



# Silver Threads

SETTLERS PARK RETIREMENT VILLAGE MONTHLY MAGAZINE

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## RESIDENTS

- 1st Eileen Feather
- 1st Cliff Painter
- 2nd Mike Newlands
- 2nd Margaret Snodgrass
- 5th Barry Luckmann
- 5th Una Tarr
- 7th Garnett Wesley
- 8th Irene Brans
- 9th Jean Atkinson
- 9th Dawn Nelson
- 10th Colin Winchester
- 11th Trish Versfeld
- 12th John Feather
- 14th Brian Pachonick
- 15th Alexander Clark

16th Bob Duggan

17th Marge O'Reilly

17th Myrna Pellew

17th Kathleen Sansom

22nd Justin Mildenhall

23rd Rob Atkinson

23rd Lorna Fletcher

23rd Sandra Wiblin

24th Joanne Clarke

24th Rona Lobban

26th Phyl Russell

30th Peter Beaumont

30th Peter Schoning

## STAFF

5th Thabisa Ncipa

7th Fundiswa Ntlokwana

13th Xoliswa Jibiliza

16th Pindiwe Ditana

17th Orienda Vukuza

25th Veronica May

26th Ina De Klerk

29th Noluvuyo Ngontsi

30th Lyndro Jordaan

30th Yaziwe Ntozini

**SETTLERS PARK ASSOCIATION**  
Registered Non-Profit Organisation: Reg. No. 000-351 NPO  
RETIREMENT VILLAGE AND REGISTERED FRAIL CARE

**AGM POSTPONED TO 29 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Due to the restrictions on gatherings enforced by the Disaster Management Act and Regulations a conventional Annual General Meeting of the Settlers Park Association is **postponed and will take place on Wednesday, 29 September 2021** and will instead take the format of a ballot style voting process in order to ratify the relevant business of the Association.

**Election of Board Members / Residents & Services Committee**  
**Members:** Members are requested to submit nominations for the election of persons to serve on the Settlers Park Board and on the Residents & Services Committee by 31 August 2021 with a one paragraph CV of the nominee as well as items of relevant business for the agenda, to:  
The General Manager  
Private Bag 2125  
Port Alfred  
6170  
Or email to [info@settlerspark.co.za](mailto:info@settlerspark.co.za)

**Approval of Annual Financial Statements & Budget:** Audited financial statements for the last financial year and budget for the current financial year will be available upon request from the Administration office (046 604 0200) from 8 September 2021 and any relevant questions are to be submitted to the General Manager or to [info@settlerspark.co.za](mailto:info@settlerspark.co.za) by 10 September 2021. These will be addressed and replies will be published in a special edition of Silver Threads on Friday, 17 September 2021.

Please note that all PROXIES are to be mailed and received by no later than 08h00 on Tuesday, 28 September 2021. Forms can be requested from the Administration Office (046 604 0200).  
Call 046 604 0200 or email [info@settlerspark.co.za](mailto:info@settlerspark.co.za) for more information.

## AGM DATES

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 31 August    | Deadline for submission of Nomination Forms to Admin Office   |
| 8 September  | Final Annual Financial Statements available   |
| 10 September | Deadline for written Financial Questions to be submitted to Admin Office or to <a href="mailto:info@settlersPark.co.za">info@settlersPark.co.za</a>   |
| 10 September | Deadline for AGM Agenda items to be submitted to Admin Office or to <a href="mailto:info@settlersPark.co.za">info@settlersPark.co.za</a>  |
| 17 September | Special Edition of Silver Threads to be distributed   |
| 28 September | Proxies to be submitted by no later than 8.00am   |
| 29 September | Voting in Don Powis Hall as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cottages 1 - 65 from 9.00am - 10.00am</li> <li>• Cottages 66 - 125 from 10.00am - 11.00am</li> <li>• Cottages 126 - 190 from 11.00am - 12.30pm</li> <li>• Cottages 191 - 249 from 12.30 pm - 14.00pm</li> </ul> |
| 1 October    | Results of Voting to be published in S-Parks! and distributed to residents  |



RAIN  
81 mm for August

- 2nd Carol & David Sheard
- 30th Doreen & Terence McCarthy

# HERITAGE DAY

24 September

## A RELIC OF THE PAST

When I moved into Setters Park I undertook to find out as much as possible about the history of Usher's (Ussher's) Corner, the interesting, historic ruin near Glen's Den in the north-east corner of the property. It is not well documented and I am still researching. I have interviewed a

long list of people and made contact with the last inhabitant of the property. He has promised to travel from East London to meet me and describe the area as he remembers it and once Covid makes it possible we will follow up on that. I will lodge the complete (as far as I can complete it) document in the Settlers Park Office and the Kowie Museum.

However, I thought that a brief history, in the interim, would be of interest to residents.

Usher's Corner, as it is known, is one of the oldest existing buildings in Port Alfred (which from 1825 to 1860 was called Port Frances) and built on land belonging to a member of the Usher family. The Ushers were 1820 settlers. It is believed that the original stone structure was built around 1839 and was known as 'the blockhouse'. Certainly, by the time of the 7<sup>th</sup> Frontier War (1846/47) there was some kind of military defence strongpoint on the property. However, there were no loop-holes in the walls so it was unlikely to have been a military fortification. It is more likely to have been a type of military 'rest camp' where soldiers from the frontier could overnight and rest their horses. Some authors suggest it may have been a military command post or infirmary for wounded soldiers. It may have played an important part in supplying British troops with provision and protection during the Frontier Wars.

If we study the early maps of the Frontier Wars it appears very likely that the site was not randomly chosen but strategically placed at the intersection of the main wagon routes from Grahamstown via Bathurst, and the Fish River fortifications. In more recent history it is there that Alfred Road crosses Bathurst Street and becomes Burberry Road which runs past Mooifontein quarry to Shaw Park and the old bridge over the Fish River. Before the R72 was built in 1972-75 this was the road to Kleinemonde and beyond.

Another reason for the position of the building, according to Dr Harold Atherstone, stepfather of Barry Luckman (Cottage 8), was the presence of a very good fresh water well there, which could account for the convergence of the old routes at this spot. Barry remembers his stepfather telling him that the well was inside the house, but there is no evidence of it today.



clickotree.com

Apparently there were soldiers' names carved into a branch of the large fig (*Ficus*) tree at the front entrance to the building (in Bathurst Street), but the branch was removed, possibly with the development of Settlers Park. It is interesting to note the old tree stumps outside the Settlers Park boundary fence in Bathurst Street. These once lined the old Bathurst Road and if one looks carefully one can see the depression on the grass between the fence and the present road, which is where the old road once ran, right past the entrance to the house.

There is very little record of the intervening years until the property was bought by Clifford Robert Webber around 1933. The house by this time had been greatly expanded and there was a shop alongside, in Alfred Road, known as Webber's Trading Store.



*Entrance in Bathurst Street. Note the old road.*



*View in  
1999 from  
Alfred Road*

The Webbers were the last inhabitants of the property and their younger son, Bobby, was the last resident in the house. His bedroom, he says, was on the ground floor where one can still see the remnants of a fireplace. When he left, the house was gradually vandalised. By 1999 all that was left was the original stone centre and today there is even less. It was at one point intended by Settlers Park to have a fountain and fish (koi?) pond in the remaining ruin but the water situation made that impossible. Those new internal low walls are still there.

Yvonne Surtees



## ***The Chairman's Chat***

Around the time of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) each year, the Board turns its thoughts towards decisions that need to be made by residents in the Park. We do this by seeing if the Constitution is still relevant to our lives today, and listen to our Directors, auditors, and staff.

Our external Auditors were unable to deliver a final audited Annual Financial Statement to us in time for our planned AGM in August but are confident that the final audit report will reflect a "clean audit". We had a meeting with them to discuss the draft financial statement and audit report. It seems that our finances are well under control. They did, however, mention two issues which should be changed, and both need the approval of our AGM. They are a minor, but significant change to the wording in the Constitution about the approval of the Annual Financial Statement, and the removal of the electricity rebate.

<b>SUNDAY LUNCH MENU</b>			
<b>DATE</b>	<b>STARTER</b>	<b>MAIN</b>	<b>DESSERT</b>
5th	Crumbed Mushroom served with Tartare Sauce	Lemon & Herb Roast Chicken 1/4 served with Gravy, Roast Potatoes, Rice and Seasonal Vegetables	Peach & Apple Crumble served with Cream
12th	Mushroom & Red Onion Arancini served with Sweet Chilli Sauce	Roast Pork Neck served with Gravy, Roast Potatoes, Rice and Vegetable Medley	Baked Malva Pudding served with Ice Cream
19th	Rosa Tomato served with Salami Crostini	Bacon & Feta Stuffed Chicken Roulade served with Gravy, Roast Potatoes, Rice and Roasted Vegetables	Baked Orange Pudding served with Custard
26th	Beetroot Carpaccio served with Cream Cheese	Rosemary Roast Lamb served with Gravy, Rice, Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables	Chocolate Brownie served with Caramel Sauce

## **WELCOME**



### **NEW CATERING MANAGER – HIBISCUS ROOM – EASTERN PROVINCE CATERERS**

Lanel Lowe joins us from Cape Town and has 12 years' experience in the Food Service Industry. Her driving force is to Inspire, lead, engage, coach, develop and motivate a team of Food Service personnel, therefore supporting them on delivery of the best service in the Catering Industry. Lanel has been a Catering Manager for 10 years and brings an enormous amount of experience, excitement and very high standards. She hopes to take the level of service and quality of food to the next level and to ensure it stays there. Please join us in welcoming Lanel to our Hibiscus Room Team and please offer her your support and assistance while she finds her feet.



### **NEW HEAD CHEF – HIBISCUS ROOM – EASTERN PROVINCE CATERERS**

We are very proud to welcome the new Head Chef at the Hibiscus Restaurant, Sharmilla Simon. With a qualification in Food Preparation and Professional Cooking, Sharmilla is very excited to start her journey with us.

With 18 years' experience in the hospitality industry Sharmilla joins us from previously working at 5 Star Establishments like, Shamwari Game Reserve, Jock Safari Lodge, Radisson Blu Hotel, No5 Boutique Hotel, Oceana Private Game Reserve. She brings a wealth of experience, passion, innovation and customer focussed service skills and will definitely be an asset to our team.

**Now is the time to visit the Hibiscus Room and support the new appointments**

SEPTEMBER 2021 Meal of the Day Menu			
DATE	DAY	SOUP	MAIN
1st	Wednesday	Thick Pea	Beef Curry served with Rice and Mixed Vegetables
2nd	Thursday	Herbed Tomato	Pork & Apple Pie served with Rice and Seasonal Vegetables
3rd	Friday	Chicken Noodle	Battered Fried Hake served with Crispy Chips and Ruby Coleslaw Salad
4th	Saturday	Red Onion	Chicken & Mushroom Pancakes served with Sweet Potato and Buttered Corn
SUNDAY			
6th	Monday	Roasted Cauliflower	Beef Sausage served with Polenta & Cherry Tomato Pie with Greek Salad
7th	Tuesday	Pumpkin	Honey & Mustard Grilled Chicken Strips served with Mashed Potatoes, Creamed Spinach & Pumpkin
8th	Wednesday	Lentil and Barley	Beef & Green Bean Bredie served with Brown Rice and Butternut
9th	Thursday	Creamy Mushroom	Tempura Pork served with Sweet & Sour Sauce, Rice and Stir-fried Vegetables
10th	Friday	Tomato and Celery	Grilled Hake served with Crispy Chips and Greek Salad
11th	Saturday	Spinach and Garlic	Butter Chicken Curry served with Rice and Seasonal Vegetables
SUNDAY			
13th	Monday	Hearty Beef	Lemon & Herb Chicken Kebabs served with Rice and Greek Salad
14th	Tuesday	Chicken and Corn	Pork Bangers served with Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green Peas and Pumpkin
15th	Wednesday	Broccoli	Beef Cottage Pie served with Vegetable Medley
16th	Thursday	Mинestrone	BBQ Pork Stew served with Rice and Roasted Vegetables
17th	Friday	Potato and Leek	Lemon & Herb Fish Goujons served with Chips and Herb Salad
18th	Saturday	Brown Onion	Beef Burger served with Mushroom Sauce, Chips and Coleslaw Salad
SUNDAY			
20th	Monday	Sweet Potato and Ginger	Beef Stroganoff served with Rice and Seasonal Vegetables
21st	Tuesday	Roasted Vegetable	Bacon & Mushroom Pasta Bake served with Country Salad
22nd	Wednesday	Carrot	Cape Malay Beef Bobotie served with Yellow Rice and Roasted Vegetables
23rd	Thursday	Red Cabbage and Onion	Pork Schnitzel served with Cheese Sauce, Potato Wedges, Green Beans and Gem Squash
24th	Friday	Spiced Pumpkin	Lemon & Coriander Smashed Fishcakes served with Chips, Potato Salad and Beetroot Salad
25th	Saturday	Herbed Mushroom	Sweet & Sour Pork Stir-Fry served with Egg Noodles and Country Salad
SUNDAY			
27th	Monday	Roasted Beetroot	Potato topped Haddock Pie served with Vegetable Medley
28th	Tuesday	Creamy Marrow	Crumbed Chicken Strips served with Chips and Mixed Salad
29th	Wednesday	Chunky Vegetable	Beef & Cabbage Stew served with Brown Rice and Seasonal Vegetables
30th	Thursday	Mushroom and Leek	Pork Kebab served with Potato Wedges and 3 Bean Salad

The Constitution states that the business of the AGM shall include "receiving, considering and approving the Annual Financial Statements". This creates difficulties in that it means that the Board is unable to present an approved Annual Financial Statement (AFS) to the residents at the AGM – it must remain as a "draft" until after the AGM when, if accepted by the members, it must be signed by the old Board members. We would like to make the Board responsible for checking and approving the AFS and signing the document before it is made available to the residents. At the AGM, the residents are then able to accept the AFS. We would like to change the wording of the Constitution to allow that to happen, and I hope you will support that change.

The "Electricity Rebate" has been in force for some years and has been raised as an issue by our auditors on several occasions as being of no value to the resident. We would like to remove the rebate and decrease the levy rate by an equivalent amount. This has the benefit of being clear about the true cost of electricity and reduces the levy on every cottage.

If there are other improvements that you would like to make that need the approval of the AGM, please submit your proposal, with justification, to [info@settlerspark.co.za](mailto:info@settlerspark.co.za) for inclusion in the AGM agenda and associated documents. All our AGMs are there for the residents, and although we cannot debate the proposals in person because of Covid, you can still make a difference by submitting proposals in writing.

Keep safe, and keep well!

*Rob Crothall - Chairman of the Board*

**R & S NEWS** The past 2 months have been very traumatic for most people. Everyone has cabin fever and long to get out into normal life. Our lockdowns were implemented to keep us safe and sound while the world outside was in turmoil. This did not hinder us from getting some new residents into the Park who we welcome and trust they will be happy, relaxed and enjoy themselves in this beautiful Park. Our residents were very obedient in observing most of the lockdown rules although there were a few who ignored them and caused some stress in the Park. Fortunately these incidents were few and far between.

The water situation in the Park has constantly been a source of concern to everyone. We realise that we cannot rely on the municipality for a constant water supply and pray and trust that we get regular rain to keep our tanks full.

The original unhappiness by a few residents over the pond and actions being taken were soon altered as progress continued and the expense of fixing the pond became a positive, as this feature was really coming into its own. The Maintenance and Gardening teams have been hard at work and a stunning outcome is developing around the pond.

This feature has turned into an ever-improving site and all who stopped by to see the progress, were well entertained by the energy levels that were used getting it to its current state. The gardens are now being established around the pond creating a beautiful tranquil surrounding for one of our main attractions to the Park. Soon we will have bird watchers perching on the deck to see what our next special visitors will be to join the terrapins, geese and birds that are currently there.

Our thanks go out to the Park Management and all who worked so hard to get the pond back into shape.

We trust the lockdown will soon be something of the past so that we can return to normality and get all our entertainment activities going again.

**Horace Bramwell Chairman of the Residents and Service Committee**

# CARE NEWS

September 2021

It was with shock and sadness that we received the news of the passing of Sister Pam Berman after a stroke. Pam was the first Village Sister at the Edney de Bruyn Clinic, where she worked for 2 years until she reached retirement age. She was both kind and compassionate to residents and a helpful and supportive member of the Care Team. She was working at Damant Lodge at the time of her passing.

Raymond, Pam's husband, passed away two weeks before Pam. Raymond will be remembered as a member of the Trust Shop team.

Condolences to their family.  
RIP Pam and Raymond.



## MONEY MATTERS

Residents who are receiving State Pensions which are being paid into their SASSA cards are advised to have them paid into their bank accounts. There have been 2 cases of fraud being committed from residents' Sassa cards during the month.

Application forms for payment into bank accounts are available from Elspeth (extension 532).

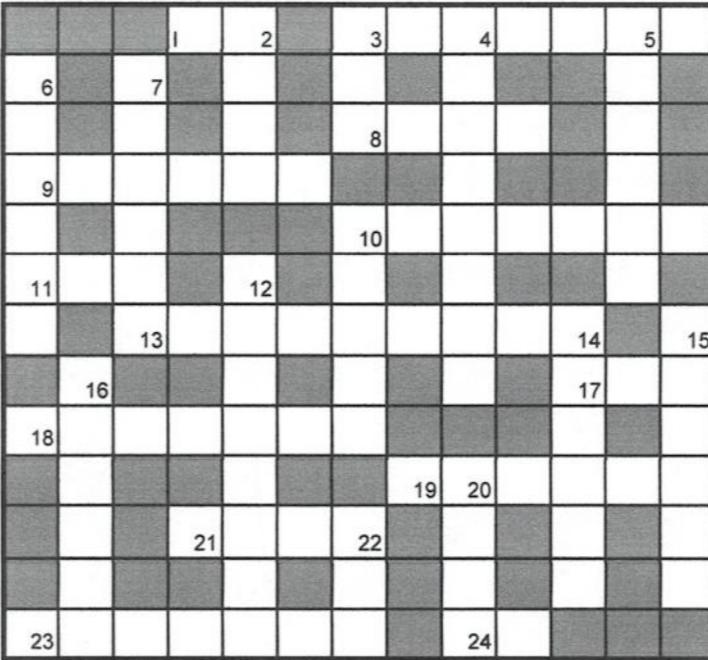
## WELLNESS CENTRE

- The Clinic will now be open for 'walk-ins' on weekdays from 9h00 to 10h00.
- Knitting Circle on Fridays at 14h00 at the Wellness Centre. Bring your knitting and join us for an afternoon to "knit and natter".
- Caregiver Support Group will be held on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 13h30 in the Wellness Centre.
- Bereavement Support Group at 14h00 on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021, in the Wellness Centre.

Contact Elspeth or Ina on 201 for more information.

*"A retentive memory may be a good thing, but the ability to forget is the true token of greatness". Elbert Hubbard*

## CROSSWORD NO.75.



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1 An Association for drivers or drinkers. (2)
- 3 J A Louse could make you envious. (7)
- 8 A culinary mixture. (4)
- 9 An administrative part of a diocese. (6)
- 10 A pedal taxi. (7)
- 11 Before. (archaic) (3)
- 13 Rearranged in a line. (9)
- 17 A promise to pay a debt. (3)
- 18 Goods carried by a vessel or aircraft. (7)
- 19 An alloy of tin, antimony, copper and lead. (6)
- 21 4 points of the compass that imparts information. (4)
- 23 Very old. (7)
- 24 All correct. (2)

### DOWN.

- 2 Birds collectively. (4)
- 3 Container - jolt. (3)
- 4 Plentiful. (8)
- 5 An unaccented beat. (6)
- 6 Pelt or shower with a condiment. (6)
- 7 A 'snakebird' of tropical inland waters. (6)
- 10 To direct attention with a finger. (5)
- 12 Decay of tissue, due to lack of blood. (8)
- 14 A dogmatic pronouncement. (6)
- 15 Small pack donkeys. (6)
- 16 Danish sea monster. (6)
- 20 Consequently. (4)
- 22 Comes between game and match at tennis. (3)

## SURPRISE!

There were only two correct answers for Crossword 74 so guess what? We are giving TWO prizes

The winners are

**JOY WILLIAMS**

and

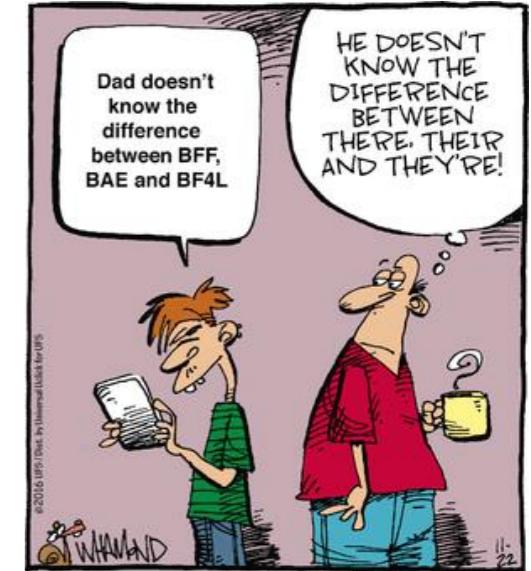
**JUAN SOUTHEY**

Please collect your meal vouchers from Danielle in the Hibiscus Room.

Well done - enjoy your meal!

### Solution to crossword no.74

- Across**
- 1. Monger 7. Asterisk 8. Nab
  - 9. Banish 10. Tact 11. Radio 13 Inbreed
  - 15. Grafted 17. Batik 21. Scan 22. Omelet
  - 23. Tab 24. Heartily 25. Lourie
- Down.**
- 1. Mentor 2. Nabbed 3. Rabid
  - 4. Etching 5. Criteria 6. Psyche
  - 12. Infantry 14. Aerobic 16. Racket
  - 18. Totter 19. Kibble 20. Beryl



This edition of Silver Threads is free of charge to the members of the Settlers Park Association. Editor: P Border

triciaborder@mweb.co.za

Printed & distributed by Settlers Park Office Administration

## NB:

If YOU flush a wipe, it will give THE PARK strife!

# ADVERTS

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By MERYL HOWES

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Phone 273 or 076 379 2151

Looking for Fingerless Gloves?  
Tricia knows where to source some so give her a call on 269 to chat.



Congratulations ABBY & Paul Skelton  
You were voted the cutest doggy in Settlers Park this month.

We will deliver your 8kg bucket of the yummy  
Liebe Smart Dog Food shortly.



**LIEBE SMART DOG FOOD**  
Formulated with the healing power of Aloe  
The Aloe helps with itchy skin, allergies & general health  
It contains High-Quality Proteins & NO SOYA  
It contains NO Artificial Colourants or Flavourants  
Suitable for the smallest pups to the tougher breeds, they all love it  
ALSO, a natural repellent for ticks & fleas

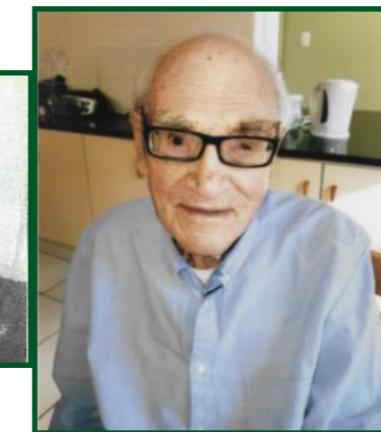
**TESTIMONIALS**  
I would just like to thank you for introducing us to Liebe Smart dog Food. I cannot believe the difference in my girl's coat and skin since we have swapped over. She has struggled since she was a pup with skin problems and we have been through the wringer trying to resolve this. She has no issues now and her coat is so soft and incredibly shiny. Cannot rave enough. Thanks, Lindsay

**PLEASE CALL FOR PRICES AND FREE SAMPLE**

**FREE DELIVERY IN SETTLERS PARK RETIREMENT VILLAGE**  
Jo-Anne van Rensburg  
**082 329 3399**




## MR ALEXANDER STEWARD CLARK



We are very proud to say that we have a centenarian in our midst.

Alexander Steward Clark is turning a hundred on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. He was born in the UK in the subdistrict of Leamington. For his first 9 years they lived in a large house in the country with a working mill on the opposite side. He had one brother who was 18 months younger than him. The next 10 years he lived in Oxford and he went to the City of Oxford High School for boys where he ended up as Head Boy. After school he had sa little over a year as a business trainee with the Dunlop Rubber Company,

He then went into the army for nearly 5 years, first of all in the Royal Corps of Signals and then he volunteered for the Indian Army where he served in the Indian Infantry Regiment. He finished up as a Brigade's Intelligence Officer right near the border of Afghanistan. After this his family persuaded him to join the family business The Alexander Clark Company, goldsmiths and silversmiths in the City of London. He opted out and then spent the next 39 years in the insurance business. First of all, in London and then in Johannesburg and Pretoria. He moved to South Africa in 1958 when he was 37.

He met his beautiful wife Felix in 1966 and married her in 1969. As he says the way that they met is a long story. "She changed his life forever; he was always proud to be with her and said she made him happy all the time". They had one son Andrew, who is married to Roanne, and two grandchildren who live in California.

Alex and Felix stayed in a townhouse in Linden Hill Gardens Johannesburg and then bought a house in Robindale where they stayed for 16 years before moving down to Kenton in 1987. They lived happily in Kenton for 26 years. He was 93 when they moved to a cottage at Damant lodge where they stayed for 6 years before moving to Settlers Park Care Centre because of the deteriorating health of his wife.

This is just the bare bones of his story. He had a very full life and enjoyed sailing. They went back to England regularly to see his mother. He and Felix did a lot of traveling together and visited North America, Scotland, Ireland, Namibia, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal, cruised up the Baltic and also visited Denmark, Sweden, Russia Estonia, Switzerland and Germany. They also travelled a lot in South-Africa especially all over the Eastern Cape and loved hiking. They were very keen on country life and sport and he mentioned that he played rugby in England. He also enjoyed playing tennis and golf and of course sailing. After he retired, he spent his time on investments, household maintenance and generally enjoyed life.

Despite problems with his feet, you will always see him walking. He improvises and adapts where needed and with his clear sharp mind he is always ready to chat.

Please join me

## SITTING ON MY STOEP

What is life without a piano?

The three things I notice when I go into someone's home for the first time are their pictures, their books and whether or not they have a piano. Paintings and books you know I love but do you know what a big role a piano has played in my life? I don't read music it's all in my head because music is in my soul and being able to play the piano has brought me great joy.

So, this is my piano story.

When I left school I played in "The Blue Notes" a band in Grahamstown (Makhanda). We travelled to all sorts of places in the Eastern Cape to play at dances which is actually quite hard work as one tries to make the crowd happy and involved.

Then off to Varsity. In those days the spectators sang at intervarsity rugby games and they needed a pianist – me! More band gigs earned me the money to buy my cigarettes (bad habit – glad I gave up many, many years ago) and even to take a girlfriend or two to coffee.

When I graduated I accepted a job in Zimbabwe. Music, what could I do? The foreman on the job I was working on heard about my need for a piano and he and his wife lent me one which my longsuffering landlady was quite happy for me to have in my room. I wonder if they enjoyed my playing or stuffed their ears with cottonwool when I got going!

Then I got married and we had our first home – we (I) needed a piano. We found one we could afford – quite rickety it was, it had come up to Zimbabwe on an ox wagon! Tricia was determined that our babies had to be used to noise (is that what she thought of my piano playing?) so I was allowed to play to my heart's content when I got home from work. The piano just wouldn't have managed the journey back to South Africa so we sadly said goodbye to it and left it behind when we moved back to South Africa.

Now what were we to do? Moves are expensive so pianos are not top priority. But miracles do occur! We saw an advert for two pianos on an auction sale. My mother looked after our baby daughter and Tricia was sent off to bid. She was told to buy both in case the one we wanted only came up second. What excitement when she came home with a Broadwood Boudoir grand for R150! It played like a dream but the case was scratched black lacquer. In order to neaten it up we painstakingly sanded the case only to be overjoyed as beautiful rosewood emerged. We also discovered it was a numbered Broadwood c1901.

At this stage of my life I played for my pleasure and to entertain our children with silly songs like 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' and, of course, all the songs I had grown up with and loved.

The piano did, however, give us a few problems. We needed to buy a house and the piano had to fit into it. Not easy. Eventually we built our first home in Pietermaritzburg and the problem was solved. All was well until we moved! Fortunately, our beloved piano has fitted in wherever we have moved – several times – and continues to give me great joy. Believe it or not it has also fitted into our retirement cottage so now its not children but neighbours I disturb.

Since moving to Port Alfred I have had the pleasure of playing for the Kowie Quavers. The men gather around our dining room table and sing for an hour each week. (Of course, this has been on hold since the advent of the pandemic). We have even been invited to sing at funerals, at a special Armistice Remembrance service in the church, at Easter Parades, concerts, and Coffee Club mornings and more.

Beethoven's Broadwood c1818



This beloved piano has now been with us for many, many years and it is my pride and joy.

PS After a major restoration some years ago it is definitely worth considerably more than R150!!

### **Sting in the Tail**

"Please do not shoot the pianist. He is doing his best."

Oscar Wilde: *Impressions of America "Leadville"* (c1882-3)

This comment is perfectly suited to me!

Take heart, let us all remain safe and healthy; and keep hope alive Tony

PS: I'm pleased to tell you that our neighbours are still talking to us!

## PERSONALITIES

By Brian McLean

Did you know that Settlers Park has a former Springbok weightlifter living in the village? His name is **Robert Snodgrass** and he moved into the complex with his wife Margaret in November 2019.



Robert, who was born in 1940 in Boksburg, attended Martin Primary School in Boksburg North and later Boksburg High where he matriculated.

After leaving school, where he excelled in athletics and especially the 880 and mile, Robert went to Wits University where he obtained a BSc. Electrical Engineering degree.

"I then joined the Johannesburg Electricity Department as a junior electrical engineer and later left for Pretoria Electricity Department where I eventually became a Chief Distribution Engineer in charge of the Works section of the whole electricity distribution network," explained Robert.

Robert, whose father died when he was just five-and-a-half years old, said funny enough he originally wanted to become a vet and he loved working with his hands. "I loved to fix vehicles from the age of 16 but life took me in a different direction," he said.

After injuring his hip and experiencing knee problems at school after competing in the 880 followed by the mile, he started doing weight training to strengthen his knees. "At Wits there was a gymnasium so I started weightlifting. I represented Wits and took the Lightweight title in 1962 which led to the ultimate honour of earning my Full Blue award."

From 1966 to 1971, Robert participated in the SA Weightlifting Championships where he earned the Featherweight title over those five years. With South Africa banned from attending many world events due to Apartheid, Weightlifting Team SA which included Robert toured Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) in 1970 where won his Springbok Colours.

Robert met Margaret who also was a student at Wits and after their romance blossomed, the two got married in Johannesburg in 1967.

They have two daughters, Leigh-Ann and Robyn and a son named Robert Gordon. All three live overseas, Robyn and Robert in Brisbane, Australia and Leigh-Ann in Switzerland. Asked how often they saw their children, Robert and Margaret said they had visited Australia in 2007, 2009 and 2013 while the kids had come to South Africa several times.

Recently, it has not been an easy time for Robert following a shoulder operation in 2015 which led to further complications.

After living with daily pain since April 2020, it was decided that further surgery was necessary and on June 9 this year Robert underwent the first operation in Stellenbosch to remove the loose prosthesis. The two later returned to Stellenbosch for further medical care where Robert was in hospital from July 14 to August 8 – a trying time.

"So what brought you two to Settlers Park", I asked.

"We left Pretoria in 2004 and decided to retire to our holiday home in Kenton where we happily stayed for fifteen years. After serious back surgery in 2017, however, maintenance of the Kenton residence became a problem. Already Associate Members of Settlers Park we decided to relocate here."

Both have a keen interest in local history with Margaret serving as a Historical Society committee member.

As the interview comes close to ending, Robert is asked about his favourite food, music and hobbies.



"I am not really a fussy eater, I do listen to music on occasions and I loved doing woodwork, propagating African Violets and gardening with succulents."

## Trust report for July 2021

Welcome All

I would like to share with you the performance of our Trust for the month of June 2021

**Income**

Donations	2 500.00
Interest	10 915.67

**Less Expenses**

Assistance to Residents	7 251.85	18 Residents
Shop	2 752.23	
Cottages	4 856.66	
Bank charges	148.00	

**Excess of expenditure over income**

- R11 593.07

**DONATIONS**

Anonymous	2 500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>R 2 500.00</b>

**Once again not a very good month for our Trust but there are reasons beyond everyone's control for this.**

Once again sincere thanks to all those that make our Trust Work.....it is a Team Effort.

Please stay Safe we are not out of the woods yet.

Richard Henshall (Chairman Settlers Park Association Trust)

### Thank you

A big Thank You to our Facilities Manager Johan Wolmarans, Ron Smith, Ted Gilfillan and the Gent that drove the little "digger".....as well as all those not mentioned who assisted him in turning our Pond around and making it a really great asset to our Park. This work had to be done one day, or our pond would just have been an area full of reeds.

### Glens Den

Please understand that when we open up again, the windows and doors HAVE to stay open as this is one of the requirements of the situation we find ourselves in. We really need and enjoy the support from all who patronize this venue..... but if it is cold then dress warmly .

Thank you

### **'KEEP OUT'**

That means YOU. Construction Sites are off limits to residents. They can be dangerous and nobody should investigate a cottage to look at the refurbishments. Rather visit the new resident when they arrive and admire their new home then.

### **'DON'T TAKE OTHER PEOPLE'S BELONGINGS'**

That means YOU. It is so sad that residents feel compelled to take pots, plants, rocks and stones from other residents' gardens. Gardeners are usually more than happy to share their plants if you only ask. Pots and rocks have been purchased with hard earned pensions and aren't for sharing. Leave them alone.

## Grey Matters

### **COVID 19**

We are constantly reminded that the virus has not dissipated or disappeared at all and despite vaccinations, we note a substantial daily increase in our area surpassing 100 positive cases up from around 40, two weeks ago.

It remains imperative to wear your face mask over your nose and mouth, keep distances and sanitise. Whilst we all want our lives to return to normal, I'm afraid this will be our new normal for some time to come. From time to time, management may impose an internal lockdown for a few days in an attempt to stay a possible covid outbreak in the Park. Our residents seemingly ignore the signs of possible infection and despite this continue to visit friends in the Park. We do need to stay aware of our symptoms and continue to protect each other.

Covid 19 is a notifiable disease where every case has to be reported, track and trace of all possible high risk contacts noted and publicised. We will continue with this practice and urge our Residents to contact their GP and/or inform Sr Ina or Elspeth directly when typical covid symptoms present or contact with covid positive people is suspected. Do not visit anyone or allow visitation until certainty is established regarding your status. We find many residents complain of illness to their friends and family which then immediately attracts a visit. This causes an unnecessary chain of infections.

The current "Lockdown" status and activities open for participation was published in the S-Parks! #98 on 17 August 2021.

### **RAIN WATER**

I'm sure many residents are relieved that quite a significant rain fell over the past weeks filling all rain water tanks to the brim.

Please continue to regard your rain water resource as extremely valuable. Port Alfred remains under severe water usage restrictions due to the drought. Until supply dams and other water sources are able to comfortably supply to the demands of the Town, we need to care for and sparingly use our rain water reserves.

Many households have not had any access to Municipal water at all. I have not had any since January this year and have fortunately survived on rain water only, and so have all our neighbours.

**The pond** has benefitted immensely from the past rains. We continue the rehabilitation process and hope to have most of the flora re-established in order to ensure the bird and wildlife flourish. We wish to urge residents who take walks around the dam not to wander too close to the sides of the dam but to stay well clear and only use the footpaths and walkways. The newly planted areas are specifically off-limits.

### **AGM**

Please be reminded that the voting day for the Board and Residents & Services is now scheduled for the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

The complete schedule was published in the S-Parks! # 97 on 13 August 2021. Also note the deadlines for the candidate nominations and questions to be published in the Silver Threads. This method is our best viable alternative for a physical financial meeting and AGM as required by the Settlers Park Association Constitution.

We had voiced our concern that the Annual Financial Statements may not be ready by the end of July. Fortunately our Auditors could provide us with Draft Annual Financial

Statements which in all probability will not change from the "Finals" which we expect by 8 September. These will be made available for any resident who wish to view them. We will continue to remind Residents through S-Parks! and SMS appropriately as we draw closer to deadlines. We trust we will have as a successful a process as we did last year.

## HIBISCUS ROOM

We wish to thank all Residents and visitors who support the Restaurant. Patrons may have noticed that the plating style is something to behold. Our caterers (EPC) are really trying their best to ensure consistency in quality meals and a higher level of service. The frozen meals have impressed and are growing in demand. Look out for the Chef's Specials and be sure to book your place in advance.

Don't forget to send us your **general questions** to [info@settlersPark.co.za](mailto:info@settlersPark.co.za). for inclusion in the next Silver Threads.

Please take care.

Greetings and blessings to all – **Derek**

## QUESTIONS VIA EMAIL - NONE

## WARDEN'S NEWS - NO REPORT

### Tony Versfeld

After a long illness Tony passed away on the 7<sup>th</sup> of August, a month prior to reaching the age of 85. Born in Grahamstown in 1936, Tony lived his earliest years with his mother and grandparents in Port Alfred whilst his father fought with the South African armed forces in World War 2. He enjoyed recounting his young life in the Port Alfred and Kleinemonde of those days. On returning from the war, his father was made the bank manager of Standard Bank in Dannhauser, in Northern Natal. Tony became a boarder at Dundee High School and by all accounts this suited him very well. Appointed Head Boy in his matric year, his sporting achievements included a record breaking 100-yard sprint for Northern Natal schools, colours for cricket and honours for rugby and athletics and selection for Northern Natal schools' rugby.

Having decided upon banking as a career, he joined the Standard Bank, Dundee branch, and later transferred to Cape Town. This gave him the opportunity to join the prestigious Villagers Rugby Club. As a promising young banker he was then transferred to the Head Office in Johannesburg. In the nature of things, there came about a drastic change in career by taking up the position of Credit Manager for the General Tyre Company. It proved to be a fortunate decision. Progressing through the ranks he was promoted to National Marketing manager in 1973 and appointment to the Board in 1981. During this time he was instrumental in introducing the high-tech Continental brand into South Africa. In 1985, he was appointed to the position of Managing Director, and under his tenure the company experienced positive growth. In 1988, as a result of a major change in the company's shareholding plus other contributing factors, Tony left the employ of General Tyres. Following these events, Tony with his Financial Director at GenTyre, John Lardner-Burke founded a successful business, African Tent & Tarp Industries which they later sold.

Tony and Trish retired to Port Alfred in 1996 where they became involved and interested in various activities. For Tony this included the Rate Payers Association, Golf Club committees, Probus and 13 years on the Board of Settlers Park. In 2008 the couple made their final move to Settlers Park, and this included becoming Chairman of the Board which was an extremely happy and satisfying part of his life. He enjoyed playing lots of golf and bowls and had great fun around the bridge table. Friday night "Choir Practice" was also not to be missed!

After 59 years of marriage, he leaves behind his beloved wife Trish, sons Trevor and Martin, and daughter Lindsay plus six grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by all in the family and within Settlers Park.

May he rest in peace.  
Martin Versfeld

At this point we decided to spoil ourselves and fly to Lalibela to visit what some consider to be the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'. This was a half hour flip in a colourful Ethiopian Airways Fokker 55 which saved us a

tortuous two-day drive into the mountains. These fascinating monolithic churches, 11 in all, are carved out of solid rock which, legend has it, took King Lalibela (plus presumably a few slaves) 23 years to carve.

Our next stop was Gondar just past the northern end of Lake Tana. Another town brimming with fascinating old buildings including the castle compound of King Fasildas. The rest of our journey in Ethiopia was through terrifying mountain passes, negotiating hair-pin bends cluttered with goat herds, over-laden donkeys and people who looked as though they had not changed

since Biblical times – some even using animal skins for clothing. The roads in this part of the world certainly left much to be desired in the comfort zone. Our last day in Ethiopia was spent at Axum where, among other landmarks, we saw the ruins of the Queen of Sheba's palace. So, after three weeks in Ethiopia we crossed the border into Eritrea.

Eritrea was a revelation, tarred roads and friendly people. Considering that they have only relatively recently come to the end of a 30-year war – much in evidence from burnt out abandoned tanks and army lorries – it was a pleasant surprise. The capital city, Asmara, was very Italian in architecture and influence with the shops shutting for several hours in the middle of the day then re-opening late afternoon until way into the evening. The population promenaded in the streets visiting coffee shops and greeting friends – a very civilised custom.

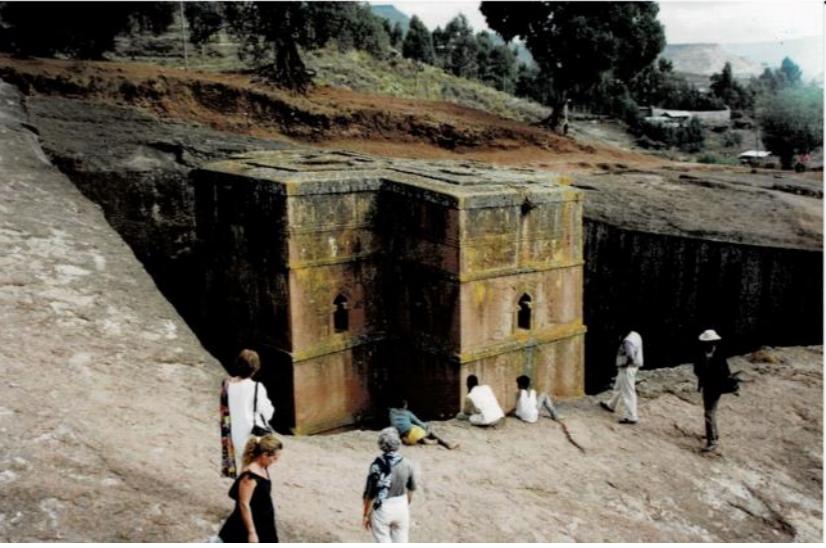
Next came crunch time as we needed to get across the Red Sea. We had a transit visa for Saudi Arabia and a visa for Jordan which is a pre-requisite before any Saudi visa will be issued. As we were several days early for the weekly car ferry we settled down on the beach to wait, spending our days swimming in the very warm and clear Red Sea but not venturing too far along the beaches it is land mined. By the time the ferry came into Massawa, a war-pocked city, being beautifully rebuilt, there were 13 Landrovers camped out on the beach waiting. It looked just like a Landrover refugee camp!

Three days later we were off-loaded at Jeddah harbour where we remained in the customs shed for two days. There had been confusion with our vehicle paperwork as the Saudis were not happy to have tourists around as it was the start of the build-up to Hajj – when pilgrims flock to Mecca. We had very willing and efficient help from the South African Embassy, in the form of a Mr Kruger, who got us sorted out and on our way. The opulence of Jeddah was staggering after the poverty of many of the African countries. However, we did not hang around to see much as Mr Kruger had advised us to get out of the country as quickly as possible. The Saudis are a law unto themselves, still having punishments where heads and hands get chopped off in public.

There was a sandstorm for the two days it took us to drive along the edge of the Red Sea to Aqaba in Jordan. So, we left with the impression of a totally barren desert country though other travellers have told us there were beautiful mountains – which we didn't see because of the sandstorm. By contrast the Jordanians were exceptionally friendly and helpful. This was the first country we had come across where the unit of currency was stronger than the US\$, consequently it was the also the most expensive place to visit. At the other end of the monetary scale in Turkey one million Lira is equal to R20 (not anymore!). You can imagine the brain strain we've suffered with currency changes from country to country.

To be continued

Don't miss the next issue of Silver Threads so you can follow the next instalment of the AFRICAN SAFARI



# AN AFRICAN SAFARI

## THE THIRD INSTALMENT of ROSEMARY AND DON'S TRIP THROUGH AFRICA

We reached South Horr the last place on the map before Turkana on a Sunday afternoon to find a multiple marriage ceremony in progress. We saw thousands of young Samburu warriors painted and dressed up, carrying bows, arrows and spears while chanting and leaping - really a sight never to be forgotten.

The first sight of Lake Turkana was also unforgettable though it must be one of the most barren places on earth. It is so brilliant set among the lava beds, though it must be on the most barren places on earth. One wonders how indigenous people survive. Normally this area gets no rain but this year there had been rain and rivers, which had been dry for years were flowing strong. There are no bridges and eventually we came to a river too deep to cross. We camped in the bush for the night. By morning the river had fallen and we could continue to North Horr and then across the Chalbi desert where the road disappeared into a thousand tracks towards Marsabit.



We left Marsabit for the run to Moyale on the Ethiopian border, a 250km stretch of bad road notorious for bandit holdups. Most vehicles travel in convoy with an armed escort, but we didn't want to be slowed down so at dawn our three Landrover set off at a fast pace. We covered 170km in three hours and thankfully the only sign of life we saw was a camel train in the distance! Then the heavens opened and the road became a quagmire. It took eight hours to drive the last 80km. the mess was beyond description, rows of trucks bogged down and slithered at all angles to the road, huge detours out into the countryside to bypass areas so churned up and rutted to be impassable.

Ethiopia was a cultural shock. It seemed so alien with a different alphabet (road signs were totally incomprehensible) and a different calendar - they are currently working their way through the sixth month of 1990 - and have 13 months and a different clock!! The people are not totally used to travellers yet and continually crowd you with cries of 'you, you, you' so one feels a bit intimidated at the start. However, the scenery was magnificent. Addis Ababa was a pleasant surprise with wide clean streets. We had to keep our wits about us as we were driving on the righthand side of the road.



After Addis Ababa we set off north into really wild country - the roads are really bad and very dusty as we hadn't seen any rain for two weeks. The road to Bahir Dar took us through the Blue Nile Gorge. The loose gravel road down into the gorge was hair-raising. We saw smashed trucks that had fallen from the roads above. We finally reached Bahir Dar and Lake Tana and were able to camp right on the edge of this very beautiful lake, dotted with islands. This is the source of the Blue Nile which leaves the lake over spectacular waterfalls. Above the falls we took a ride in a papyrus boat which is the traditional mode of transport on these waters - very precarious!

## Coming and Going

### RIP

Lyn Charter, Tony Versfeld and Agnes Wormald  
Moving In - may you be very happy in Settlers Park  
Berni & Roy Reynolds (Cottage 76)

### Do not fear

Once again, we find ourselves having to experience lockdown due to the Corona Virus. Many of us experience all kinds of anxiety because of it. Being separated from loved ones definitely does not make things any better. Many experience a great degree of loneliness and some succumb to depression. These are just a few of the many affects that are prominent during this time. And so a natural question that arises is "What do we do during these times"?

I for one have found Psalm 1 to be incredibly relevant. This Psalm is often read and simply described as a Psalm that describes the life of those who trust in God and those who do not. While this is the case, I think this view is only scratching the surface. So let's have a look at this Psalm:

1 Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;

2 but his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

4 The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

5 Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

6 for the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

In looking at the life of the righteous as described in the first 3 verses, what stands out to me is that the Psalmist likens the righteous to that of a tree that is not affected by its circumstances. Observe how verse 3 emphasizes this in that it yields its fruit in season and its leaf does not wither. The Psalmist in speaking of the one at right standing with the Lord concludes with the words, "All that he does prospers/He will cause your way to prosper". We see that this is definitely not the case with those who are not at right standing with God. They "are like chaff that the wind drives away" says the Psalmist, in other words they are greatly affected by circumstances and so fears and anxieties prevail. This is reminiscent of the Parable of the Sower and the soil with the thorns: they "hear the word; but the worries of life...choke the word, making it unfruitful" (Mark 4:19).

But the righteous, says God, will continue to prosper despite circumstances. And why will they prosper? Verse 3 gives the answer: "He is like a tree planted by streams of water". The tree (the righteous) that prospers (not affected by circumstances in that anxiety reigns in his/her heart) has its roots in streams of water. This is essential to the well-being, to the resilience to adversity, to the grit that is evidenced in the life of the righteous. It is because of the stream and the whereabouts of the righteous tree's roots that bears the fortitude of the tree. Without the stream the tree will be nothing. This reminds me of another parable that Jesus spoke of. In John 15, Jesus speaks of the Vine and the branches. The branches correspond perfectly with the tree of Psalm 1. Its sustenance and life come from another source. As the tree receives its nourishment from the stream, so the branches receive their nourishment from the vine. And in light of this Jesus says, "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

So what do we do in anxious times? Times where there seems to be so much negativity and despair? According to God's word, our call is to abide in Christ. It is to get our roots in the stream of life which is Christ. And how do we do this? The Psalmist verse 2 speaks of having "his delight in the law of the Lord". And so he meditated on the law of the Lord day and night. The truth is that God speaks to us through His word (the Holy Bible). And it is here where He reveals His heart and delight in you as His most precious creation. And as you fill your mind with God's thoughts as found in Scripture, the things of the world and its anxieties will lose their grip on your soul (cf. Philippians 4:8). Won't you carefully weigh these words today?

Jesus said, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-29). God's heart is for you and to give you peace and deliver you from every fear.

Won't you come to Him now.

God bless, Pastor Joshua de Wit



## THE GIRAFFE

Do you remember the fable of how the elephant got its trunk? What about the giraffe and how it got its long neck? We may never know the answer. Whatever the truth, the giraffe is an odd looking creature. It is often described in glowing terms, like 'magnificent', 'adorable', and even 'lovable'. For all their size, we humans perceive them as friendly and gentle, not dangerous or threatening, as long as they keep their distance from us. They eye visitors with a curious, puzzled look when approached.

Standing 3-4 m tall the giraffe is monarch of all it surveys. This height enables them to see danger coming and to pick the top leaves that are out of reach of other animals. There is no competition for this exclusive menu which is always in plentiful supply. Giraffe also feed on grass.

Giraffe are visible from a great distance but can hide their great bulk by standing perfectly still. They can easily and quietly move this huge body with stealth and ease and merge into the background. They can also be difficult to see because their colouring helps them to blend easily into their surroundings; darkish brown spots on distinctive off-white colouring provide excellent camouflage. The spots become darker with age.

The giraffe's gait looks ungainly as they swing their legs on the same side at the same time. When threatened the first reaction is to move away quickly. They run quite fast and while not normally aggressive can defend themselves powerfully when attacked. Their kick is lethal and can easily kill a lion. The giraffe is a gentle giant but can be a tough customer in an emergency. They grunt or snort when alarmed. Dr Gus Mills, researcher in the Kgalagadi Park for many years, studied the giraffe closely. He reports that the Bushmen hunters could bring a giraffe down within 30 minutes by using a deadly poison on the tips of their arrows. Stories also abound of how many lion are needed to bring down a giraffe. Yet the predators are successful, as evidenced by the dry bones lying around.

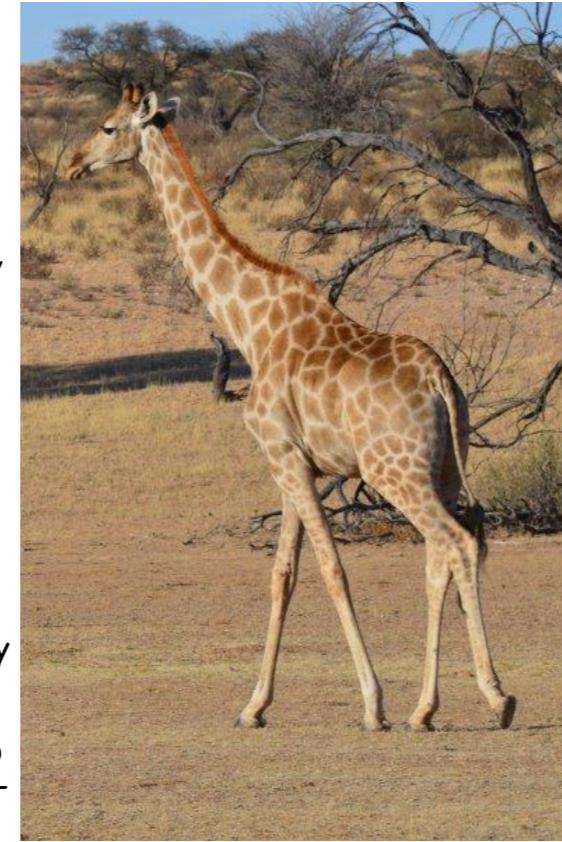
Several curious physical features are their two short horns tipped with black hair, and a tiny mane of short stiff hair hanging from the neck. The giraffe's height and long leg bones can be a disadvantage and make them more vulnerable to attack at a waterhole. They have to splay their front legs to maximum width in order to reach the water and may have difficulty getting up from this position.

Sometimes one may observe two males sparring. This is one way they fight for dominance of the herd. To us it would seem to be a rough manner of settling a score and we are surprised at their behaviour. They swing their heads and hit each other with their necks making a bone crunching noise. Male and female can also be tender and gentle as they try to get each other's attention.

Classified as a very large animal, giraffe weigh in at 1 400kg, after the heavy weights: elephant (6 000kg), white rhino (2 300) and hippopotamus (2 000). The giraffe has a life expectancy of about 28 years. Breeding occurs throughout the year and after 15 months one offspring is born. The females care for the young. Males tend to be solitary often separating themselves from the herd.

The giraffe is native to the northern parts of the country, especially the Kruger and Kgalagadi Parks and Namibia. Conservationists have successfully relocated them to the southern portions of South Africa and we see giraffe in many Parks and game farms. Suitable trees may limit their distribution.

John Forster



More than a hundred water plants have been planted in between the rocks. The bottoms of the pots are cut open so roots will grow through to stabilize the embankment. The waterlilies are currently being kept in black drums at our office. I'm waiting for warmer weather before I plant them into the pond. We have a family of terrapins in the pond who will love chomping away at water lilies so the plan is to plant as much greenery as possible in order to give the lilies a fighting chance.

*Ed: Thank you Ilse, and the Board who needed to approve the project. This is all so exciting. It is wonderful to see that the work on the pond is bearing fruit and we will watch with interest as the planting takes hold.*

*We also thank Ilse for all her research and the finding lovely plants - some pictured below*



Paper Reed



Dwarf Paper Reed



Fibre Optic Grass



Sea Rose



Water Lily



Marsh  
Butterfly  
Lily



River Pumpkin



River Star





# NATURE THOUGHTS

## BIRD OF THE MONTH

Order: Columbiformes

Species or scientific name : Treron Calvus

Afrikaans : Papegaaiduif Xhosa : Intendekwane

### THE AFRICAN GREEN PIGEON

The African Green Pigeon is a species of bird in the family Columbidae. It is one of 5 Green Pigeon species in the Afrotropics and we have it right here in Settlers Park! Which is about the most South Eastern part of its distribution.

They are beautiful plump birds with an overall greenish appearance .

They are a 28-30 centimetres long and weigh between 130 -280 g.

The head and the underparts are a soft grey green (this colouration provides excellent camouflage for them when they are in the tops of trees). They have a yellow green back and grey mantel . The Tibiae (leg warmers!) and the lower half of their bellies are yellow. They have a red base to their bills and a white tip. Their eyes are white. They also have red feet and a purple patch on top of their wings. Very colourful birds!

They have a very distinctive call, which is generally what alerts one to their presence. The call is described as "a high-pitched, yet melodious bubbling sound, descending in pitch, a little like playing scales on a piano.

They mainly eat fruit and in particular, wild figs. I had a magnificent wild fig tree in my previous garden and when it was in fruit it certainly attracted numerous green pigeons, much to my delight!

They apparently also eat small pieces of meat as well as wet or dried mud at water holes as, for example, in the Kruger National Park.

They are usually gregarious, found in small groups.

They flap their wings to maintain balance and often hang upside down from branches. They have a fast and direct flight pattern.

They normally breed from August to January. The female chooses the nesting site, which is usually on either a slightly sloping or horizontal branch of a leafy tree.

She remains at the site for the male to supply the nesting material. She then arranges it herself. The nest is a loose platform of coarse twigs and leaves taken from a tree, never from the ground!

One or two white eggs are laid then incubated by both the male and female. The incubation period is 13-14 days. The nestlings remain in the nest for 13 to 14 days The parents are very conscientious and one of them is always on the nest, they never leave it unattended.

The chicks hatch after about 13 days and remain in the nest for 11 to 13 days.

They are amazing birds and, I think, truly stand out as the prettiest bird in the Park - if you are lucky enough to see one - keep your binoculars handy!

Lynn Day

### THE POND Ilse tells us:

Our Wildlife area at the pond is taking shape, and the birds are slowly starting to move in. The project will be completed over a period of time as we cannot stop mowing the lawns otherwise we will be left with a jungle in the Park! The aim of the garden is to be a biodiversity hotspot to attract birds. We are planting close to a hundred different indigenous plant species which will eventually end up to be quite a messy garden, which is perfect for the birds. We are planting a lot of wild garlic to deter the snakes. Mr Schoning has build some bat boxes which will help control the mosquitos when the bats move in. We will also put up an owl box. Resident owls will be great for controlling rodents.

The end product of the pond project is not intended to be a well manicured garden. We have so many beautiful public gardens in the Park being lovingly tended to by Mrs Cowie and her team. This will be an overgrown area. We have 3 different bird species at the dam this far. Let's aim for 50!

### WE NEED YOU!

It's so easy to forget - especially at our age. We have such an exciting project on the go. Jim Truscott has been asked to write a history of Settlers Park.

We hope we can find an earlier history written by Nigel Coster, one of the earliest residents, because that will certainly fill a lot of gaps. But there are others in the Park who have good stories to tell. Some folk we know of and some we don't.

So, this is why we need YOU. If you have any special memories of the days leading up to the present please share them with us by sending an email to [truscotts@border.co.za](mailto:truscotts@border.co.za) or [triciaborder@mweb.co.za](mailto:triciaborder@mweb.co.za) or, if you are not computer literate, give your handwritten memories to Jim (cottage 227) or Tricia (cottage 75).

We will be delighted to hear from you.



### POETRY CORNER

#### "We're telling you" by the Giraffe.

I am the veld's skyscraper (the giraffe appeared to say), My height is often eighteen feet, two tons and more I weigh,  
My swift lop-sided lollipop keeps the gamiest horse in check,  
And I'm called a jest of Nature, with my perisopic neck.

My coat is patterned strikingly, I've large and lustrous eyes,  
But my tail – a little short in ratio to my size –  
Adds to my odd ensemble, for propeller-like it wheels  
In wild fantastic fashion when I've taken to my heels.

The clerk in Nature's workshop made an absent-minded grope,  
Then handed me the horns to suit a tiny antelope,  
But though I'm something of a freak, my simple dignity  
And unobtrusiveness denote my veld gentility.

I'm not high-minded, really, though from eighteen feet or so  
I watch all kinds of creatures on their missions down below,  
And even eight-ton elephants, eleven feet in height,  
Their greatness notwithstanding, are beneath me in my sight.

When my fancy turns to gossip, I have an effective way  
Of letting all who see me know what I would like to say,  
So though I'm not a chatterbox, and have no voice in fact,  
You'll find my thoughts reflected through the way in which I act.

ONLY the truly great, we're told, are truly humble, so I'm not too proud (said the giraffe) to bow and nod "hallo"  
To zebras and to other creatures that, though quite all right,  
Move in the lower circles, and are much beneath my sight.

It was through his demeanour as he ambled on his way  
That, speechless notwithstanding, the giraffe could have his say,  
And Jumbo and a zebra, having joined him in his walk, Said creatures eighteen feet in height of course liked uppish talk.

You'll hear (then spoke the elephant) men praise me for my size,  
And give me still more honour, for they know I'm very wise:  
My tusks and strength impress them, too, and yet one seldom hears  
A wonderment expressed that I've two twenty-square foot ears!

(Written by C S Stokes during World War II to raise funds for comforts for the 'men up North')



**Lucky 100 Club winners**

- 1st R1 000 Jean Atkinson  
 2nd R 500 Helen Gifford  
 3rd R 250 Marge Sparks

Enjoy!

The next draw will take place on 19th November

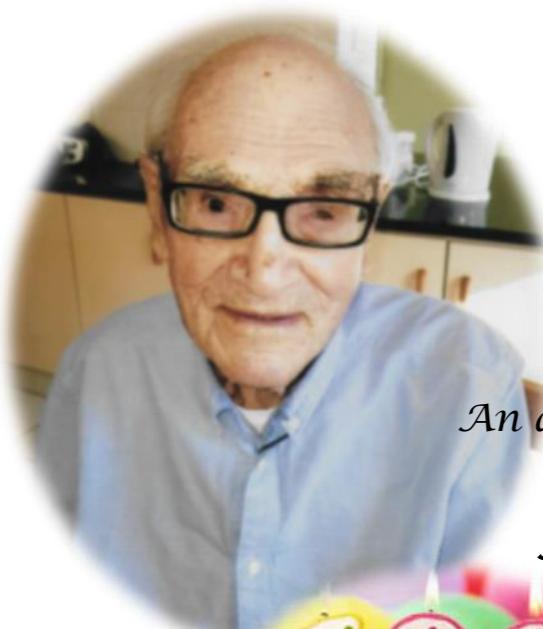
It was with great sadness I learned of Tony Versfeld's passing. I moved here in the late nineties when almost two thirds of the middle section was built (the Park was built in three stages). The top three rows of cottages were still to be built and there was an option in the ground from the swimming pool to the gate - it was all natural bush at that stage. The Versfelds had retired from Johannesburg and to my joy and delight, knowing he was a financial fundi, Tony was persuaded to serve on the Board during which time the Constitution was updated. He served the Park well.



RIP Tony.

Sue Neame

*Letter edited. Turn to page 8 for Tony's Obituary submitted by his son*

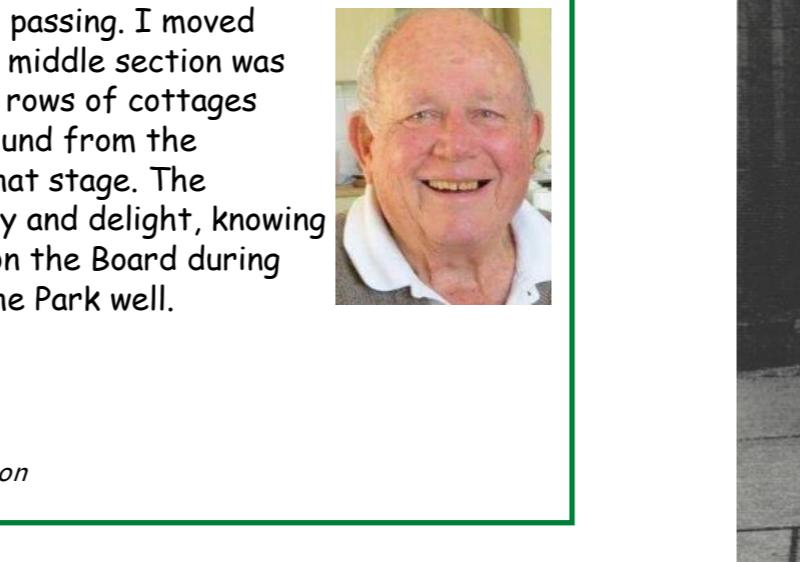


**100!**

An amazing milestone  
 Congratulations  
 Alexander Clark



## NOTICES & NEWS



THEN  
& NOW



**DOREEN AND TERENCE McCARTHY**  
 Are celebrating their  
**60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY**  
**CONGRATULATIONS!**



**LIBRARY MATTERS**

My sincere thanks to:  
CLAIRE, MAUDE, SALLY, MARGE, HELEN A, CHRISTINE, VAL D for their support and hard work in the library.  
HORACE BRAMWELL for his help in a recent library upgrade.  
RICHARD HENSHALL for always being available to transport boxes to the SPCA.  
A RESIDENT OF THE PARK (WHO WISHES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS) for his willingness to purchase new books for the library.  
**JIGSAW PUZZLES:** During times of lockdown "doing" a jigsaw has become a popular pastime. If you do have any which you no longer require - please consider donating them to the library.  
 Many thanks  
 HELEN THOMPSON

I think it's time again to acknowledge and sincerely thank those who so generously help us with the funds for feeding our colony of feral cats.

Also, Bessie D. (cottage 55, phone 259) who is truly our Florence Nightingale and who tirelessly and uncomplainingly is at the feeding stations morning and evening, rain or shine. Thanks Bessie

Thanks everyone.  
 Florence Fowler

