

SEDERT 2004

September 2026



die **HOUTKAPPER**

the **WOODPECKER**

WOODLAND HILLS - WILDLANDGOED TYDSKRIF
WOODLAND HILLS WILDLIFE ESTATE MAGAZINE



A life shaped
by law, service
and perseverance

What is an
African
Yellow-Billed
Duck?

Soos Shannon dit sien:
Kwaai baie

BURE, VRIEND, VYAND OF VREEMDELING

RealNet

BLOEMFONTEIN

With our successful track record, we have many pre-approved buyers wanting to acquire your **property in Woodland Hills.**



Let's Talk :)

Johann du Plessis

082 820 9219

johanndp@realnet.co.za



Let's Talk :)

Maryké du Plessis

082 455 6069

marykedp@realnet.co.za



Let's Talk :)

Elri van Jaarsveld

084 951 5502

elrivj@realnet.co.za



FOR SALE : R 5 750 000



Woodland Hills

- 2** Pecking around town
- 6** Garden birds and indigenous plants bring birdlife to your garden
- 8** Animal Focus – What is an African Yellow-Billed Duck?
- 12** From the Chairperson
- 16** Die Gemeenskapskerk
- 20** The Resident - A life shaped by law, service and perseverance
- 22** Bure, vriend, vyand of vreemdeling
- 26** Hillandale-rolbalkklub
- 30** Landgoed komitee
- 32** A walk on the wilder side of Woodland Hills
- 36** Kwaai baie – Soos Shannon dit sien



6



26



33

designed & published by
mahareng
www.mahareng.co.za

contact details

Willem van Huyssteen
Chief Executive Officer/
Hoof Uitvoerende Beampte

editors:
Willem van Huyssteen
Johan Naudé
Annatjie Bouwer

Mahareng Media & Advertising:
051 505 0900

editor:
Sazly Moses

layout:
Mahareng Studio

Woodland Hills Wildlife Estate
Tel: 051-451-1960
genm@woodlandhills.co.za

sales:
Nettie de Beer (Sales Manager)
nettie@mahareng.co.za
Judy Barnard
Lucielle Kreling
Marelize Dunlop
Ronan van Wyk
Salminah Lephondo



Proudly recognised as RealNet's Top National Franchise • Connecting hearts and homes.

Moongate 227 (Pty) Ltd., trading as RealNet Bloemfontein, a Franchise of RealNet Holdings (Pty) Ltd. Registered with the FPEA.

pecking around **town**



12 September Comedy Show

Enjoy an evening of laughter with South African comedian Dalin Oliver as he brings his brand-new stand-up show, Stuck in Dubai, to Windmill Casino in Bloemfontein on Saturday at 19:30. Expect hilarious storytelling about cancelled flights, live missiles and unexpected adventures. Tickets cost R200 and are available at Webtickets.



12-13 September Macufe Main Jazz Festival

Celebrate music, culture and community at Loch Logan Waterfront in Bloemfontein. Enjoy two days of live jazz, food and entertainment, featuring performances by Lira, Zonke, SemiTo and Sanere. Tickets cost R300 and are available at Computicket. No under-13s.

19 September Sacred Conversation Couples Retreat

Strengthen your relationship through practical guidance on communication, conflict resolution and building trust at Empowerment Ministries International, 20 Rhodes Avenue, Oranjesig, Bloemfontein from 16:00 to 22:00. Tickets cost R350 (general), R600 (couples) and R1,000 (VIP double), and are available at Computicket.



24 October Muddy Princess 5km Obstacle Mud Run

Enjoy an outdoor mud run for women at Geelklip Middelwater Plaas in Bloemfontein from 8:00 to 12:00pm. Participants can run, walk, crawl, climb, slide and laugh their way through the course. For more information and ticket prices, visit the website on www.muddyprincess.co.za



19 September Schweppes Bloemfontein Gin Festival

Join fellow gin enthusiasts at Toyota Stadium, Horak Avenue, Willows, from 12:00 to 22:00. Enjoy craft gin, live entertainment from various artists, food trucks, mixology and Sip & Paint. Tickets cost R330 general, R550 (Sip & Paint) or R1,500 for five people with complementary gin on arrival. Tickets available via Howler. No under-18s allowed.

23 October The Global Leadership Summit 2026

Join the Global Leadership Summit (GLS) 2026 from 08:30 to 16:30 at Bloemfontein Baptiste Kerk, 1 Van Blerk Ave, Groenvlei. The event aims to inspire and equip leaders with practical tools for greater impact. Tickets cost R600, R550 for groups of 10+, or R220 for scholars, plus a R750 booking fee. Tickets available at Computicket.

20-21 November Musical

Enjoy a magical theatrical experience with Aladdin at the Sand du Plessis Theatre in Bloemfontein. Based on the beloved animated movie, this musical promises a fun-filled experience for the whole family. Shows start at 18:00 on Friday and 11:00 and 18:00 on Saturday, with tickets costing R220 and available at Webtickets.



Let's get Real on Estate living in Woodlands.

With decades long experience of selling your treasured family homes in Woodland Hills, I'm grateful to assist in a sometimes, complex process. With deep domain knowledge of this estate, I'd love to be your guide in maximising market appearance and value.

Personalised strategies enhance the visibility of your property when selling. A wildly changing wildlife estate market requires a borderless approach. Let's find a wild return on investment approach together.



Marietjie Jacobs
082 828 3939

#1 FOR A REASON



Queens Park

in Oak Land Estate, Lilyvale

Price range from
R1,970,000
No Transfer Cost!

Brand new free standing double story homes.

3 to 4 bedroom, 3 bathrooms, single or double garage.
Green energy feature: solar panel, inverter, battery.



Oak Land Estate

in Lilyvale



Richmond Hill

in Oak Land Estate, Lilyvale

Full title erven and houses from
R 870, 000

Brand new Lifestyle Estate

Erven and houses for sale. Full title free standing houses for sale.
Access control, perimeter fence, CCTV camera

LENOVA
CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

ON SHOW: Mon., Wed. & Fri.: 14:00-17:30
AND SUN.: 14:00-17:00

FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT US AT: 076 391 4068

Contact **ALICE**, to make an appointment:
076 391 4068

marketing@lenovaconstruct.co.za
4 Christo Groenewald Str, Wild Olive Estate
www.lenovaconstruction.co.za

WE ARE OPEN:
Mon. to Fri.: 09:00-18:00

garden birds and indigenous plants **bring birdlife to your garden**

pretty gardens manager - **Manie Kotzé**



Bloemfontein's gardens can become a wonderful haven for birds, especially when we choose plants that provide food, shelter and nesting opportunities.

With our Free State climate, using indigenous plants is not only environmentally friendly, but also a practical way to create a bird-friendly garden that can handle our hot summers, cold winters and often limited rainfall.

One of the best ways to attract birds is to provide a natural food source. Indigenous trees and shrubs can produce berries, seeds, nectar and insects that birds naturally feed on.

Plants such as Aloe ferox, Aloe arborescens, Buddleja saligna, Carissa macrocarpa, Searsia crenata and Diospyros lycioides can all contribute to a garden that offers valuable food and shelter.

Flowering aloes are particularly useful during winter when other food sources may be scarce.

Their nectar-rich flowers attract sunbirds, while their sturdy leaves also provide shelter for smaller garden visitors. Indigenous grasses and seed-producing plants can attract seed-eating birds such as waxbills, finches and weavers. Don't forget that birds need more than just food. A bird-friendly garden should provide water,

shelter and safe nesting areas. A shallow birdbath placed in a quiet position can make a big difference. Keep the water clean and change it regularly.

Dense shrubs and small trees give birds places to hide from predators and escape extreme weather. Try to avoid using broad-spectrum pesticides unnecessarily. Many birds rely on caterpillars, beetles and other insects as an important source of protein, particularly when feeding their young.

A garden with a healthy balance of insects is therefore a much better bird habitat.

When planning your garden, aim for a mixture of trees, shrubs, grasses, groundcovers and flowering plants rather than planting everything at the same height. This creates different layers where various bird species can feed, shelter and nest.

The wonderful thing about attracting birds is that you don't need a huge garden. Even a small Bloemfontein garden can become a mini wildlife sanctuary.

By planting indigenous species, providing clean water and creating a safe environment, you can enjoy the sights and sounds of our local birdlife while making your garden more naturally diverse. Plant indigenous, provide shelter and water, and let the birds come to you! 🐦



ANNETTE KASSELMAN
PROPERTIES



SOLD

WOODLAND HILLS



SOLD

WOODLAND HILLS



UNDER OFFER

WOODLAND HILLS



SOLD

WOODLAND HILLS



SOLD

WOODLAND HILLS



RENTED

WOODLAND HILLS



R21 000 / TO LET

WOODLAND HILLS



UNDER OFFER

WOODLAND HILLS



R5 750 000

WOODLAND HILLS



R7 500 000

TREDENHAM



R5 500 000

WOODLAND HILLS



SOLD

GROENVLEI SH



WE'RE NEARLY SOLD OUT

Our stock is depleting fast and were urgently seeking new properties.

Buyers are waiting.

Thinking of selling?

We're ready



SOLD

WOODLAND HILLS



annette@akproperties.co.za



082 900 6008

POWERED BY
MANDATED
PROPERTY GROUP
Registered with the PPRA



what is an african yellow - billed duck?



A brown duck with a vividly yellow bill and white scalloping on the feathers, giving it a scaly appearance, especially on the underparts. A common resident and nomad through Africa's freshwater and brackish wetlands, where it forages for plants and invertebrates. The similar African Black Duck differs from Yellow-billed Duck by being darker overall and having white spots on the upperparts, a bull-neck, and a pale-pink-and-black bill.

SCIENTIFIC NAME

Anas undulate

SIZE

51-63CM

DIET

OMNIVORE

WEIGHT

316 TO 502G

LIFESPAN

20 TO 30 YEARS

INCUBATION

26-29 DAYS

WINGSPAN

51-58CM

HABITAT

WATER

PREDATORS

Humans, Canine and feline

BEHAVIOR

The Yellow-billed Duck is a monogamous, solitary nester. It has a very complex courtship display, involving fighting, preening, synchronised swimming, acrobatic flight and strange calls. The pair bond is very short, breaking before the chicks have hatched.



This duck is not migratory, but will wander in the dry season to find suitable waters. It is highly gregarious outside the breeding season and forms large flocks.

It builds its nest in thick grass close to the water's edge. The clutch is normally between six and 12 eggs.

HABITAT

Yellow-billed Ducks are widespread throughout South Africa except for the waterless desert areas. They frequent both natural and artificial water especially dams,

pans, rivers and sewage works, usually with some form of marginal vegetation.

During winter months, they often congregate in large numbers on these waters where, for much of the day, activity is minimal. Will wander during the dry season to find suitable water.

DIET

They are largely nocturnal feeders but can be seen during the day dabbling in the shallows for aquatic plants and insects.

Yellow-billed Duck often fly out in the early evening to cultivated lands to feed on grain such as maize and sunflower or green fodder.



COMMUNICATION

Male yellow-bills utter low whistles; females produce a deepening series of hoarse quacks.

Source:

<https://seaworld.org/animals/facts/birds/african-yellow-billed-duck/>

<https://ebird.org/species/yebduc1>

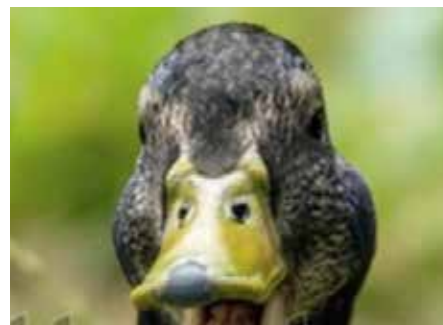
<https://southafrica.co.za/yellow-billed-duck.html>

<https://www.karoowingshooting.co.za/listing/hunting-yellow-billed-duck#>

Yellowed-billed duck (Geelbekeend) in Woodland Hills.

On the estate the yellowed billed duck can be found on and around most of the dams. At the Visarend Dam there is a mother with eight of her chicks that is hiding in the brush around the dam. If you walk past them, they will flee and swim to deeper water. Another dam where you can find the Yellowed billed duck is the N1 Berghaan Dam where they are thriving by eating the aquatic plants and insects. A fun fact about ducks is that the bill looks like a dog.

You just realized that all ducks are actually wearing dog masks.



SEE CLEARLY. LIVE FREELY. WITHOUT CONTACT LENSES OR GLASSES.



BLOEM EYE and
LASER CLINIC
OOG EN LASER KLINIEK

BOOK YOUR LASIK assessment today

Ideal for adults aged 21–45 years. Suitable for short-sightedness, far-sightedness & astigmatism*

*subject to clinical assessment

LASIK: Laser Eye Surgery

Reduce or eliminate your need for glasses or contact lenses.

Fast, painless procedure | Excellent safety record | Rapid visual recovery



051 522 6757 (Phone & WhatsApp)



bloemeyeclinik.co.za



Emoya Estate | Building 4, Suite 5 | 7 Frans Kleyhans Rd. | Bloemfontein



Elevating Homes. Enhancing Lives.

Since its establishment in 2007, Lifta SA has become South Africa's leading specialist in premium residential mobility solutions. As the South African subsidiary of the family-owned German company Liftstar GmbH, Lifta SA combines European engineering excellence with personalised local service, delivering innovative home lift solutions that enable homeowners to enjoy greater comfort, independence and long-term peace of mind. The company is also the exclusive distributor and installer of Stiltz Home Lifts throughout Southern Africa, bringing one of the world's most innovative residential lift systems to the local market.

At Lifta SA, the philosophy extends far beyond simply installing lifts.



The company believes that every homeowner should be able to enjoy every part of their home safely and comfortably, regardless of age or mobility. Whether a client is planning for the future, creating a forever home, accommodating a family member with accessibility needs, or adding a luxurious architectural feature to a new build, Lifta SA provides elegant solutions that enhance both lifestyle and property value.

Unlike conventional residential elevators, Lifta Home Lifts have been specifically engineered for domestic environments. Their unique self-supporting dual rail system eliminates the need for a lift shaft, machine room or deep pit, dramatically reducing construction costs and installation time. Powered by a standard 220V household power supply, Lifta Home Lifts are energy efficient and can even operate using inverter or solar backup systems during power interruptions. Most installations can be completed in as little as two days with minimal disruption to the homeowner, making them ideal for both new developments and existing homes.

Lifta SA offers two carefully designed Home Lift models to suit different lifestyles and household requirements. The Duo Home Lift is the smallest residential lift of its kind, featuring a remarkably compact footprint of just 0.8 square metres while comfortably carrying two passengers. The Trio Home Lift offers a larger cabin with a 250 kg lifting capacity and has been specifically designed to accommodate wheelchair users, making it the ideal accessibility solution for families requiring complete step free mobility throughout their home.

Safety, reliability and quality remain at the heart of everything Lifta SA does. Every Home Lift is equipped with advanced safety features including obstruction sensors, battery backup in the event of a power failure and intuitive controls designed for effortless everyday use. These technologies provide homeowners with confidence that their lift is as safe as it is convenient, while maintaining the clean, modern aesthetic that has become synonymous with the Lifta brand.

Over the past 19 years, Lifta SA has successfully completed over 600 residential installations across South Africa, earning a reputation for professionalism, technical expertise and exceptional customer service. With offices in Cape Town and Johannesburg, supported by a nationwide network, the company provides comprehensive consultation, installation and after sales support, ensuring every client receives the highest level of care from the initial site assessment through to installation and ongoing servicing.



Innovation continues to drive Lifta SA forward.

The company constantly invests in educating architects, developers, occupational therapists and homeowners about the benefits of future proofing residential properties with premium mobility solutions. As more South Africans seek to age in place, increase accessibility and improve the long-term functionality of their homes, Lifta SA continues to lead the market by delivering products that combine cutting edge engineering with sophisticated design.

Lifta SA also believes in making a meaningful contribution beyond the homes it serves. The company actively supports organisations and initiatives that promote accessibility, independence and community upliftment, partnering with charities, healthcare organisations and industry bodies that share their commitment to improving lives. Through these partnerships and ongoing community involvement, Lifta SA continues to demonstrate that mobility is about far more than movement. It is about preserving dignity, maintaining independence and enabling people to remain in the homes they love for years to come.

Today, Lifta SA stands as the trusted name in premium Home Lifts throughout Southern Africa. Combining world class European technology with proudly South African service, the company continues to redefine residential living by helping homeowners' future proof their properties while enhancing comfort, accessibility and luxury. Every installation reflects Lifta SA's unwavering commitment to quality, innovation and customer satisfaction, ensuring that every client can enjoy the freedom of moving effortlessly between floors while remaining in the place they call home.



Book your FREE Onsite Assessment today.

Our experienced consultants will visit your home to assess your requirements, discuss the best Home Lift solution for your property and provide a no obligation quotation tailored to your needs.

Landline: 080 73 73 73 7
WhatsApp: 078 616 3640
Email: info@lifta.co.za
Website: www.lifta.co.za



Winter – not nice for Free Staters. We love sunshine and outdoor braais. It was miserable at times, yes, but it is over – for now.

Welcome Spring! The time to start planning your summer holiday and to get outside, exploring our lovely wildlife estate. This issue features an article on some of the best hiking and biking trails the Free State has to offer. And it is here on our doorstep – and relatively safe. I say ‘relatively’ because nature may sometimes have its surprises. There is also a video. Just scan the QR code.

In August this year, I invited two school friends from more than fifty years ago to join me on the Fish River Canyon hike. As some of you may know, this hike is no leisurely walk in the park. It requires physical and mental fitness, good health, and thorough training and preparation for the varied terrain.

They live in Gauteng. Eish, sorry! To get to a decent hiking trail, they either must drive two hours out of the city or spend hours in the gym. Me, on the other hand – sorry for them – live here in this wonderful wildlife estate. With 30km of hiking trails with ridges, rocks, hills, valleys, grassy plains and forests, winding through every type of African biome you can think of. And with that comes the benefit of close encounters with wildlife – so close it can sometimes be uncomfortable for humans and animals. I could get all the physical

preparation required right here, 10m from my doorstep. What a privilege. I encourage all residents to go out. Explore. Enjoy. Respect. And please, please do not litter or vandalise.

That brings me to e-scooters. Why are children no longer walking, cycling and running around? E-scooter use among minors is becoming increasingly common, and they are often seen on the Estate roads every day, travelling faster than the speed limit for cars. Many rides without helmets and sometimes carry passengers.

There are currently no rules against the use of e-scooters on the Estate, but there are rules for the use of any powered vehicle. Parents must be aware of these rules, because behavioural trends may force us to institute rules to regulate the use of powered vehicles by unlicensed drivers on the estate. That includes golf carts, or any form of vehicle powered by anything other than your own physical energy. This is a caution. Please take it seriously.

A lot of construction is happening on the estate, especially in the Bergendal area, but also building additions and alterations on older buildings in the Estate. Management

often receives complaints of poor workmanship or improper business ethics by contractors. When appointing a building contractor to work on your property, do your homework before deciding. Ask for references from previous clients or building industry professionals, and, where possible, visit completed projects to visually confirm the quality of the contractor’s workmanship and business ethics.

All building and construction activities within the Estate remain subject to the Estate Rules and National Building Regulations. We are aware of the challenges regarding building plan approvals at Mangaung Metro Municipality, but by law, the Building Control Officer of the local government is the only one who may permit any construction to commence.

The El Niño phenomenon is predicted to start in October and will probably last until late summer. It’s the cycle of nature which we cannot change, but we can adapt and prepare. Install water backup systems. Create water-wise gardens and use water sparingly.

This time of year, is also the time of an increased fire hazard, with lots of dry grassy veld and high winds at times. This can instantly become a disaster.

As a prevention measure, several fire barrier strips were cut in the open veld, along the security fence, along the erven facing the communal property, and a 30m strip behind the administrative office. This is done according to MAFPA (Mangaung Fire Protection Association) directives.

On a more positive note, none of our game on the Estate was infected by Foot and Mouth disease, so the quarantine period was lifted.

The service road linking the Hillandale part with the Bergendal part of the Estate was not allowed as a formal road in terms of the initial township establishment and traffic impact assessment. However, due to the high maintenance cost of the gravel road, the Board decided to upgrade this section to a paved road, completed at a total cost of R 800,000, of which 50% was contributed by the developer. This section of road is still only a service road and is used at the driver’s own risk.

All the road paint markings in and around the Estate have been repainted, so ignoring stop streets and barrier lines (no passing) is no longer an excuse. Fines will be issued.

Although the padel courts are not an HOA project, we can confirm that the aesthetics committee has approved a roof over the entire playing area, subject to municipal approval. This will allow players to enjoy the courts in all weather conditions.

The planning of the envisaged gymnasium next to the tennis courts (C & D) is still underway, and as soon as building plans are approved, construction may start.

Enjoy this packed issue of the Woodpecker!

Until next time.

Johan Naudé 



Relax, we have your
pool problems covered



Our Services include

- ★ Maintenance
- ★ Repairs
- ★ Water Analysis
- ★ Salt Chlorinators
- ★ Pool pumps & Filters
- ★ Heating Systems
- ★ Cleaning Services
- ★ Electrical, Timers & Lights
- ★ Pool Covers & Safety Nets
- ★ Remarble and mosaic tiling
- ★ Painting of fiberglass pools
- ★ Accessories, etc.



Pools are fun - Sit back and relax

We provide a weekly maintenance service to help you experience a clean hassle free pool



083 262 1684 ★ info@sparklepools.co.za

24 General Hertzog St ★ Dan Pienaar ★ Bloemfontein

Begin with wonder

Give your child's future a great start with a school designed for growth, joy and discovery.

What sets us apart:

- Experienced, caring teachers guide learning
- Children play while they learn and discover
- A safe and nurturing environment
- We build a strong foundation for future success

From 3 years to 5 years
Enrolments for 2027
are open!

SCAN HERE
for more
information



087 284 7300
info.bloemfontein@curro.co.za

curro.co.za

CURRO
BLOEMFONTEIN

Ds. Zak Scholtz se preekreeks oor hoogtes en berge

Die preekreeks oor hoogtes en berge het ons op 'n reis deur die Bybel geneem, met onbekende en interessante feite wat deurentyd ontvou het. Onder andere is stilgestaan by Eden, Ararat, die Toring van Babel, Moria, Sinai en laastens die tabernakel.

Tydens hierdie reis ontdek ons hoe God die begeerte het om naby aan sy mense te wees – 'n begeerte wat uiteindelik in Christus vervul word. Vrae is gestel, soos: Waar sou jy God soek as jy Hom vandag moes vind? In 'n kerkgebou, op 'n spesiale plek, in 'n oomblik van stilte, of dalk binne-in jou eie hart? Hier volg enkele hoogtepunte van die reis.

Sion, die bergvesting wat Dawid ingeneem het, het later 'n simbool van God se koningskap geword. Wanneer die Bybel sê dat Jesus die Koning is, beteken dit dat Hy werklik Koning oor my lewe is – nie net oor die groot besluite nie, maar ook oor my tyd, my aandag en my gedagtes.

By Moria, waar Abraham sy seun Isak moes offer, hoor ons die belofte: "Op die berg van die Here sal voorsien word." Abraham ontdek dat God sien, weet en voorsien.

Ons reis gaan verder na Sinai, waar God sy volk ontmoet nadat Hy hulle uit Egipte verlos het. Laastens stap ons deur die tabernakel, waar elke element iets van God se teenwoordigheid en Christus se werk openbaar: versoening, reiniging, lig, voorsiening, gebed en middelaarskap.

Die groot vraag is: Waar wil God woon? Die antwoord loop soos 'n goue draad deur die Bybel: God wil by sy mense wees. Christus is die volmaakte Offer, die Ewige Hoëpriester, die Lig, die Brood van die Lewe en die Koning.

Rooted Leadership

Die eerste Maandagaand van die kwartaal het 'n nuwe baadjie aangetrek toe die kerkkantoor 'n reeks leierskapsessies aangebied het. Tydens die sessies is verskeie aspekte van leierskap

bespreek, waaronder verskillende leierskapstyle, sagte vaardighede en die praktiese beginsels van doelgerigte leierskap.

Hoewel nie almal noodwendig 'n formele leierskapsposisie in die gemeente beklee nie, is elkeen 'n leier in eie reg en kan almal by hierdie beginsels baat vind.

Die doel is om leiers te help vorm wat met 'n duidelike doel en visie, en deur verantwoordelike invloed, mense, spanne en ook die kerk kan lei. Die kombinasie van leierskapstyle en sagte vaardighede help deelnemers om die praktiese beginsels van doelgerigte leierskap te verstaan deur drie vrae:

WHY: Hoekom doen jy wat jy doen?

HOW: Hoe doen jy wat jy doen?

WHAT: Wat doen jy?

Uiteindelik kan die kern van doelgerigte leierskap saamgevat word in drie eenvoudige beginsels: om in Christus te bly, vir 'n sagte hart te bid en effektief te luister.

Kinderpret

By Woodland Hills Gemeenskapskerk is tydens die skoolvakansie 'n heerlike vakansiepretprogram aangebied waar kinders kreatief kon leer, ontdek en saam kuier.

Daar is met groot entoesiasme gebak en geskep: van die versiering van pragtige "royal icing"-koekies en 'n inspirerende verfklas tot 'n opwindende robotikawerkswinkel. By die werkswinkel kon die kinders hul eie robotte bou en met hulle hindernisbane aanpak.

Die kinders se opgewonde gesigte en entoesiasme het gewys hoeveel pret elke dag was. Ons sien reeds uit daarna om die Desember vakansiepret te beplan.

Hou gerus die sosiale media dop vir meer inligting – ons kan nie wag om al die vrolike kinders weer te verwelkom nie!

Ds. Zak Scholtz, Hesta Friedrich-Nel en Delene Harmse 📧



Royal Icing koekies versier



Verfklas



Robotikawerkswinkel



Pathcare Depot & Laboratory

Depot:

Mo. - Fri. 07:00 - 18:00

Sat. 08:00 - 13:00

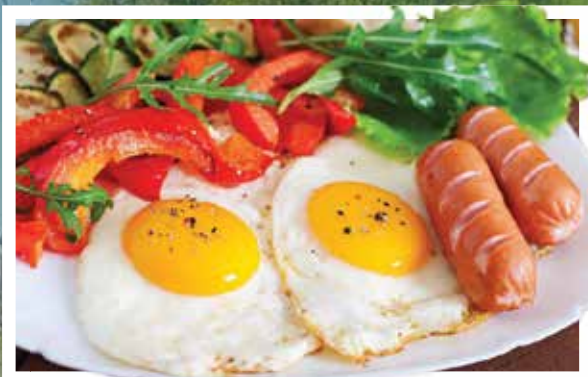


"Pathology that Adds Value"

T: 051 400 2190

www.pathcare.co.za

THE Garden's SECRET TABLE...



Business hours:

08:00-16:00 – Tuesdays to Saturdays

Sunday Buffet from 11:00. Bookings essential



@BOTANICAL

RESTAURANT | TEA GARDEN | FUNCTIONS

VISIT US: Botanical Garden, Bloemfontein

T: 066 1999 001
info@botanical.net.za



Where Luxury

Meets the Wild!

Make Letsatsi Game Lodge, nestled among the breathtaking grasslands of the Free State, your next unforgettable destination.



VOTE FOR US

in the Living Category
for Best Weekends getaway within
a 200km radius of Bloem

BUSH
ACCOMMODATION

EXQUISITE
DINING

EXCITING
GAME DRIVES

BREATHTAKING
SCENERY



Book Your Getaway Today

Smithfield, Free State
165km from Bloemfontein

082 311 2201
072 610 9390

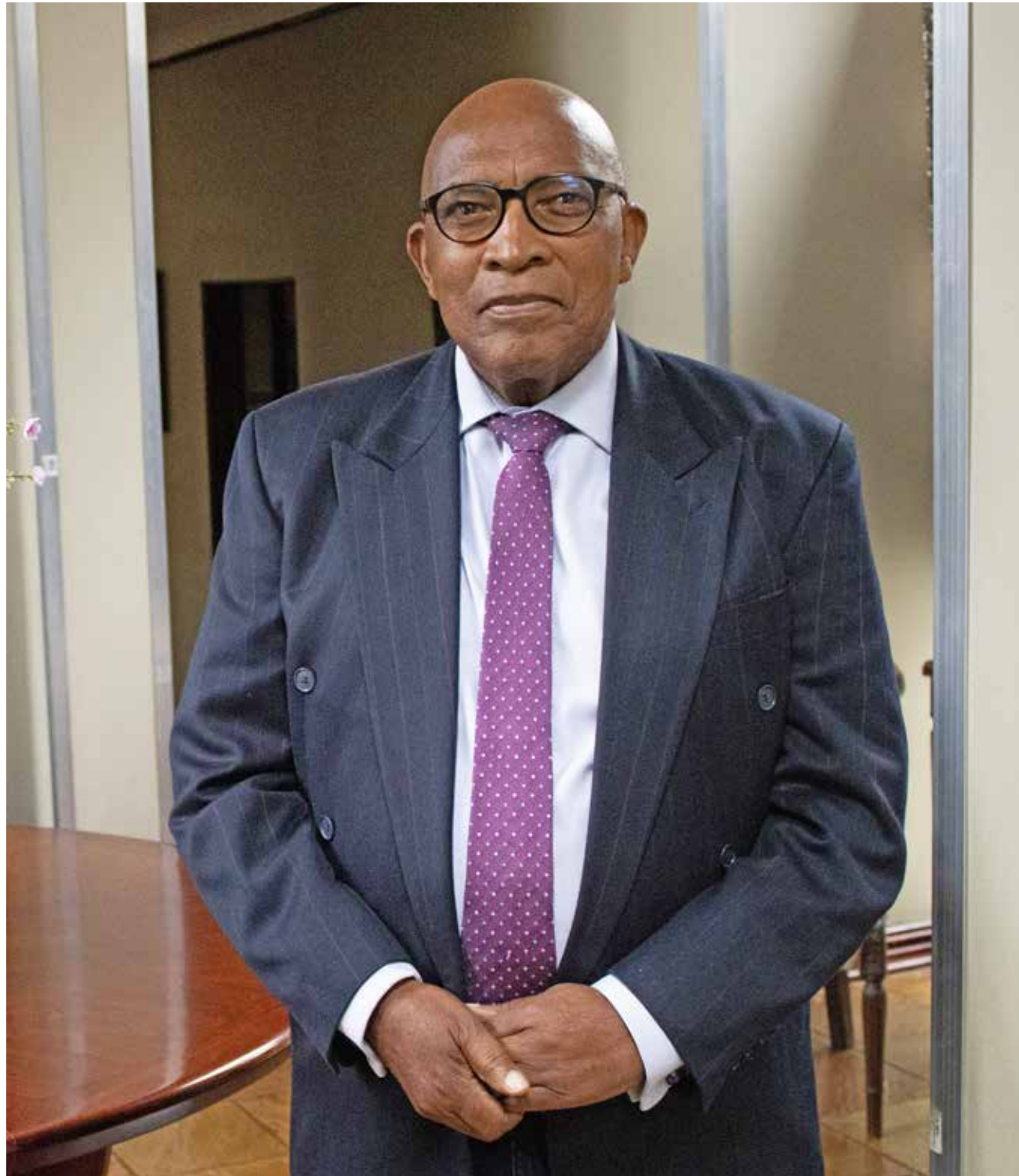
info@letsatsigamelodge.com
www.letsatsigamelodge.com



Your Safari
ESCAPE
AWAITS!

a life shaped by law, service and perseverance

Clement **Matroos**



Mojalefa Hans Rampai

From a young boy raised in the Free State countryside to making history as the first practising attorney from the province to be directly appointed as a High Court judge, Mojalefa Hans Rampai's journey has been defined by perseverance, service and an unwavering belief in justice. Now retired from the bench, he reflects on his career, the people who influenced him, the challenges he faced and the legacy he hopes to leave behind.

For Mojalefa, a career in law was never part of the original plan. His journey to becoming a High Court judge began with ambitions of teaching and later medicine before an unexpected friendship changed the course of his life. In 2001, he made history when he became the first practising attorney from the Free State to be directly appointed as a High Court judge. Looking back, he describes the appointment as a deeply personal, professional and historic moment.

"It was incredibly humbling as it was emotional," he recalls, reflecting on the fact that both his parents had passed away before they could witness the milestone. His appointment also meant leaving behind his community, congregation and legal practice in Welkom to begin an entirely new chapter.

Professionally, the transition was equally significant. Mojalefa went from being a practising lawyer to occupying a position carrying considerable judicial authority. He says the responsibility of judicial power was never something he took lightly.

"The judicial power of the state is entrusted to the judges. That being the case, it follows therefore that the power of a judge – singularly or collectively – isn't an unbridled horse. I want to believe that, at no stage was I ever intoxicated with the power of the high public office I held. I remained a down-to-earth man throughout my judicial career and beyond."

His path into law was shaped by an influential friendship. While attending Adams College in Amanzimtoti in 1973, he befriended John Sibiya, a chief administrative clerk who was studying law.

Sibiya regularly spoke to him about the profession, eventually inspiring Mojalefa to abandon his plans to study medicine and pursue law instead. "He made a lasting impact on my future career. The rest, as they say, is history," he says.

Throughout his judicial career, Mojalefa remained focused on what he believed law could contribute to society. His ambition was to help restore human dignity, support efforts to combat crime, demonstrate that unjust laws could not simply be applied in the name of justice and challenge the belief that the legal profession belonged to one particular race.

He believes his work also helped challenge stereotypes about the ability of black legal professionals to navigate complex areas of law. Almost 30 of his judgments were reported, with some receiving approval from the Supreme Court of Appeal and Constitutional Court.

One of his judgments even attracted international academic recognition after a Belgian law professor

visited him after reading a judgment concerning teenage pregnancy at school. Mojalefa was told that the judgment had been incorporated into study material for doctoral students at universities around the world.

For Mojalefa, being a judge also meant understanding that compassion could never replace impartiality. Courts, he explains, must remain neutral and make decisions based on evidence and the law rather than sympathy. Integrity, independence and impartiality are among the qualities he considers essential for judges. He believes judges must be willing to make difficult decisions without fear or favour and must resist any form of corruption or personal influence.

His own journey was not without challenges. As one of the black judges entering a judiciary historically dominated by white men, he recalls having to work particularly hard to demonstrate his capabilities.

"I had to work harder than most of my colleagues because I did not want to fail my people," he says, explaining he saw himself as representing more than just his individual ambitions.

After decades in the legal profession and years on the bench, retirement gave Mojalefa an opportunity to reflect on what the experience taught him. Among his strongest beliefs is that the courts alone cannot solve South Africa's crime and governance challenges.

He argues effective law enforcement, leadership and respect for the rule of law are all necessary for a functioning society.

Away from the courtroom, his story is equally colourful. He describes growing up across several Free State farming communities, including areas around Parys, Vredefort, Kroonstad and Welkom. His upbringing helped develop his love for country life and nature.

Retirement has not meant slowing down completely. Although he had hoped to spend more time playing golf, several shoulder operations forced him to abandon that ambition.

Instead, fitness has become one of his greatest hobbies, with him saying he still goes to the gym regularly. He also remains passionate about travelling, with Canada among his planned destinations.

Despite his historic career, Mojalefa remains reluctant to describe himself as leaving behind a legacy. Instead, he says he simply tried to represent his people properly and serve his country.

"I did not misplace the trust they had in me," he says. Perhaps that humility best captures a career that began almost by chance but ultimately became part of the Free State's judicial history. 

bure vriend, vyand of vreemdeling

Annatjie **Bouwer**

Voordat jy verder lees: Die karakters in hierdie artikel is almal van die woonbuurt van Verbeelding. Enige ooreenkoms met regte mense, plekke of gebeurtenisse is bloot toevallig, toevallig se nefie, of dalk toevallig se buurman.

Daar is min verhoudings in die lewe wat so interessant is soos dié met jou bure. Jy kies hulle nie soos jy jou vriende kies nie. Hulle arriveer eenvoudig op die toneel, trek in langs jou of oorkant jou, en skielik deel julle 'n straat, 'n grensmuur, dieselfde beurtkragskedule en soms ook mekaar se geheime. In Engels praat ons van neighbours. In Afrikaans praat ons van die mense wie se honde blaf.

Hierdie is nie 'n akademiese artikel nie, maar dis verbasend hoeveel navorsing beskikbaar is oor die sielkunde van woonbuurte en bure.

Dit is nie heeltemal toevallig wanneer mense goed met hulle bure oor die weg kom nie. Tensy ons sekere bure doelbewus vermy, is ons geneig om positiewer te voel oor mense wat ons gereeld sien. Hoe meer ons mekaar raakloop wanneer ons byvoorbeeld water koop, koffie kry of dieselfde roete stap, hoe meer bekend en vertrouwd kan ons met mekaar raak. Sielkundiges verbind hierdie verskynsel onder meer met die blootstellingseffek: herhaalde blootstelling aan iemand of iets kan vertroutheid en, onder sekere omstandighede, groter voorkeur bevorder. Dit verduidelik dalk waarom die bure wat aanvanklik net 'n gesig by die hek was, later die persoon word wat jou diere versorg wanneer jy weggaan.

Maar nabyheid alleen waarborg nie vrede nie. 'n Woonbuurt is eintlik 'n klein sosiale eksperiment waar verskillende persoonlikhede, gewoontes, troeteldiere, voertuie en grense gedwing word om saam te bestaan. Dis juis hier waar die lewe interessant raak.

DIE VERSKILLENDE “SPESIES” BURE

Net soos Woodlands se wildlewe, het elke straat sy eie karakters.

Daar is die **Braaimeesters**. Jy weet nie noodwendig wat hulle beroep is nie, maar jy weet presies wanneer daar gebraai word. Die reuk van kameeldoringhout is hul amptelike besigheidskaartjie.

Die **Nuusagentskap**. Hulle beskik oor inligting waarvan ChatGPT nog nie weet nie. Hulle kan jou vertel wie verhuis het, wie verf, wie nuwe gordyne gekoop het en waarom daar drie keer in een week 'n loodgieter by nommer 16 opgedaag het.

Onkruid sal nie wortel skiet in die **Tuinfluisteraars** se

beddings nie. Hulle gras lyk soos groen fluweel, en hulle rose staan soos 'n militêre parade netjies in gelid. Selfs die bokke vreet nie hulle plante nie.

Daar is ook die **Spookbure**. Die ligte gaan aan, maar die bure self bestaan vermoedelik net in teorie.

Dan is daar die **Sout-van-die-Aarde-bure**. Hulle is die stille helde van baie woonbuurte. Hulle deel vrygewig die oes uit hulle groentetuin. Hulle onthou verjaarsdae, leen bestanddele aan bure in tye van nood en vra opreg hoe dit gaan.

Jy is gelukkig as jou bure die **Akoestiese Ingenieur-tipe** is. Hulle meet en bestuur geraasbesoedeling in woonbuurte en het reeds sekuriteit gebel om die bure se harde musiek stil te maak.

En, natuurlik is daar die **Territoriale Grenswagte**. Hulle weet presies waar elke erfgrens loop en het waarskynlik die oorspronklike bouplanne iewers gestoor. Die sielkunde van territorialiteit help verduidelik waarom mense soms sterk oor hul persoonlike ruimte en eiendomsgrense voel.

As ons eerlik is, is daar waarskynlik iets van elkeen van hierdie karakters in ons.

Vrede ... of sonde met die bure?

Mense is dikwels geneig om aanklank te vind by ander wat soortgelyke belangstellings, waardes of lewensomstandighede het. Dinge soos 'n liefde vir tuinmaak, honde, fietsry of rugby kan raakpunte skep en dit makliker maak om 'n goeie verhouding met die bure te bou. Dis 'n voorreg as jy bure het wat opmerk dat jou motorhuisdeur oopstaan of 'n koerierpakkie namens jou ontvang. Hierdie daaglikse interaksies tussen bure wat mekaar vertrou, kan mense veiliger en meer tuis in hulle woonbuurt laat voel.

Maar nie alle verhoudings met bure word deur koekies en koffiekuiers gekenmerk nie. Soms besluit iemand dat middernag die ideale tyd is om sy musieksmaak met die hele buurt te deel; of die kinders doen dit sommer namens hulle in die straat. 'n Hond laat almal weet hoe eensaam hy is. En dan die moeilikheid wanneer 'n grensmuur daardie ouderdom bereik waar albei eienaars stilweg hoop die ander een sal eerste die woord “verf” noem. Of die estetiese komitee gee 'n sperdatum, dan móét daar gepraat word.

Konflik met die bure gaan dikwels ook nie net oor die werklike probleem nie. Wat vir een persoon 'n klein irritasie is, kan vir iemand anders soos disrespek voel. Vorige ervarings, spanning by die werk, persoonlike voorkeure en selfs die gevoel dat iemand nie hulle ruimte

respekteer nie, kan konflik vererger. Dit verklaar waarom harde musiek vir een persoon bloot agtergrondgeraas is, terwyl dit vir iemand anders die laaste strooi ná 'n moeilike dag kan wees. Die uitdaging met bure is natuurlik dat situasies nie vanself verdwyn nie. Julle bly steeds langs mekaar wanneer die argument verby is.

Die geheim van goeie bure

Die enigste plekke waar jy 'n perfekte woonbuurt en perfekte bure sal kry, is in die prentjiemooi, geordende fiktiewe gemeenskap van Seahaven Island, waar Truman Burbank woon, of in The Barbie Dreamhouse in Malibu (gaan kyk The Truman Show- en Barbie-flieks).

Miskien is die boodskap oor goeie buurmanskap eintlik eenvoudig: mense wat gereeld positiewe kontak het, mekaar as medemens sien en bereid is om mekaar 'n bietjie genade te gee, het dikwels 'n beter kans om goeie verhoudings te ontwikkel.

Dit beteken nie perfekte woonbuurte bestaan nie, maar dit sal waarskynlik nie erger raak as in die Mayfield Place cul-de-sac in die dorp Hinkley Hills nie (gaan kyk The Burbs). Hier het onskadelike, eksentrieke mense in monsters verander, bloot uit voorstedelike verveling.

Die beste woonbuurte is nie noodwendig dié sonder probleme nie, maar dié waar mense onthou dat daar regte mense rondom jou woon. Want uiteindelik is bure een van die lewe se vreemdste geskenke: mense wat ons nooit gekies het nie, maar wat tog deel word van ons storie.

En, as ons gelukkig is, word die mense rondom ons in Woodlands later meer as net bure. Hulle word die mense wat weet wanneer ons weg is, wanneer ons terug is, en wanneer ons die gras sny bloot omdat hulle reeds hulle s'n gesny het. 🌿

TIMELESS Elegance

Visit us and find your
elegant style



51 Nico van der Merwe Ave, Bloemfontein
051 447 7512

Helping patients take the next step

From a childhood accident that nearly cost him his leg to helping amputees regain their independence, Bloemfontein orthotist and prosthetist Pierre Retief is bringing decades of experience, compassion, and cutting-edge rehabilitation services to the city’s growing northern suburbs.

For many people, orthotics and prosthetics remain a little-known profession. For Pierre Retief, however, it has been a lifelong calling shaped by personal experience, family influence, and a passion for helping others reclaim their independence. His journey began while he was still a learner in Bloemfontein, long before most of his classmates had even heard of orthotics and prosthetics. Explaining the profession often required comparisons to Paralympic athletes such as Oscar Pistorius and Arnu Fourie, a former Grey College learner. The path was also inspired by two older cousins who practised orthotics and prosthetics in Port Elizabeth.

Yet his connection to the field runs much deeper. At just ten years old, Pierre was involved in a serious farming accident while hunting at night. He suffered a fractured femur and, three days later, doctors informed his parents that an amputation might be necessary and that he would need a prosthesis if he ever hoped to walk again.

“That was my first time even hearing about a prosthesis. Eventually my leg healed with reconstructive surgery,” Pierre reflected. Although reconstructive surgery ultimately saved his leg, the experience introduced him to the world of prosthetics for the first time and left a lasting impression.

Today, after 15 years in private practice, he has witnessed significant changes in the profession. Advances in diagnostic technology, improved materials, silicone liners, and sophisticated bionic and microprocessor-controlled components have transformed patient outcomes. “With PMB (prescribed minimum benefit) becoming relevant in SA medical aids

remuneration, we had to adapt to certain limitations, but it has allowed more patients to receive a prosthesis than before.”

For Pierre, the greatest rewards are often found in silent moments. “The most rewarding experiences come from reactions rather than words,” he explains. Seeing a young child take her first independent steps with a new prosthesis or witnessing the tears of joy in a parent’s eyes serves as a powerful reminder of why he chose this career.

His new practice aims to meet the growing healthcare needs of northern Bloemfontein. Beyond custom-made prosthetic devices, the practice offers a comprehensive range of rehabilitation and home-care solutions, including wheelchairs, walking aids, hospital beds, orthotic braces, custom insoles, and assistive devices tailored to geriatric, bariatric, and paediatric patients.

Patients can expect personalised evaluations, professional care, and solutions designed around their individual needs. The practice supports amputees throughout their rehabilitation journey, from post-surgical assessments and funding applications to prosthetic fitting and gait training.

Looking ahead, his goal is simple: to provide rehabilitation services that rival the best in South Africa while making a meaningful difference in people’s lives. “On a personal level I would like my wife and two children to be proud of what I have achieved and to feel their dad made a difference in someone’s life who may have been less privileged – that all the family-time sacrifices were worthwhile,” Pierre concluded.

Get in touch: Tel: 051 247 5157,
E-mail: emoya@retiefortho.co.za

Text: CLEMENT MATROOS

EXCEPTIONAL QUALITY HEALTHCARE

COMMITTED TO

CARING FOR LIFE

Delivering exceptional, patient-centred healthcare with compassion, integrity and excellence.

OUR SERVICES

24/7 EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT
Always open. Always ready.

ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE
Comprehensive medical & surgical care.

INTENSIVE CARE
17 ICU beds with advanced monitoring and critical care.

REHABILITATION
19 acute rehab beds to support recovery and restore independence.

OPERATING THEATRES
3 laminar-flow theatres with advanced airflow systems that help maintain a highly sterile environment and reduce infection risk during surgery.

DIAGNOSTIC & SUPPORT SERVICES
Radiology, pathology, pharmacy and more – all under one roof.

SPECIALIST CARE
Experienced doctors and a dedicated multidisciplinary team.

AT A GLANCE

80
ACUTE BEDS

17
ICU BEDS

19
REHABILITATION BEDS

3
LAMINAR-FLOW THEATRES

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU

E-MED CARE

Your emergency. Our priority.

OUR PROMISE TO YOU

INTEGRITY

COMPASSION & COLLABORATION

ACCOUNTABILITY

RESPECT

EQUITY

CONTACT US

051 011 4040
AVAILABLE 24/7

clients@emoyamed.com

e-med@emoyamed.com

7 Frans Kleynhans Ave,
Groenvlei, Bloemfontein, 9301

www.emoyamed.com

ONE PURPOSE. | Exceptional Care.

hillandale **rolbalklub**

Johan **Naudé** en Michael **Coomans**



Om in 'n wildlewe landgoed te woon het sy voordele, maar as jy as baanmeester in die oggend by die baan kom en jy sien hoe die speelvlak verrinnweer is deur hierdie besoekers wat sonder die regte skoeisel die baan betree het, is dit 'n bietjie lastig. Die klubbestuur moet dalk oorweeg om 'n kennisgewing in kameelperdtaal aan te bring wat sê: "Kameelperde wat wil saamspeel moet asseblief platsoolskoene dra." Maar ons deel met liefdevolle respek die omgewing met hierdie langnekke wat lankal hier was nog voor die rolbalklub bestaan het. Dit het natuurlik in die nag gebeur, so die foto is met KI gegeneer.

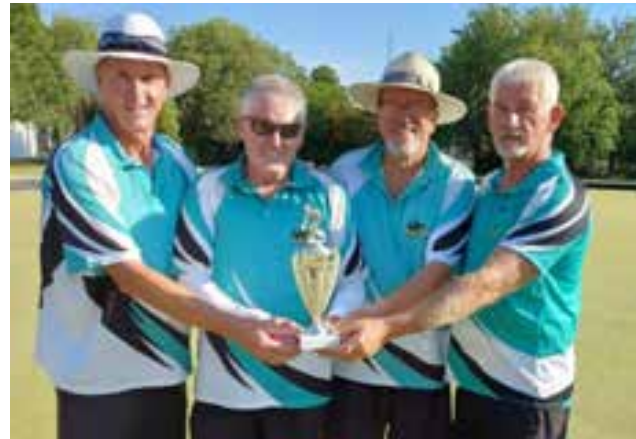
MERKWAARDIGE PRESTASIES

Vyf van die twaalf spelers wat uitgenooi was na die Suid-Vrystaat Veterane Meesterstoernooi, was Hillandale lede, by name Francois van Vuuren, Leon Crawley, Michael Coomans, Francois Jacobs en Gerrit van Zyl. Francois van Vuuren wen die baie sterk en kompeterende toernooi deur James Thompson in die finaal te wen. Op die foto onder oorhandig Leon Crawley (links), president van Suid-Vrystaat Rolbal, die trofee aan Francois.



Hillandale lede laat hulle deeglik geld in die Suid-Vrystaat kampioenskap en veral in die veterane-afdeling. Nie net het die mans- en dames veteranespanne die Viere kampioenskap vanjaar gewen nie ('n eerste vir die klub), maar ook die mansdrieë kampioenskap vir veterane. In die Ope-afdeling (persone onder 60 jaar) het Jannie du Plessis en Gerrit van Zyl (wat ook al 'n veteraan is) tweede in die pare kampioenskap geëindig.

SVS Veterane mans-viere kampioene



Michael Coomans (skiep) Francois van Vuuren, Leon Crawley en Francois Jacobs.

SVS Veterane dames-viere kampioene



Andries Moroane, skeidsregter, oorhandig die trofee aan Nellie Riddle, Petro Botha, Elma Pretorius en Retha van Rensburg

SVS Veterane mans-drieë kampioene



Leon Crawley (skiep), Francois Jacobs en Louis van Rensburg

SVS Ope mans-pare naawenners



Gerrit Van Zyl en Jannie du Plessis eindig tweede in die pare kampioenskap.

Vroue rolbaldag op 10 Augustus

Spel is gestaak nadat daar ysreën begin val het. Die warmer klubhuis, mooi gedekte tafels, warm kos en rooiwijn was toe 'n beter alternatief. Die sosiale samesyn is tog eintlik waaroor dit gaan en die dames het gesprinkel in hul spankleure wat die toonbeeld van vrouwees onderstreep het.



Hillarie Rall, Rita Krog, Petro Botha, en Ansie van der Westhuizen



Anne-Marie vd Berg, Marcelle Botha, Esmé Human en Martie du Plessis

In hierdie uitgawe bespreek ons die **Klub Driespel**:

- Die klub se driespel is 'n gemengde kompetisie vir mans en dames.
- Wedstryde word oor 18 skofte beslis. Elke speler speel met drie balle.
- Die kompetisie word op 'n uitklopbasis beslis.
- Spelers word nie toegelaat om gedurende die kompetisie van posisie te verander nie, behalwe in die geval waar 'n Skipper vervang word en die Tweede dan Skipper moet speel.
- Die Lei en Skipper se verpligtinge bly dieselfde as vir Vierspel, wat in die vorige uitgawe bespreek was.
- Die Tweede kombineer die pligte van Tweede en Derde deur te meet en telling te hou.
- 'n Plaasvervanger mag nie die Skipper van 'n span word nie.
- In geval van 'n dooie witte (reël 19) en 'n dooie skof (reël 20) moet die skof oorgespeel word.
- Gebrande skofte moet oorgespeel word.
- As die wedstryd gestaak word weens weerstoestande nadat 15 of meer koppe gespeel is word die wenner bepaal deur die span met die meeste punte op daardie stadium.
- Indien minder as 15 koppe gespeel is moet die wedstryd op 'n later stadium gespeel word maar dan word die wedstryd van vooraf gespeel (0/0).

Terminologie:

“Raakbal” (Toucher) gebeur wanneer 'n bal op sy oorspronklike koers op die baan aan die witbal raak. Die bal word dan tydelik gemerk op die loopvlak, en op die finale posisie waar dit tot rus gekom het, selfs in die sloot, maar mits dit steeds binne die baangrense is. 'n Raakbal in die sloot bly lewendig.

“Swaai” (Bias) Alle rolballe het 'n swaaiant wat veroorsaak dat die bal aanvanklik op 'n reguit lyn uitrol, maar dan wanneer dit momentum verloor kantel na die swaaiant, en dan met 'n kurwe indraai. Die swaaiant is op die bal met 'n kleiner sirkel gemerk. Rolbalstelle se swaai verskil van mekaar, maar die vier balle in 'n stel het dieselfde swaai moment. Dit is juis die swaai wat rolbal as sport uniek maak. 

The Hillandale Bowling Club invites all prospective players to contact Michael Coomans, the Club Secretary, on 071 143 3422, to arrange for an introduction to the Club and the wonderful game of Lawn Bowls. May all your bowls be touchers!

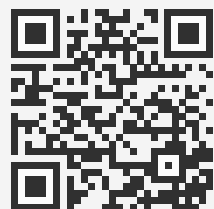


DIGITAL PLATFORMS
STRATEGIC ONLINE SOLUTIONS

Where are your **leads** going?

A customer just messaged
your social media ad.

Are you answering?

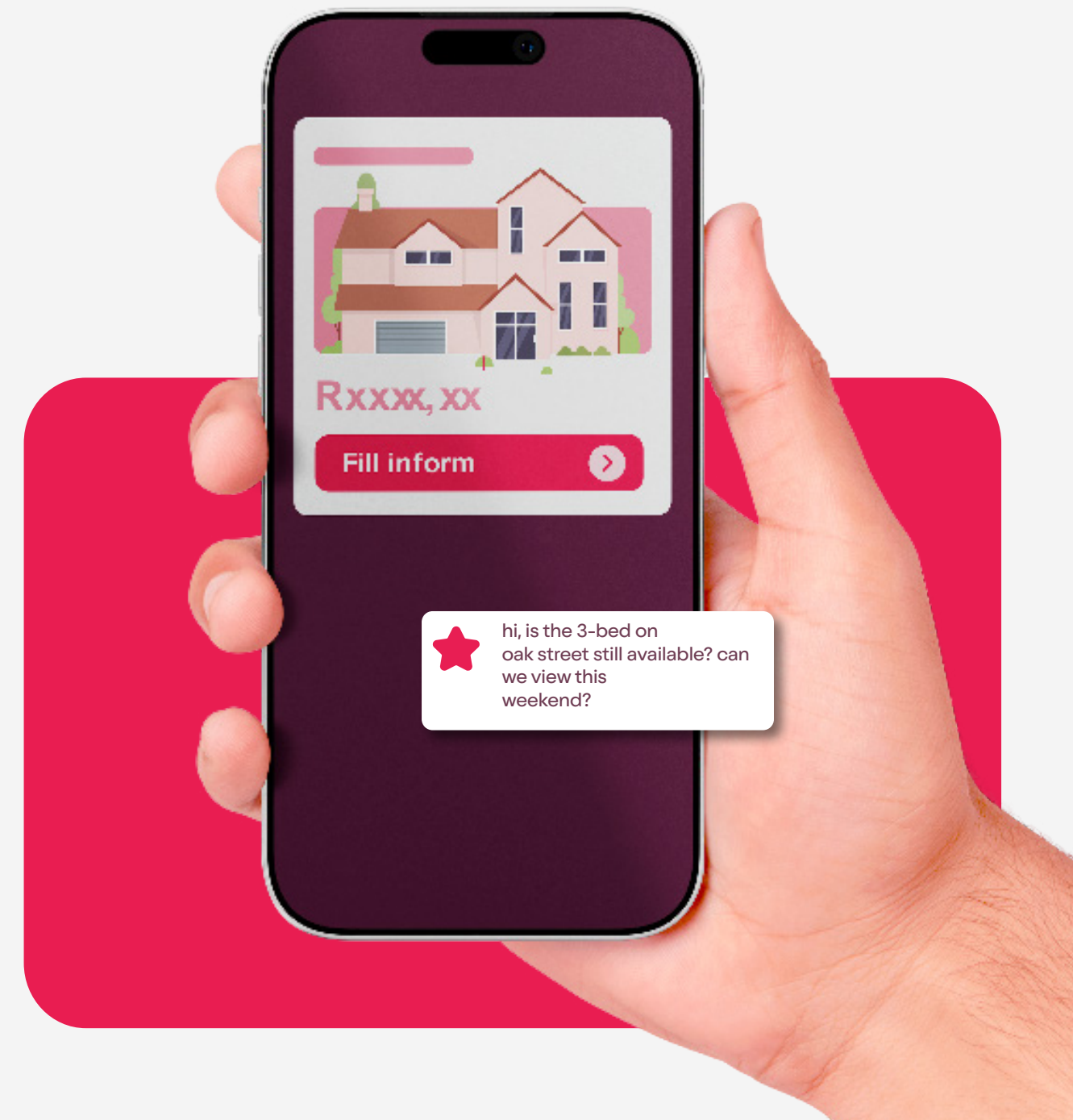


Scan to get in touch

digitalplatforms.co.za

051 50 50 900

we turn **social media
ad clicks** into whatsapp
conversations, instantly.



landgoedkomitee

the security committee

Dear Resident

How are you doing today? Slept soundly? I don't care. I'm too busy being paranoid about whether today is the day someone attempts a burglary via a perimeter breach.

That's not a cry for help – it's the job description. In security, paranoia isn't a disorder, it's a professional qualification. The optimists are the people who leave the gate on "friendly wave" mode.

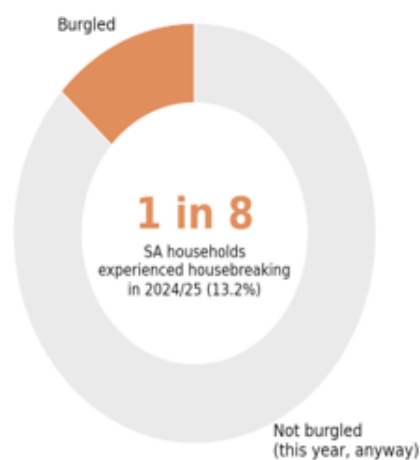
Our working assumption, held with religious devotion since 2008, is that somebody, somewhere, is thinking about your property right now. Most days nobody is. But the days we're right make the whole neurotic habit worthwhile.

And before you accuse us of overreacting, some context from the outside world. Housebreaking is consistently the most common crime experienced by South African households – in 2024/25, 13.2% of households experienced it. That's roughly one in eight.

Look around your street: statistically, someone on it was supposed to get burgled last year.

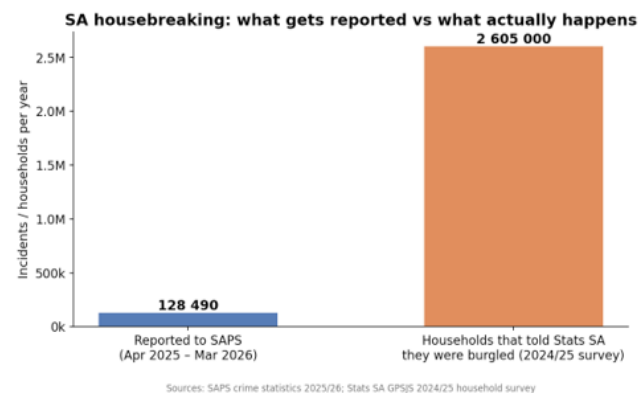
SAPS recorded 128,490 residential burglaries nationally between April 2025 and March 2026 – while Stats SA's household survey suggests around 2.6 million households actually experienced housebreaking, because most victims don't even bother phoning the police anymore. Delightful.

Housebreaking: South Africa's most common household crime



Source: Stats SA, Governance, Public Safety & Justice Survey 2024/25

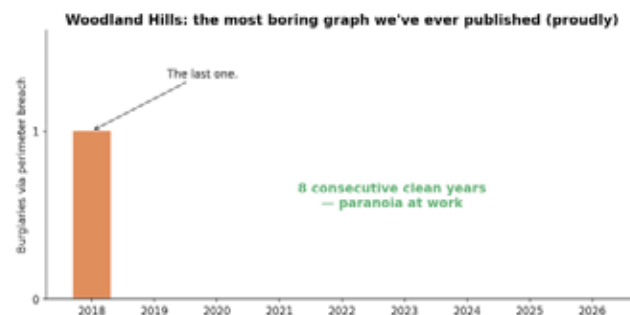
Source: Stats SA, Governance, Public Safety & Justice Survey 2024/25



Sources: SAPS crime statistics 2025/26; Stats SA GPSJS 2024/25

Now for the number we actually care about: the last burglary at Woodland Hills resulting from a perimeter breach was in 2018. Eight consecutive clean years.

Do the arithmetic against that one-in-eight national figure and you'll understand why we don't apologise for the paranoia. We frame it.



Perimeter-breach burglaries at Woodland Hills, 2018-2026

There's also a colder way to look at it. The properties on this estate are collectively worth in excess of R5 billion. Property value is mostly perception, and perception is fragile: a run of serious security incidents – the kind that make the neighbourhood WhatsApp groups and then the news – could conservatively knock 20% off every home's value. That's north of R1 billion in resident wealth, evaporated, without a single additional thing being stolen. Suddenly the levy line item marked "security" looks less like a grudge purchase and more like the cheapest insurance policy you own.

But here's the awkward truth nobody prints on the sales brochure: perfect security and a pleasant lifestyle are diametrical opposites.

We could make this estate impenetrable by Friday – biometrics on every corner, searchlights, dogs, possibly a moat. You'd be extremely safe and utterly miserable. You bought into a wildlife estate, not a correctional facility with superior landscaping and a Springbok. So, every decision the Security Committee makes is a wire-walk: enough friction to stop the wrong people, little enough that you don't feel like an inmate with a body corporate. When you sigh at the gate, know that a committee member sighed first – and concluded the alternative was worse.

So, what do we actually do? Less glamorous than you'd hope. Constituted by the Board in 2008, the SC monitors the security metrics – incidents, patterns, response times – manages and refines the security policies, and escalates recommendations to the Board, who hold the chequebook and the final word. Think of us as the estate's immune system: quietly watching, occasionally inflaming, and escalating to the brain when something needs money thrown at it.

And the machinery watching over you while you sleep (soundly, apparently)? Truly, I'd rather not share it – this article is publicly available to intruders too, and I did mention the paranoia – but some things are already in the public domain, so here goes.

A CCTV network of PTZ, static and thermal cameras, plus fire detection, because paranoia is a full-service operation. ANTs – multi-sensor devices combining radar, vibration, sound, infrared and temperature – that cue the PTZ cameras onto exactly the right patch of fence at exactly the right moment. An onsite AI that watches 120 camera streams simultaneously, classifies everything that moves – resident, jogger, jackal, gentleman with unscheduled intentions – and flags it to the control room. And because the AI is properly paranoid itself, it also watches the control room: flagging operators who are asleep, distracted, or mysteriously not at their post. Yes, we watch the watchers. The watchers know. Everyone behaves.

Add to that a contracted security company fielding thirty humans on the ground every single day, access control, visitor management, and internal cameras keeping a beady eye on vehicle misbehaviour and vandalism – because unfortunately not every threat climbs the fence; some of them have gate tags.

Eighteen years of this has taught me one thing: the threats evolve, the tools evolve, and the paranoia – thankfully – is renewable.

Stay alert, stay friendly, and if you see something odd, report it. We'd rather chase ten false alarms than miss one real breach. Because the goal, dear resident, is for you to keep sleeping soundly – while someone else lies awake on your behalf.

That's paranoia winning the day. Exactly as designed.

– The Security Committee



TOEGERUS VIR GROEI

Ons beïnvloed, bemagtig en inspireer sakeleiers om persoonlik én in hulle besigheid te groei, sodat hulle maksimum impak in die Koninkryk van God en die Besigheidswêreld kan maak.



LEIERSKAPONTWIKKELING:
Fokus op doelgerigte leierskap met invloed.



TOERUSTING:
Fokus op toepassing van Koningkryksbeginsels en waardes.



KONINGKRYKSIMPAK:
Fokus op persoonlike en besigheids groei vir maksimum impak – roeping uitlei.



Dries
NIEUWENHUIZEN
LEIERSKAP. DOEL. IMPAK.



VOEL VRY OM MY TE KONTAK VIR MEER INLIGTING.



WA - 083 274 8075

Bemagtig om te lei. Toegerus om te groei. Geroep om impak te maak.

BUILDING PLANS

New buildings, renovations & additions



JOHANNAUDE
ARCHITECTHNOLOGY

SACAP & ECSA Registered
www.johannaudearch.co.za
Cell: 083 492 8300
johan.naude.arg@gmail.com

a walk on the wilder side of woodland hills

Johan Naudé



Spring has arrived, and the sun is rising earlier. It is the perfect time to explore some of the Free State's best hiking trails – right here on our doorstep. I invited two guests to join me for a hike on the wilder side of Woodland Hills, where modern living meets ancient wilderness.

Here, luxury living gives way to almost 30km of unspoilt hiking and mountain-biking trails that wind through varied biomes, from open grass savanna and dense wetlands to thick African bushveld. From where I live, it was just 300m to get onto the Grassy Corners trail. This is a dog-friendly trail. So, watch out for those landmines. It starts right next to the fountain at the end of Swartwitpens Circle near the 4-way stop. A casual stroll takes you to the cell phone tower that looks like an out-of-place pine tree. From there, we turned west through the open grassland, and soon the houses were distant.

We turned towards the children's play park and crossed over the street into the open veld again towards the water reservoirs – our first water break.

Here we have a choice – the upper Serengeti Trail to the

left, or the Cobra Trail to the right. We chose to do both. Instantly, the modern world vanishes, replaced by the iconic shapes of the African veld. Elegant Springbok, striking Gemsbok, and the pitch-black coats of rare Sable antelope share this space. They roam free, a reminder of the land as it once was. We hiked to the Kogans Dam with its abundant birdlife.

Then we returned to the Cobra Trail, and the landscape opened into a vast grass savanna. The trail winds like its namesake, requiring hikers to keep their eyes moving and their senses sharp.

A herd of Zebra appears, their black-and-white stripes creating a dazzling optical illusion against the dry grass. Moving amongst them are rare, majestic Roan antelope, their long ears twitching in the morning breeze.

The beauty of the Cobra Trail carries a subtle warning. In these thick grasses, snakes are a natural part of the ecosystem. While encounters are rare – as they usually flee long before you see them – complacency is the enemy. Hikers must constantly scan the trail at least 5m ahead.

When stepping over logs or rocks, caution is vital. A snake surprised beneath a log will attack in self-defence. Remember the golden rule of the veld: look before you leap. Step onto the object, inspect the other side, and then step down. If you do encounter a snake, do not panic. Stop immediately. Very slowly, track back to establish a safe distance of at least 5m. Wait quietly for it to move away or simply turn around and find another route. This is their home; we are merely visitors.

We reached the ruins of the old milkshed, which later served as a horse hospital during the Anglo-Boer War and, in more recent years, as a function venue where artists such as Bok van Blerk performed and many matric farewells and weddings took place.

Close by, a towering herd of six giraffes is browsing on the high leaves. A small, young giraffe stands close to its mother's side. The mother giraffe stops chewing and stares at us, ears forward. Curious. But do not let their slow movements fool you. They are fiercely protective of their offspring. Hikers must maintain a respectful distance of no less than 50m. To crowd them is to invite danger.

Further down, in the thick cover surrounding the Visarend Dam, the environment softens. Here, small herds of Nyala and Reedbuck seek shelter. Unusually tame, these gentle creatures will often allow hikers to get up close, offering a rare, intimate look at South Africa's quieter wildlife. Then, the most familiar sound of Africa pierces the skies as a pair of Fish Eagles play out their mating rituals high above us.



The true uniqueness of Woodland Hills is its balance. The trail brings you right back to the edge of community life, winding past tennis and padel courts toward the estate's horse stables. It is the perfect midpoint to rest at the pristine picnic spots, refresh at the superbly clean public amenities, and prepare for the next leg of the hike.

From there, we set off again, passing the storage shed and utility works.

The path continues around the estate's functional infrastructure, proving that nature and human development can coexist. Instantly, you hit the ancient, blue gum tree-lined ox wagon route, walking the very same tracks carved by history. This was part of the main ox-wagon trail linking Brandfort with Bloemfontein.

This historic corridor is alive with variety. Heavy-set Waterbuck with its characteristic white ring on its rump, wetland-loving Lechwe, and lively troops of Vervet monkeys fill the trees and clearings with constant energy.

Refreshed after a brief pause at the Bergendal picnic spot, the journey enters its final act along the scenic promenade road of the Berghaan Dam. With strategically placed benches, it is an open invitation to slow down and reflect on a day spent in the wild.

The ultimate reward requires one last climb. Ascending the Ribbokrant hilltop at the reservoir, the Free State plains open in a breathtaking panoramic vista. From here, you look down over Bergendal, the distant pulse of the N1 highway, and the sprawling beauty of the Botanical Gardens.

We spread out our picnic blanket on the hilltop grass and poured a glass of red wine as the sky turned into a brilliant, fiery display of deep pink, purple, and gold. If you plan your hike perfectly, this is where the magic happens. Just as the sun dips below the horizon, a massive, brilliant full moon rises directly over the Botanical Gardens on the opposite side.

To step onto these paths is to enter a living ecosystem. But a successful hike requires preparation and deep respect. The rule of the wild is simple:



stay hydrated, wear comfortable shoes, and always look before you leap. The trails are clearly marked and regularly maintained.

Thirty kilometres of trails. Infinite biomes. A shared home. Whether completed in one full-day excursion or savoured in small daily walks, Woodland Hills reminds us that the wild is never truly far away. All we have to do is walk or cycle these trails with respect.

Scan the QR code to view a full video of the hike.



Happy hiking. 📱

ADVERTORIAL

Bloemfontein COME AND SEE WHAT WE MAKE

Handmade. Timeless. Unmistakably AfriCotta.

Every AfriCotta tile is made by hand, right here in Bainsvlei, Bloemfontein.

Our tiles are already being used in beautiful homes and developments across South Africa, with Val de Vie Estate in the Cape Winelands our biggest client. Now we're opening our doors to Bloemfontein.



HANDMADE ART.
Floor tiles. Wall tiles. Beautiful shapes. Natural colours. Endless combinations.
And because every tile is handmade, every installation has its own character.

COME CREATE WITH US.
Visit the AfriCotta factory and see where your tiles are actually made.
Come on a Saturday. Sit down at our Create Table. Play with colours. Mix shapes and patterns. Design something that belongs to your home.
Bring your family. Bring your architect. Bring your ideas.



COME AND BE PART OF THE HANDMADE ART COMMUNITY.
AFRICOTTA
Handmade in Bloemfontein. Made for beautiful spaces.
Contact: 061 952 1857
Email: africotta.co.za
9A Denne Laan, Bainsvlei, Bloemfontein



die hele gesin is welk m

Geniet heerlike kos, vreedsame omgewings en gehaltetyd saam met jou viervoetige vriende.

BRING JOU LEË WATERBOTTELS EN KOM TAP VARS WATER BY ONS

BUITELUG-RESTAURANT MET HEERLIKE KOS

KOM BESOEK ONS KWEKERY

DIERE VRIENDELIK



Dins-Sat: 08:00-17:00 | Son: 09:00-15:00

Skakel Frikkie: 0514511611 | 0609864746 | Hartland Kombuis & Tuin | Populierlaan | Bainsvlei



Kwaai baie

As ek reg verstaan, is vloekwoorde net gewone woorde wat ekstra krag gekry het. Hulle het hope kreatien gedrink en gaan gym, dink ek. Maar ek is uitgekuier met die groepie waaruit ons kan kies (hulle het spierkrag verloor), en ek soek iets wat meer inklusief is. 'n Woord wat ek deur die bank kan gebruik sonder om trefkrag in te boet.

Toe wonder ek, wat van "kwaai"? Dit spreek redelik maklik uit en het al 'n draai gemaak in die breër gebruikskringe saam met woorde soos "koel" en "kat". En word ook algemeen gebruik om 'n oormaat of erge graad aan te dui. Kwaai baie.

Soos in: Daar is deesdae kwaai baie sixty-sixty motorfietse in Woodlands se strate. Al van 07:00 af. Wat bestel jy daai tyd van die dag? Binnekort gaan Checkers dit seker vir jou met 'n hommeltuig stuur. Ek gaan beslis nie daarvan gebruik maak nie, want ek gaan in my eie

hommeltuig winkel toe vlieg, en dis nie meer lank nie, hoor. Ek vermoed ons gaan by mekaar verbyvlieg voordat selfbestuurmotors in Suid-Afrika beskikbaar is.

Ek wonder, hoe gaan sekuriteit dan op die Landgoed werk? Gaan ons nette span? 'n Lugbeheertoring kry? Tussen kunsmatige intelligensie, hommeltuie en El Niño lê daar beslis 'n interessante tyd vir ons voor. Soggens, wanneer ek en Buddy gaan stap, dink ek baie aan al hierdie onsekerhede wat vir ons wag. Dan sien ek die pikswart oë van 'n bokkie in die bos, hoor die voëls kwetter, en sien die son wat soos 'n groot oranje ballon in die lug opdryf ... dankie tog dat ek hier kan bly waar (sommige) dinge nog (plek-plek) sin maak.

Dis net jammer julle het vir krietnetette in plaas van 'n swembad gestem, want dit gaan kwaai warm die somer wees, nè?

- Shannon Hill



**With our experience, we'll help you sell with confidence
– or find the dream home you've been looking for.**



073 385 1083

elmarievancoller@gmail.com

WALKING THE EXTRA MILE WITH 13 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE










LOVIES

ultra

premium nappies

SA's premium nappy



Scan for more information

ultra care
ultra dry

channels to absorb wetness
up to 12 hour protection

ultra soft

dermatologically tested
soothing aloe vera

ultra comfort

stretchy waistband & sides
for a snug fit



995 NCFOCLDVNS



better and better

also at






Download the app