prawns and Salmon, both of which were really good and I will definitely repeat the Norwegian salmon I had. The prices too are very reasonable. The setting overlooks the gardens and the tennis courts.

Their pensioner's Menu is open Tuesday to Friday with a choice of 4 options, Fish and chips, Curry Wurst, Pork Trinchado and Grilled chicken breast all of which are R45 not bad. If you add a glass of wine or a cold drink it will set you back a whopping R15.

The food is not fancy but very well done, tasty with what appeared as a nice selection of veggies and the service we experienced was excellent.

Just based on our limited experience, this is really worth a try.

Phone - 011 803 6128

HAVE YOU GOT WHAT WE WANT? ADVERTISE HERE

Tess and Chris Sleigh have a PVR decoder looking for a new home? Call on Ext 168.

HELPING HANDS

I would like to say many a thank you for the following donations to our adopted school in the Eastern Cape.

Traudi - No 26- for the desktop computer

Ruth - No 37 - for the laptop computer

Judy 3 (Mac) No 32 - for the Lexmark 3 in 1 printer

All made very usable now as the electricity lines were laid last year.

Also Viv - 43 - stationery, and our friend Pat Leech for school reference books.

We are off to the Cape in April/May, so we will be taking all of this down on the way.

Chris and Sue Edwards

Another thank you to those industrious Knitters who manage to Natter at the same time.

Our granddaughter is doing her 2nd year Internship at Dihlabeng Hospital in Bethlehem (the Free State one)

They have a real problem in keeping the premature babies warm and as you know, the body loses heat first from the head. A call for help was made to the Knitters, and soon tiny prem beanies and blankets came flowing out of their Monday morning meetings.

Well done ladies, you are all stars!!

Just a note when you are booking accommodation for up to 4 people at the Kruger Park. Most camps have several guest houses available and they often give vastly superior accommodation than the equivalent huts. By example, Olifants has a guest cottage sleeping 4 for R2261.95 and 2 huts sleeping 4 for R2300.90! The cottage has a huge lounge, kitchen-dining room and veranda all much, much better than the huts.

JUST LIKE THAT (these are not attributed to anyone in particular but thank you so much, Graham L, Cyril and Penny, Bev (when she is not in Australia))

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?

WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Are you shitting me?

ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at that time?

WITNESS: Getting laid

Latest news from the UK Minister of Defence

The Royal Navy is proud to announce its new fleet of Type 45 destroyers.

Having initially named the first two ships HMS Daring and HMS Dauntless, the Naming Committee has, after intensive pressure from the European Union in Brussels, renamed them HMS Cautious and HMS Prudence.

The next five ships are to be HMS Empathy, HMS Circumspect, HMS Nervous, HMS Timorous and HMS Apologist.

Costing £850 million each, they comply with the very latest employment, equality, health & safety and human rights laws. The Royal Navy fully expects any future enemy to be jolly decent and to comply with the same high standards of behaviour.

The new user-friendly crew's nest has excellent wheelchair access. Live ammunition has been replaced with paintballs to reduce the risk of anyone getting hurt and to cut down on the number of compensation claims. Stress counsellors and lawyers will be on board, as will a full sympathetic industrial tribunal.

The crew will be 50/50 men and women, and will contain the correct balance of race, gender, sexuality and disability. Sailors will only work a maximum of 37 hours per week as per Brussels Rules on Working Hours, even in wartime. All the vessels are equipped with a maternity ward, a creche and a gay disco.

Tobacco will be banned throughout the ship, but recreational cannabis will be allowed in wardrooms and messes.

The Royal Navy is eager to shed its traditional reputation for "Rum, sodomy and the lash" so out has gone the rum ration, replaced by sparkling water. Sodomy remains, now extended to include all ratings under 18. The lash will still be available on request.

Saluting of officers is now considered elitist and has been replaced by "Hello Sailor". All information on notice boards will be in 37 different languages and Braille.

Crew members will now no longer have to ask permission to grow beards and/or moustaches. This applies equally to female crew. The MoD is inviting suggestions for a "non-specific" flag because the White Ensign may offend minorities. The Union Jack must never be seen.

The newly re-named HMS Cautious will be commissioned shortly by Captain Hook from the Finsbury Park Mosque who will break a petrol bomb over the hull. She will gently slide into the sea as the Royal Marines Band plays the Village People's "In the Navy". Her first deployment will be to escort boatloads of illegal immigrants to ports on England's south coast.

The Prime Minister said, "Our ships reflect the very latest in modern thinking and they will always be able to comply with any new legislation from Brussels."

Her final words were, "Britannia waives the rules."

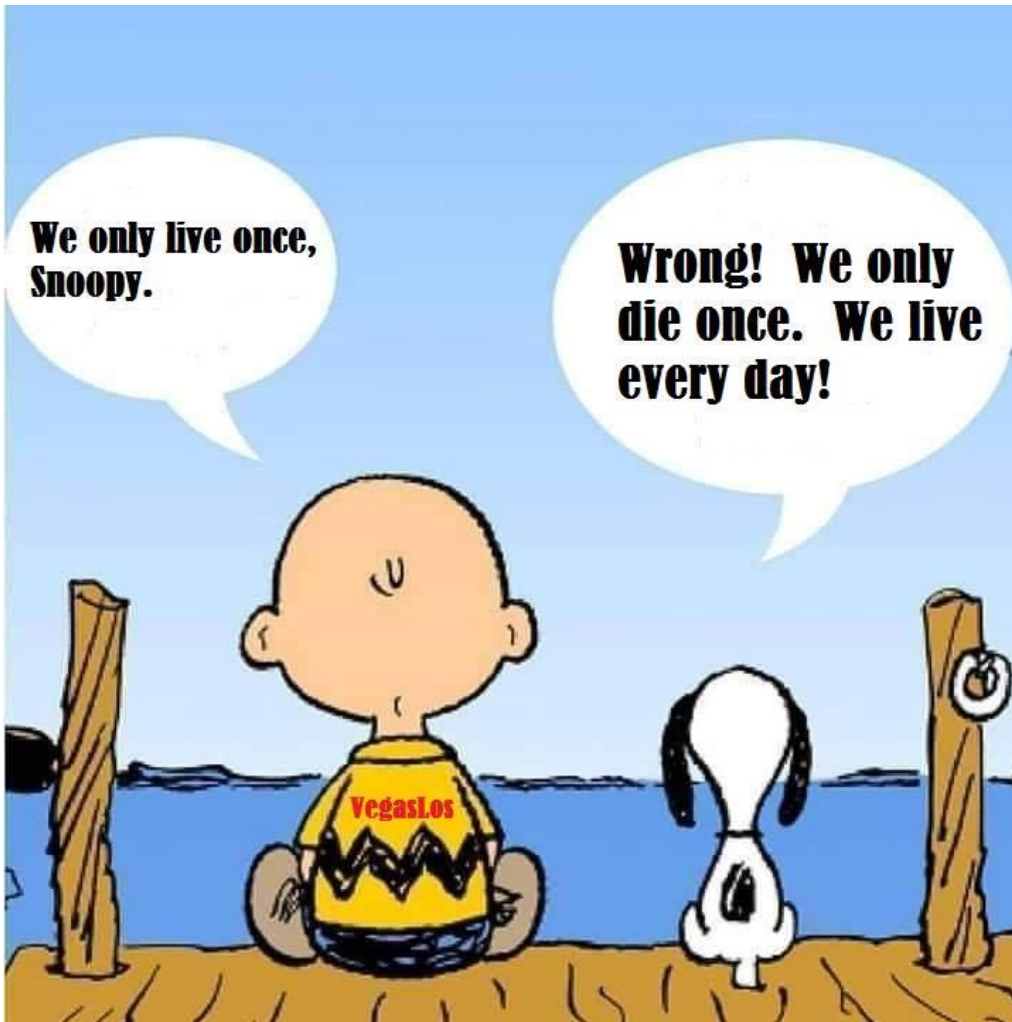
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When insults had class.....

These insults are from an era before the English language became boiled down to 4-letter words:

- **A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."**
 - **"That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."**
 - **"He had delusions of adequacy."**
 - Walter Kerr
 - **"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."**
 - Winston Churchill
 - **"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."**
 - Clarence Darrow

- **"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary."** - William Faulkner(about Ernest Hemingway).
 - **"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it."**
 - Moses Hadas
 - **"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."**
 - Mark Twain
 - **"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.."**
 - Oscar Wilde
 - "I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one."** - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill
 - **"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second ... if there is one."**
 - Winston Churchill, in response.
 - **"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."**
 - Stephen Bishop
 - **"He is a self-made man and worships his creator."**
 - John Bright
 - **"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial."**
 - Irvin S. Cobb
 - **"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others."**
 - Samuel Johnson
 - **"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up."**
 - Paul Keating
 - **"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily."**
 - Charles, Count Talleyrand
 - **"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him."**
 - Forrest Tucker
 - **"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?"**
 - Mark Twain
 - **"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork."**
 - Mae West
 - **"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."**
 - Oscar Wilde
 - **"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination."** - Andrew Lang (1844-1912)
 - **"He has Van Gogh's ear for music."**
 - Billy Wilder
 - **"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."**
 - Groucho Marx
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March Birthdays:

- 5th Peter McMurray
- 5th Pauline Green
- 6th Derek Heard
- 6th Dennis O'Connor
- 7th Aileen Langmead
- 10th Cynthia Lamb
- 11th Charmaine Hall
- 13th Dave Campbell
- 14th Patti Bromfield
- 15th Judy Stowell
- 17th Kevin Morgan
- 18th Ivar Skanke
- 19th Angela McMurray
- 26th Andrew Johnston
- 27th Zap Lupini

March Anniversaries:

- 1st Neville & Valerie Slaughter #40
- 17th Gerd Pontow & Gunnar Svensson #8
- 26th Eric & Pauline Sampson #75
- 30th Ivar & Pat Skanke #77

Many thanks as always. Keep those articles coming and e-mail to me at chrisandsue291@gmail.com.

You know this is a team effort, not only from you, the team of contributors, but also my lovely assistant/sub editor Sue Edwards and then there is Rene and Roy who bash it around to get it into Adobe format for publishing and posting to you.

Thanks to all of you,
Cheers for now. Chris