

RESCOM
CHATTER

JANUARY 2022



Life must go on,
you supply the fish and I eat them!!
Our new visitor to the Top Pond,
A Striated Heron
(thanks for the stunning pics Kiloran)



Gotcha!!

79 Scots and Pseudo Scots residents
celebrated Robbie Burns Birthday
on 26th January 2022

Thanks to Brenda Brophy for all the organising, the piper for serenading us into the clubhouse, to multi-talented Jimmy Allan for his tribute to the Haggis and thumping out the Scottish tunes and especially to Charles Carroll for regaling us with tall and fantastically decorated truths and untruths.





Laurraine MacLotter gets the evening underway



This is the small print about having received your permission to take your photos in accordance with the Pop Act or similar.



Jimmy Allan checking out the Haggis credentials



Charles Carroll in full flow and full regalia



Ahhh, some lassies at last



Ivar MacSkanke found some tartan



Katse dam and the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP)

(Thanks to Hennie du Preez for this article)

Early in January, the massive Katse dam in Lesotho overflowed for the first time since 2010. That was a significant event and prompted this article on the LHWP.



Before the summer rains started the level of the Katse dam had dropped to less than 15% of its full capacity, a level so low that it could no longer fulfil its 2 most important purposes: to supply power to the Kingdom of Lesotho and water to us and the rest of the industrial heartland of South Africa.

The LHWP was first conceived in the mid 50's. On average there is much, much more water available in Lesotho than the Kingdom requires for its own use. And that water is available in the Martial mountains at an altitude of more than 2000n above sea level. With the thirsty and water scarce South African heartland at an altitude of 1300 - 1500 m, this is a wonderful, natural phenomena that could and has been exploited for the benefit of both countries.

International agreements, feasibility studies, financing arrangements and engineering design followed in the '70's and '80's and finally in 1992 work started on Phase 1a of the project. That included the construction of access roads, a construction workers' village, the Katse dam, the Muela dam, a 45 km transfer tunnel between the Katse to the Muela dams and finally a 37 km delivery tunnel from the Muela to the Ash River on the border between Lesotho and South Africa. From there the water flows down the Ash and Wilge Rivers into the Vaal dam from where our water is drawn.

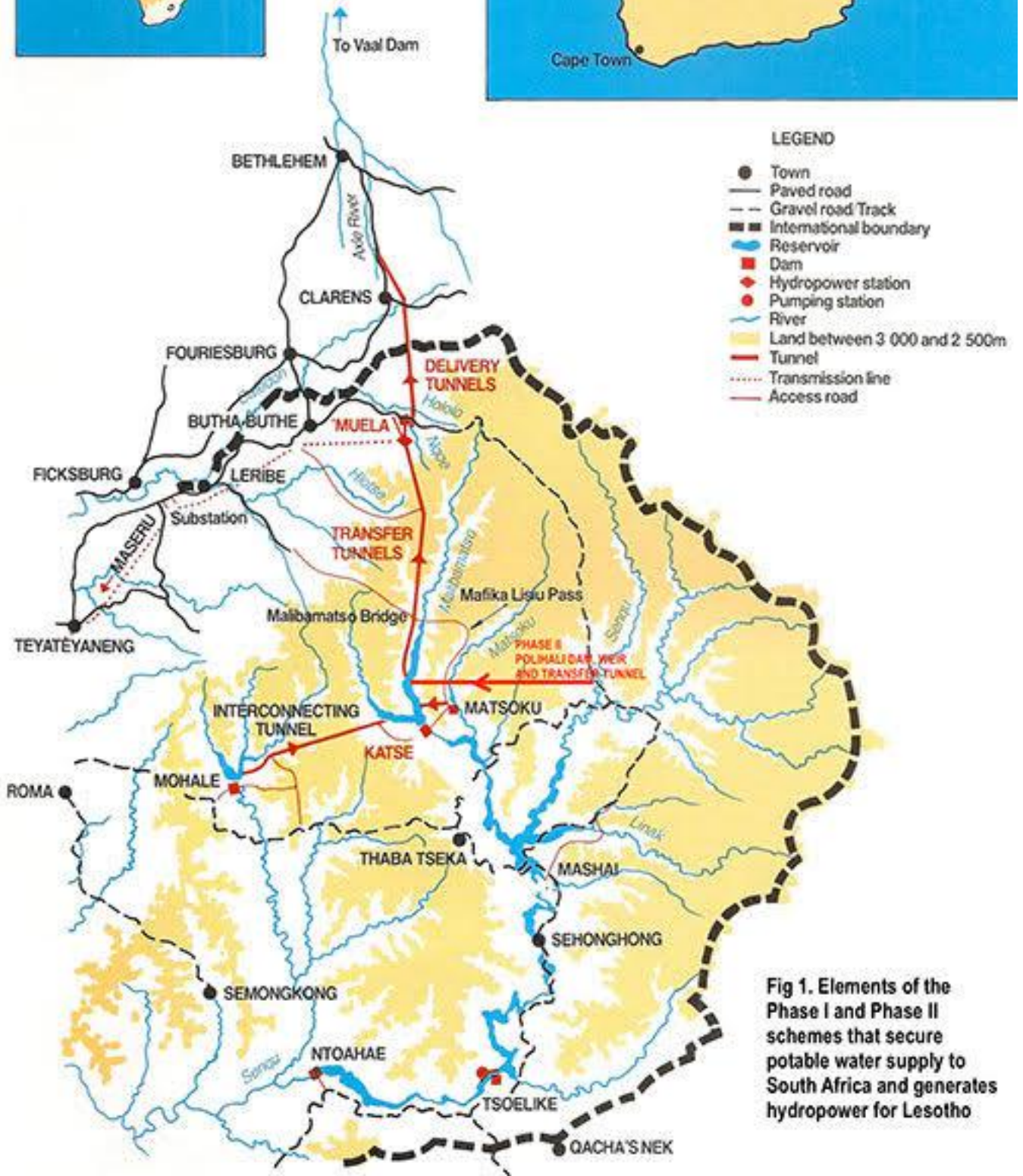
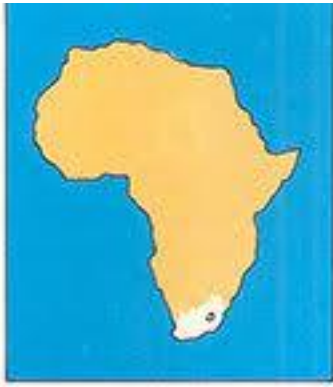


Fig 1. Elements of the Phase I and Phase II schemes that secure potable water supply to South Africa and generates hydropower for Lesotho

The level of the Muela dam is 270 m below that of the Katse, so at the end of the transfer tunnel there is a hydroelectric power station that supplies power to Lesotho.

The Katse dam overflowed for the first time in 1997 and Phase 1a was completed in 1998 when the first water flowed into the Ash River and hence to South Africa.

Construction of Phase 1b started in 1996 and was completed in 2004.

It comprised the Mohali dam and a 32 km transfer tunnel to the Katse dam. The Mohali dam's sole purpose is to supplement the capacity of the Katse dam. Work on Phase 2 will hopefully start this year.

The design and construction of such a huge, integrated scheme is a complex undertaking. It was successfully accomplished by consortia of Civil consulting and construction engineers from South Africa and Europe. Our own Andre Oosthuizen, Pr.Eng. (Unit 59), was responsible for the design of the largest and tallest bridge on the project, a bridge you cross over on the way to the Katse dam wall.

Roy Martin, our assistant village manager was the manager of the lodge for 5 years prior to joining the Evergreen team, the lodge closed its doors on the 28 February 2021 in preparation for the start of phase 2, the construction of the Polihali dam near Mokhotlong town, part of phase 2 will be the construction of another tunnel and access roads and included in this will be the upgrading and expanding of the Katse village and Katse lodge.

The Polihali dam and transfer tunnel shown on the map is part of Phase 2.

If you haven't been to Lesotho and the Keats dam, there couldn't be a better time to plan a visit than now that the dam is full. Guided day tours run from Clarens in the Free State. Marion and I went on one such tour in December 2017 and can highly recommend it.

Thanks for their contribution to this article go to Roy Martin, André Oosthuizen, David Campbell (Unit 61), and Google.

Being deaf has its humorous moments.

She: "That meal was very rich, I need a glass of ENO"

He: "But there's a glass of VINO right in front of you!"

When my husband told me that Harry Kane wanted to leave Tottenham I was under the impression that there had been a hurricane in Rotterdam!

Deafness certainly has its challenges but thankfully modern research & technology have provided us with many aids.

HEARING AIDS only help if they are set correctly by a professional.

The well-meaning audiologist pops the aid into my ear, stands back & says "How does that sound?" You have to be kidding! Take the hearing-aid home and live with it for a few days. It takes time to find out what is right for you.

Is the sound of traffic overwhelming? Can you hear a softly spoken person, seated far away from you, in a large, quiet room?

Noisy environments are extremely difficult for deaf people. Modern hearing aids have filters that block outside noise so audiologists now have the ability to set the aid on different channels, thus alleviating the problem. All we have to know is how to change the channels!

It's not always possible to get the setting right first time so I would suggest that you keep returning to consult with your audiologist until you attain the best possible result. It's time consuming & a bother but well worth it in the end.

The advent of the dreaded Covid means that we all cover our mouths with masks and that has been extremely frustrating to those of us who depend on lip-reading in addition to sound. Even those with perfectly good hearing have told me that they sometimes struggle to hear a mask-wearing mumbler!

But do not despair!

There is now a marvellous app that can be downloaded onto a smart phone. It's called LIVE TRANSCRIBE. This wonderful invention has the ability to translate speech to text. The words

appears on the screen of the phone immediately. The app does have problems with accents and can produce some very strange, often hilarious translations but it is a tremendous help in a quiet room when the speaker talks distinctly. A great help at meetings & church services.

Bear in mind that, like all apps, LIVE TRANSCRIBE uses data.

SMART TVs

Multichoice offers subtitles on selected channels which have changed my life. Even SKY News has these subtitles. Again, the result is not always word-perfect and sometimes this provides more interest than the news items themselves.

eg. When the screen showed people jogging on a CYCLE PATH the subtitles informed me that they were on a PSYCHOPATH :)

On another occasion I saw that there was a QUEUE in Sudan. Greatly puzzled as to why this should make international news I took more notice of the picture on the screen. The announcer had actually referred to a COUP!

Netflix has subtitles on every program. Once you have set Netflix on subtitles they automatically appear every time. It might occasionally be necessary to re-set but that doesn't happen very often.

Where would anybody be without sms, Whatsapp, Facetime & emails? How did we ever exist without them?!

I even use my LIVE TRANSCRIBE app when enjoying Facetime with my family. We use my husband's phone for the video call & I put my phone alongside with the app enabled. Wonderful!

Many people are nervous of chatting to a deaf person because they don't know how to treat us.

I've often been asked "How best can I talk to you?"

I tell them not to start talking until they are directly in front of me & have my full attention.

Deaf people might lose track of what is being said if the speaker bows their head or turns sideways.

When communicating with someone who speaks a foreign language, some folk think that the louder they yell, the more comprehensible they'll be & they treat deaf people the same way. It doesn't help!

In my case I explain that whispering in my ear is no help either because I need to see the lips!

On the other hand other people may very well be helped by having the speaker talk close to their ear, that's a personal preference, as every case is different. Just tell people what helps YOU best.

I made an interesting discovery when a gentleman came to do some building alterations at my home. As always I was stressed by having to communicate with a stranger who I might not be able to hear. The dear old chap had suffered a stroke and talked slowly. Eureka! I heard every word he said! So my advice to the speaker is "Talk just a little bit, just a wee bit slower and talk clearly.

Never hide your mouth - obviously this advice was pre-Covid masks!

For those who can't hear the doorbell there is now a bell that comes complete with adjustable volume levels & a flashing light. It's like Las Vegas but one no longer misses seeing the friendly folk who drop in for a chat.

I have rambled on far too long but if I have encouraged just one person to deal with this handicap in an easier way, I'll be very thankful.

Jill Townsend. (Jill is Kiloran's sister in law)

SUBJECT : HEALTH PORTFOLIO - COUNSELLING

Dear Residents

On the 6th of November last year Jocelyn Hall and Emma Stevenson introduced themselves and made themselves available for counselling at Evergreen Village at Medical Aid rates. Wilma kindly offered to provide a comfortable private venue at Evergreen for these sessions to take place, but I am concerned to report that no one has taken up this offer. I spoke to Jocelyn yesterday and she and Emma are still pleased and available to be asked to counsel.

I do appreciate how complex and personal deciding to engage in counselling can be. I would just like to make sure that anyone in the Village, who wants to use the services that have been put in place, understand the process.

To make sure that the process is clear, the following are the steps to take:

- WhatsApp Jocelyn on her cell phone (082-785-1705) and she or Emma will call you to arrange a suitable date and time
- Once this is set, Jocelyn or Emma will contact Wilma and arrange for the venue to be available.
- Jocelyn will advise the client where to go on the day.
- After the session, Jocelyn will arrange for her secretary to send you an invoice which she will have already submitted to your medical aid. If there is a problem, she will contact you.

I do hope that this special arrangement will be respected and used. I reiterate that this service is offered on a strictly confidential basis.

Kind regards

Judy Stuart - Health Portfolio
Unit 87 (Ext 1087)

After a long absence at the North Pole, our resident Fairy is back.
Or is she?
She may get her Caucasus mixed up with her Caucasians or her Baltic
confused with her Balkans, but here she is again.
Or is she?

Yes, she demands and I follow. And where is she now? No, she's not under her red and white toadstool as usual. I had already looked on top but she was not there either. Then I saw it. A note stuck on the tree that loomed above the toadstool. It could so easily have blown away. What was she thinking? Sometimes I get so cross with her wilful ways.

"GONE TO CROATIA, LOVE ETC " and that was it. I ask you, where in Croatia could she be? It is not as though she would leave a trail of fairy dust for me to follow.....or would she? Luckily she always leaves me an emergency stash for a "just in case" time. And I reckoned that this was just such a "time". Wouldn't you agree?

I booked my ticket on one of the few airlines that flew direct to Zagreb from Johannesburg. Didn't bother to pack a case as I could buy other clothes as I needed them. The Fairy could foot the bill. I was still SO cross with her.

On the plane, I got to thinking about Adele, another thoughtless female. She is so rich and famous now and has lost so much weight that I think she lost her brains and sense of decency together with the weight. How could she just say at the last minute "sorry folks, I'm not going to stage the show. It isn't ready and half my crew have got COVID". I ask you, how could she say that her show wasn't ready the day before or even a few days before it was meant to be Show Time!! Those fans who had flown in to Vegas had spent all their savings on flights, tickets, hotel accommodations etc. They must have been devastated. All that money lost; probably someone's life savings. I wonder if they are still her fans? And what do her fans across the world think of her crass behaviour? But fans are funny beings. They will probably forgive her and excuse the fact that she cancelled the show at the last minute. They will think up some silly excuse and still spend all their savings on tickets for her next concert. Strange people.

Piers Morgan was the anchor on Good Morning Britain until he stormed off the set after an argument with a guest. Not surprisingly he was fired while he was still smouldering but no worries to him. He was so well known and popular that he soon had another talk show. He was musing on the awful behaviour of Adele on air recently and Freddie Mercury came to mind. Now there was a true top-notch showman. You might not like him or even know about him but he was an outrageous and flamboyant character who demanded attention wherever he went. He had trained as an opera singer so had an excellent voice and command of music. When Freddie was dying of AIDS, he still insisted that the show must go on. Piers was so right to quote the words "inside my heart is breaking, my make-up may be flaking, but my smile stays on..... I'll face it with a grin, I'm never giving in, on with the show. I'll top the bill, I'll over-kill, I'll find the will to carry on, the show must go on". I can still hear and see him singing it. Heartbreaking.

I never did find The Fairy in Zagreb. There was just another of those yellow Post It notes stuck on a waste bin giving me the following message.

"SPRING WATER HOT BATHS NOT SUITABLE. GONE TO THE MOUNTAINS IN JAPAN. BATHS THERE FAR SUPERIOR. BRING ME BILTONG AND WITBLITZ".

So off I went. I'll write again from Tokyo when I get there.



Our Broadacres ResCom

Laurraine Lotter - Chair
Colin Grenfell - Vice Chair
Chris Edwards - Communications (incl Chatter)
Judy Stuart - Health
Brenda Brophy - Hospitality
Colin Grenfell - Infrastructure and Development
Graham Brickett - Safety and Security
Cecil Fann - Treasurer

Hennie du Preez - Past Chair

Emergency Numbers

Other than the Telecare unit which is to be used for personal emergencies whilst in the unit.

Reception desk -	087 809 3366
Guardhouse - (Thorburn Security) -	071 173 2406
Care Centre - (Evergreen Health) - Sipho	079 579 4297
Sister Marius -	082 218 4206

(Please note changes to previous Care Centre numbers)

It is advisable for the residents to store these telephone numbers in their cellphones in case of need.

It will help if you enter these and your local relatives as ICE (In Case of Emergency). This is the first place emergency response personnel look for when trying to contact your carers etc.

So for an example the entry : 'ICE Daughter 084 123 4567' would be found very quickly if you are not able to tell them.

Remember to wear your Buddy Band at all times and carry your emergency button (it is waterproof) on its lanyard.

Can we help ??... Have we got what you want??.

They Call It God's Garage

Tucked away in a tiny suburb off of the Witkopp Road, you will find a lady called Luane.

Her double garage is packed from floor to ceiling with what may be confused with a house clearance. It is only when you look closer you see Luane's helpers sorting and packing ready for various destinations.

Backed by the Bryanston Catholic Church, she can distribute to the various satellite charities.. Even underwear and those little hotel shampoos/soap/lotions .. they are for Rape centre operations.

She is looking for donations. Eg. Clothes. Non perishable food. Bedding towels. Shoes. Furniture. Actually any thing... Collections can be arranged or you can leave stuff at No 89.

Thanks for reading.
Chris

Remember that Rentia, the manager of Agora BP Garage at Fourways Gardens will renew your car licence as well as arranging drivers licence renewals.

I took in my last years license papers, and a copy of my ID. Two days later I got a call to come and fetch the new disc and pay R150.



Neonate Babies at Groote Schuur
got a certificate and
mortar board cap when leaving the
hospital



Our granddaughter Ashleigh is a doctor studying for her paediatrics speciality at Grootte Schuur Hospital. She made these Christmas hats for her tiny patients



Ian Gladstone, Unit No 27 has an old DSTV decoder going free to anyone who may need one. Call him on 082 531 3426

Rainfall Report for January 2022

January's rainfall in our village, although slightly above the long-term average, was not as much as hoped for. In the northern and eastern parts of the country it is another matter entirely with widespread flooding and damage.

A look at the dam levels across the country reveals a quite remarkable improvement at 95% compared with last year's 75%. Many dams are still measuring over 100% full. This data is reported as at 18 January 2022.

This information can be found at the website sawx.co.za/state-of-dams, as well as a wealth of weather related information

Rainfall in mm for 2021/2022

Feb 2021	165.6
Mar 2021	64.9
Apr 2021	28.1
May 2021	29.5
Jun 2021	0.8
Jul 2021	0.0
Aug 2021	0.5
Sep 2021	0.0
Oct 2021	87.1
Nov 2021	72.5
Dec 2021	154.1
Jan 2022	119.5

12 Months 722.6 mm

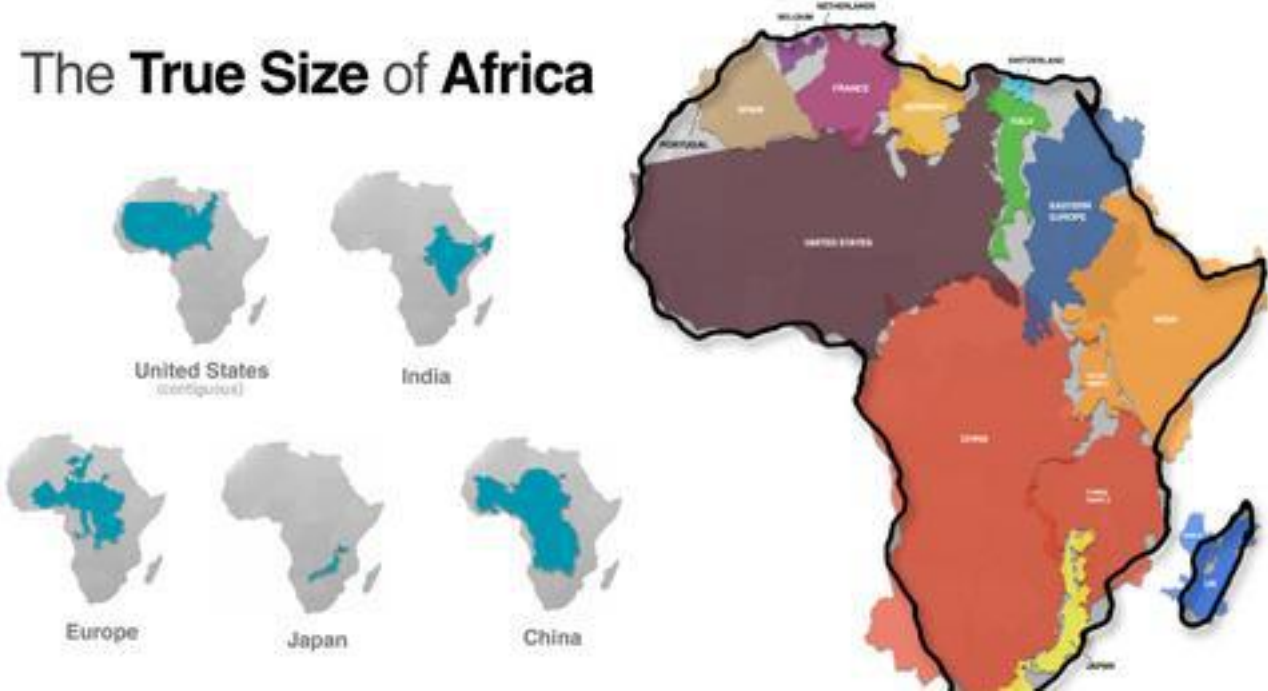
Rainfall for January over the years

2013	84.2
2014	47.3
2015	94.9
2016	135.0
2017	173.4
2018	60.2
2019	147.5
2020	79.5
2021	153.5
2022	119.5

Average for Jan since 2013 is 109.5 mm

Just Like That.....

The True Size of Africa



“Why did your nurse want to know my ‘next-of-kin’?”



Old Volks Home

**Does anyone
know if we can
take showers yet
or should we just
keep washing
our hands ??**

Good to see people have a basic
understanding of how railroads work....

(Let me know when you stop laughing!)



What's the difference between a Jewish optimist and a Jewish pessimist?
The pessimist says "Things can't get worse".
The optimist says "Sure they can!"

Happy New year everyone !!

For the ex golfers amongst us....

Golfer: I think I'm going to drown myself in the lake.

Caddy: Think you can keep your head down that long?

Golfer: I'd move heaven and earth to break 100 on this course.

Caddy: Try heaven, you've already moved most of the earth.

Golfer: Do you think my game is improving?

Caddy: Yes sir, you miss the ball much closer now.

Golfer: Do you think I can get there with a 5 iron?

Caddy: Eventually.

Golfer: You've got to be the worst caddy in the world.

Caddy: I don't think so sir. That would be too much of a coincidence.

Golfer: Please stop checking your watch all the time. It's too much of a distraction.

Caddy: It's not a watch - it's a compass.

Golfer: How do you like my game?

Caddy: Very good sir, but personally, I prefer golf.

Golfer: Do you think it's a sin to play on Sunday?

Caddy: The way you play, sir, it's a sin on any day.

Golfer: This is the worst course I've ever played on.

Caddy: This isn't the golf course. We left that an hour ago.

Golfer: That can't be my ball, it's too old.

Caddy: It's been a long time since we teed off, sir.