

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2023

Editor: Edna Grenfell - email: ednagrenfell@gmail.com

EVERGREEN
lifestyle

From
the Village Manager



Wilma Swart

January has flown by, and the year is off to a leaping start.

You will notice that our Four Seasons Gardeners are busy replanting and recreating the entrance garden beds. We have an extra gardener to help catch up with the mowing of lawns and tending to sidewalk gardens. The gardens were altered by the rains we experienced over December and the beginning of January. In February, the top dam will be drained to reduce water levels to allow for the cutting back of the bulrushes. This will prevent them from growing and spreading throughout the dam. The FSG team will also dredge the bottom pond to remove all sand washed down the culvert from the development across the road to the pond.

Because our gardens are so lush and attractive, bees love the available food and started making hives in two manholes. As a result, a beekeeper was called in to remove the hives. In doing so, he remarked that our village is a popular place for bees due to the location and variety of food on offer. The hives were safely relocated to the Kyalami area.

The extreme heat and constant load shedding have left most people hot and bothered. During the month, we published information about the process needed to install inverters and solar panels. On 9 February 2023, Willie de Beer from Micasa will address residents and give a presentation on their load-shedding solutions. Residents are invited to his presentation when questions will be welcomed.

Under the leadership of Chef Andrew, the Bistro team participated in the annual Reef Chef of the Year Competition for upcoming chefs. The competition was held on Saturday, 22 January 2023. Zeph and Ndaedzo prepared a three-course meal that secured them the winning spot and the title of **Chef of the Year**. We extend our congratulations to them as the recognition is well deserved. We look forward to them preparing this lovely meal one Wednesday evening.

Valentine's Day is celebrated on 14 February. We hope your month will be filled with love and romance in abundance.

Till next month

What's happening in February

100

100 Club Draw @
Social Dinner
15 February



Valentine Themed Dinner
15 February



Movie Nights
Titles to be
announced
by Chris Edwards

2, 9, 16
& 23

See page 17 for more info in February

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and much more in between

Village Rainfall

by Cecil



Rainfall in January has proved somewhat disappointing, with a measurement significantly less than the 10-year average.

Dam levels across the country are marginally better than this time last year at 95% vs 94%. However, the current situation, unsurprisingly, varies widely from 102% for the Free State to 58% for the Western Cape. This data is from 17 January 2023.

Please remember that there are currently water restrictions in Johannesburg.

For this and much more weather-related information, visit the website:

<http://www.sawx.co.za/state-of-dams>, or dws.gov.za

The onset of gradually decreasing daylight hours is apparent with the day length on 1 February of 13 hours 17 minutes reducing to 12 hours 39 minutes on 28 February.

The full moon on 5 February is known as **Micro Full Moon** as it coincides with the **Moon's apogee** - the furthest distance the Moon is from Earth.

Rainfall by month for the past year		January Rainfall over the years		February 2023 Sunrise, Sunset & Moon Phases			
Date	mm	Year	mm	Date	Sunrise	Sunset	Moon
Feb '22	174,0	2013	84,2	1	5:42	19:00	
Mar '22	54,0	2014	47,3	2	5:43	18:59	
Apr '22	150,0	2015	94,9	3	5:44	18:59	
May '22	7,8	2016	135,0	4	5:44	18:58	
Jun '22	14,0	2017	173,4	5	5:45	18:58	Full
Jul '22	0,0	2018	60,2	6	5:46	18:57	
Aug '22	0,6	2019	147,5	7	5:47	18:56	
Sep '22	0,0	2020	79,5	8	5:47	18:56	
Oct '22	16,2	2021	153,5	9	5:48	18:55	
Nov '22	202,4	2022	119,5	10	5:49	18:54	
Dec '22	112,8	2023	62,7	11	5:50	18:54	
Jan '23	62,7	Average	105,2	12	5:50	18:53	
Total	794,5			13	5:51	18:52	Last Qtr
				14	5:52	18:52	
				15	5:52	18:51	
				16	5:53	18:50	
				17	5:54	18:49	
				18	5:54	18:48	
				19	5:55	18:48	
				20	5:56	18:47	New
				21	5:56	18:46	
				22	5:57	18:45	
				23	5:57	18:44	
				24	5:58	18:43	
				25	5:59	18:42	
				26	5:59	18:41	
				27	6:00	18:40	First Qtr
				28	6:00	18:40	





ResCom Funds

by Cecil Fann

ResCom Finance & Treasury Portfolio



Following on from the initial report for November 2022 in the December 2022 newsletter. Summarised details for December 2022 are shown below.

As is always the case, the transactions in the fund will be willingly discussed if required.

			INCOME	EXPENSES	BALANCE
Cash on hand at 30/11/2022					22 390,70
Waterhole Cash held for Future Purchases			2 400,00		
Villiersdorp Kelder paid o.b.o. Waterhole				2 400,00	
2022 Staff Christmas Appeal (Donations)			41 625,00		
2022 Staff Christmas Appeal Paid				43 410,00	
Christmas/New Year Functions Supplies				1 127,79	
Library Supplies & Guest Lunches				497,48	
Condolence Cards				182,00	
Replace Dead Tree in Common Area				334,00	
Bank Charges				107,00	
Interest Received			5,00		
Cash on hand at 31/12/2022			44 030,00	48 058,27	18 362,43
Reserved Funds					
Lyn Huddy Memorial Fund Balance					(1 114,90)
Hospitality Portfolio Budget					(2 000,00)
Library Functions Budget					(500,00)
New Residents Welcome Budget (Estimate)					(550,00)
Bank Charges on Cash Deposit					(245,55)
TOTAL RESERVED					(4 410,45)
Cash available after reserves					13 951,98
Memo - Cash on hand made up as:					
Bank accounts:					
	Business		14 222,32		
	Savings		1 153,41		
	eBucks		5,00		15 380,73
Cash					2 981,70
					18 362,43

André de Ruyter had a year from hell

With great concern, South Africans received the news of Andre de Ruyter's resignation from Eskom in December 2022. **It is clear from the article by By Ferial Haffajee, Daily Maverick, 14 December below**, just how untenable his position had become. As the days become darker, one wonders what the solution could be.

.....

"As he faced down sabotage, a week of savage attacks by the Mineral Resources and Energy Minister Gwede Mantashe and a grid in freefall on his own, Eskom's CEO André de Ruyter quit. He has informed board chairperson Mpho Makwana.

Too shredded by the Phala Phala scandal to defend the Eskom CEO, President Cyril Ramaphosa has gone to ground. State Enterprises Minister Pravin Gordhan was not nominated to the ANC NEC and is politically weakened, so he said nothing, too, as Mantashe trashed Eskom and De Ruyter.

Mantashe is Ramaphosa's key to a second term as ANC President because he is a streetfighter with steel-tipped elbows. Mantashe accused De Ruyter of sabotage as Stage 6 load-shedding gripped the country. South Africa has had almost 200 days of rolling blackouts this year, and Eskom has not communicated a daily status update for days. In November, he called De Ruyter a "policeman" who did not have what it took to run the utility.

In November, the World Bank granted SA a concessional loan to fund the transition from coal to clean fuels. On November 2, Eskom made a huge announcement: a Komati unit would be shut down and repurposed as a renewable energy components manufacturer. On December 8, two days after Stage 6 load shedding was announced, Eskom launched a battery energy storage project. It was a swords-to-ploughshares moment which was the apogé of his career at Eskom, now cut short by political attacks.

On October 28, the Eskom updated transmission development plan was released with 53GW of renewables added to the utility's planned requirement. This would have been key to expanding transmission.

2022 has been the worst year on record for power cuts in South Africa and what the chart (on the next page) reveals is that every time De Ruyter and his team took a step-change forward, the saboteurs struck. It was a sea-change of a year for De Ruyter, whose team fought almost daily battles with saboteurs. The right-hand side of the chart shows what he was up against.

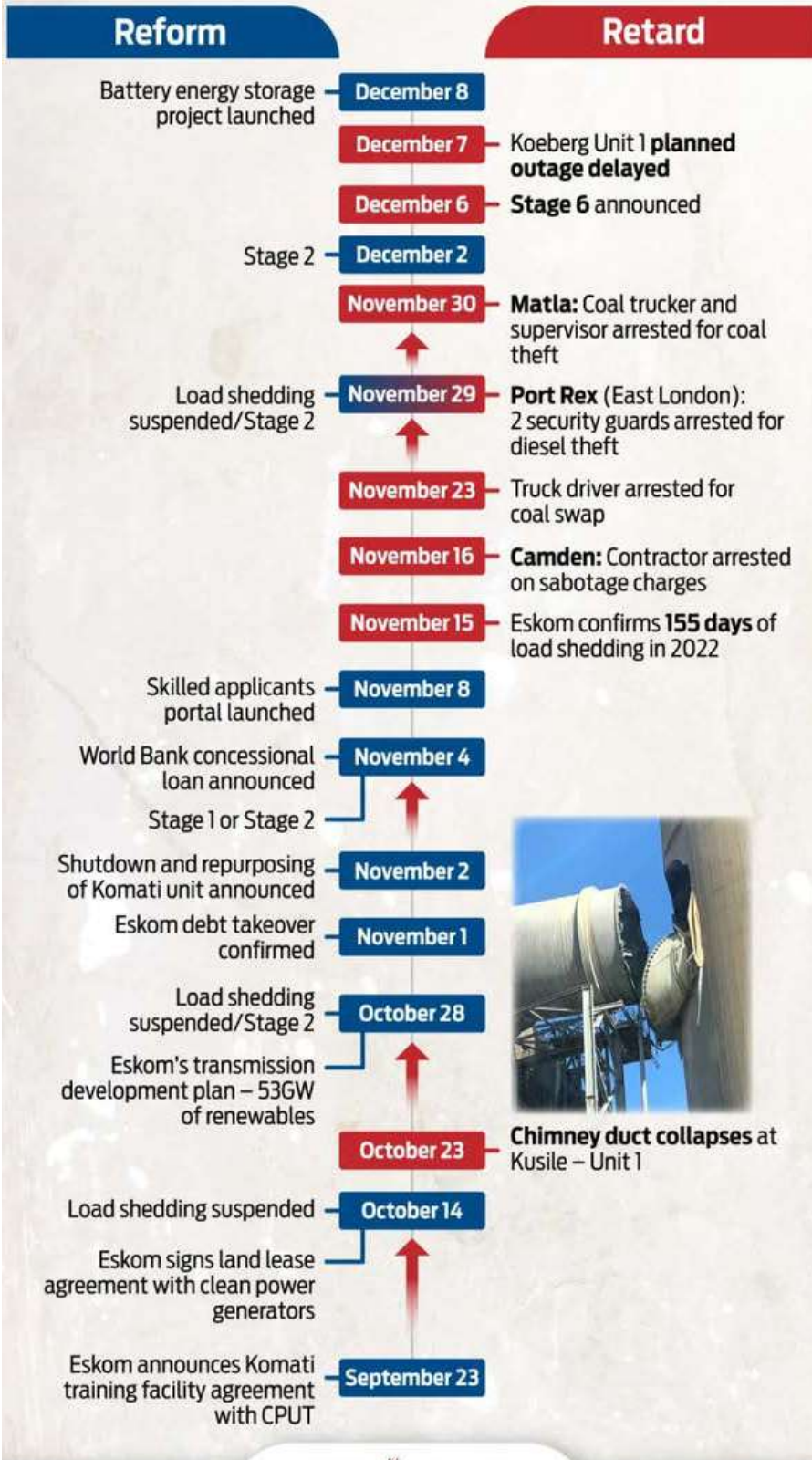
Between October and December (the period tracked by Daily Maverick), staff and contracted drivers were arrested for picking up high-quality coal and swapping it out for lower-grade ore, diesel theft, or active sabotage. The story has been a constant of his nearly three years at Eskom, and he has had enough. De Ruyter had said previously that Eskom and the country could attribute one or two stages of load-shedding to sabotage.

De Ruyter was a coal man with Sasol, where he ran coal, gas and coal plant operations in SA, China, the Netherlands and Germany. But as he told Daily Maverick's Gathering earlier this year, the "Stone Age did not end because of a lack of stones".

The cost of renewable energy has come down substantially, and the world's energy map is changing fast – the war in Europe and the energy crisis notwithstanding. De Ruyter clicked a long time ago that South Africa's future lies with a radically mixed energy portfolio, with renewable energy playing a significant role.

He came to Eskom as a Mr Fixit with a history of turning around failing companies. But with contentious politics and a constant hostile refrain to his race, he has thrown in the towel."

Eskom's reforms drive sabotage



Research: Ferial Halfajee

DAILY MAVERICK

Graphic: Rudi Louw

For this and much more visit the site below:

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2022-12-14-andre-de-ruyters-year-from-hell-and-then-he-lost-his-political-cover/>



On a lighter note
from
Hans (Acacia)



SESKOM SA

Solar Energy Supply Commission of South Africa

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

SOLAR POWER ALERT 1

Thursday, 13 January 2023: Stage 8 sunshedding will be implemented 19:04 on Thursday 12th January 2023 until 05:27 on Friday 13th January 2023.

Sunshedding will thereafter continue nightly until further notice. Eskom regrets that this period of sunshedding will commence a little earlier and will end a little later each day until July 2023. This is due to severe capacity constraints caused by the mass of the Earth disrupting energy distribution emanating from the Sun as the Earth rotates. This is unfortunately beyond the immediate control of Eskom.

Eskom further regrets to advise that this breakdown is in part due to the extreme age of the Sun. Failing divine intervention, solar energy supply is not expected to increase over the next several hundred trillion years which is likely to result in worsening sunshedding in the future.

Meantime the astronauts trapped aboard the International Space Station (ISS) by the damage to the Soyuz space craft are spending their time actively researching the possibility of redirecting energy at night from our nearest star, Alpha Centauri. However, progress on this project is being stalled by government's (non) stellar energy policy and a lack of private cosmic capital investment.

Eskom requests the public to reduce their electricity usage and to exercise patience and tolerance each night during this difficult period.

Sunshedding is only being implemented as a last resort in view the blockage of solar power at night that restricts Eskom's policy of equitable and simultaneous energy supply distribution to all its earth-bound customers.

ENDS





Doone Valley Thyme

Groundcover Herbs

Don't overlook groundcover herbs
for plant health and fragrance.



Oregano 'Country Cream'

Do groundcover herbs have a role to play in the food garden? The answer is yes to the power of three (or more)! They are pest repellents, attract pollinators with their flowers and transform ordinary pathways into an aromatic delight as the leaves release their fragrance underfoot.

The four groundcover herbs we're talking about are **thyme (four groundcover varieties), creeping oregano, lawn chamomile and lawn pennyroyal**. But they are not just for pathways: these herbs can also be used as pest-repelling groundcovers grown under or between veggies like tomatoes, brinjals and peppers. In gardens where crops are set out in rows, herb groundcovers planted between the rows attract bees and get plenty of sun, which allows them to thrive.

Thyme Varieties For Pathways

Groundcover thymes are spreading ground huggers that produce a dense mat of leaves. Although they tolerate a fair amount of foot traffic, consider using stepping stones so that the thyme doesn't bear the full brunt of the feet. All thymes need full sun and light soil that drains well.

Bressingham thyme (Thymus doerfleri) is a spreading 2cm high variety, free flowering with pink/purple flowers and tiny, aromatic grey-green hairy leaves that form a dense mat.

Creeping thyme (Thymus coccineus) has tiny, delicate delicate leaves forming a carpet. It has a slightly higher growth (up to 7cm) and has crimson-pink flowers in summer. Clipping maintains the dense texture.

'Doone Valley Thyme' (hybrid) has lemon-scented leaves with heads of tiny purple flowers. It grows 5cm high but has the more open growth habit of a spreading ground cover.

White thyme (Thymus serpyllum 'Alba') has tiny, bright green leaves and white flowers. It is an excellent groundcover, and although it can grow up to 30cm, it responds well to clipping and then develops a mat-like texture.

A Lure For Ladybirds

Lawn chamomile (Anthemis nobilis) has a fresh apple-like scent and tiny white daisy flowers that attract ladybirds, lacewing, hoverflies and wasps. Plants spread 40cm, and the flowers rise to 30cm in height. Lawn chamomile doesn't tolerate heavy foot traffic, making it more useful as a low ground cover or bed edging. Grow it near ailing plants to revive them. It is a frost-hardy, evergreen perennial that is not invasive. Plant lawn chamomile in **full sun or semi-shade** in fertile, well-composted soil that drains well. Water regularly. Harvest the flowers to make a soothing, stress-relieving tea.

Powerful Peppermint

Although pennyroyal (Mentha pulegium) is known for repelling ants with the pungent peppermint aroma of its leaves, it also attracts beneficial insects like hoverflies and wasps with its clusters of soft purple flowers in spring, making it a good companion plant for broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, cauliflowers, squashes and tomatoes. Plant in areas that receive full sun to partial shade and enrich the soil with plenty of compost for good drainage and nutrition. Trim regularly to encourage mat-like growth and to control its spread. Don't grow it near parsley, and do not use the leaves for tea or medicinally, as they can be toxic in massive doses.

Pretty And Practical

The two creeping oregano varieties are so pretty that this is a good enough reason to plant them. Golden oregano (O. vulgare 'Aureum'), true to its name, has beautiful yellow leaves with a mild taste that makes it suitable for a wide range of dishes. Oregano 'Country Cream' has oval, variegated cream-and-green aromatic leaves with tiny clusters of small pink flowers in summer. The leaves have a more robust flavour that works well with meat and vegetables.

Companion plants can be planted with broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, cucumber or peppers. Or better still, use them for contrast planting, as edgings or border plants or between other herbs. Both have a garden height of 10cm and a spread of 12cm—plant in full sun in well-drained composted soil.

for this and more visit : www.thegardener.co.za/grow-to-eat/diy-food/groundcover-herbs/

Nature & Birding Group

Heather Mutch



The following Nature and Birding Group will be held on **7th February at the Club House** at 10 am for Tea/Coffee and Biscuits, and at 10.30, the meeting will start. At this meeting, we will continue to see slides of birds taken at Evergreen in their respective groups and their sounds and information on each of the birds. A sheet explaining "**How to identify birds**" is available to take away.

Inspiring news. André Marx, who does the bird walks at Random Harvest, has offered to do a bird walk here at Evergreen on Thursday, 23rd February. This will be an early start of 6.15 am at the Club House for Rusks and Coffee/Tea, followed by the bird walk. There will be no charge for the walk. Look out for the **WhatsApp Info Evergreen Group** for more information.



White-faced Duck-12.05.2016



Yellow-billed Duck with ducklings
22.11.2016

For more information: Contact Heather Mutch on 1080
or
Lisa Nuttall on 11021



Waterhole



"You must be the new barmaid."



You will find many regulars on Fridays @ 5 pm, unwinding at the waterhole. & ending the evening off with a Jägermeister (or 2) always readily offered by Hans



Under the management of John and Hans and assisted by Barmen & Ladies



**Dave
Nesbitt**

Residents should be aware that they are partially responsible for their property at home. Please place your valuable item/s in a safe place.

Residents should do regular checks for jewellery, i.e. gold bracelets, rings, necklaces etc. This includes any other item/s that is valuable.

There have recently been several incidents while residents were on leave, shopping or in the hospital. The missing items were discovered much later.

Pets Corner

Featuring Residents & their furry friends



'Chester loves cuddles, especially in the early morning hours before he licks us awake for his morning walk.' says Henrietta. He loves the village riverine wetland, where he can be seen chasing Cane Rats and investigating the Red Bishops.



Where's that Cane Rat



Chester is a Fox Terrier with a little Basenji and belongs to Henry & Henrietta Dobrowolski



by Libby



We'll never forget Pat's big smile and the cheerful response of "I'm fine" to our greetings.

Pat was a valued member of our library team who ran the non-fiction section with quiet efficiency. She catalogued and recorded the books and participated in all the library events. She was also fun and knowledgeable to be with: we visited several book dealers together, trying, mostly unsuccessfully, to sell them some of the beautiful books that were unsuitable for our library.

Pat was a quiet person with a big heart, warm and thoughtful. Several residents in the village have told us how she welcomed, helped or supported them in times of need: she was a true friend to many of us.

But it wasn't all serious: Pat was a keen walker, she organised hikes with friends regularly, and it seemed that besides the walking, there was a lot of fun, laughter and wine.

Pat will be truly missed and remembered with love and fondness.



When next you visit the library and feel a cat is stalking you, you would be right. Just look above the bookcase. The cat was donated to the library by Pat's brother, Jim.



Health Matters

by David Presbury



VACCINATION REMINDER

You will have noticed that the media has been telling us that there is a new Covid Omicron variant in our midst. This, it was emphasised, applied particularly to the elderly. The experts say panic is not necessary, but it is very transmissible. Those same experts suggest that people who have not had a booster for six months or longer should consider getting a further one now. Winter is not far away, so now is a wise time to think about this. It will also be wise to get the 'flu' vaccine for the year when it becomes available. There is no medical contraindication to getting both.

PLEASE NOTE: Booster vaccinations are offered at **Dischem**. **Clicks no longer offer vaccinations.**



Dr Tony Dalby will give a talk on matters of cardiac on

Saturday, 25 March
in the Clubhouse

Save the Date

Village Emergency Numbers:

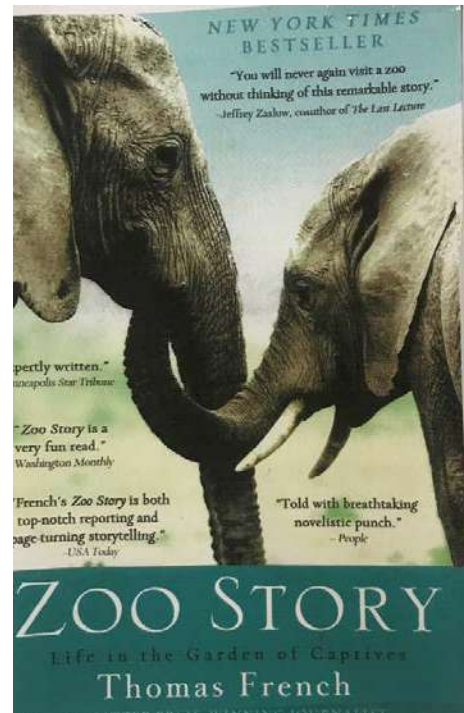
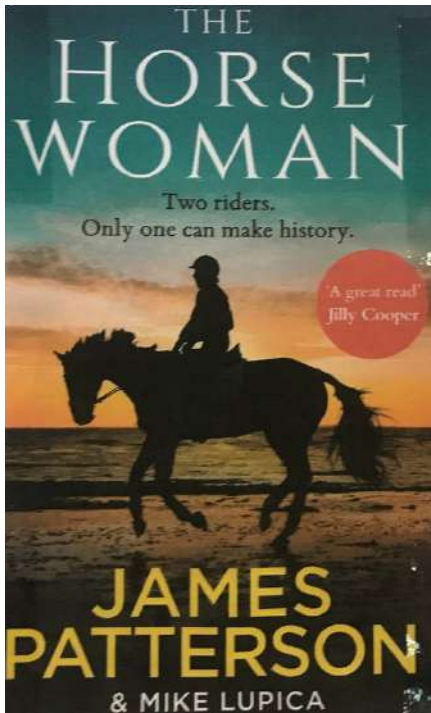
Reception Desk	087 809 3366
Guardhouse	071 173 2406
Care Centre (Health)	079 579 4297
Sister Marius	082 218 4206
Sister Kate Powel	Ext 1222

Remember always to wear your
Buddy Band and carry your
emergency button



From the Library

A Good Read - by Libby



This is Patterson and Lupica at their best -

No violence or cruelty but plenty of tension!

Nail-biting horse jumping. Lupica's daughter is a competitive rider, and he certainly knows how to make the reader experience every moment of the event.

Two women riders both determined to make gold at the Olympics

This is storytelling at its best!

Please read this remarkable story.

Written by a master story-teller, a journalist who was allowed to wander inside their (the zoo) world for many years, documenting the complex life of a zoo.

It's animals, people and the controversy surrounding the ethics of keeping preserving and rehabilitating animals.

This is not sob stuff; thought-provoking and yet highly entertaining!

DECEMBER

Despite the constraints of load shedding, Chef Andrew and his incredibly willing and dedicated staff prepared and served a delicious Christmas lunch. Residents were invited to decorate tables using their initiative and flair - none better than Tom, who used Christmas jewellery. Several family members joined the residents.

Thank you, Andrew and his team, for the lunch & Brenda, for arranging it.



Merry Christmas



Christmas Day Lunch



DECEMBER



The New Year's Eve Dinner was well attended by residents and guests.

The plated starters, delicious main meal and dessert platters were served over a period giving everyone the opportunity to dance between courses to the music by 'Gypsy.'

all whilst waiting to celebrate midnight & beyond with champagne

Thank you to Chef Andrew and his fantastic team.

& Brenda, for making it happen!





Robert Burns was born on 25th January 1759



The poet Robert Burns, a source of inspiration to the founders of Liberalism and Socialism, penned more than 550 verses and songs before he died at 37.

The first Burns supper was held in July 1801 when nine of Burns' close friends celebrated the fifth anniversary of their friend's death.

At Burns Cottage in Alloway, the night included a tasty meal (haggis, of course!), performances of Burns' work and a speech in honour of the great Bard (now known as the Immortal Memory). The night was such a resounding success that they decided to hold it again (this time in honour of Rabbie's birthday), beginning the tradition we still enjoy.

<https://www.visitscotland.com/about/famous-scots/robert-burns/burns-night/#:~:text=The%20first%20Burns%20supper%20was.anniversary%20of%20their%20friend's%20death.>



JANUARY



Zeph and Ndaedzo prepared a three-course meal that secured them the winning spot and the title of Chef of the Year. We look forward to them preparing this lovely meal for us one Wednesday evening!

Congratulations well done!

As ever, thanks to Andrew & his Team &

Brenda for arranging a great evening



FEBRUARY



Pat Duthiot offers **Visual Music**
at 10am on the 2nd, 9 & 10th
February
at Unit 81, and the theme will be
'On Wings of Song - Travel'



Sunday Lunch
26 February 2023



Christian Fellowship Group
Wednesday, 8 February
@ 2:30pm
Unit 69
Heather Morgan



15 February
Valentine Themed Dinner

100 CLUB

100 Club draw before the
Social on Wednesday,
15 February @ 6.00pm
Clubhouse
Heather Morgan



Friday, 17 February
@ 2:30
Clubhouse
Heather Morgan



Line Dancing
every Friday @ 9am
in
The Gym, Clubhouse
Lynn Turner

Rosie Wright is willing to give **Italian conversation classes** for small groups on a Thursday morning or afternoon in the Clubhouse for two hours. There will be no charge, and she can start teaching on 2 February.

Interested contact: Rosie on ext 11019 or
Bushwillow Apartment 03.

Birthdays January 2023

Birthdays

Stewart Phillips	6th
Jane MacConachie	7th
Barbara Black	12th
Charles Clarkson	13th
Heather Allan	15th
Laurance Squair	15th
Val Hutton-Wilson	18th
David Presbury	18th
Bev Jackson	20th
Milly Haestier	21st
Hans van Wijk	24th
Henning Brandt	25th
Atholie Preacher	26th
Graeme Pollock	27th

Anniversaries



Harold & Barbara Black	3rd
Basil & Marlies Bold	5th
Charles & Irene Carroll	26th

February 2023 Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
		1 10am Art Class 6pm Social Dinner	2 9am Yoga 10am Visual Music – House 81 2pm Bridge 3pm Pétanque 6pm Movie Night	3 9am Line Dancing 10:30am Bible Study 12:30pm Fish and Chips 5pm Waterhole	4 World Cancer Day  FEBRUARY <small>WORLD CANCER DAY</small>	5
6  9am Therapeutic Water Aerobics 10am Knit & Natter 10am Art Class 1pm Bridge 5pm Pool / Snooker & Waterhole	7 9am Therapeutic Exercise Class 2pm Rummikub 2:30pm Scrabble 5pm Ladies Pool & Waterhole	8 10am Art Class 2:30pm Christian fellowship group 6pm Social Dinner	9  9am Yoga 10am Visual Music – House 81 2pm Bridge 3pm Pétanque 6pm Movie Night	10 9am Line Dancing 10am Visual Music – House 81 10:30am Bible Study 12:30pm Fish and Chips 5pm Waterhole	11	12 World Marriage Day 
13 9am Therapeutic Water Aerobics 10am Knit & Natter 10am Art Class 1pm Bridge 5pm Pool / Snooker & Waterhole	14 Valentine's Day 9am Therapeutic Exercise Class 2pm Rummikub 2:30pm Scrabble 2:30pm Craft Class 5pm Ladies Pool & Waterhole	15 10am Art Class 100 Club Draw at the Social Dinner 6pm Valentine Theme Social Dinner 	16 9am Yoga 2pm Bridge 3pm Pétanque 6pm Movie Night	17 9am Line Dancing 10:30am Bible Study 12:30pm Fish and Chips 2:30pm BINGO 5pm Waterhole 	18 Great Backyard Bird Count Day	19
20 9am Therapeutic Water Aerobics 10am Knit & Natter 10am Art Class 1pm Bridge 5pm Pool / Snooker & Waterhole	21 9am Therapeutic Exercise Class 2pm Rummikub 2:30pm Scrabble 5pm Ladies Pool & Waterhole	22 10am Art Class 6pm Social Dinner	23 9am Yoga 2pm Bridge 3pm Pétanque 6pm Movie Night 	24 9am Line Dancing 10:30am Bible Study 12:30pm Fish and Chips 5pm Waterhole	25	26 12pm Sunday Lunch
27  9am Therapeutic Water Aerobics 10am Knit & Natter 10am Art Class 1pm Bridge 5pm Pool / Snooker & Waterhole	28 9am Therapeutic Exercise Class 9am Sashni Audiologist 2pm Rummikub 2:30pm Scrabble 2:30pm Craft Class 5pm Ladies Pool & Waterhole					