

APRIL
FOOL'S

The Margate & Ramsgate Retirement

Village Vibe

April 2025 Issue 169. A Residents Association Publication. Submit content to rac.vibe@gmail.com

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

Editorial team: Joy Crutchfield (6353), Sharon Gluckman (6347), Lynne Belgrad (6354).



OH MY HAT! APRIL FOOLS' DAY:

April Fools' Day occurs on April 1 every year. It has been celebrated for several centuries by many countries, though its exact origins remain a mystery. April Fools' Day traditions include playing hoaxes or practical jokes on others, often yelling "April Fools!" at the end to clue in the subject of the prank. The embrace of April Fools' Day jokes by the media, major brands and the Village Vibe itself, has ensured the unofficial holiday's long life.

ST PATRICK'S DAY AT THE VILLAGE BOWLING CLUB

The bowling club transformed the usual Friday night get-together and Jokers Wild Draw into something very special with an early St Patricks Day celebration. Thanks to Brian Blumrick and his trusty team who provided the lovely Irish Stew, and Bangers and Mash; and to all those who helped transform the evening - the singalong, décor, pub duty, supper orders and so much more. The bowling club is not just a place to play bowls. The ongoing fellowship and entertainment that it provides wouldn't happen without the voluntary time and effort of so many of its members.



Len & Heather Greyling



Denise & George Williams



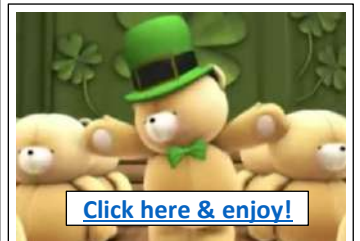
Susan & Mel Glover



The Choir: Gill Voigt, Brian Blumrick & Sandy Hofman



Peter Munday



[Click here & enjoy!](#)

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NEW RESIDENTS – Welcome to our HRV family

UNIT	NAME	ARRIVAL	PHONE
BG340	Mrs Pam Jamieson	28 March 25	5340
HH303	Mrs Ingrid Harries	TBA	5409
MRV168	Ms Nicoletta Wagner	TBA	5168

**JOIN THE RAC
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Call Debbie on 5701

**RAC MONTHLY DRAW
MARCH 2025 WINNERS**
1st R350 - Leon Crous – HG198
2nd R250 - Karen Potts – Admin
3rd R200 - Linda Williams – 161

DEAR DEPARTED FRIENDS

Mrs Charlotte van Niekerk HRV97 7 March 25

We thank them for enhancing our lives.

Dear RAC

I just wanted to say a big hurrah for winning the first prize on the (January) monthly draw. I have only been here for 7 months and have never won anything ever before.

Sharon Mathiesen HG228

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday	April 2	Bowling Quiz Night	17h30 for 18h00	Bowling Club
Thursday	April 10	Ramsgate Pharmacy at Spar: Presentation - New 'blister packaging' for monthly medication. Book your seat with Debbie on 5701 for catering purposes.	10h00	Ronnie Baker Hall
Thursday	April 17	The Long Table: All welcome – mix & mingle	10h00	Cafe Munro
Thursday	April 24	RRV Dinner by Cafe Munro – All welcome	18h00	RRV Hall
Wednesday	April 30	RRV Quiz with Gail Nunn – All welcome	17h30 for 18h00	RRV Hall
Saturday	May 3	Autumn Day Fete	SAVE THIS DATE	
Date to be advised		KZN Orchestra	14h00	Azalea Hall

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RECENT EVENTS

THE GENTRY – Some boogied in their seats, others took to the floor...

What a fabulous evening enjoyed by all. The Gentry played music from the 60's through to today with band leader, James Carlsen, giving the audience brief snippets as to who, when, where and why. James also ragged Princess for forgetting to bring her tambourines but, resident Ally Snyman soon came to the rescue with substitutes for an ever-grateful Princess.

Thanks and congratulations go to Bev Barker, her Entertainments Committee and the many helpers for organising a superb evening's entertainment. BYO and table seating always works a charm and the special décor set the scene.



L-R: Brent Geldenhys, Princess Dube, James Carlsen, Gavin Hughes, Jonathan Brauteseth (not performing this time) and Wayne Coughlan.

Click on these clips and enjoy The Gentry doing their own cover versions:

- [Honky Tonk Women](#) – The Rolling Stones
- [Perfect](#) – Ed Sheeran
- [The Lion Sleeps Tonight](#) – The Tokens
- [The Boxer](#) – Simon & Garfunkel



This is Joyce with me sitting in her 3-wheeler's basket!

FRIEDEL – Therapy dog in training

Hi, I am the “new kid on the block”. I am Joy Crutchfield's new pup and we live at RRV53. They call me Friedel, bringer of peace, and everyone thinks that I am true to my name. I am a super-chilled miniature Dachshund. →→→→

I can't wait to visit the Hibiscus Heights and meet you all. I was born on December 22nd, the day after Joyce Metcalf (RRV62) turned 91, the same day as her late husband Ivor's birthday! ←←←← That's Joyce and me in the pic with her 3-wheeler!

Another of my special friends, Lolette →→→→ Wortmann, lives over the road. She and her carer Cindy love it when I come to visit. So do our neighbours, Martin & Lynne Belgrad and I really enjoy a good snooze on Lynne's lap!

Joy says that I can start making friends at the Heights just as soon as Matron Suzette calls me a “Good Boy”. I think I am that already.

I look forward to seeing you soon! Friedel 🐾



Here I am with Lolette

IT'S A CELEBRATION!

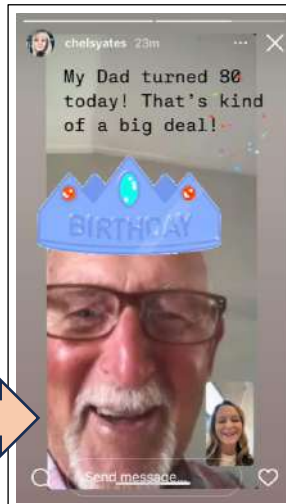
Birthdays serve as a reminder of the passage of time & the milestones achieved in one's life.

MEL GLOVER turns 80



Mel & Susan celebrated with wonderful friends on the afternoon of 22 February at MRV Bowling Club. Lots of laughter & yummy eats were enjoyed by all. Thanks for sharing with us.

Our daughter Chelsea captured her Dad on Instagram while chatting to him from Texas.



RINA DUVENAGE turns 80

Rina celebrated her 80th birthday with family & friends on 3rd floor Hibiscus Heights.



L-R: Rina with her daughter, Rene Krauss



L-R: Beryl Drenage, Emmarentia Vorster, Rina & Jenny Lehmann



L-R: David Aitken & Nigel Scott



L-R: Sheila Kelly, Dee Mitchell, Pat Langton, Doreen Harvey & Margaret Disney



L-R: Charles Norris, Frieda Meintjies and Lien Botha

Good friends are like chosen family

LUCILLE LATHAM turns 80

On Saturday, 8 March 2025, Cafe Munro hosted a surprise belated birthday party for Lucille Latham. As Lucille chose to spend her actual birthday in the Berg, her daughter in Germany contacted Sally and asked her and Ursula to organise a surprise tea party.

In order to get the birthday girl to the Cafe she was asked to meet two members of the Ronnie Baker Theatre Group to discuss something very important about their upcoming show. It worked and she had absolutely no idea that the decorated tables were in her honour until everyone shouted “*surprise!*” and sang Happy Birthday. A lovely time was had by all as Lucille was inducted into the OBE brigade.



Birthday Girl enjoying – Top right, wearing the hat! Congrats Lucille!

BIRD TALK with Peter B. Munday (MRV227)

Report No. 29 (Feb/Mar 25)

Mel Glover reported seeing a beautiful **African Harrier Hawk** sitting on the Boma roof adjacent to the swimming pool.

Carrie Johnson not only saw but got a good snap of a group of seedeaters feeding on the lawn in front of MRV37. In the group were **Village Weavers** and **Red Bishops** and, most surprisingly, a very pretty little **Rosy faced Lovebird** (Roberts No. 367). The latter has not been reported as seen in MRV before. Thus, it is a “FIRST TIME” in all classes! The gorgeously coloured Rosy faced Lovebird is an escapee from captivity as they are common in small flocks through Angola south to the extreme northwestern Cape. They are a sought-after and traded aviary attraction.

Dave Fardell (MRV176) has heard the **Spur Fowl** (Natal Francolin) calling. Gordon Aylward (MRV231) has seen the Spur Fowl in the garden. Margaret Jones (MRV146) thinks the Fowl is nesting in the thick undergrowth in front of her cottage. Penny Hugo (MRV178) has heard the Spur Fowl and also the **Diedericks Cuckoo** calling.

Dave & Jenny Fardell (MRV176) saw a stationary bird perched in a tree in



Rosy faced Lovebird
Photo: Carrie Johnson



Juvenile Red-chested Cuckoo
Photo: Peter B. Munday



Cape Wagtail nest and chicks
Photo: Rob Bothma

their frontage. He invited me to help identify their visitor. The avian turned out to be a juvenile **Red-chested Cuckoo** (Piet my vrou). Had our fledgling been attended to by its ‘Brood Parents’, that would have been an interesting

sighting. Records show the cuckoo is an “Intra African Migrant”, brood parasite of Robin chats and some 15 other species.

Both Margaret Jones and I spotted a **Hammerkop** (a member of the stork family not often seen in MRV) on a rooftop whilst playing bowls on the Village greens. Strangely, a few days later I saw another flying overhead.

Lynne & Martin Belgrad (RRV54) have a report: Poor Lynne was nearly driven to distraction by the persistent call of a **Greyheaded Bush Shrike**, which thankfully left the locale but has been substituted by yet another repetitive caller, the **Yellowrumped Tinkerbird**. So, no reprieve for Lynne ☹️. How blessed you are in RRV!

Rob Bothma (MRV103) has kindly sent an update on “Peggy” the Woollynecked Stork. She’s doing fine and has adapted well. She can be seen resting on her haunches on the green in front of MRV137 through to MRV146. Rob also sent us snaps of the **Cape Wagtail** which nested and raised chicks near the swimming pool Boma.

Thanking our Bird Lovers for their Reports.



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A MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN – Brian & Yvonne Bucher (MRV283)

Brian & Yvonne celebrated their 60th anniversary at their daughter Bev's home in Johannesburg, together with their son Robert and their respective families (see photo). They were treated to the live musical show, *My Fair Lady* at Montecasino and to a special anniversary braai which included the most spectacular cake! Whilst their second son Ricky and his family from Australia could not attend, the couple look forward to enjoying their visit later this year.

Brian & Yvonne met on a blind date arranged by Brian's friend Dennis. Brian took her to the 20th Century bioscope in Johannesburg and Yvonne vividly remembers that he bought her a penny sucker as a joke. Heather Smith, who was their bridesmaid, also lives in the Village.

They spent much of their life in Mooi Nooi when Brian was working at Western Plats mine and Yvonne was the secretary of the Catholic School. There, they joined a caravan club and, for 32 years, travelled extensively all over Africa. They were also heavily involved in the music world as Brian is a gifted musician, playing no less than 6



instruments, and was involved in many concerts and shows (like Show Boat) and The S.A. Rick Nelson Fan Club Band, *The Big Horns*, which included lead and second saxophones and Brian on bass guitar. Yvonne is also musical, she has the most beautiful voice and sang for several years with the Hibiscus Choir.

They have lived in Margate for 24 years, 14 of which have been in the Village. They smile as they recall the mix-up with the furniture movers and how the South City Christian Church Congregation rallied to their aid, moving them into MRV283 in a flash. Faith has always played a great part in their lives and what could have been a disastrous day, was plain sailing.

Brian & Yvonne have always been actively involved in the Village. Brian still provides the Vibe with the Rainfall data and his garden is a delight. Yvonne is currently involved with the success of The Long Table and the Crossword Quiz for the Assisted Living folk at the Heights.



L-R Centre: Son Robert, Brian & Yvonne, daughter Bev
L-R Encircling: Grandson Chad seated in front of his dad, Robert; grandsons Nicky & Joshua and their father Jacques directly behind their mother, Bev.

THE LONG TABLE – Monthly meet & greet of new and old @ Café Munro

It was lovely meeting Corrie Veinings at the Long Table on Thursday 20 April. Corrie is two weeks into the Village, having sold her house in Tweni. She is settling in well at Harington Gardens and “just wants to relax!” We know the feeling!

The Long Table meets on the third Thursday of every month and aims to welcome new residents and to introduce them to whichever ‘oldies’ have popped along to enjoy some company. It is organised by the Squiggles – Linda Watmough 5445, Yvonne Bucher 5283 and Ally Snyman 5127.

For more information, contact any Squiggly.



Welcome to Corrie Veinings, centre in pink, together with L-R: Squiggles Ally, Yvonne & Linda, Café Munro's Sally, Anne Fraser and Beryl Drynan

“LIFE IS BETTER WHEN WE STICK TOGETHER” – Bobby & Val Keedle (RRV23)

It was hockey that brought this couple together in Aylsbury, UK. Both teenagers, Bobby 18 and Val 14, were at a hockey dinner. That was in 1957.

They married on 7 April 1961. That was 64 years ago. Val was a lab technician in biochemistry and Bobby was working on the Blue Streak Rocket Project with RPE Westcott. When America got ahead in the space race and the British rocket project was shelved, the couple decided to spread their wings and moved to South Africa who were actively recruiting skilled people. Bobby got a job with Atlas Aircraft in Jet Park where he won numerous awards for outstanding achievement. Val busied herself raising their two boys, Charles and David, and later worked for SKF Engineering as a production manager. She ultimately ran a small stainless-steel foundry, supplying the mines.



Val & Bobby Keedle

They were no slouches in the sports department either. Hockey continued to be their sport of choice. Val played provincial hockey for S.E. Transvaal, then Yskor Pretoria and N. Transvaal indoor hockey against S. Transvaal. Bobby played left-wing for Combined Civil Service plus badminton, table tennis, squash and coxless pair rowing. They both became hockey umpires and coached several teams.

The couple decided to take early retirement in 1994 and headed for Drummond in Natal where they purchased a smallholding near their younger son David, who was working on a chicken farm in the area. They focused on growing tomatoes, big and small, and a few other vegetables, using hydroponics and organic methods. During that time,

they needed a metal part for a sickle bar mower so Val phoned her old boss at Steloy Foundries and ended up repping for them from Richards Bay to Mossel Bay! (She also got the mower working!)

The time came for them to retire (properly) and they moved to Uvongo in 2003. Inspired by Ernie Els, they took to playing golf with Val becoming the Ladies Golf Captain of Margate Country Club. They also became active members of the Margate Methodist Church.

Their sons also fared well in sport with Charles becoming a Junior Springbok in hockey and David a South African oarsman. David now lives in the UK with his wife Noelene. Their son Ryan lives nearby in Sheffield and their daughter Sasha lives in Hillcrest, closer to her grandparents. Charles lives in Australia with his two sons Quade and Camden and still plays hockey.

Bobby and Val moved into the Ramsgate Retirement Village 14 years ago and David & Nolene recently spent time with them in celebration of their 64th Wedding Anniversary.



David, Val, Bobby and Noelene

WORD SEARCH – AFRICAN ANIMALS	WORDS
C E G X H C I R T S O K	Antelope
N A Z E B R A M B R W L	Bonobo
G L E I P G A M P K Q G	Galago
X L E Q G O O F G A B L	Gnu
B I F M X H L G M N L I	Gorilla
O R D A U W U E A H K A	Impala
N O F R K R R T T L O R	Lemur
O G R E A A G A G N A V	Leopard
B P S I I P A K O A A G	Magpie
O G N U E S O O G N O M	Mongoose
P N M N S R X E R U S N	Nyala
I H A L A Y N I L H C Z	Okapi
	Ostrich
	Vanga
	Xerus
CLICK HERE TO PLAY ON-LINE: https://www.free-word-search.com	LEVEL: Medium

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THE WAFFLE HOUSE & NEMVELO FARM PRESENTATION

The Waffle House and Nemvelo Farm hosted a most informative talk on Thursday 14 March, in the Ronnie Baker Hall. Our Vibe editor, Joy Crutchfield, introduced Clinton Peters (Manager: The Waffle House and Nemvelo Farm) and Jessica Reed (Co-ordinator: Marketing). Clinton had all of us like-minded 'wannabee farmers' engrossed with such an interesting talk and slide show on the Nemvelo Farm and its workings, as well as The Waffle House, one of South Coast's most iconic and popular restaurants.

Nemvelo Farm was established over 7 years ago as a partner to the Waffle House. Its mission is to supply The Waffle House with the consistently high quality of organic vegetables and free-range chickens that the restaurant's world-class standards demand. The farm covers 6,5 hectares of which 2,5 hectares is devoted entirely to organic vegetable gardening. It's run by 6 staff members with the help of interns from various colleges and techs, thus giving the students invaluable practical training.

All chickens are free-range, they are allowed to run free, and the farm has its own licensed abattoir to ensure proper farm-to-table quality control. Only 'homemade' insecticides are applied to crops using such ingredients as red peppers, garlic, oil, ash and milk. EMO (Effective Microorganisms) which includes live enzymes to help build up the soil and worm tea, is also used. This results in the luscious green veg we saw in the slide show and also encourages faster crop growth. It's all a matter of GROW RIGHT...EAT RIGHT!



Jessica Reed & Clinton Peters



Clinton had us spell-bound ... You could hear a pin drop!

The Waffle House is open 7 days a week and has wheelchair access. They also allow dogs on leashes. The Deli is supplied by Nemvelo farm and has tantalising and unusual products such as carrot jam, which is, as we are told by Clinton, delicious! Training and development are prioritised in both facilities as is evidenced by the warm and professional staff. All excess produce is donated to the Hope Houses to feed the under-privileged.

After this most enlightening talk, residents were treated to a scrumptious tea with muffins and cookies supplied by the Waffle House.

A big thank you to everyone who joined in to make the day special.

A NEW INITIATIVE

Nemvelo Farm now delivers produce surplus to their needs on a first-come-first-served basis, as well as prepared items from The Waffle House Deli, to the Villages. The 'Availability List' is sent via WhatsApp to their clients on Thursdays and deliveries will be made on Fridays at Cafe Munro (MRV) and at a venue to be advised at RRV.

To join the group, save 'Nemvelo Farm Availability List 071 303 6655' to your cell phone contacts and send Clinton a WhatsApp with your Name and Cottage Number and make sure to save his number. You will then receive the weekly Availability List; your order will be delivered to you together with the Invoice; and you can pay via EFT on receipt.

In addition, The Waffle House offers a Pensioners 60+ card which entitles the holder to receive a 15% discount on a meal every day of the week! Cards are available from the Waffle House and are only for use at the restaurant by the card holder. The card does not apply to Deli purchases or Farm orders.

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RESCOM NEWS by Olliver Ransome

The RRV pool: The decision has been made to install a pool. The size, placement and the source of the cost of installation will be management decisions.

The Budget: We were disappointed about the proposed 9% hike but were persuaded that previous budget adjustments had not adequately covered the steep rises in costs of essentials like power, food and fuel. The 9% was necessary to prevent the HRV trading at even larger operational deficits.

We asked why the rental of MRV garages had to be at 9% as well and the answer was the MRV was the only Village where garages were not attached to cottages and the levies on the others were higher.

Solar Power: Agreement has been reached in principle concerning compensation for power being fed back into our village grids – the rate to depend on Eskom's new tariffs. It has also been agreed that the fixed Eskom costs must be shared between all users, on a sliding scale dependant on usage. Up to now, this cost has been incorporated into the per kWh rate.

The Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle: This vehicle, which had been substantially sponsored by the Comfort Fund, has had much more use than was initially anticipated. It can safely transport wheelchair-bound residents to the local hospitals, thus saving them high ambulance fees and is a great asset for our residents.

Assisted Living: The decision has been made to develop plans and get costs to reconfigure the rooms on the first floor Hibiscus Heights to allow most rooms to have *en-suite* bathrooms. There is a problem with plumbing but we are confident that solutions can be found.

Staff Transport: Many residents are distressed by the fact that staff members, particularly from Hibiscus Heights, have a long way to walk in all sorts of weather, to get a taxi below Pick n Pay. Chris King is looking at possible solutions, but, in the meantime, residents are urged to give these folk lifts when possible.

NEW GARDENING PRACTICES TO BE INTRODUCED IN OUR HRV VILLAGES

In line with the Organic & Herbivore Society of Southern Africa guidelines, Margate Retirement Village will be introducing tame sheep into the grassed areas around the village. It serves as a dual purpose in terms of reducing the need for constant grass cutting plus as a fertiliser/manure combo for the various lawns.

This is purely experimental and is a first for the KZN South Coast. The initiative has been welcomed by the Hibiscus Coast Municipality and local conservancies in the area. Please do not pat or feed these animals.

STAGE WHISPERS

The Ronnie Baker Theatre Group (RBTG) is busy with rehearsals once again! This time it's a Murder Mystery. So ... the audience will need to determine who the murderer is and why they dun it!

The RBTG are always on the lookout for newcomers. If you would like to join us as an actor or as part of the techie-staff, please drop in and see us. All training is given so no experience is necessary. We rehearse on a Wednesday and Saturday from 2-4pm. Hope to see you there.




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FACT, FICTION & FOIBLES by Sharon Gluckman

WALLACE THE GREAT – Neigh Wallace Neigh!

So just as Emily Davison helped to achieve equality for women, a fellow by the name of Wallace made history by putting his best hoof forward. This 11-year-old romped home in a dressage competition in Gloucestershire beating 8 full-horse competitors...a "feet" never ever achieved before. **WHY?** He is a mule! This half-horse half-donkey was found abandoned in a village in Ireland and rescued by a donkey sanctuary.

Wallace The Great has broken all the rules in the rather elite world of dressage, knocked equine racism on its head and changed the rules of diversity. For the first time in the annals of British dressage, he, a lowly mule, was allowed to compete and he trounced his 100% horsey dna opponents! Thus, he has achieved the unthinkable...inclusion and diversity.

NEIGH WALLACE NEIGH! YOU ROCK!



Click to watch [WALLACE THE GREAT](#)

BERLIN – Great escapes

When World War II ended in 1945, it was decided at the Potsdam Conference, that the 4 Allied Powers: Britain, The United States of America, France and The Soviet Union would each be zoned an area of Germany's Berlin. The Cold War had begun. Initially the borders between East and West Berlin were fairly porous, but as the communist East became more restrictive and oppressive, people began to flock to the capitalist west. In 1952 the East Germans closed the borders and, in a surprise move on 13 August 1961, wire barriers were erected between all crossing points. Watchtowers were erected with armed guards. Overnight neighbourhoods and families were separated and a fortified concrete wall eventually encircled West Berlin. It was 155 km long and 4 metres high creating a land-mined corridor between east and west.

Many tried to escape to the west over the years. One case in point was the Peter Strelzyk and Gunter Wetzel families. Desperate to escape, the 2 patriarchs decided to build a hot air balloon. Appliances and material were hard to come by. Fortunately, Peter was an electrician and mechanic by trade, and he and Gunter set about creating their escape 'machine'. They needed a large amount of synthetic material but everywhere there were government informers. So, as not to arouse suspicion, they began to buy material in 100sq meter sections from different shops around Berlin. They sewed it all together on a manual sewing machine with heavy duty thread. A propain tank attached to a stove-pipe served as a release valve for hot air. The passenger basket was made of steel poles and nylon ropes. It needed to accommodate 4 adults and 4 children. Test runs had to be conducted deep in the forests. Their first 2 attempts failed and debris left behind caught the attention of the border guards and secret police, who promptly posted adverts asking for help to catch the culprits.

Peter and Gunter realised they had to move fast. On 16 September 1979 at 01h00, the 2 families crowded together in their makeshift basket, ready for lift off. The ropes holding the balloon could not be cut simultaneously, and the balloon leaned to one side tilting the gas burner, and a section of material caught alight. There was no time to waste, the searchlights and trigger-hungry soldiers were too close. They managed to put the fire out and the balloon rose unsteadily into the dark sky. They reached an altitude of 2,000 metres and 28 minutes later they crash-landed in a field in Bavaria some 18km away. **They were free!** In 1982 their epic journey resulted in a film '*Mit Dem Wind Das Nach Western*'.

From 1961-1989 many desperate East Germans escaped to the West. Some using quite ingenious methods to do so...these included zipwires, homemade submarines, microlight planes, modified cars, hot air balloons and many other means. One train-driver even used his train with 15 passengers on board. With the locomotive on full power, he raced through the last stop in East Berlin. With bullets ricocheting around them, they reached safety 2km down the line in the West. Bernd Boettger crossed the sea to Sweden on his second attempt, using a micro-submarine with a 2-stroke bicycle engine and a rubber snorkel tube for air. His first attempt had ended in failure and a 3-month stint in jail. Another used his Austin Healy Sprite convertible. He removed the windscreen, ducked down and slipped under the lowered barrier at a checkpoint with bullets whizzing over his head.

By 1989 civil unrest and political change in Europe eventually resulted in the fall of the Berlin Wall. And by 1990 there was little left of the barrier that had caused such controversy, heartache and division. Its estimated that over 5,000 actually escaped whilst the wall was up. However, many committed suicide, others were imprisoned, tortured and killed in attempts to flee communism and create a better future for themselves and their families.



CLUB AND ACTIVITY GROUP NEWS & REVIEWS

MONTHLY BRAAI AT THE BOWLING CLUB

As usual there was great support for the monthly braai night at the bowling club.

The first Friday of each month is bring and braai night at the bowling club. The pub is open from 4.30 pm.



Regulars on a Friday night

L-R: Bill Robertson, Peter Houchin, Sam Graham & Joyce Oliver

Lawn bowls is the only game where ...
you can be biased and still win!



Firemen guarding the fire.

Front L-R: Dave Slippers (L) & Corrie Pieters (R)



3 lovely ladies. Husbands sent to see to the braai.

L-R: Margie Cowan, Helen Pieters & Sue Glover

WAKEFIELDS ST PATRICK'S SPONSORED TOURNAMENT AT THE VILLAGE BOWLING CLUB

The Wakefields Estate Agents sponsored the St Patricks Day bowling tournament at the club on the afternoon of 17 March.

Eighteen teams took part ensuring that the competition would be strong. The weather played ball ensuring a most enjoyable afternoon. The winning team of Trevor Haywood, Mervyn Barratt and Louis Heystek took a well-deserved first prize. The runners-up were Andre & Elsa Lourens and Norman Davies.



R-L: Representing Wakefields, Clive Cowan handing over the winner's prize to Trevor Haywood and his team.

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THE GARDENING CORNER with Denese Slater (MRV11)

Learning the ropes in KZN

After all the rain, and my ground covers dying off as they didn't like wet feet, I realise I am going to have to adjust to coastal plants if I want success. I find the plectranthus groundcover, with its succulent type leaves, does very well. Crassulas are also a good choice. They are low maintenance and have fleshy leaves which seem to fair well. The flowering time depends on the species. My favourite is still the Plectranthus, which normally flowers in the autumn and is a member of the mint family. They are usually trouble free.

I am sad to say my lavender bushes, although growing beautifully, are not flowering. My thoughts are they do not like all the rain as they do best in arid areas so, hopefully, they will still surprise me when things dry out a bit. I might get lucky.

The Waffle House & Nemvelo Farm gave such an interesting talk and it was so nice to hear how much work and dedication goes into growing organic produce. Good to know we can get organic veg, free from pesticides, on our doorstep. I am going to enjoy using my 60+ loyalty card.

Happy gardening. Denese.



Plectranthus mona lavender



Crassula spathulata

[Click here to visit Plantbook](#)

TOPICAL TIPS! ☆ SPECIAL OFFERS ☆ by Chris King (MRV169)

Hello everyone! Here is my April article – I hope you find it interesting.

Everyone wants a good deal - if you can save money when a good price is being offered why not jump at it? Here are a few special offers to be found on the lower South Coast:

1. **Spar:** We all know the local Spars - Ramsgate, Manaba, Uvongo and Shelly Beach. Most Spars have a pensioner's day and they offer great discounts on fruit and veg, and even at Tops. Check which day of the week your Spar has their pensioners day.
2. **Spar Ramsgate:** There is a year-round special we enjoy every so often - Sunday lunch for only R70. The two of us comfortably share one order so it turns out to cost R35 per person for Sunday lunch, and Ramsgate Spar will deliver to your door free of charge! You can order by phone and options are chicken, pork and beef, all with pudding. (Beef is a little more expensive). You can pay by card on delivery.
3. **Shoprite:** You will know that Shoprite and Checkers are both part of the Shoprite Group, and while most of us support Checkers, it is well worth checking out the prices at Shoprite in Marine Drive. My favourite is their 600-gram in-house brown bread at just R9,99 per loaf! It's good quality and if you want to reduce your calorie intake these loaves are a smaller profile. They also bake 600-gram wholewheat on selected days.
4. **Checkers X-Card:** Most of us have registered for a Checkers X-Card and it saves a lot on certain items. Please know that you can also use your X-Card at Shoprite.
5. **Pick n Pay:** Pick n Pay is on a recovery drive and the Margate store has a new manager and a smart new look. The staff are efficient and friendly and if you look around there are some very good specials - we shop there quite often. If you pay with an FNB card you will gain extra eBucks on some items.
6. **DSTV:** Here I am going to talk about the DSTV Residential service, not the Village scheme. There are 6 DSTV options on the Residential service: Premier (R979 per month) right down to Easyview (R30 per month). That's not a misprint, it's R30 per month! You won't get any sport apart from local soccer, but if you are comfortable with SABC1, 2 and 3 and eTV plus news, a few movies and the audio channels (radio and music) then Easyview is a good choice at a great price. If Easyview is a bit thin for you, consider Access, the next one up from Easyview, at R150 per month - it's very good value. If either of these interests you, visit Martin Electronics near Henry's Butchery in Manaba.



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

FROM MY HIDE with David Holt-Biddle

Love of my life...

I would guess that many readers don't want to see or read about woolly-necked storks for the rest of their lives but give me a chance. If you've seen a pair of them together, you must have noticed that they would appear to be very affectionate. They stand close together and are almost constantly grooming each other, particularly on those remarkable necks. But is this affection? Yes.



Saddle-billed stork

Many bird species mate for life, including many of the storks, one definite being the saddle-billed stork. So do ducks. Bird people usually refer to them as being in pairs. One in particular is the African black duck, which should be fairly common around here. In fact, most swans and geese too.

Moving away from them, some eagles mate for life, including the fish eagle and the osprey, although not a true eagle. And in that area, the barn owl is also a lifer.

Moving away from birds, can mammals experience affection? The answer is another definite "yes". The best examples must be dogs and cats, and most of us have had experience with one or both of them. Take a dog, for example, note that it will leap up as you enter the room, tail wagging, tongue lolling. One hardly needs to describe a cat's affection for its human, it will curl up on your lap and purr for hours.

So, do some animals love for life? Personally, I think "love" is a human term, applying to humans, but many animal pairs most certainly show affection for life.

RAINFALL FOR FEBRUARY 2025 by Brian Bucher

- Rainfall for February : 398 mm
- Progressive total for Summer Rainfall Area (August 2024 to February 2025) : 1279 mm
- Average previous 10-year February rainfall : 127 mm
- Progressive previous 10-year Summer Rainfall Area (August to February) : 941 mm

NATALINA CAFFRA – THE SNAIL THAT DEVOURS OTHER SNAILS by RRV 53 & 54

These incredible snails were recorded early in Natal's history, having been found feeding on battlefield corpses during the Zulu wars.



Padkos?

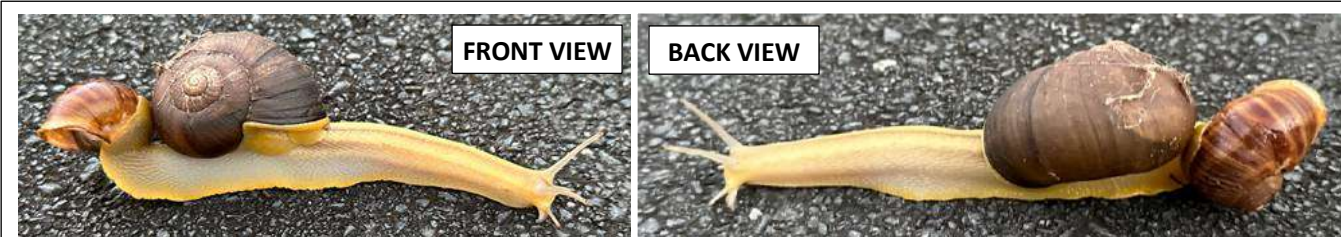
Imagine our surprise when we stumbled across this beauty on our driveway early one morning – "a snail which used to be common before the advent of gardeners' poisons; the carnivorous snail, *Natalina caffra*."

"A large *Natalina* will devour small snails at the rate of about one every hour. However, should it find a snail roughly its own size, the feast usually lasts for about two days. A few hours after a large kill, a *Natalina* may be seen wrapping its "tail" around the prey and dragging it off to a safer, out of the way, spot under dead leaves."

"A tiny *Natalina* can become very brave and attack snails much larger than itself. *Natalina* snails will also eat those hated, slimy, garden slugs (snails from the nudist colony!). To watch this is even more exciting, or gruesome, depending on your constitution. This is because you can see the entire process taking place as opposed to the case of snails where the *Natalina* puts its head inside the prey's shell. Smaller slugs are simply sucked up like spaghetti!"

Taken from: *Bring Nature Back To Your Garden* – Charles & Julia Botha.

Be sure to get yourself a copy. From cover to cover, it's a worthwhile read!



Heading for cover with the "dop" securely in the "boot" for some much-needed slow-release calcium supplement.

VILLAGE LIBRARY NEWS – New books March 2025

We are happy to announce that the library is getting new Afrikaans and Large Print (LP) books! On behalf of all our readers and the library, we offer a special thank you to the Residents Comfort Fund Committee for the generous donation that enabled us to bring new books to these sections. So, be on the look out for the following great new reads :

1. **'N HUIS VAN ESTER** by Carol Campbell (Afrikaans fiksie)
2. **HANS BARS DIE BIOBORREL** by Rudie Van Rensburg (Afrikaans fiksie)
3. **YOU, ME AND THE SEA** by Meg Donohue (relationship) LP
4. **LESSONS IN CHEMISTRY** by Bonnie Garmus (historical/relationship) LP
5. **PEOPLE WE MEET ON VACATION** by Emily Henry (romance) LP
6. **LILAC GIRLS** by Martha Hall Kelly (historical) LP
7. **THE SILENT PATIENT** by Alex Michaelides (thriller) LP
8. **A BEACH WISH** by Shelley Noble (relationship) LP
9. **THE SICILIAN INHERITANCE** by Jo Piazza (mystery/historical) LP
10. **THE UNDERGROUND LIBRARY** by Jennifer Ryan (historical) LP
11. **MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT** by Riley Sager (thriller/mystery) LP
12. **THE IT GIRL** by Ruth Ware (thriller/mystery) LP



L-R: Piet Beukes, Andrea Mellor (Librarian) and Chris King (Chairman: RCF)

AND ... A big thank you to Village management, the RAC, Wendy Holburn and our library members for these amazing new books!

13. **I REMEMBER PARIS** by Lucy Diamond – relationship
14. **IRRESPONSIBLE ADULT** by Lucy Dillon – humour
15. **THE CRASH** by Kate Furnivall – historical
16. **WHEN WE MEET AGAIN** by Kristin Harmel – historical/relationship
17. **THE HIDDEN YEARS** by Rachel Hore – relationship
18. **THE LOST COAST** by Jonathan & Jesse Kellerman – thriller
19. **A GIRL'S GUIDE TO WINNING THE WAR** by Annie Lyons – historical
20. **THE ITALIAN HOLIDAY** by Catherine Mangan – romance
21. **THE CURTAIN TWITCHER'S BOOK OF MURDER** by Gay Marris – crime
22. **DAUGHTER OF MINE** by Megan Miranda – mystery
23. **WE ALL LIVE HERE** by JoJo Moyes – relationship
24. **ONE GIRL BEGAN** by Kate Murray-Browne – relationship
25. **THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF EADIE BROWNE** by Freya North – relationship
26. **MARRY ME IN ITALY** by Nicky Pellegrino – romance
27. **THE ANOMALY** by Michael Rutger – thriller
28. **THE DEAD FRIEND PROJECT** by Joanna Wallace – mystery
29. **THE EXCITEMENTS** by CJ Wray – humour/mystery

Non-Fiction:

30. **EXIT WOUNDS : A Story of Love, Loss and Occasional Wars** by Peter Godwin – biography

Afrikaans Fiction:

31. **DIE TAAL VAN BEEN** by Heilna Du Plooy – general

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VILLAGE VIBE MARKET PLACE. Free adverts for residents. Email: rac.vibe@gmail.com

FOR SALE

BLUE TRIO MOBILITY 4 WHEEL BATTERY OPERATED SCOOTER – In good condition. Sold “Voetstoots” As is. R3,500 onco. Contact Johan van Niekerk on 0825384992.

MIDWHEEL WHEELCHAIR – Brand new, never been used. Asking R55,000 onco. (Cost R70,000). Call Norman Farrell on 5199.



Features:

- ★ Maximum Speed: 6.7 kmph
- ★ Capacity: 136kg
- ★ Full suspension
- ★ Strong and Responsive
- ★ Front & rear casters keep you SAFE

CARAVAN FOR SALE – Fully equipped 1984 Jurgens Champion Caravan. R60,000 negotiable. Contact Debbie @ RAC Office on 5701.

ANTIQUE OAK DRESSER WITH 2 DOORS OVER 1 LONG FRIEZE DRAWER – Asking R1,500. Contact Sharon Gluckman 0823456379 or 5347.



Size:
H910mm
W940mm
D455mm

Fantastic Plastic has come to The Shop & The Boutique. Yes! Purchases can now be done by credit card. Enjoy!!!

SERVICES

LEARN HOW TO TIME THE MARKET AND IMPROVE YOUR SHARE INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO – If you are interested, phone or WhatsApp Jane Greenberg on 0724375915 or call 5282.

HIRE A HUBBY

For all the bits and pieces you no longer can get to do ...

- ★ Furniture repairs and moving
 - ★ Braai fires
 - ★ Changing a wheel
 - ★ Repair or get appliances repaired
- Call Brian on 5230 or 0828290059.

NEEDING THOSE BLUNT KNIVES & SCISSORS SHARPENED? – Call Martin on 6354, WhatsApp 060 631 3477, or visit his table at the Tuesday Market in the forecourt of Café Munro.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS, WALKERS & WHEELCHAIR REPAIRS & SALES.

Contact Nick van der Westhuizen on 5092 or 0827509614.

WANTED

A SUDOKU COORDINATOR FOR THE HIBISCUS HEIGHTS – A ‘perpetual’ puzzle is on the jigsaw table in the reception area. Call Jay Pillay on 5087 for details of what needs to be done.

OLD XRAYs that are no longer needed. To assist an artist who creates beautiful window decals. Please drop off with Debbie at the RAC Office.

BOTTLES/JARS FOR JAMS & PICKLES.

Peanut butter bottles also welcome. Call Nick van der Westhuizen on 5092 or 0827509614.



Please Join Us

WE NEED ADDITIONAL COORDINATORS TO LEAD THE ASSISTED LIVING CROSSWORD QUIZ

In the Hibiscus Heights, 1st Floor Dining Room, On Tuesdays & Thursdays, From 2.30 to 3.30pm.

OUR COORDINATING TEAM WORKS ON A ROTATIONAL BASIS AND CURRENTLY INCLUDES:

Margie Cowan (5401), Yvonne Bucher (5283), Margaret Jones (5146) and Pat Johnson (5406).

Please call any one of us for more information.

We would love to have you on board.

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

TAPE AIDS LIBRARY – HIBISCUS HEIGHTS

MONDAY & FRIDAY – 08h15 to 10h15

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 (Birthday, thank you, sympathy, etc.)

THE RESIDENTS COMFORT FUND SHOPS

Ground Floor, Hibiscus Heights

The Shop

Big & small good used household items – utensils, ornaments, cushions, curtains, appliances, furniture

PHONE: Joan 5308

The Boutique

Good used clothing and accessories for men and women, every occasion and all seasons. Pop in and browse.

PHONE: Sophia 5308

☆☆☆ Credit Cards welcome ☆☆☆

SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE



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 & ACTIVITY GROUPS – Please make contact & join in

TIME	ACTIVITY	VENUE	CONVENOR	PHONE
MONDAY				
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	T.B.A.	T.B.A.
13h30-16h00	Badminton	Ronnie Baker	Marietta	5024
14h00-17h00	Men's Darts	Boma	Trevor	5312
15h30-17h30	Ladies' Darts	Candlewood	Pat/Lorraine	5249/5312
18h00-21h00	Rummikub	Tom Millward Room	Clair	5599
TUESDAY				
06h30-07h00	Keep Fit Class	Ronnie Baker	Wendy	5254
09h00-11h00	Market Day	Café Munro	Denise	5701
09h00-12h00	Canasta Club (MRV)	Tom Millward 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	Pat	5093
WEDNESDAY				
07h30-10h00	Men's Snooker	Candlewood	Theo	0823595484
08h30-09h30	Exercise to Music	Ronnie Baker	Jenny	5609
14h00- 17h00	Ronnie Baker Theatre Group	Ronnie Baker	Ally	5127
13h00-16h00	Rummikub	Tom Millward Room	Clair	5599
THURSDAY				
06h30-07h00	Keep Fit Class	Ronnie Baker	Wendy	5254
08h30-10h00	Croquet	Boma	Jill/Olly	5153/5182
13h00-15h30	Billiards Club - men	Pool Room	Neil	5267
13h30-16h00	Badminton	Ronnie Baker	Marietta	5024
14h00-15h30	Scrabble	HH Dining Room	Linda	5161
14h00-17h00	Men's Darts	Boma	Trevor	5312
14h00	Art Classes	Ronnie Baker	Pixie	5019
15h30-17h30	Ladies Darts	Candlewood	Pat/Lorraine	5249/5312
16h15	Table Tennis	Ronnie Baker	Pat	5093
FRIDAY				
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
SATURDAY				
14h00-17h00	Ronnie Baker Theatre Group	Ronnie Baker	Ally	5127
13h30-17h00	Canasta Club (MRV)	Tom Millward Room	Clair	5599
14h30-16h00	Petanques/Boule	Boma ground	Denise	5267
OTHER				
1st Friday	RAC Monthly Draw	RAC Office	Hugh	5701
2nd Saturday - 19h00	Social Dance Club	Ronnie Baker	Leon	5198
3rd Thursday - 10h00	The Long Table	Cafe Munro	Yvonne	5283
4th Tuesday - 09h30	Quilters Guild	Ronnie Baker	Lynne	079 248 8354
	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	5206
	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)

FAITH MEETINGS

GOOD SAMARITAN CHAPEL

Inter-denominational

Every Sunday

Sun 08:15 Anglican Communion

Sun 10:00 Baptist, Methodist,

Presbyterian on a rotational basis.

Sun 11:15 Afrikaans diens (elke 3de)

Sun 15:00 AGS

Tues 09:00 Roman Catholic

Thurs 09:00 Roman Catholic

Various Bible Studies
See notice board

*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.
Convenor: Neil (5267)

RONNIE BAKER HALL Ewige Lewende Woord Charismatiese Kerk

Elke Sondag – 09:30
Pastoor Kobus van Tonder

Convenor: Denise (5267)

RRV HALL Christian Church **4th Sunday – 10h30** Pastor Denise (6348)

RRV LIBRARY Bible Study Every Thursday **14h30 – 15h30** Pastor Denise (6348)