

23rd July 2024

To all our residents of Evergreen Lifestyle Village Muizenberg,

Another year has passed so quickly, and the AGM is just around the corner, so this is the last circular from myself, as the current Chairlady of RESCOM.

We have seen several of our residents leave us for other realms, which always brings a sadness as we lose dear friends, and those special to this village community.

On the bright side, we welcomed new residents to the village and trust that your welcome has been warm and that you are all settling in despite the upheaval that brings most folk here.

This is a letter of thanks and gratitude to all our residents who voluntarily give of their time and expertise to run the many enjoyable activities that we participate in.

For the second year in a row, Evergreen's Sales team quote our village activities as a major selling point to prospective LRA purchasers, and we are pleased, as a lot of work goes into producing the calendar.

Please note that I have not included those activities provided by outside private instructors, as they are not residents or volunteer their services to the village.

There are 27 activities that are run by our in-house residents, as follows:

In the late afternoons the library area is a busy place with the gents playing 8 ball Pool, with the banter and competitiveness bringing a cheerful air. This activity is organised by Hugh Till.

On Monday mornings the Art Group for Beginners, run by the talented and experienced artist, Steph De Haas, is in the Lifestyle Centre.

On Thursday mornings the Art Group for more experienced artists is run by Ursula Law. Ursula also looks after our fitness as she organises the early morning walking group on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. Thank you, Ursula.

Wednesday mornings you will find the Bible Study Group in the Boardroom run by Alan Gander – a time for study, in a quiet reflective atmosphere.

Every second Thursday of the month is the ever-popular Bingo hosted by Eugene Kretschmer and Carole van Zyl. It's great fun and there are prizes too.

On the first Thursday of each month, the well-loved and enthusiastically attended Book Club, formally run by June Orsmond, takes place.

Janice Behr, who contributes so much time to the Library as Lydia Hirschmann's Deputy has willingly stepped in to fill the gap, left by June's retirement.

Thank you, Janice, we know you will do a fine job.

June, we thank you for your long contribution to building a successful, interesting and well-run book club.

The Bridge Club is run by Val Hollidge and we encourage all good bridge players to join the group. Please contact Val to establish the dates on which the Bridge Club meet.

The talented photographer, Jim Raubenheimer, runs the Camera Club on the last Monday of the month.

Photographs from the members are to be found in the library area, on the wall. Give photography a try – you may have an undiscovered artistic talent you never knew you had!

Canasta, that great fun card game, is organised by Isobel Hales – please join up as they need new players to keep the spirit going.

If you are not experienced, they will teach you.

The Choir is organised by Hazel Fick, who always welcomes new voices. Singing is a very good exercise for breathing, so if you have not tried it yet get in touch with Hazel. We are very proud of our choir here in this village, add your good voice and give it some "welly"!

Hazel also organizes the Church Services and Hugh Till and Ed Fletcher along with others lead the services. Hugh provides a great deal of input behind the scenes.

If you need a confidential chat and someone to speak to, Denise Elkin runs the Dementia support group. Denise has done extensive studies and is well qualified in this field.

For those in the village who have dogs and find that they are unable to walk their own dogs regularly, Leslie Carter will assist as she is a volunteer Dog Walker.

The latest addition to our activities is the exciting new Evergreen Muizenberg Amateur Dramatic Society – contact Barrie Howard or Leslie De Wet. This is something to look forward to on a Tuesday evening.

All our closet actors and actresses will be encouraged to come to the fore.

If you use the GYM, it is most important that you know how to use the equipment correctly and understand the rules and regulations.

Pat van Eyssen will kindly assist you. Please ask her for assistance so that you do not unwittingly injure yourself, if new to using the equipment.

Helen Patterson is the person who runs the Jig Saw Puzzles. There is a good stock of mind stretching puzzles which are fascinating, and this hobby is a therapeutic way to spend a lazy afternoon.

And here we come to the large Thursday Morning Knitting Group facilitated by Gill Blackburn.

This is a fun group of enthusiastic knitters, whose cheerful chatter brings a lightness to the Lifestyle Centre.

These ladies produce the most beautiful, knitted articles – and it all goes to charity. When it is time for tea, the laughter and robust conversation is a tonic to hear, and we are certain that the hysterical laughter is prompted by some very risqué tale telling. Well done you special ladies keep up the spirit! 😊

Recently reinstated Friday Night Movies are worth attending and this service is provided by the Duty Managers under the guidance of Christine Dempers, our Village Manager.

If you are into Poetry, Margaret Clough has the talent to bring the poems alive. She has written a couple of poetry books herself – which are worth a read too. I love her “Pious Pachyderm” poems.

If you love poetry get hold of Margaret.

Another ever growing in popularity activity, is the Quiz Night, held on the third Saturday evening of the month, hosted by Michele Jones- Phillipson assisted by Dr Billy Gild.

This is a good way to test that old brain!

It is an easy fun evening, and the memory cells are often prodded on by a good glass of wine, fun being the bottom line of the exercise here.

Rummikub is hosted by Bil Gild and Scrabble is available too.

For good fun and exercise, the popular Table Tennis matches are organised by Pat Swilling on a Wednesday and a Friday.

Kim Whitworth our trusty graphic artist – your creative posters are a treat, and without them our advertising would be dismal 😊 Kim – thank you.

I do believe it necessary to pay tribute to all those residents who are volunteer Fire Evacuation Marshalls. This service has its risks, so our grateful thanks to all of you for your dedicated community spirit.

A necessary note: there are many unsung heroes among us who assist many residents in all different ways quietly. You all know who you are and from all of us we express our gratitude for your kindness, compassion and care.

In closing I pay tribute to the Duty Managers, and all the staff who interact with the residents and look after our safety and well-being in the village.

The ever-patient receptionists who field phones, people, deliveries – you name it -sometimes all at once, this does not go unnoticed.

This has been a tough year for all of them working thin on the ground, doing extra shifts where there are shortages of staff. We trust that this is soon to be remedied.

I would like to take this opportunity, to remind all our residents, management and staff, that my reliable team on the committee and sub-committees, are all working as volunteers giving generously of our time, to act in the interests of our residents.

In closing, I thank my RESCOM team for their enthusiasm, commitment and support.

My good wishes are extended to all of you, for good health and above all a positive attitude, and gratitude, for the good life we experience here at Evergreen Muizenberg.

Yours sincerely

Sue Wood

Chairlady

Evergreen Muizenberg Village