



The Margate & Ramsgate Retirement

# Village Vibe

January 2025 Issue 166. A Residents Association Publication. Submit content to [rac.vibe@gmail.com](mailto:rac.vibe@gmail.com)

Our deadline is 'as soon as possible' but no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Editorial team: Joy Crutchfield (6353); Sharon Gluckman (6347), Gwyn Deakin (6336).



## OH MY HAT! – HAPPY NEW YEAR

Remember the last scene in “When Harry Met Sally”, Harry references a song after he and Sally kiss? It was Auld Lang Syne, a song traditionally sung at the end of New Year’s Eve parties. Poet Robert Burns wrote it in 1788. In Auld Lang Syne the overall message is that people should remember their loved ones, both dead and alive, and keep them close to their hearts. [Click here](#) and listen to the marvellous rendition by earthy baritones, Home Free... and... [Click here](#) to listen to The Choral Scholars of University College Dublin. If people all over the world could unite, join hands and sing Auld Lang Syne in unison, how happy the world would be!

## LILLIPUT LANDS IN HIBISCUS HEIGHTS – Come see our beautiful micro village



There was great excitement in Hibiscus Heights during December and the Vibe received several alerts from residents to “please come and see our little village”. Well, we did, and it is delightful!

Set up and generously donated by Neville and Virginia Friedman – a real visual feast that promises to fascinate us all for many years to come.



May the closeness of your loved ones, family, and friends fill your heart with joy. Happy New Year!

## NEW RESIDENTS – Welcome to our HRV family

UNIT	NAME	ARRIVAL	PHONE
MRV275	Mr/s Colin & Lynette Pike	11 December	5275
RRV18	Mr Roger Linter & Mrs Liliane De Kok	19 December	6318
RRV58	Mr/s Peter & Theresa Thom		6358
MRV303	Mrs Anna Van Niekerk		5303

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Call Debbie on 5701

**RAC MONTHLY DRAW  
FINAL 2024 DRAW WINNERS**

1<sup>st</sup> R350 – Ken Hills MRV59  
2<sup>nd</sup> R250 – Treasure Philpott MRV108  
3<sup>rd</sup> R200 – Joan Mitchell MRV138

## DEAR DEPARTED FRIENDS



Mrs Heleen Oosthuizen MRV295 6 November 24

We thank them for enhancing our lives.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Thursday	December 23	Christmas Carols – Leon & Rietha Goosen (Donation box at door)	14h30	Azalea Hall
Wednesday	December 25	Christmas Day Lunch – R180 BYOB	12h30	Hibiscus Heights
Saturday	January 4	Adrian & Emma-Jean live in concert	14h30	Azalea Hall
Thursday	January 16	The Long Table: All welcome - mix & mingle	10h00	Café Munro
Saturday	January 25	Musical Bingo - R80pp (Proceeds to Hospice)	17h30 for 18h00	Azalea Hall

## SEASONS GREETINGS FROM OUR CEO ANDREW CROOKS



Dear Residents,

As the festive season approaches, we reflect on the blessings we continue to receive, and all the special moments made or shared throughout the year. We also remember lost loved ones and take time to think of those less fortunate than ourselves.

We also take this opportunity to celebrate our dedicated staff and the warmth of community, the value of friendship and the joy of togetherness that make our villages truly special. Thank you for being part of our wonderful community!

We wish you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Christmas, filled with love, laughter and cherished memories. May the New Year bring good health, happiness and new opportunities to create even more special moments. Enjoy, take care!

Warmest regards,

Andrew.

## RESCOM NEWS by Chairman Olliver Ransome

Rescom reacted to the recent sharp increase in our levies by suggesting that the other side of the coin, i.e. costs, should be closely analysed. Management and the Board took this up and appointed Yolandi Floyd, a cost accountant and At Louw, a Human Resources expert. A brief, preliminary look has been very promising and we are eagerly awaiting their final report. Hopefully, this will contain recommendations for us to reduce expenditure.

If you have installed solar panels and have the right type of inverter, please ensure that your meter is an electro-mechanical one which can go backwards because you will then be credited for the negative balance on the meter.

Last but not least, if you have not had your geyser times adjusted, please ask Maintenance to do it for you to ensure that it doesn't come on at peak rate hours.

May you all have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2025.

**Laugh a Little** – I finally decided to sell my vacuum cleaner. All it was doing was gathering dust.

Why did Beethoven get rid of his chickens? All they said was "Bach, Bach, Bach..."

If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.

## RECENT EVENTS

### THE CHRISTMAS MARKET

The RAC Christmas Market in the Azalea Hall on Saturday 23 November was a resounding success. Internal and external vendors pulled out all the stops and a large variety of quality goods were on offer. The Choir filled the hall with lots of “Fa-la-la-la-laaaa” and fun and laughter filled the air. The excitement of the various raffles being drawn was amazing, especially since most winners were present to receive their prizes. The foyer and forecourt were abuzz with fast food vendors, fresh produce marketers and the wool truck, all enjoying a roaring trade. Many took a breather with a quick cuppa at Café Munro. And, if you didn’t attend ... know that we hope to see you next year.



RAC Raffle 2<sup>nd</sup> – Helen Bam



RAC Raffle 1<sup>st</sup> – Sandra Scholtz



Ramsgate Knit Twits Raffle Winner Martin & Lynne Belgrad & pups.



## ***SOUTH COAST CHOIR (Previously known as Gamalakhe Choir)***

A few members of the district-wide South Coast Choir sang a cappella in the Azalea Hall on Saturday 30 November. Their show included formal hymns and, after interval, more traditional numbers that were clear favourites with residents. The conductor apologised for not being able to boast a larger contingent on this occasion. He also expressed gratitude to convenor Bev Barker and made special mention of resident Robin Ransome who is always willing to accompany the choir and assist them in learning and practicing new selections to their repertoire.



**Front of house L-R:** Entertainment Convenor Bev Barker, Angie Meek and Shelley King.



[CLICK HERE](#) to enjoy the choir in traditional song and dance.



## ***CHRISTMAS VARIETY SHOW presented by the Ronnie Baker Theatre Group***

Our very own Ronnie Baker Theatre Group's Christmas concert on Sunday 8 December was well supported by residents – the hall was packed! There was lots of fun, laughter, singing and dancing. Director Thia Hulme put the show together in record time and ticket sales raised R5,000 for our RAC. Well done to all concerned.



The Cast of the RBTG Christmas Celebration



RAC Chair Denise Oates, Director Thia Hulme & Compere Ken Alford

## **MONTESSORI MARGATE DRESS REHEARSAL**

Village residents were treated to a dress rehearsal by the Montessori school on Wednesday 4 December. The youngsters strutted their stuff with much aplomb. So much work had gone into their routines, and we clapped furiously whilst munching our treats courtesy of the school. What a fun and very endearing event!



[Click to view](#) dance video



[Click to view](#) a swinging upbeat tempo routine (1:59 mins)





## IT'S A CELEBRATION!

Birthdays serve as a reminder of the passage of time & the milestones achieved in one's life.

### JULIE SMIT turns 99

Julie enjoyed lunch with her nephew from Pinetown and afternoon tea with her friends and neighbours.



Julie Smit with Brian Blumrick




L-R: Brenda Blumrick, Marietjie & Piet Beukes, Julie Smit, Brian Blumrick, Hilda Visser and Dawn Aylwood.

### LINDA KYLE turns 81



Linda and sister-in-law Denese (hiding away behind Cheryl) laid on a most delicious spread for special friends to celebrate her birthday in the RRV Hall. L-R: Reuben Arnold, Lynne Belgrad, Joy Crutchfield, Sharon Gluckman, Cheryl Arnold, Martin Belgrad (extreme back), Lisa Theil (back), Kay Federl (front), Manny Rodrigues, Linda Kyle, Bill Eccles, Georgia Smith, Carole Cowdrey and Liz Kroon.






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## LADIES ARE ALWAYS RIGHT

We returned to our favourite Lake Eland cottage last month, before the holiday season crowded us out. Our veranda gazed over a clump of reeds to rolling hills beyond. We noticed an unusual weaver's nest less than a meter away. It was not completely round and pulled two reeds together for stability. One flat side completed the job, with a small circular opening for mum.

A black bird some eighteen centimetres long, interrupted our reverie from its perch on a reed nearby. It did not have much to say. But it rippled its wings with gay abandon, revealing flashes of white under its wings. We scrambled through our copy of Newman's Birds of South Africa and discovered we had just met a gentleman Thick-Billed Weaver.

A lady Thick-Billed Weaver soon appeared on the scene and watched coyly from a reed nearby. The gentleman's antics went into overdrive, but she was playing hard to get. Finally, the lady examined every detail of the nest, before flying off with disdain. The gentleman immediately set to work, making detailed adjustments. I have no idea how he knew what the lady wanted. You don't suppose she WhatsApped him, do you?

The lady returned later and re-inspected the nest. She rippled her wings in approval and the two flew off, dancing through the air. The next morning the lady was snoozing in the nest, although the gentleman had to nod off in a tree.

A sign at the loo on the way to the resort restaurant reads: *Gentlemen to the left, Ladies to the right, because Ladies are always right!* Just like it was with our Thick-Billed Weavers on that sunny day.

Wishing you a healthy and happy New Year. Leprechaun.



[CLICK HERE TO ENJOY A VIDEO OF ANOTHER PAIR OF THICK-BILLED WEAVERS COURTING](#)

Courtesy of Likweti Bushveld Farm Estate

## 'THE ORCHID & TREE TRAIL' – Perhaps you could establish a unique route?

Both MRV & RRV are presently alive with orchids – in pots, trees, high up, low down, you name it! Perhaps there are a few residents out there who would be keen to map out a walking trail that shows off these beauties? There are also the most amazing trees to be enjoyed when strolling through MRV? Any takers? Movers and shakers?



Oncidium orchids, known as "Dancing Lady" orchids, are prized for their charming and intricate flowers. They flower in summer, with dozens of blooms on multiple stems that can last for months. After blooming, they enter a growth cycle and grow new leaves.



Close-up pic of the Dancing Lady orchid blooms. Photographed at Liz Kroon's cottage – RRV52

## SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANING – shared by GAIL NUNN

1. Once all the villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. *That is faith.*
2. When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. *That is trust.*
3. Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set alarms to wake up. *That is hope.*
4. We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. *That is confidence.*
5. We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. *That is love.*
6. On an old man’s shirt was written a sentence “I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.” *That is attitude.*

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories. Remember...Good friends are the rare jewels of life, difficult to find and impossible to replace!

## NEW YEAR WORD SEARCH PUZZLE – Courtesy of 2014 puzzles-to-print.com



- |                |              |
|----------------|--------------|
| AULD LANG SYNE | HAPPY        |
| BABY           | HAT          |
| BALL           | HOURLASS     |
| BALLOONS       | INVITATION   |
| CALENDAR       | JANUARY      |
| CELEBRATION    | KISS         |
| CHAMPAGNE      | MIDNIGHT     |
| CLOCK          | MUSIC        |
| CONFETTI       | NOISE MAKER  |
| COUNTDOWN      | PARTY        |
| DANCING        | RESOLUTION   |
| DECEMBER       | SPARKLER     |
| EVE            | STREAMER     |
| FATHER TIME    | TIMES SQUARE |
| FIRECRACKER    | TOAST        |
| FIRST          | TRADITION    |
| FLUTE          | TUXEDO       |
| GAMES          | VOW          |
| GOWN           | YEAR         |

😬 RIDDLE 😊

1. What is 3/7 chicken, 2/3 cat and 2/4 goat?
2. What makes you, young?

### 3. What is special about these two words: job, polish?



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## FACT, FICTION & FOIBLES by Sharon Gluckman

### THE WITCHES OF SALEM

**This is a tale of mass hysteria, ignorance, blame and fear.**

It was the spring of 1692, in the village of Salem in Massachusetts, America. A clergyman Samuel Parris observed both his niece, Abigail Williams and his own daughter, Betty Parris, exhibiting strange behaviours. This included double vision, contortions, rigidity, violent fits, tremors and odd behaviour. The local doctor, William Griggs was called in but could find no physical cause. Eventually he diagnosed "bewitchment". This was a poor puritan village and accusations began to spread like wildfire. Neighbours suspected neighbours, friends turned on friends... the "bewitched" began to grow in numbers.

Children would fall down screaming, crying and behaving in manners most strange. Fingers were pointed here, there and everywhere.

The first three "witches" arrested were Sarah Good, a homeless beggar, Sarah Osborne, a poor elderly lady and Tituba, a Caribbean slave who belonged to Rev. Parris. A special court was set up. Soon over 150 men, women and children were imprisoned and awaiting trial. In June the first convicted witch was hanged at Gallows Hill in Salem. Another 18 would see the same fate. Giles Corey was pressed to death by stones for refusing to admit guilt. Others were also tortured. One method was to tie up the accused and dunk them in a body of water. If they sank they were innocent, but if they floated this indicated guilt. Several died in prison like Sarah Good. Her 4-year-old daughter, Dorothy, was even imprisoned as a possible witch. 2 dogs were hung as witches' familiars. By September 1693 the situation began to normalise and the hysteria died down. The surviving prisoners were released and families pardoned.

**BUT, WHAT CAUSED THIS EVENT?**

Several possible reasons were considered: an earlier smallpox epidemic; the fear of attack by neighbouring hostile Native American Indians; suspicion and jealousy amongst families; the puritan beliefs; church politics and possibly an outbreak of encephalitis may have all contributed to this madness.

**AND THEN, finally, an answer that appears very relevant!**

It's been postulated that the "bewitched" victims could well have been suffering from fungus poisoning. Ergot fungus found in rye crops and other grains can produce LSD-like hallucinatory effects. This would explain all the peculiar reactions and behaviours. Rye was a staple crop at the time and studies have found that there were several very wet seasons. Rye kept in storage in damp conditions over long periods could well have caused fungal infestations.

In a nutshell, they **were** probably flying. Because, in fact, they were as high as kites! A study by toxicologists, published in Science magazine in 1976, cited the fungus ergot as a cause of symptoms such as delusions, muscle spasms and odd behaviour. All the supposed pacts with the devil came to nought.

Over 2 centuries later (1950-1954) in America, another series of witch hunts surfaced. They mirrored the Salem witch hunts of 1692 and once again they brought with them untold misery, fear and mass hysteria. They were engineered by Senator Joseph McCarthy when communism was considered a real threat to the country. The *First Red Scare* took place in Russia with the overthrow of the Czar in 1917.

The *Second Red Scare* was the first of 2 witch hunts that began in 1950.

It was accompanied by *The Lavender Scare* which targeted homosexuals, who, at the time, were considered mentally ill and sexual deviants. Both were considered serious threats to democracy and the wellbeing of the nation.

Committees, along with the FBI, were appointed to hunt down and blacklist suspected communists, leftists and free thinkers like authors, composers, actors and scientists. Homosexuals were followed, harassed, outed and jailed. Many had their lives shattered.

Globally, there are constant witch hunts. Governments and those in power use them to eliminate threats. There have always been the vulnerable, the fall guys, forced to take the 'heat' when society is in turmoil. Mostly these hunts are illogical and misdirected at those on the fringes of society. It is a most useful but toxic means of control, keeping a lid on turmoil and silencing controversy in a world gone awry!





## CLUB AND ACTIVITY GROUP NEWS & REVIEWS

### ART CLUB – CHRISTMAS LUNCH

It was a rather colourful event when the Art Club held its Christmas lunch at Cafe Munro on 28 November. Sally provided a fabulous three course meal which was enjoyed by all. Classes will start again on Thursday 16 January 2025. New members are very welcome - you don't have to know how to draw or paint, we'll teach you!



**Back row L-R:** Lesley Brauteseth, Nell Jackson, Louise du Toit, Janene Bosch, Alan Bosch, Linda Watmough, Karen Schoeman and Nadene Martin.

**Front row L-R:** Frances van der Hoven, Beverley Slade, Mike Slade, Elda Pretorius and Pixie de Villiers (Art Teacher).

### BRIDGE CLUB – CHRISTMAS LUNCH

The Bridge Club enjoyed their Christmas lunch at Café Munro on 26 November. No poker faces here!



**L-R:** Mal Slinger, Gertie Biggs, Sue Hansbury and Sheila Coetser.



**L-R:** Gail Nunn, Micky Jansen, Lenette Tarr, Trace Derksen, Jean Powell and Linda Williams.

### RESIDENTS COMFORT FUND YEAR-END TEA PARTY

After a most rewarding 2024, the Comfort Fund celebrated their annual 'Thank you' to acknowledge all who helped and supported the RCF during the year - donors, ladies who man the shops, those who assist with cottage clearing ... in fact, the aim is to include anyone who did anything to assist.



Trevor Madden, Barbara Carney, Joan Krause, Carol Tyers, Patti Redman & Lienkie with her lovely head of hair.



All the guys (and dolls) with L-R: Olly Ransome, Piet Beukes and Alan Williams in the foreground.

**Laugh a little** – I was sitting next to a lady on an airplane and wanted to start a conversation. Does the airline charge you more to seat you next to handsome men, I asked. Yes, she replied, but I was not willing to pay.

## RAMSGATE RETIREMENT VILLAGE (RRV) CHRISTMAS DINNER

There was a record turnout at the RRV 2024 Christmas Dinner on Thursday 5 December. The menu was a real treat with delectable fillet steaks and sage & onion stuffed chicken thighs. The desert turned many into *Olivers*: “please Yvonne, may we have some more...” Special thanks go to all who have supported the RRV dinners over the past year, and to convenor Charmaine Mulder ably assisted by Liz Lombard, for their commitment to making the monthly RRV dinner the success it has become. Also, to Sally and Yvonne from Café Munro who go the extra mile and never cease to amaze, and to RRV staff members Cheryl McArthur and Alex Khomo for the behind the scenes assistance in setting up the room and the décor.



L-R: Helen Piquito, Godfrey Roper, Ally Snyman & Vicky Roper – sizzling with Christmas spirit!

## VILLAGE DANCE CLUB – CHRISTMAS DANCE

Members of the Dance Club enjoyed a lovely evening at their Christmas Dance on 7 December 2024. Priscilla Du Toit did a fabulous job decorating the Ronnie Baker Hall.



## HIBISCUS HEIGHTS 3<sup>rd</sup> FLOOR TEA PARTY

The year-end get-together of the third-floor residents of Hibiscus Heights was organised by Rina Duvenhage and enjoyed by all. “It was a welcome to new-comers and an opportunity to socialise with neighbours. We had such a lovely time and a good spread.” said Rina.



L-R: Eileen Lubbe, Margaret Disney & Berryl Drynan



Pat Langton



Rina Duvenhage & Charles Norris



Basil Redshaw, David Aitken, Nigel Scott



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## FROM MY HIDE with David Holt-Biddle

### A CHEESY STORY

As you know we enjoy the company of birds. Regular visitors include the Woolly-necked stork. A couple of weeks ago one of them arrived with a broken leg, it was hobbling along as best it could, and when it was just slightly separated from the others we gave it a treat of their favourite nibble, cheddar cheese (yes, I know about the regulations about feeding the birds, but this was an exception).

A lot of us became involved in peg-leg's case, offering help and suggestions. We got in an officer from the SPCA, but he was doubtful of the chances of catching Peg-leg so he (she?) could be treated.

However, the bird flew off (nothing wrong with its wings). But suddenly, this past weekend, it reappeared, stayed long enough to enjoy some cheddar and then disappeared again. We were all learning a lot from the situation, particularly Woolly-necked storks and cheddar cheese.

And then the following story appeared in the New York Times. Here I must say that cheddar cheese is made all over the world, but there is one true cheddar, the one that comes from Cheddar in England. Anyway, a consignment of true Cheddar, 24 tons of it in fact, was on its way to a cheese shop in New York. A heist was pulled off by bad guys using the Internet. The cost of all that cheddar? Almost 7-million rand.



**A Woolly-necked stork named Peg-Leg**

### PEGGY – A STORY WITH A HAPPY ENDING told by Rob Bothma



**Welcome home Peggy !**

A few months ago, one of the regular storks that visited MRV gardens appeared with a severely damaged leg, which seemed to have been broken below the knee joint. (See image above.)

Attempts were made to capture her for the SPCA / Animal Rehabilitation Centre to see if they could assist her, but these were not successful.

Sadly, she just disappeared but then, after an absence of about 2 months, Peggy returned and seems to be fully recovered after having half her leg amputated. (See image alongside.)

**Note:**

- ☛ Due to her smaller size with the other stork that she always appeared with, we assumed she was a female.
- ☛ She was named Peggy due to her peg-leg.



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## BIRD TALK with Peter B. Munday

### Report No. 26 (November/December)

Penny Paterson (MRV209) reports having had a visit by an inquisitive **Speckled Mousebird**, and a **Yellow-rumped Tinkerbird** (formerly the Golden Rumped Tinker Barbet).

Charmaine Klintworth (MRV267) has had a pair of **Paradise Flycatchers** grace her garden! Also seen a Juvenile **African Harrier-Hawk** (Gymnogene) being pursued by a few small birds.

The story behind the wounded **Woolly-necked Stork** was resolved and my worries over the poor bird have been relieved. I am very happy to close the subject now that “Peggy” has reappeared and is coping with her disability. My innovative mind does wonder if we could fit a prosthesis made from a carbon fibre golf club shaft, which would help in her walking but not when she was alighting in a tree. No, I’ll let nature take its curative course. Hallelujah! Whilst on the subject of the Woolly-necked Stork, several months ago an alert was received to report the ring **number** on tagged or ringed Storks, together with date and location. Sadly, no reports have been forwarded and I certainly have not seen any ringed Storks.

Our family and an overseas visitor went to the Umkobi lagoon one cloudy late November evening to see the “**KZN Summer Biological Phenomenon**”. The migrant **Barn Swallows** (formerly called the European Barn Swallow) massing to roost in the reed beds. The Barn Swallow breeds in the Northern Hemisphere, Russia, Western, Central and Eastern Europe (20 to 70 degrees North). They generally arrive in South Africa in early November and return north in March-April. [Click here to see the video](#)...and there are no prizes for guessing how many swallows there are in the flock!!

Thanking our bird lovers for their reports and wishing all members of our group many satisfying hours of avian studies over the Festive Season. Peter B. Munday (phone 5227).

## RAINFALL FOR NOVEMBER 2024 by Brian Bucher

- Rainfall for November 187mm
- Progressive total for Summer Rainfall Area (August 2024 to November 2024) 402mm
- Average previous 10-year November rainfall 157mm
- Progressive previous average 10-year Summer Rainfall Area (August to November) rainfall 471mm



## RRV YEAR END SUNDAY BRAAI by Lynne Belgrad

Wow! What a blast! As the grandkids would say. Over 20 of us sat down to the year-end Village Braai. We had a happy Christmas theme with Braai Master Martin and able assistants Reuben, Roger and Denzil. The day was made even more special by the presence of two new Villagers, Roger Linter & Liliane De Kok.

Also joining us was resident Carlien Joubert, following an 8-month stint at

our clinic. After sampling a variety of salads, our festive lunch finished with bowls of ice-cream topped with caramel sauce, sprinkles and marshmallows! Happy Christmas RRV and a wonderful 2025!



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## VILLAGE LIBRARY NEWS

A big thank you to village management, the RAC, Wendy Holburn and all our library members for these amazing new books! Over the course of this year, we have seen so many wonderful and generous donations which we are so grateful for. Hopefully this new year brings joy to everyone, and we look forward to seeing you in the library! A very Happy New Year to you all!

TO DIE FOR by David Baldacci (thriller)	LIES HE TOLD ME by James Patterson (thriller)
MURDER TOWN by Shelley Burr (thriller)	THINGS I WISH I TOLD MY MOTHER by Susan Patterson (r)
IN TOO DEEP by Lee Child (suspense)	GONE TONIGHT by Sara Pekkanen (thriller)
IN HER PLACE by Edel Coffey (thriller)	THE SICILIAN INHERITANCE by Jo Piazza (historical)
THE LIBRARIAN OF SAINT-MARLO by Mario Escobar (h)	THE ART OF BELONGING by Eleanor Ray (relationship)
PROFILE K by Helen Fields (thriller)	YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME HERE by Jeneva Rose (t)
THE LIGHTHOUSE SECRET by Carmel Harrington (r)	COUNTING MIRACLES by Nicholas Sparks (relationship)
BAD LIAR by Tami Hoag (crime)	JOY by Danielle Steel (relationship)
SECRETS OF THE VILLA AMORE by Carol Kirkwood (romance)	TRIANGLE by Danielle Steel (relationship)
THE LEFTOVER WOMAN by Kean Kwok (mystery)	THE GRIEF HOUSE by Rebecca Thorne (thriller)
THE MAIDENS by Alex Michaelides (thriller)	THE BREAKAWAY by Jennifer Weiner (romance)
THE QUIET TENANT by Clémence Michallon (thriller)	BELOW GROUND by Michael Wood (crime)
DROWNING by TJ Newman (thriller)	THICKER THAN WATER by Kerry Washington (non-fiction)

**h = historical; r = relationship; t = thriller**

## BATTLING WITH TECHNOLOGY? A laugh a second – be sure to view.

**Paint it Black / Another Brick in the Wall. Parody Song for those who hate technology.**

*“My dear Mother 100% inspired this song and was such a good sport about it that she agreed with my request to film her trying to use her phone and laptop. No acting here – just me capturing her trying to figure it all out. Good times!” Shirley Serban.*

[CLICK HERE  
AND ENJOY](#)  
**4:57 mins**



### GOOD SAMARITAN CHAPEL – SERVICE TIMES

Sunday	08:15	Anglican Communion
Sunday	10:00	Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist – on a rotational basis *
Sunday	11:15	Afrikaans Diens (elke 3de)
Tuesday	09:00	Roman Catholic Service
Thursday	09:00	Roman Catholic Service

\* For more information, see the roster of services in the porch of the Chapel.

The Chapel is available for use by all residents at any time. The side door is unlocked.

### THANK YOU LYALL

The Wednesday morning Bible study in the Chapel from 9 to 10 has ended. After 15 years of bible teaching in the Village, Lyall Lloyd-Evans has decided to 'call it a day'. Thank you Lyall for your dedication and for giving so much of your time.



Buying or selling your car? Give me a ring for the best cash price and service.

**JOHANN – 082 564 5678**

More than 40 years' experience.

## TOPICAL TIPS! ☆ Cordless phones ☆ by Chris King (MRV169)

Hello everyone, thanks to our intrepid editor Joy, Topical Tips is back! So here is my first article of 2025 - I hope that you find something of interest here;

Most of us village residents (MRV and RRV) have a village phone, and are they ever handy! You can phone your neighbour, friend, maintenance and admin at no cost. But its a bit of a problem when the basic phone is in your bedroom and you are in the kitchen or outside gardening. Enter the cordless phone.

A cordless phone is a portable phone that lets you answer and make calls on the village line anywhere in your cottage and often in your garden. Many of us have these phones, and they are great, they really simplify your life. But what happens when your cordless phone dies halfway through the day - the batteries just don't hold up?

So here is the issue - cordless phones use 1,2 volt AAA **rechargeable** batteries, and these are different from normal AAA batteries. The standard AAA batteries that you buy over the counter are alkaline 1,5 volt batteries and these are NOT rechargeable. If you buy standard 1,5 volt AAA batteries and fit them into your cordless phone two things will probably happen:



1. The phone will work for a short while but run down after a few days.
2. These batteries aren't designed to be recharged so they will start to leak - acid leaks out of the batteries and will damage your phone, very often irreparably.

So if you have a cordless phone which doesn't last the day be very careful when you replace the batteries. Fit only 1,2 volt rechargeables - if you fit the wrong type you might well have to bin your phone. If changing the batteries doesn't solve the problem you might have a fault with the charging station. Please note that during power outages, portable rechargeable phones cannot work.

*I have no agreement or affiliation with any service provider. I report what I believe to be of value to the average user.*

## BRAIN ROT – the 2024 word of the year

Whilst many of us identify with our brains slacking off a bit in our later years, its the youngsters we should really be afraid for!

After an analysis of language data by Oxford University Press, worldwide public discussion and an overwhelming 37,000 votes, **brain rot** has become the new buzzword. It signifies intellectual and mental deterioration and the monster in the room is low quality online media content.

The digital age has brought to the fore much trivial and inconsequential programming like Tik Tok. Quite a worrying situation with our young generations absorbing meaningless trivia like sponges and spending an inordinate amount of time doing so.

Time would be better spent in pursuit of knowledge and creative thought patterns.

## THE RRV WALKIE-TALKIES



L-R Peeps - Carole Cowdrey, Liz Kroon, Shaz Gluckman, Linda Kyle & Joy Crutchfield.

L-R Pups - Sarah, Manina, Blue, Bonnie, Dax & Thor.



## TRIP TO TEMBE ELEPHANT PARK - 16 FEBRUARY

START 2025 WITH LYNNE & MARTIN ON A TRIP TO TEMBE ELEPHANT PARK  
DEPARTS 16 FEBRUARY 2025. RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW.

- Wheelchair friendly.
- Air-conditioned luxury tents.
- Trips are ALL IN excluding bar and gratuities.
- Only pocket money is needed for personal purchases.
- Bookings close on 7 February.
- Tour details available on request.

Contact MARTIN on RRV 6354 or e-mail [martin.belgrad25@gmail.com](mailto:martin.belgrad25@gmail.com)

**THE VILLAGE VIBE MARKET PLACE. Free service for residents. Email: [rac.vibe@gmail.com](mailto:rac.vibe@gmail.com)**

FOR SALE	FOR SALE	WANTED
<p><b>AUTOMATED RECLINER</b> just on a year old. R6,000. Contact Roz Hooper on 5020 or 0834761396.</p> <p><b>BRAND NEW WALKER</b> – Rollator 8” wheel with flip down footrest. R2,000. Call Jill Mullins on 5191.</p> <p><b>MOBILITY SCOOTER HS 360</b> – New batteries. New rear tyres. Excellent Condition. Contact Nick v d Westhuizen on 5092 or 0827509614.</p> <p><b>THREE WHEEL WALKER</b> with basket. R500. Contact Nick v d Westhuizen on 5092 or 0827509614.</p> <p><b>FLYMO LAWNMOWER</b> Turbo Lite 350 in excellent condition. R500. Contact Carole Cowdrey on 6350.</p>	<p><b>GOLDEN CLEANING PRODUCTS</b> – (Super 10, LDC, etc) <b>and NEOLIFE PRODUCTS</b> (Omega 3, Vitamin Supplements, etc). Contact Shelley King on 5169.</p> <p><b>AVON &amp; JUSTINE PRODUCTS</b> – Contact Clare Fortman on 5611 or 0835577914.</p> <p><b>MOBILITY SCOOTERS, WALKERS &amp; WHEELCHAIR REPAIRS &amp; SALES.</b> Contact Nick van der Westhuizen on 5092 or 0827509614</p>	<p><b>PIANO</b> in working condition for the RRV Hall. Contact Sharon Turnbull-Jackson on 6310 or 0737902513.</p> <p><b>DISHWASHER</b> in working order for Ramsgate Lions. Contact Jenny Henry on 5609 or 083 309 8314</p> <p><b>OLD XRAYS</b> that are no longer needed. To assist an artist who creates beautiful window decals. Please drop off with Debbie at the RAC Office.</p> <p><b>VACUUM CLEANER</b> in good working order to donate to Margate RAC for their carpets in Ronnie Baker Hall. Contact Debbie on 5701, mornings.</p> <p><b>COMPRESSOR</b> for Comfort Fund wheelchair repair team. Contact Chris King on 5169.</p> <p><b>SIDE TABLE OR NEST OF TABLES</b> – Contact Denese Slater on 5011 or 0765321977.</p> <p><b>BOTTLES/JARS FOR JAMS &amp; PICKLES.</b> Peanut butter bottles also welcome. Call Nick van der Westhuizen on 5092 or 0827509614.</p>
<p><b>ANSWERS TO RIDDLES ON PAGE 7</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Chicago</i></li> <li>2. <i>ng</i></li> <li>3. <i>A Capitalised first letter changes their sound and meaning.</i></li> </ol>	<p><b>SERVICES</b></p> <p><b>TIRED OF THROWING AWAY YOUR BLUNT KNIVES AND SCISSORS?</b> We desperately need a NEW SERVICE in the Village ... a knife and scissor sharpening expert! Could that perhaps be you? Please tell the Vibe and we will include your advert in this Market Place. <a href="mailto:rac.vibe@gmail.com">rac.vibe@gmail.com</a></p>	
		

SUPPORT THE RESIDENTS COMFORT FUND

**BRING YOUR FAMILY AND DO YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT THE SHOPPE & THE BOUTIQUE, GROUND FLOOR, HIBISCUS HEIGHTS**

**FIND BARGAIN TREASURES LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME**




Jewellery, earrings, glassware, ceramics, ornaments, trinkets, kitchen equipment, bedding, preserves, you name it – pop into the Shoppe. And ... for quality second-hand clothing, the Boutique never ceases to please.



One benefit of old age is that your secrets are safe with your friends — they can't remember them either!



Enabling those with sight impairment or other disabilities to listen to a large selection of books.



**TAPE AIDS LIBRARY**  
HIBISCUS HEIGHTS  
08h15 – 10h15: MONDAY & FRIDAY  
OR CALL Sharon Lombard on 5728

*We have a library of audio books on memory sticks.*

**Pop in and enjoy a cup of coffee while choosing from your favourite authors. New titles become available on a regular basis.**

*We also stock Greeting Cards @ R3 - R6 each*



**The RAC shop at Ronnie Baker Hall** has an array of interesting and unusual articles for sale. We are open on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 8.30am to 11am. We look forward to seeing you! For more information, please contact Jenny on 5609.

## INTEREST AND ACTIVITY GROUPS – Please make contact & join in

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	CONVENOR	PHONE
<b>MONDAY</b>				
06h30-07h00	Keep Fit Class	Ronnie Baker	Wendy	5254
07h30-10h00	Men's Snooker	Candlewood	Theo	0823595484
09h00-10h15	Yoga	Ronnie Baker	Denise	5267
10h00-10h30	Movement to Music	RRV Hall	Kay	6317
10h30-11h30	Line Dancing	Ronnie Baker	Joan	5138
13h30-16h00	Badminton	Ronnie Baker	Marietta	5024
14h00-17h00	Men's Darts	Boma	Trevor	5312
15h30-17h30	Ladies' Darts	Candlewood	Pat/Lorraine	5249/5312
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
06h30-07h00	Keep Fit Class	Ronnie Baker	Wendy	5254
09h00-11h00	Market Day	Café Munro	Denise	5701
09h00-12h00	Canasta Club (MRV)	Tom Millard Room	Clair	5599
12h30 .....	Bridge Club	Ronnie Baker	Jean	5116
13h00-15h30	Billiards Club - men	Pool Room	Neil	5267
13h30-16h00	Indoor Bowls	Ronnie Baker	Trevor	5312
16h15 .....	Table Tennis	Ronnie Baker	Rocky/Kay	5109
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
06h00-07h00	Keep Fit Class	Ronnie Baker	Wendy	5254
07h30-10h00	Men's Snooker	Candlewood	Theo	0823595484
08h30-09h30	Exercise to Music	Ronnie Baker	Jenny	5609
14h00-16h00	Ronnie Baker Theatre Group	Ronnie Baker	Barbara	5236
13h00- .....	Rummikub	Ronnie Baker	Dawn	5325
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
06h30-07h00	Keep Fit Class	Ronnie Baker	Wendy	5254
08h30-10h00	Croquet	Boma	Gert/Olly	5218/5182
13h00-15h30	Billiards Club - men	Pool Room	Neil	5267
13h30-16h00	Badminton	Ronnie Baker	Marietta	5024
14h00-17h00	Men's Darts	Boma	Trevor	5312
14h00 .....	Art Classes	Ronnie Baker	Pixie	5019
14h30-15h30	Bible Study	RRV Library	Pastor Denise	6348
15h30-17h30	Ladies Darts	Candlewood	Pat/Lorraine	5249/5312
16h15 .....	Table Tennis	Ronnie Baker	Rocky/Kay	5109
<b>FRIDAY</b>				
06h30-07h00	Keep Fit Class	Ronnie Baker	Wendy	5254
07h30-10h00	Men's Snooker	Candlewood	Theo	0823595484
09h00-10h15	Yoga	Ronnie Baker	Denise	5267
12h00-16h00	Rubber Bridge	RRV Hall	Mal	6308
13h30-16h00	Indoor Bowls	Ronnie Baker	Trevor	5312
<b>SATURDAY</b>				
14h00-16h00	Ronnie Baker Theatre Group	Ronnie Baker	Barbara	5236
14h00-17h00	Canasta Club (MRV)	Tom Millard Room	Clair	5599
14h30-17h00	Petanques/Bouille	Boma ground	Denise	5267
<b>OTHER</b>				
<b>1st Friday</b>	RAC Monthly Draw	RAC Office	Hugh	5701
<b>2nd Saturday/19h00-22h00</b>	Social Dance Club	Ronnie Baker	Leon	5198
<b>3rd Thursday</b>	Speakers Corner	Ronnie Baker	Sue	068 118 5449
<b>4th Tuesday - 09h30</b>	Quilters Guild	Ronnie Baker	Lynne	079 248 8354
<b>4th Sunday - 10h30</b>	Christian Church	RRV Hall	Pastor Denise	6348
Every Sunday	Inter-denominational	MRV Chapel	Neil	5267
	Various Bible Studies	MRV Chapel	On notice board in Chapel lobby	
	Village Gym	Hibiscus Heights	Tom	5460
	RRV Gym & Pool Room	RRV Hall	Denzil	6307
Mon/Wed/Sat/13h15	Village Bowling Club	MRV Green	Annette	5703/5704
Non-members can join for a "tabs-in" on Fridays at 14h45				
Pub is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday between 16h00 - 18h00. All residents are welcome.				
	S A Airforce Association		Johnny	5001
Always Open	Swimming Pool	Behind the Boma	Mark/Chris	5206/5270
	Bingo	Ronnie Baker	Denise	5267
	Vingo (Bingo - visually impaired)	HH Pink Room	Denise	5267
Mon/Thurs/08h00-09h00	Wheelchair Workshop		Nick	5092
Mon/Fri - 08h15 to 10h15	Tape Aids Library	Hibiscus Heights	Sharon	5278
Mon/Weds/Sat 08h30-11h00	RAC Village Shop	Ronnie Baker	Jenny	5609
Tue to Fri - 08h30 to 11h00	Comfort Fund - The Shoppe	Hibiscus Heights	Joan	5308
Tue/Thurs - 08h30 to 11h00	Comfort Fund - Boutique	Hibiscus Heights	Sophia	5463

INFORMATION AMENDED THIS MONTH IS HIGHLIGHTED IN RED AND WITH AN \* (ASTERISK)



**Cycad Gardens gets a facelift – perhaps the three painters are trying to emulate the iconic New York skyscraper picture?**

**Shared by Linda Whatmough**

