

# WHAT'S UP

## The Rosedale Newsletter

July 2018

**THINKING OF YOU** Whether it is in celebratory style (birthdays and anniversaries) or maybe you've been poorly (sick or even hospitalised), perhaps there's some consolation in knowing that you're very much in our thoughts.

**WELCOME** to Tony Venn, known to many of you, who has settled into 107R, and to Angela Tarr who now resides in 1NR; also to Nicole Lefevre who has temporarily moved into 501NR.

### FUNCTIONS AND EVENTS

It's very difficult to compete against the 'Boks XV who were scheduled to play England at Ellis Park, the game kicking off at 17:05 on **Saturday 9 June**, but Ralph Kelly's thespian group valiantly held their own, giving the enraptured audience a wonderful 1½ hours' entertainment. The cast of "**Double Exposure**" comprised Miranda (Sue Gow) and Greg (John Moulder) Pemberley, Mr Birch/Wally Bowesfield (Walden Davis), guest house owner Mrs Cotton (Ann Daykin) and the parish priest (playwright Ralph Kelly, the script being held together by narrator Glen Villet. The plot's about an heirloom brooch, thieving and treachery and exposing the trickster. In the end everyone proverbially lives happily ever after.

(And who won the Test? We did 42-39!)



Del Davies reports, "We were invited, once again, by Forres Preparatory School in Park Road, Rondebosch to their Foundation Phase (Grades 1, 2 and 3) concert on **Saturday morning 16 June**: singing, dancing and acting - generally a happy show, taken very seriously by the young performers, 'Cape Town' being their theme.

"We had been offered transport but, due to unforeseen circumstances, the school's Kombi was not available, but as quick as a wink the principal, Brett Pearce, and teacher, Debi Hawke, whisked us off to the Concert in their private vehicles. Mr Pearce joined us for tea and delicious home-baked biscuits in the staff room afterwards."

Del, who has been reading to the 3- and 4-year-olds for years adds that the Forres Grade 7 class has chosen to visit Rosedale as their Mandela Day Outreach activity - therefore no doubt due to her good offices: they will set up tables in the Wreck Room where we will play board games and be served tea and biscuits. Because of our own Mandela Day commitment (see below), their visit will take place on **Friday 20 July** so get your board game skills honed and join us at what promises to be an entertaining event and in so doing help Forres to fulfill their Mandela Day promise.



**Community singing practice** has resumed: on **Tuesday evenings at 19:00** a group of potential karaoke carolers gather round the keyboard, with Ralph Kelly on the ivories and led by the one-and-only Stephen Leibbrandt, to belt out golden oldies such as "You Are My Sunshine" and that old-time favourite "On Top Of Old Smokey".

← Here they're hard at work tickling their tonsils (makes office work seem like a walk in the park).

The RSC committee pulled out all the stops on the occasion of their last function before the AGM on **Friday June 29**. Themed **Bonnets and Bling**, with prizes for the best hat and outfit going to Barbara Vivier (l) and Alet Graf (r) respectively, and the raffle being won by Susan Centurier-Harris (bottom l), the fare was a trio of 3 gourmet soups, artisan breads, followed by ice-cream and hot chocolate sauce. A glass of sherry was served to welcome guests and a bottomless cuppa saw them on their way after performances by Isolde Stegmann and Godfrey Johnson – and what acts they staged for us! These pics of what was a lively evening say it all:



It is appropriate at this late stage of their tenure to acknowledge the contribution your committee makes in providing top-class entertainment, which they do in their own time and often out of their own pockets. I know I can speak on behalf of all the residents when I extend your thanks to them ...

... which leads me to the Rosedale Service Centre **Annual General Meeting**. You were advised by formal notification that this was held on **Wednesday 11 July** and I can now record that the following have been elected and will serve as your representatives for the next 2 years, with the option to be elected for a second term of office thereafter:

Chairperson			Stephen Leibbrandt
Vice-chairperson			Neville Petiteaud
Treasurer			Phyllis Webb
Secretary			Beryl Lategan
Resident representative (1)			Del Davies
“	“	(2)	Gordon de la Chaumette
“	“	(3)	Peter Horsburgh
Non-resident	“	(1)	Doug Clark
	“	(2)	Isabella Petiteaud
	“	(3)	Pamela Poole

Our heartiest congratulations and, again, I speak on behalf of all the residents and members when I wish them well in their term of office. Contact details will follow in the next newsletter, as will a thumbnail description of each; for now, this photo will have to suffice:



*Back row: Doug Clark, Peter Horsburgh, Neville Petiteaud, Stephen Leibbrandt, Gordon de la Chaumette  
Front row: Isabella Petiteaud, Pamela Poole, Del Davies, Beryl Lategan, Phyllis Webb*

No doubt the new committee will decide to co-opt additional committee members who will be delegated specific portfolios, details of which also will be forthcoming. You will be able to read about this and a synopsis of the AGM in next month's **What's Up**.

An important aspect of the AGM was the adoption of the Constitution, a copy of which is filed in the RSC office and, with the Code of Conduct that is included (clause 5, page 4), is our guide to managing the affairs of the Service Centre in line with the SA Legion's credo: "Not for ourselves, but for others".

*"What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived.  
It is what difference we have made to the lives of others  
that will determine the significance of the life we lead."*

**~ Nelson Mandela**

Moving words indeed and, in tribute to the Great Man in this the 100<sup>th</sup> year since his birth, we will be doing our bit on Mandela Day by distributing sandwiches to the homeless and less privileged. How can you get involved? A schedule of what you can donate has been placed in the RSC office. Then bring your goods to the dining-room on **Wednesday 18 July** at 09:30 when the fun begins! Please also bring your own buttering knife and bread board. Then after lunch you are invited to accompany us in dropping off the sandwiches and in so doing we hope bring some relief to these souls in need.

## CHITTER CHATTER

Thanks to Marjory Baard's daughter, Moira, for the donation of 2 Pelargoniums for the garden. And whilst on the topic of this particular species, some useful (to some, useless to others) information gleaned from Wikipedia: While the genera Geranium and Pelargonium are related, both being members of the family Geraniaceae, they are quite distinct. True geraniums, (*right*) also known as cranesbills, referring to the shape of the fruit, for the most part have symmetrical flowers with ten fertile stamens. Most Pelargonium have bilaterally symmetrical flowers with up to seven of the ten stamens fertile. True Geraniums have a different seed dispersal technique than Pelargoniums. Geraniums fling their seeds away while Pelargonium seeds float away on the breeze and usually have a 'feathered' end that Geraniums don't have. Of course, you can only see this when they are producing seeds.



Pelargoniums are tender perennials and occur naturally almost entirely within South Africa. Leave of true geraniums are usually deeply divided and cut while those of most groups of pelargoniums are not. Pelargoniums also have rather thick, succulent stems, originating as they do from areas where they have to withstand summer drought, whereas geraniums have the appearance of 'normal' herbaceous perennial plants, a mounding form of many slender stems arising from a central core, and fibrous roots.

Plants sold at garden centers that are labeled "Ivy Geranium", "Scented Geranium" and "Zonal Geranium" are actually three different species of pelargonium. Some names that true geraniums are commonly known by are "Hardy Geranium", "Geranium" and "Cranes Bill".

← Note the classic, unmistakable shape of the 2-3 leaf combination.

Writing about the garden leads me to mention that, through the urging of Wendy Perkins, Glen Villet has bought and installed a rain gauge, which means he now records the intake, thus adding to his already full day. We are extremely grateful to Glen for his diligence in monitoring our daily usage and he brings us up to date with these words, "It's raining well – better even than in the old non-drought years. Why? Nobody knows. What caused the failure of rainfall these past 3 years? Nobody knows. Will the rain continue now that they've started? Nobody knows. Our vital 6 dams' storage is now 51% - much better than the 25% this time last year, but still dangerously below our 2014 (last normal year) level of 96%. In the one year from 2014 to 2015 we lost 35 percentage points. The same loss now would put us in a critical position. Can it happen? Nobody knows. From 2016 to 2017 our stored loss reduced to 10%. Why – seeing that little rain fell during that time? Because you saved water. We're still at risk. We must continue to save water until such time as our dams overflow as they once did.

The month of April traditionally sets the benchmark on which rainfall predictions are based and figures gleaned from the SA Weather Service give the long-term average for the Kirstenbosch station in April as 88.3mm whereas this year it was only 75.4. UCT climatologist Dr Peter Johnson says "there's a very slim chance that Cape Town will receive above normal rainfall this year." He goes on to say that, "The total rainfall for this year, so far, has not been above normal. Therefore, according to our model, there's a 5% chance that we're going to have above normal for the rest of the year – and that's a very small chance."

And just to put things into perspective, here's how many litres water usage takes ...

**20-22**

a minute for an average shower

**6-10**

a minute if you use a low-flow showerhead

**150-200**

in an average-size bath  
**(This one is a real eye-opener!)**

**6**

per flush of a new toilet cistern – older toilets use up to 12 litres/flush

**20-30**

of flow a minute from an ordinary tap, so don't leave the tap running when washing your face/hands or brushing teeth

**6-10**

of flow a minute if tap aerators and flow restrictors are installed

By now we've been made aware of what does – and doesn't – work so all we can do is to appeal to residents to continue in their endeavours to save water because ...



If you're at all interested in military matters, then Jimmy's Own, the official mouthpiece of the Signals Association is well worth reading and which you will also soon be able to read via a Link on the SA Legion's website or by contacting (Col) Robbie [robbie.wa.roberts@gmail.com](mailto:robbie.wa.roberts@gmail.com) or call him on 079 283 0001.

The second is Military Despatches, a most comprehensive publication put out by military veteran Matt Tennyson (who, inter alia, also publishes at least two other MOTH publications (Halifax news and Pip-Ack Post – where does he find the time?). Again, there's a Link to the SA Legion's website being put up or you can contact Matt direct at [editor@hipe.co.za](mailto:editor@hipe.co.za)

**Trauma nurse's tribute to a lost soldier wins Prince William's war poem competition to remember our wounded military heroes**

This headline to an article written by David Wilkes in UK's Daily Mail on June 18 caught my attention. Seems that 'in her work helping traumatised war veterans, nurse Debbie Lawson has heard many harrowing stories. but one touched her more than most: it came from a former member of a tank crew in Afghanistan, who saw his friends killed when their group was attacked. He helped bring their bodies back to base. Now at home in the UK, having left the Army, he believes he 'sees' his dead comrades every day.' Her poem, written in 10 minutes ("The words poured out ...") was one of 5 000 entries in the competition, A Poem To Remember, marking the opening of a £300million centre for wounded military personnel.' I am sure it will touch you as well:

**ONE FOR THE TEAM BY DEBBIE LAWSON**

**I keep seeing you mate, intact and laughing, holding up your baby to make us smile.**

**I keep hearing you mate, joking, urging, 'come on lads keep together, don't step on the cracks it brings bad luck'.**

**'Keep it tight boys, we'll be home by the footy season'.**

**We carried you home, silent and broken, you really took one for the team that day.**

**Your dad stood with pride head high, don't cry, don't cry.**

**Lucy took the flag, a token for the broken. The baby will have it one day.**

**They'll go to the wall to see your name, a game, 'let's find daddy's name' but I keep seeing you mate, my shrink says you're not there, that makes us laugh doesn't it?**

**What do they know.**

**Days of Our Lives**

6 August is **Organ Donation Day** and you may well ask what can us oldies donate? I wrote about this extensively in the September 2017 newsletter so I am not going to repeat myself here, suffice to say that in our case it's the heart, liver and pancreas that can save 3 lives and the kidneys and lungs up to 4 people, meaning you can save 7 lives. Also, you can help up to 50 people by donating your corneas, skin, bone, tendons and heart valves. If you want to become a donor – even at this ripe ol' age – contact the Organ Donor Foundation on its toll free line 0800 22 66 11.

Some of the other more obscure yet quite delightful national holidays are, inter alia, the last Friday in July which is always National Talk in an Elevator (a Lift to us) Day. The mind boggles! There's also National Clerihew Day which marks the form of verse invented by Edmund Clerihew Bentley and is comprised of the first line being the poem's subject, usually a famous person put in an absurd light, or revealing something unknown or spurious about them. The rhyme scheme is AABB, and the rhymes are often forced. The line length and meter are irregular. One of his best known is this (1905):

*Sir Christopher Wren  
Said, "I am going to dine with some men.  
If anyone calls  
Say I am designing St. Paul's."*

'Net-surfing the various options I found this delightful one:

*Johann Wolfgang Goethe  
Was at birth a small Frankfurter  
A post in Weimar he did garner  
I suppose he died a Weimaraner*

Is there a reader up to giving it a go? A small prize to the best poem received before the publication of the next newsletter.



It is World Cup Soccer season and I'd be hard-pressed not to write something about this four-yearly event, this time around held in Russia, so here are some interesting facts over which to ponder:

By definition, FIFA, or *Federation Internationale de Football Association*, is an organisation founded in 1904 by representatives of seven European countries: France, Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland. They codified the rules of the game in international matches and organized competitions. Interestingly, they never envisaged it being a World Cup event.

- The World Cup has been played 20 times, Brazil holds the most titles with five. Italy and Germany are close behind with four each
- The first World Cup was played in 1930. Uruguay was both the tournament host and winner that year
- Brazilian Ronaldo Luís Nazário de Lima held the record for most World Cup goals scored, until the 2014 World Cup. Ronaldo's 15-goal record was overtaken by German, Miroslav Klose, in 2014 World Cup. Klose scored his 16th goal, breaking Ronaldo's record and making himself the top goal scorer in World Cup history
- Germany and Brazil hold the top spot for most appearances in the World Cup final. Both countries made it to the finals on 7 different occasions
- Record number for most World Cup appearances is held by German soccer player Lothar Matthaus, with 25 appearances
- Courtesy of the goal scored (punched into the net) by Diego Maradona, Argentina knocked out England during the 1986 World Cup. This goal is referred as the "Hand of God" goal
- Hungary holds the record for most goals scored in a World Cup match, when they beat El Salvador 10:1 during the 1982 World Cup
- India withdrew from the competition in 1950, when they were denied playing barefoot in the World Cup tournament (which they did because of financial constraints)
- Mexico holds the record for most defeats in World Cup history
- Out of 19 World Cups so far, 6 tournaments were won by the host country
- No host Country had ever been eliminated during the first round, until South Africa in 2010 when it became the first African nation to host a World Cup
- Most beer consumed was during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa when over 700 000 litres were downed
- Frenchman Just Fontaine holds the record for most World Cup goals scored during one competition. He managed to find the net 13 times during the 1958 World Cup
- Germany has played in the most World Cup matches
- Brazil as a nation has scored most goals in all World Cups
- FIFA prohibited players from swapping shirts after the game in 1986, because they didn't want players to "bare their chests" on the field
- Highest attendance at the World Cup was during the 1950 World Cup final between Brazil and Uruguay. It is reported that 199,854 people attended this final match, played at the famous Marakana stadium in Rio de Janerio
- Two World Cup finals have been decided on penalties. Brazil beat Italy in 1994, and Italy beat France in 2006

Without the skills of Jabulani or Paul, the two octopodes (and if you challenge me, go to your Oxford dictionary, where you will read that, "Although it is often supposed that octopi is the 'correct' plural of octopus, and it has been in use for longer than the usual Anglicized plural octopuses, it in fact originates as an error. Octopus is not a simple Latin word of the second declension, but a Latinized form of the Greek word oktopous, and its 'correct' plural would logically be octopodes."), I can tell readers that France is one of the two teams squaring up for the Jules Rimet trophy in the finals scheduled for Sunday 15 July at 17:00. Who their opponents are will be decided on Saturday 14 July at 16:00.

**Share your copy of the newsletter with a friend or tablemate  
and if you remove the newsletter from the noticeboard in order to read it  
please put it back for the benefit of others.**

Till next time - keep smiling



The Rosedale Service Centre Committee