

KINGSWOOD BUZZARD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION



ISSUE#4 JUNE 2021



Photographic prints of Africa



Superb archival fine art paper



Roger and Pat de la Harpe

www.rogerandpatdelaharpe.com +27 (82) 882 8496

CONTENTS

ESTATE LIVING TEAM

FOUNDER

Jaimé-Lee Gardner

jaimel@estate-living.co.za

COO

Louise Martin

louise@estate-living.co.za

GENERAL MANAGER

Shamiela Roubain

SUBEDITOR

Thea Grobbelaar

CONTRIBUTORS

Jennifer Stern

Dr Anthony Turton

Esther de Villiers

Angelique Ruzicka

PHOTOGRAPHY

Roger & Pat de la Harpe

Nico Booyens

ESTATE-LIVING.CO.ZA

Danielle Biggar

JJ Currie

Nicky Lubbe



Community

- » **03** From the CEO
- » **04** Anelda's story
- » **06** Fundraising Event
- » **10** Kingswood Excursion
- » **14** HOA in Action - Dan de Wet
- » **16** Kingswood HOA Update
- » **20** Security Investments



Lifestyle

- » **22** Kingswood Wildlife
- » **28** Local Business - Elvis Brew
- » **30** Cryptocurrency
- » **32** Privatisation of service providers
- » **36** Rules and Regulations
- » **38** The Best Cheesecake
- » **42** Running down the fences



COPYRIGHT 2021: Kapital Investment (Pty) Ltd t/a Estate Living on behalf of The Kingswood Estate Homeowners Association

The opinions and views expressed herein are not necessarily the views of Golden Acer (Pty) Ltd t/a Estate Living on behalf of The Kingswood Estate Homeowners Association. The publisher and editor can regretfully not accept any liability for omissions or errors contained in this publication. The ownership of registered trademarks is duly acknowledged. No part of this publication or any of its content may be reproduced, digitally stored or transmitted in any format without the express permission of the publisher. Estate Living is a registered trademark of Kapital Investment (Pty) Ltd.

CommUNITY





From the CEO

Hello and welcome to the second edition of our 2021 *Kingswood BUZZard*. Despite all the challenges we had to endure in 2020, and continue to experience in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our community at Kingswood remains resilient and positive. The first half of 2021 zipped by and, apart from load shedding and municipal strikes, I have a very positive outlook for the remainder of the year.

As many of you know, my family went through some intense trials since 3 February this year with the near drowning of my 14-year-old daughter, Anelda. The Kingswood community banded together through the initiatives of some very special home owners (Roy Edge, Ginny Schoombie, Elizma Joubert, Michelle Witts-Hewinson and Jenny Barbour), who arranged two golf days and a five-kilometre community walk to benefit the Anelda Jacobs fund. What a wonderful privilege it is to be involved in and associated with the Kingswood Estate, and especially the Kingswood home owner community. I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your generosity and kindness. We as a family are truly humbled by it.

The estate has seen an unprecedented increase in building activity over the last few months, which is very positive for the growth and property value of the estate, but it's not without its frustrations due to traffic congestion, verge damage, noise, dust, etc. We will manage contractor compliance as well as we can, but we request your indulgence and patience while your future neighbours and community members are building their dream home on our beautiful estate.

The gatehouse building received a new coat of paint, inside and out, and the building has been refurbished in accordance with our agreement with Kingswood Golf Operations in 2019, when the golf course and related assets were bought by the home owners. I invite you to visit the restaurant and enjoy a coffee, drink and/or wonderful meal prepared by the hard-working staff, under the guidance of their newly appointed chef, Vince.

The golf course is looking better than ever, due to the hard work and dedication of the course maintenance staff and management. Kingswood will be hosting a Pro-Am golf tournament later this year, bringing some well-known golfing professionals to our estate. Expenses are well managed, apart from some unexpected surprises, like the collapse of the dam wall at the 7th hole, and higher-than-expected maintenance and electricity costs.

The estate continues to invest in the maintenance and upgrading of our asset infrastructure – roads, security fences, storm water system and private open spaces – to ensure the enjoyment of these assets long into the future.

Let us charge forward this year with the hope and belief of better days to come. Let us also not lose sight of the many, many blessings we have been given. Keep the faith and hold tight to that bold and unshakeable resilience. That is how we will create a better future.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Kingswood BUZZard*. Stay safe and stay healthy.

Willem Jacobs





(Left) Willem, Anelda, Edward, Anemi and Christiaan Jacobs

Anelda's at home.

and that's all that matters

CEO of Kingswood Golf Estate Willem Jacobs says there are countless reasons why his daughter has a better chance at recovery when cared for in the comfort of her own room – and the home owners of Kingswood Estate, along with George's golfing fraternity, are giving their all to contribute to the astronomical costs of this close-to-home campaign.

Among the revellers at Herold's Bay were dad and daughter Willem and Anelda Jacobs – the latter a particularly talented swimmer, whose off-the-scale results at junior level had already attracted the attention of Olympic pool luminaries like Chad le Clos.

Anelda had come a long way since the devastating day that changed her life four years earlier.

In September 2017, the bright youngster's academic and sporting career received a staggering blow that left her immediate family, friends, and the wider George community reeling: Anelda was diagnosed with Ewing sarcoma, which had by then spread to her left hip, right femur and bone marrow.

'Her cancer was declared as Stage 4 and the oncologists gave her scant chance of survival,' says Willem.

THE first Wednesday in February was a glorious day in all senses of the word; not only did it offer the kind of weather that tempts tourists to converge on the Garden Route from all corners of the globe, but was also fêted by bathers and water-sports buffs following a presidential announcement that the area's beaches could reopen after access was prohibited in December 2020.

The months following Anelda's October 2017 chemotherapy kick-off were fraught with pain from radiation and surgical procedures, and profound concern for her wellbeing, but – along with mom Anemi and older siblings Edward and Christiaan – Willem never stopped praying for a miracle.

And then it happened: 'By November 2018, she was declared cancer-free and in remission. Her medical team was amazed, and even the primary oncologist used words like "miraculous",' Willem recalls.

Anelda rejoined her Grade 7 buddies in 2019, and completed her primary schooling with flying colours. Her life now back to normal, she braced herself for the excitement of signing up at Outeniqua High, 'her spirit intact and filling those around her with love and light,' according to Willem.

But the school term had hardly started when a lump was discovered on his daughter's head. 'Tests confirmed that the sarcoma had spread to Anelda's skull and surrounding soft tissue,' Willem explains, adding that another year of chemo and radiation ensued. They were due to consult a paediatric surgical specialist at Red Cross Hospital in Cape Town in the second week of February.

'What happened on the afternoon of 3 February, I would not wish upon my worst enemy,' says Willem. 'Anelda was so excited to brave the sea again, and wasted no time getting in there, but then she suddenly disappeared in knee-deep water, with a boogie-board strapped to her arm. Specialists agreed that she must have suffered some form of neurological event that caused her to inhale massive amounts of water in less than 30 seconds.'

Events on the beach that late afternoon are well documented: the 20 minutes of resuscitation efforts by an ICU nurse and on-hand medical doctor; the double defibrillation by paramedics that shocked her heart back into action; the discovery upon arrival at George Mediclinic that both her lungs had collapsed.

Anelda remained in ICU for 64 days. She had suffered extensive brain damage due to hypoxia, and the family learnt that this would prevent further treatment of the aggressive cancer now growing uninhibited in her skull. They were told that palliative care, which treats end-of-life pain but not its symptoms, was their best course of action.

Willem decided to scale down his corporate responsibilities when Anelda was first diagnosed, changing his career to benefit his close-knit family. 'It's a decision I'll never regret. I've spent more time with Anelda these past four years than in all her life before the cancer.'

Along with Anemi and the boys, he decided against the hospice option; none of them was prepared to say their goodbyes, as categorically instructed.

'We were warned about the challenges of looking after Anelda at home and, as anticipated, our lives have changed irrevocably. But there is no doubt about the progress made since she first squeezed my hand while still in hospital, from clinically comatose to the girl who now giggles when our dogs jump on the bed, or her brother pulls her toes.'

Willem says that CBD oil and other natural cancer-countering ointments, administered by her family and the carers permanently on duty, have prevented the cranial tumour from expanding. This is lending credence to their belief that the mammoth task of attending to someone as sick as their daughter is possible and, indeed, most effectively done at home.

But apart from the grave emotional toll, there is no denying that the price of Anelda's care (consider that one day in ICU costs around R32,000 – and that's before consultation with a single specialist of the large contingent checking on her regularly) can destroy any family.

Willem has served Kingswood as CEO since 2019, and is widely respected in golf circles, while his family is being bolstered by prayer meetings and emotional support. Kingswood home owners and management organised a fundraising weekend from 14 to 16 May to help alleviate his soaring financial burden. It was a great success, and at the same time everyone had a whole lot of fun.

 Esther de Villiers



Giving Thanks

(Left) Jenny Barbour, Roy Edge and Liz Beard

after a fun and formidable fundraiser



Ginny Schoombie was the driving force behind the team responsible for ensuring the roaring success of the recent fundraising weekend for Anelda Jacobs – daughter of Kingswood Golf Estate CEO, Willem Jacobs.



When we caught up with her on Saturday 15 May, Ginny had hardly had a moment to celebrate having pulled off the previous day's well-supported charity fun walk. She was too busy preparing for that afternoon's prize handover, with final preparations for the next evening's main function less than 24 hours away.

Not one to invite personal credit (however due it may be) for the smooth running of the three-day fundraiser, she expressed her heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped attain this goal.

'I would like to thank and praise our ladies' committee – Elizma Joubert, Jenny Barbour and Michelle Witts-Hewinson – for their unflagging enthusiasm and hard work in ensuring that this fundraiser was such a success.

'It is a formidable team, and I know now that we can accomplish anything together. To Roy Edge, our money man, a big thank you. I think his accounting skills were definitely tested

to the limits. We are also indebted to Charl Louw, our Men's Captain, for his invaluable contribution.

'To the people of Kingswood: you astounded me with your generosity and support. This fundraiser has shown me what a relatively small community can accomplish in such a short time, and my wish is for this spirit and camaraderie to continue to grow and flourish in Kingswood,' says Ginny.

Roy describes the Anelda Jacobs fundraising weekend as 'a resounding success', saying that the amount raised far exceeded expectations and is due largely to the wonderful spirit of the Kingswood community and George locals as a whole.

'The way in which the Kingswood people rallied in their support of the walk and the two golf days was quite humbling. The walk attracted nearly 300 adults, children and dogs, and also gave participants an opportunity to see the new Phase 4 development on the estate first-hand.'





Roy says that, among the many people who should be thanked, the Ladies' Golf Committee and their assistants stood out for their fundraising activities, displaying enthusiasm and dedication beyond the norm.

'Mention should also be made of the generosity of Mike and Liesel, who contributed a number of four-balls for us to sell, and their hard work in assisting in the arranging of the spit braai and making the kitchen and facilities available on the evening.'

Roy also thanks the ladies of Kingswood for making delicious salads, and all staff both on the course and in the kitchen and bar.

'Last but not least, we are grateful to all the sponsors, donors and players, each of whom went the extra mile in assisting with the fundraising.

'It was unfortunate that our numbers had to be restricted because of Covid regulations. If that were not the case, we could easily have doubled participation in the golf, and the dinner in particular.'

Roy concludes that the spirit of Kingswood is alive and well, 'which is wonderful news for the future of this magnificent estate.'

In addition to driving community spirit and establishing new friendships, the Kingswood weekend event has successfully raised R198,000 for Anelda.



Organiser Ginny Schoombie and her partner Trevor Moldenhauer enjoy a rare moment of chillaxing during a weekend that allowed Ginny no me-time to speak of.





THESE WERE THE WINNING BIDDERS IN AWESOME AUCTION FOR ANELDA

Lot 1: Ernie Els framed shirt – winner: Brian Cook for R3000

Lot 2: Magnum of Ernie Els 'Big Easy' Red Blend and an autographed Ernie Els Callaway cap – winner: W. Potgieter for R2500

Lot 3: Fever Tree – winner: Juergen Seidler for R5000

Lot 4: Rhebokskloof Double Magnum – winner: Dolores Burger for R2500

Lot 5: Ernie Els Major Series Double Magnum Shiraz – winner: Jonathan Witts-Hewinson for R4600

Lot 6: Signed 2015 Presidents Cup picture of Louis Oosthuizen and Brandon Grace – winner: Roy Edge for R5200

Lot 7: Signed 'The Open' 18th Hole Flag – winner: Brian Cook for R6000

Lot 8: Round at the Links for three with John Bland – winner: Johan Burger for R9000

Lot 9: Autographed cap by Dave Callaghan – winner: Roy Edge for R1000

Lot 10: Night for two at Fancourt Hotel with a round of golf – winner: Christa Cruywagen for R5000





A KINGSWOOD

excursion with
Michelle Witts-Hewinson



As the multitude of walkers – both adults and children, and many with dogs in tow – took to the five-kilometre route of the Anelda Jacobs fundraising walk on Friday 14 May, Michelle Witts-Hewinson gave us the opportunity to have a first-hand look-see of the sprawling Kingswood Estate.





George local Sanet Pretorius and friends with pooches and miniature whippet Mississippi prepare to hit the 5km track

With a running commentary coming thick and fast, Michelle pointed out the eclectic variety of abodes occupied by current Kingswood locals, and those under construction by prospective residents, who are arriving from all over South Africa.

This enlightening lesson on architecture was interspersed with inner-circle secrets of the golf course’s most challenging holes, and of nooks and crannies known only to the lucky few who took full advantage of Kingswood living during lockdown.

Heading first to the estate’s fourth phase, Michelle explained that the highlight of the happy walkers’ route was sure to be its most elevated section on the southernmost side of the estate.



Having decided that there were enough four-legged participants in the fundraising walk, Kingswood resident Geoff Carter decided it’s best to wear his mongrel on his mask...

‘The walkers’ experience of our home turf should culminate there, with the most extensive and spectacular mountain views.’

In the most recent Kingswood BUZZard newsletter, Stephen Murray of Pam Golding Properties updated readers on progress, explaining that civil and electrical services in Phase 4 would be completed by February. George Municipality has recently approved construction plans of the entrance gate.

Of the 155 sites on offer, 115 have now been sold, leaving just 40 for the taking, a majority (26 out of 40) of those being the bigger stands that measure from 1,300 square metres to 3,000 square metres. Several buyers have already started conceptually designing their homes, and residents may see life at new houses on the Ridge, as this phase is called, from as early as the last quarter of 2021.

Michelle remembers her good fortune when, 18 years ago, she and her husband Jonathan selected a north-facing plot that didn’t slope. Soon afterwards, their comfortable and sunny home was constructed. Having closely followed the estate’s progress as holiday residents for the past 14 years, the Witts-Hewinsons moved down from Joburg – for good – two years ago.





Michelle, who ensures that she gets to play a round of golf twice a week, bubbles with enthusiasm over plans for the new clubhouse. After sharing information about the unique arrangement that allowed home owners to acquire the course and assets, we checked out the site where building of this facility will start as soon as budgets have been approved.

'The current driving range is perfectly situated for our new clubhouse, which will function optimally as an entertainment and leisure hub for residents and members.' The gatehouse, which now houses the pro shop, offices and restaurant, will then serve as a business centre at Kingswood's main entrance.

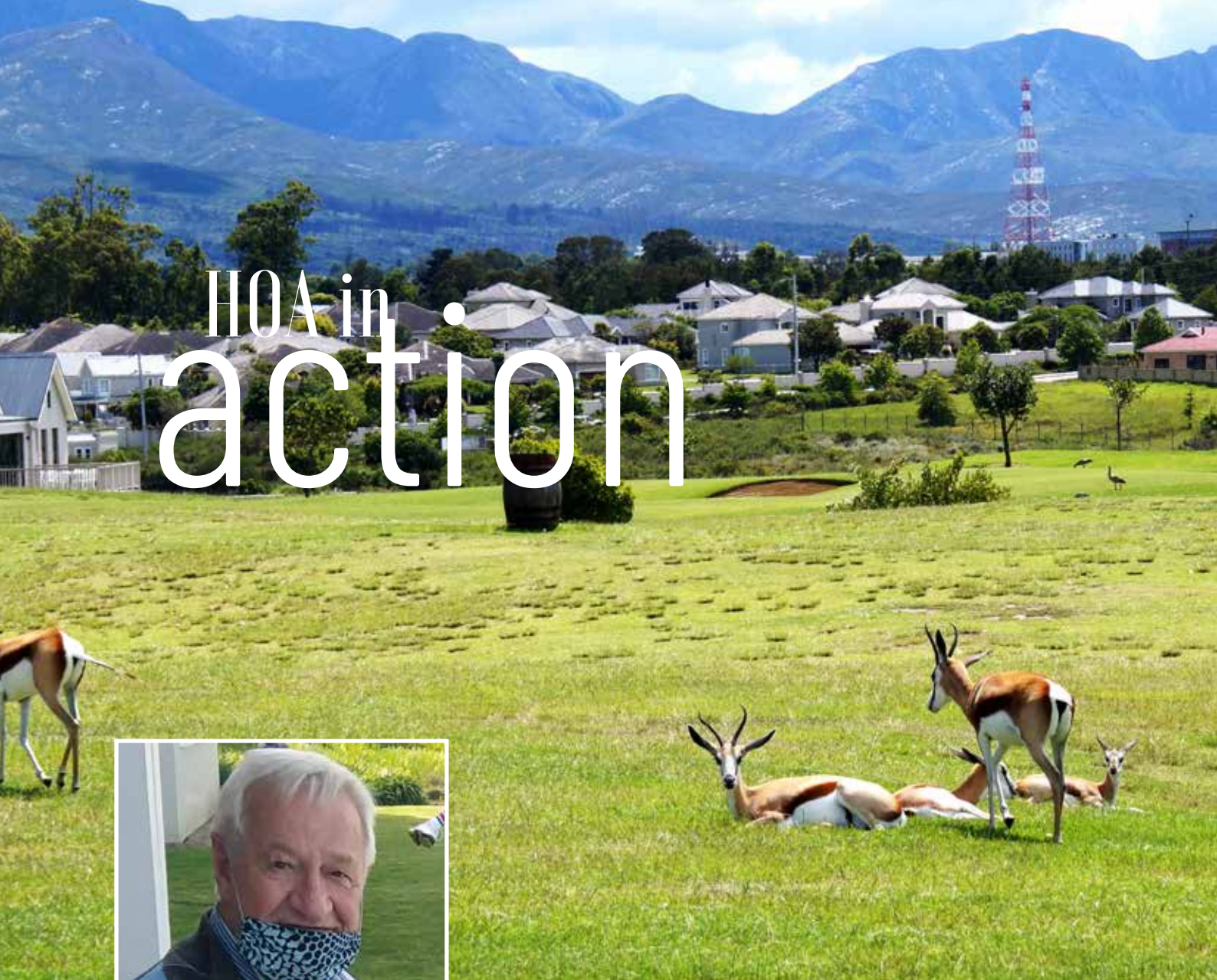
The new clubhouse will face north with the best view of the mountains, and the course will start on the par-three behind the clubhouse. 'This will ensure that there are no delays when starting off – a welcome change.'

Clearly a competent golfer, Michelle regards the Kingswood golf course as 'challenging'.

As far as the estate's hiking trail is concerned, Jonathan uses it extensively, and has offered some valuable insights into subtle changes to ensure that walking at Kingswood is an extremely pleasant experience.



HOA in action



ONE learns a lot from someone when seeing him operate a raffle table...

This was indeed the case on Friday May 14 when hanging with Dan de Wet - part of the furniture at Kingswood Golf Estate for the past 10 years and serving as Community Facilities Manager to the Home Owners Association.

On first name terms with most, Dan coaxed club members and participants in that afternoon's fundraising walk into parting with their moolah and so stand a chance of winning the magnificent hamper on display next to his table.

Indeed, so superb and sizeable were the raffle goodies that a wheelbarrow was roped in to contain their bulk. And more than

Dan de Wet



once, prospective ticket buyers of the married, male species were lured with Dan's suggestion that "the wife can use the wheelbarrow and you can use the booze..."

Not only did the hamper contain a plethora of top-level whiskies, wine and other beautifully-bottled tipples, but also assorted snacks to accompany these liquid treats, all of which contributed towards the combined prize value of R4,500.00.

A stalwart of the Kingswood Home Owners Association, Dan is not only passionate about the game of golf, but also dedicates much of his time to management of the estate.

'Being a fast player makes me a bad player - but I try to avoid looking like the slower crowd, be they young or old, who seem to fake rigor mortis on the course!'

Jokes aside, Dan takes his managerial role seriously, in addition to many other duties, he takes responsibility for the wellbeing of the estate's resident springbok population. He checks on them at least twice daily, doing the rounds after dawn and before dusk falls.

 Esther de Villiers

(Left) Pro-shop keeper Peter Yzelle, Dan de Wet, events coordinator Simone van Heerden and CEO Willem Jacobs, with the ridiculously large raffle hamper and golf paraphernalia auctioned on the Saturday displayed.





KINGSWOOD HOA



The window that ‘frames the course’, according to interior designer pictured left Idonia Chandler, is one of the most significant and aesthetically pleasing aspects of the refurbished gatehouse.

Bringing the game into the gatehouse

Idonia Chandler exudes equal measures of confidence and elegance when sitting down to talk about the recently completed upgrade of the Kingswood gatehouse.



That selfsame elegance is evident when you enter the space she has transformed with the primary goal of 'bringing the golf course inside'. The most important of these changes was breaking through the eastern facade to provide an elevated view of the rolling greens in front of the gatehouse building.

Looking at her extensive portfolio, it's fully understandable that the Kingswood Homeowners Association (HOA) had chosen Idonia as top candidate for the job.

Based in George, this visionary interior expert has been instrumental in beautifying private homes, golf estates and tourism establishments along the length and breadth of the Garden Route, as well as prestigious commercial projects across South Africa, in Zambia and Mauritius. Idonia's expertise ranges from interior design and space planning to project management.

Defining her style as modern contemporary, she excels at mixing different elements and

textures. Her work has featured in numerous magazines and on TV's Top Billing, one of her projects contending as Top 10 Homes of the Year.

'After an initial brief, I started the gatehouse project by the end of November 2019,' she says. 'Kingswood being a working golf club, work was always going to be concluded in phases. Plans progressed nicely until the first Covid lockdowns halted all operations last year.'

Kingswood HOA Properties (Pty) Ltd was founded to house the golf course and related assets such as the future clubhouse. It is solely owned by the HOA, i.e. home owners of the estate, who have full control of how the brand is used and perceived going forward.

As these matters go, there were nearly as many opinions on the direction that the upgrade should take as there were board members involved. But Idonia won the day when pointing out that spectacular results





After - Bar Area

could be attained by reusing existing furniture and structures, thereby stretching the available budget to maximum effect.

'It's really satisfying to show what can be done when reupholstering couches, or repainting walls and tables – you can literally do magic with paint. Throw in a few new carpets and the end product is bound to please the most critical of clients.

'I trust my amazing team and our suppliers implicitly, which helped to facilitate our three-week turnaround period.' The refurbished gatehouse was ready for use by Easter as envisaged.

'I'm proud and grateful every time staff or board members share their positive feedback with me. Some of the personnel claim that the refurb has truly lifted their morale, which makes my work here all the more gratifying,' she says.

Idonia, which means 'loving one' in Old Norse, clearly has a passion for her trade, and her unique touch now ensures that the gatehouse serves as soft landing for everyone entering its doors.



Before - Bar Area



New Landing



After - Landing



Before - Landing



Before - Restaurant



New Deck Area



After - Restaurant

SECURITY UPDATE

perimeter fencing

Service provider par excellence, Paul Mitchell is contracted by Kingswood HOA to do all repairs and maintenance on the estate's electric fencing atop the extensive 12-kilometre perimeter fence.

The Team

Assisted by his able six-strong team, Paul tells how satisfying it was when – about four years ago – they started off by redoing the electrification of the Phase 4 fences, including the border with the Outeniqua Research Farm on the R102.

More recently, the Paul Mitchell Access Control (as his company is officially known) crew ensured that all walls shared with the adjacent Earl's Court Estate received a security revamp in the impressive time span of just 10 days.

'Electrification entails the installation of six wires on top of existing walls and fences,' Paul explains. 'The lifespan of electric fencing can be anything from eight to 12 years, depending on the level of maintenance and repair.'

'The Kingswood HOA has always taken a proactive approach, choosing to do the right thing before anything breaks that may risk the safety of residents,' Paul says, adding that part of his contract allows for a member of his team to be on site throughout the week. 'Our maintenance guy checks and cleans the fences along the entire perimeter, and wherever there's a rough patch – usually the result of fallen branches – he will immediately let me know, and then our team will pull in to fix any problems.'

Paul recalls a case some weeks ago when gusty winds caused havoc all over George, and a nearby golf course literally had half a tree blown over its fence, which needed extensive repairs at speed.

'The team works really fast, since every member knows exactly what is expected of him. So if it's a straight wall that needs electrification, we can manage up to 400 metres per day (that's one whole lap of a standard

athletics track!) and a full house installation, including the complete alarm system, can also be completed in a day.'

Paul is clearly proud of his association with Kingswood, saying that the estate boasts the most extensive electrical fencing in the entire Garden Route.

'It's a significant challenge to maintain this perimeter, but it's an important part of our portfolio, as Kingswood is surely on its way to becoming the area's top estate,' he says. As a regular golfer, he prefers playing this course rather than those closer to the coast, where the constant sea breeze and salty air interfere with his game.

Due to celebrate its 10-year anniversary in 2022, Paul Mitchell Access Control has clearly weathered the storm of last year's lockdowns and is prepared for whatever lies ahead – come hell, high water, or load shedding ...

'No breach in power provided by the national grid impacts our operations. As well as batteries and a giant backup generator, energisers of various capacities are part of the PMAC arsenal. 'At Kingswood alone, we have six industrial-sized energisers running at any time. The fence areas covered are divided into zones, and I get notified the moment there's interference with a particular unit. When one breaks down, we have infinite backup.'

Not only does Paul's enthusiasm and efficiency combine to ensure residents' peace of mind, but he also contributed an important asset to the fifth hole, just in time for the Anelda Jacobs Fundraiser from 14 to 16 May. 'Because of its particular slope and location, players

risked getting the odd ball heading their way, at speed,' he explains. 'So we constructed a screen housed inside a box, allowing golfers to get a view of the rate of play, and thus avoid any stray-ball incidents.'

Safety first on all fronts!

Some of the other operators ensuring that Kingswood rates right up there among the most secure estates in the country include Fidelity ADT regional manager Wayne Groves and his team, and access-scanner ace Brendan de Jager, who also services icons such as Plett's Beacon Island Hotel.



 Esther de Villiers



Kingswood's
WILD
RESIDENTS





Otter Family - Imaged sourced



An otter family with little ones flourishes in the pools of tributaries of the Rooi River, and although Dan admits he's not an avid twitcher, there is a multitude of species of birds at Kingswood. Some of the more oft-sighted are the noisy Lapwings and many species of waterfowl.



Caracal- Imaged sourced

He says buzzards are often seen gliding overhead in search of prey, of which ample can be found on the estate – small ground mammals, especially rodents, are first-prize menu items, but these handsome flyers also feast on snakes, lizards, other birds and insects.

Wild things make his heart sing

All the wildlife that calls Kingswood home is important to Dan de Wet, Kingswoods Community and Facilities Manager. The biggest of these animals are the caracal that traverse the fairways and roughs during the course of their nocturnal forays, and the springbok that are regularly sighted by residents.

Another feathered friend that frequents the estate – the Egyptian Goose – is a delightful bird, and the goslings are incredibly cute, but Dan is not a fan. Egyptian



geese breed abundantly in the Western Cape, as is the case throughout Africa south of the Sahara. Populations have been known to spread to the UK and Europe, where self-sustaining gaggles are mostly derived from escaped captive birds. Escapees have also bred in places as far-flung as Texas, Florida, California and New Zealand.

The British population dates back to the 18th century,



Hummingbird

though it was only formally added to the British list in 1971. In the UK in 2009, it was officially declared a non-native species and, accordingly, may be shot without special permission if they cause problems.

'Of course I don't advocate their eradication, but Egyptian geese seem to love the course as much as our golfers do, finding the large grazing lawns and water ponds particularly attractive gathering areas.' Unfortunately, their faeces cause havoc on the course.

A recent study led by Dr Rob Little at UCT's FitzPatrick Institute of African Ornithology reveals much about the influx of geese on golf courses. 'This is a case where interactions between humans and wildlife lead to conflict between different stakeholders over appropriate management interventions,' Dr Little said.

A paper titled 'Managing nuisance Egyptian geese (*Alopochen aegyptiaca*) on golf courses in Cape Town' was subsequently published in the African Journal of Wildlife.

Egyptian geese are indigenous to South Africa, and their prevalence in our province has increased significantly over the past four decades, largely due to a surge in the number of farm dams, a rise in agricultural crops, and vast areas of urban green space.

In the past, golf courses have implemented a range of control measures that included chasing geese with dogs and remote-controlled vehicles, culling the birds by shooting them, destroying their eggs and nests, and relocating geese to other parts of the province.

Passive harassment measures were generally less effective, while culling, relocation and dogs were considered the most successful control measures.

However, public opposition to culling put pressure on course managers to consider non-lethal alternatives. The geese also seem to harass other bird species on the course and that, along with their excrement, seem to be two of the main perceived problems.



Old World Flycatchers or Muscicapidae



Shirke or Laniidae



Warbling White-Eye or Zosterops Japonicus



Old World Flycatchers or Muscicapidae



Old World Flycatchers or Muscicapidae



Old World Flycatchers or Muscicapidae

The majority of golfers (87%), as well as non-golfers (86%), felt that the goose population required active management to reduce the numbers. Dr Little said that more than half of respondents considered the geese to be a severe problem and indicated that they'd like for the species to be reduced by at least 50%.

On some golf courses, trained raptors have been introduced to launch controlled and mostly non-lethal flights towards the geese – a process that dramatically reduced their numbers by as much as 73%.

Perhaps the famous Kingswood's buzzards could be taught to put these Egyptian invaders in their place!

K Esther de Villiers

Thank you to Nico Booyens for all the wonderful animal photo's

In the April/May edition of Weg! magazine (the title of its English-language version is Go!), Kingswood resident of two years Pieter Steyn is honoured with the Winning Letter prize after sharing observations of an owl family on his doorstep.

(Essentially a travel mag, Weg! was first published in April 2004 and focuses on affordable destinations in South Africa and the rest of the continent. In addition to travel stories, it also contains photographic portfolios focusing on nature and food, as well as car, book, music and outdoor equipment reviews.)

In its 195th edition, Pieter's letter is splurged all over the page, thus catching the eye of the popular publication's vast readership. He writes, inter alia: 'A pair of Spotted Eagle Owls (*Bubo africanus*) has been using a flower pot right beneath our kitchen window as a nest and, in September last year, two chicks hatched.

'The owls are exceptional hunters and we have often been amazed at how quickly they return with their prey after setting out around dusk. Their diet consists mostly of mice, rats and pigeons, but last year they also dished up a bat and three snakes.'

The photo accompanying Pieter's letter shows the chicks drenched by rain, while contemplating their feast of fresh bat. He adds that many of their neighbours have owl boxes up in trees, but that the Steyn owls seem to have settled into the flower pot for good, come rain or shine.

The letter concludes that the chicks had left the nest by November. 'My wife Cilmi and the kids are looking forward to seeing them again sometime this year.' And boy, are those 'kids' in question – Christiaan, 15, and Linke, 13 – enjoying Dad's winning-letter loot.

'Their rooms are downstairs, and we're upstairs, so the set of two-way radios I received as prize is providing lots of fun for everyone.' Taking into account that the radios have a range of several kilometres, the Steyn brood may well use them to report on their owl neighbours' hunting forays from far corners of Kingswood Estate.

Pieter is adamant that people must not pick up young owls when spotting them on the ground, as their parterre adventures constitute an important part of growing up.



'They literally spend weeks on the ground, but the parents are always close by. We collaborate closely with the owl sanctuary and, sadly, the "orphans" brought in by members of the public have, in most cases, been mistakenly picked up while mature owls would have been keeping watch.

'People and their dogs and cars are our owls' biggest enemies, so please be on the lookout not only for kids but also for these magical birds that form such an important part of our ecosystem.'



ELVIS

has left the building

... but always rushes back to his beloved Kingswood home

Arguably the most widely celebrated resident of Kingswood Golf Estate, Jan Hoogendyk (aka Elvis Blue) shot to fame in 2010 when he won M-Net's Idols, and - with three platinum and two gold albums - he has since become one of South Africa's most commercially successful artists.

When catching up with Elvis Blue, he was packing - but not for Perth, thank heavens - for a compact concert tour in Pretoria. While Jan is both a father and a businessman, he has been a performer for the longest time, so he is delighted that he can, once again, perform in front of live audiences.

Jan and his family - wife Chireze and their daughters, aged eight and 11 - have lived at Kingswood Golf Estate for seven years. He says that - despite being relieved that lockdown levels allow for travel again - he always looks forward to returning home.

'I regularly check with my girls if they realise how lucky they are to live in this beautiful environment. They love the fact that springbok roam freely, and we spend lots of time outdoors.'

An avid cyclist, Jan is familiar with various routes in the vicinity and ensures that, when his busy schedule doesn't allow for longer outrides, he at least gets to tackle some challenging climbs along the mountain-bike trail within the estate.

Asked about golf, Jan says he plays 'a little bit', and claims being much more proficient on a mountain bike or a surfboard; Vic Bay is one of his favourite spots.



From left are Ernie Els, Gary van Loggerenberg, and Elvis Blue/Jan Hoogendyk - Sanlam Cancer Challenge

Photo: carltonvilleherald.com - 14 June 2016



Jan Hoogendyk



However, five years ago Jan's backing of the Sanlam Cancer Challenge helped to raise in excess of R3 million through hundreds of club days in which over 35,000 amateur golfers took part.

At the time, he said he was 'blown away' at the amount of money raised. 'It's amazing that people having a good time playing golf can raise that much, and make such a difference.'

This sentiment bodes well for the ongoing fundraising drive at Kingswood in support of CEO Willem Jacobs and his family – beneficiaries of the 14 to 16 May charity golf weekend that raised funds to help with the care of their daughter Anelda.

Jan confessed that he became hooked on the game since taking up golf some years ago. 'I have a serious addiction to golf on TV. I find myself not sleeping for days on end.'



He has also rubbed shoulders with two of the country's elite golfers, having performed for Charl Schwartzel after his Masters victory, and having played a round with four-time Major winner Ernie Els.

'I've been lucky enough to meet Ernie a few times,' he says. 'I hit a very bad tee shot while Ernie was watching. It was embarrassing and exhilarating at the same time. My golf is getting much better. But you know, it's still golf.'

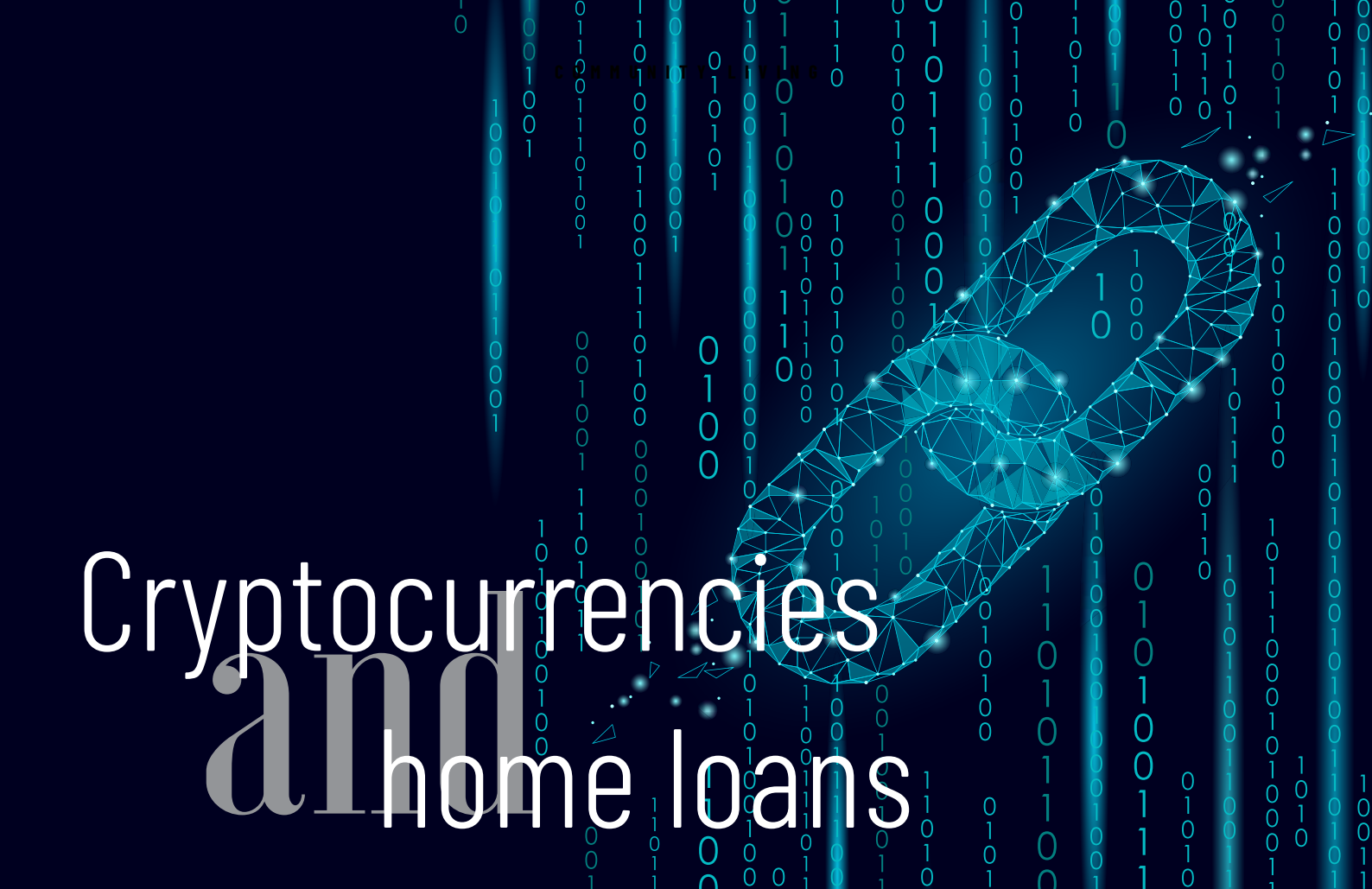
On the subject of wayward shots, Jan jokingly pleads with players to desist from hitting his house: 'It's incredible to see how frustrated some guys get, and it doesn't necessarily help when I advise them to start cycling instead.'

When not performing, surfing or cycling, Jan spends time at the Hoogendyks' newest business venture, Elvis Brew – a popular coffee and all-things-cool emporium on the R404, run like clockwork by Chireze.

'I work for my wife,' he says with a respectful chuckle. 'The padstal is perfect for her skills set, being a sharp shopper with a knack for getting her hands on the right products. We try supporting as many local guys as possible, to make sure everyone gains from the business. Suppliers are pulled in for their expertise, like the guys from Barrel & Bull who approached us when we were still trading from a six-metre container on the site. I'm a musician. I don't want to worry about the meat going off. So they pour all of their passion into presenting beauties like our famous biltong steak.'

Chireze and Jan served their first cup of coffee from the container in May last year; by September they had upgraded to the current shop with its delectable snacks, craft beers and carefully selected goods on sale. Grab a bite or cuppa while waiting for your friends to arrive – it beats sitting in your car at the airport entrance.

'Covid protocol on collections was the biggest reason why we opened Elvis Brew here. We also have a flight radio that's always broadcasting,' says Jan. 'So please swing past – it's the nearest you'll get to a jet with a good cup of coffee in your hand.'



Cryptocurrencies and home loans

Back in 2010, Laszlo Hanyecz paid 10,000 bitcoins – worth about \$446 million (R6.207 million) at current prices – for two pizzas. It's thought to be the first commercial cryptocurrency transaction.

Many organisations are embracing cryptocurrency as a form of payment nowadays, but how far away are South Africa's banks from accepting them as a deposit for a house against a home loan?

Are bitcoins legal tender in South Africa?

Fast-forward to 2021 and Hanyecz has more choice than just a paying for a pizza with his bitcoin. Cryptocurrencies have become mainstream, with Coca-Cola (via online assets platform, Centrapay), Starbucks (America – through an app), Burger King (UK), KFC (Canada) and, until recently, Tesla (to name but a few) accepting them as payment for goods and services.

In South Africa, a range of products from IT equipment to holiday accommodation, vape products, courses, eco-friendly bags and food can be bought with bitcoin from companies like Bidorbuy.co.za, Expedia, House of Sacks, VapeClub and Zastracom.

While major South African retail banks are constantly telling consumers how they're 'engaging digitally', they're unfortunately not close to accepting bitcoin.

When approached for comment, Nedbank rejected the idea outright. A spokesperson said: 'Nedbank does not comment on cryptocurrencies as they are not legal tender as per South African regulations.'

'The South African Reserve Bank has established a Fintech Unit to, inter alia, review the approach to policy and regulation of crypto assets. However, until such time as a regulatory framework is put in place, crypto assets are not considered legal tender in the Republic of South Africa and hence any merchant or beneficiary may refuse crypto assets as a means of payment.'

But there's been some progress. The Fintech Unit, which was created in 2017, says one of its three focus areas is crypto

assets, stable coins and open banking. It means that the wheels are turning – albeit slowly.

So, will banks get in on the act at all in the future? 'It is more likely that banks will offer their customers the ability to buy/sell crypto through their banking platforms, i.e. offering crypto brokerage services. This will also be dependent on the introduction of regulations,' says Marius Reitz, general manager of crypto platform Luno.

Bitcoin home buying trend

While South African banks won't accept bitcoin until the Fintech Unit gives the go-ahead, the idea of using cryptocurrency to buy a home is not that far-fetched. The first luxury home purchased with bitcoin was in Colchester in England in December 2017. Millionaires have since been known to put up their luxury pads for sale online and accept bitcoin.

It's not only individuals that have got in on the act. In the USA, bitcoin-backed loans are available from Silvergate Bank to Fidelity customers with crypto holdings, and luxury real estate broker Magnum Real Estate Group specialises in crypto transactions.

UK-based Luxury Lifestyle Magazine points out that there are a number of estate agents that accept bitcoin in principle or have strategies in place to broker a cryptocurrency transaction. These include Go Homes, The Collective, Agape Properties, Hagan Homes and Mundy's Estate Agents.



Laszlo Hanyecz and the bitcoin pizza's

Confidence in bitcoin?

The value of bitcoin has plunged in mid May thanks to entrepreneur and business magnate Elon Musk saying that Tesla would no longer accept it as payment for its products as he was concerned about the environmental damage caused by cryptocurrency mining.

Tesla has invested around \$1.5 billion (R2094 billion) in bitcoin, though, and for now it looks as though the company will be holding onto it. But, understandably, investors are nervous that bitcoin will be rejected as legal tender elsewhere because of its lack of green credentials.

For now, South African cryptocurrency enthusiasts have no choice but to cash in their bitcoin if they want to use it as a deposit or buy a home. There are, however, tax implications for conducting such transactions, so it's important that investors seek professional tax advice to ensure that they're on the right side of the law.

 Angelique Ruzicka



The Dolder Grand Hotel of Zurich accepts cryptocurrency

PRIVATISATION OF service provision

– will this be the new normal?

Recent events indicate the emergence of an alternative model for the management of services like water and waste. Several separate initiatives are under way, currently unconnected, but all moving in a similar direction. In areas where municipalities have failed, courts have ruled in favour of residents' associations, giving them the right to manage water and waste. It is evident that, with increased support from National Treasury and the Presidency, a new model is emerging that will enable private capital to be raised for clearly defined public services provision.





an appropriate way. We also have the Day Zero crises that originated in Cape Town, but that are now manifesting in East London and Gqeberha (Port Elizabeth).

In response, local communities, often organised as residents' associations, have been forced to take control of these vital services – and the courts are backing them. Probably the most notable was the judgement in the case of the Harrismith Intabazwe and Tshiame (HIT) Residents Association, which is now managing water services, electricity reticulation and refuse removal, with the support of the court. But this is not an isolated case, because the water services crisis is of such a magnitude that it has become a ubiquitous problem.

The inability of municipalities to solve these problems is in part due to the policy of cadre deployment; unqualified people holding key posts fail to recognise that a problem exists and, even if they do, they are unable to adequately resource a viable solution. This is a key driver of state failure, which can be understood as the inability to resolve local level service delivery problems due to incompetence and a culture of non-accountability.

Good news as citizens take control

These problems have been exacerbated by the onset of the fiscal cliff, making the availability of money a key constraint. Given the gravity of the consequences, as the cumulative effect of municipal failure triggers the domino effect of state failure, something must be done differently. This is now starting to become a good news story of possible green shoots of rejuvenation, made possible by the courts' willingness to grant citizens the right to regain control where local government consistently fails. Central to this new trend is the growing awareness in both the Treasury and Presidency that service delivery must be managed differently.

Various initiatives are currently under way, often driven by separate groups, but all aimed at finding an alternative model of service delivery at municipal level. Confidentiality precludes me

How did it start?

We now know that over 60% of municipalities are in financial distress, and are unable to render reliable basic services, with water being the most notable and high profile. As government abandons both the Blue and Green Drop Reporting system, the supply of potable water is disrupted, and the quality of water going into the municipal system deteriorates.

It is not uncommon to read in the newspapers about the collapse of wastewater management, with horrific stories of sewerage flowing in the streets and into the nearest river; many municipalities have experienced these persistent crises in some form or another. Reports from Harrismith, Kimberley, Parys and Makhanda (Grahamstown) all present the same story of collapsed infrastructure, and the inability of the local municipality to mobilise sufficient resources to rectify the problem in



from sharing details, but the various initiatives all have a few things in common. The most significant of these can be summarised by three words: funding, skills, and replicability.

How it will work

On the funding front, the fiscal cliff means that the government is effectively bankrupt, and the taxpayer has been bled dry. This necessitates the sourcing of alternative funding sources, of which a number are available, but all of which require accountability, financial viability and the guarantee of skilled management before any commitment is made. There is no shortage of capital available, but there is a national shortage of bankable projects.

The non-bankable projects will never be considered, simply because of the absence of accountability, the non-viability of the project and the absence of skilled management.



This is shifting the needle on the dial towards a form of public-private partnership (PPP). Treasury has bought into this notion, and the Presidency is starting to support this via Operation Vulindlela. Details of each PPP model remain confidential, given the sensitivity of the matter, most notably the expected backlash from trade unions, but their numbers are declining as jobs are lost in a shrinking economy. Trade unions only have power when the majority of the population enjoys the luxury of actual employment.

On the skills side, all versions of the PPP model focus on the appointment of technically competent people to manage the programme. This is a direct attack against the cadre deployment policy of the ruling ANC, so it is being contested. But, as with trade union contestation, the reality of a shrinking economy, growing poverty, and a clear failure of government at local level, their grass roots support is also shrinking. Ideology does not put food on the table, but a viable economy, enabled by competent



managers, developing viable projects adequately funded by a blend of private capital and Treasury guarantees, is a real game changer.

Regarding replicability, the pilot projects on which the emerging PPP model will be tested can all be replicated elsewhere. This is like a cookie cutter; once defined and working, rapid replication across a wide spectrum of cases should be possible at national level.

What it means for residential estates

This new trend is still invisible, given the sensitivities alluded to, but the progress is becoming irreversible. Soon we are likely to see different initiatives at municipal level, specifically around the management of water, waste and energy.

This will improve service delivery to residential estates. In addition to this, we are also likely to see calls for proposals for a range of projects related to the creation of New Water. This is engineered or processed water recovered from contaminated (Old Water) or saline (mine effluent or sea water) sources.

These are likely to include the revamping and recapitalisation of specific wastewater treatment works, especially where industrial users are prepared to sign offtake agreements to buy the processed water that will be available in abundance, and at a cost below that of potable water.

This was pioneered in KZN at the Durban South sewerage works. Another new trend is likely to be the announcement of utility-scale desalination plants, either in areas impacted by acidic mine water, or in



coastal cities where future industrial growth is limited by the non-availability of fresh water.

This has been pioneered at Emalahleni and also at Trekkopje in Namibia. Gqeberha and East London, both facing Day Zero crises, and being industrialised, are likely to lead the way, with desalination plants of about 120 megalitres (million litres) per day capacity.

The prognosis for the success of these projects is good, but all will be contested by the current beneficiaries of the politics of patronage. But, now that the benefits of patronage have dried up, the timing is right for a more efficient approach to service delivery. Green shoots are starting to appear in a dry and dusty landscape sculpted by service delivery failure.

Rules and Regulations

Communication is key

Rules are the glue that keeps an estate from breaking down into anarchy – but they can also be the cause of conflict, so they need to be handled with care. And one of the most important aspects of keeping the rules is that everyone knows them. Everyone!

Ignorance is no excuse

The Latin phrase *Ignorantia juris non excusat*, which means 'ignorance of the law is not an excuse', is enshrined in law, so there's not much point fluttering your eyelashes at a magistrate and saying, 'I didn't know stealing was against the law.' Where this does get a bit more grey, though, is – for example – speeding if there are no signs indicating the speed limit. But these things are all outside of the estate, and – as estate managers – we are as concerned about maintaining a harmonious community as we are about enforcing the rules. In fact, the only reason we do enforce the rules is to maintain a harmonious community. So it's clear that the way the rules are enforced is almost as important as the fact that they are enforced. And ensuring that everyone knows the rules is an absolute prerequisite for enforcing them in an amicable way

Upfront is not enough

Obviously, you will need to ensure that all purchasers get a copy





se of some
is ensuring

of the rules before they move in – preferably before they commit to buying, so that they can address any dealbreakers upfront, and you won't have to deal with questions such as: 'What do you mean I can't keep a pet goat?' or 'It's only a 40-ton truck, what's the big deal?' Of course, you also need to ensure that all tenants get a copy when they move in, and ensure that you know when new tenants arrive.

But memories are short and, once the removal truck has driven off, the crockery is all unpacked and the cardboard boxes sent to recycling, those rules will be neatly filed somewhere – possibly in the 'black hole' file. So it's a good idea to – perhaps annually – recirculate them to all residents, especially if there have been any changes.

Remember, new residents can move in without necessitating a deed of sale or a new lease. People get married or decide to cohabit, which means a new person in the household. And parents, adult children and/or siblings may move in for a month or two – or for ever. And, when residents go on holiday, make sure any house sitters and/or pet sitters are given a copy of the rules as part of their welcome to the estate.

On the spot

It's essential that the rules are easily accessible on the estate's website, but it's also a good idea to have a copy pasted up somewhere central – perhaps the clubhouse, or the admin offices.

Even more usefully, ensure that the relevant rules are visibly posted in the places that matter – rules about the pool at the pool, rules about fishing at the dam, rules about parking in the parking area. This may sound like overkill, especially if the rules are 'common sense', and should be known by everyone, but you would be surprised. For example, you'd think most people could work out that it's not reasonable to travel at 100 km/h between speed bumps and, sadly, it is still necessary to put no-smoking signs in buildings and on patios as, otherwise, addicts are pretty quick to point out that there is no sign forbidding their lighting up.

It's not rocket science The more widely known the rules are, the greater the chances of their being adhered to. And you really don't want to get into Latin translations so, rather than pointing out that '*ignorantia juris non excusat*', do away with the ignorance.





best
Cheesecake
in the world

...and
its just
around
the
corner



I love cheesecake, and always have, but – as I discovered one rainy night in Wilderness – there is *cheesecake*, and then there is *cheesecake*. Aidan's cheesecake is cheesecake.

Like 9/11 – but so much nicer

There are some things – the death of Princess Diana, the death of Chris Hani or Nelson Mandela, or 9/11 – that are so earth-shattering that you will always remember exactly where you were when you heard the news. Well, Aidan's cheesecake is a bit like that – but so much nicer. I remember exactly where I was when I first tasted it.

It was a rainy Friday night in Wilderness, and I was wandering through the small market in the town centre with a fellow travel writer. We bought some cheese and sourdough bread to make an impromptu supper, and I gave in to the temptation of buying a slice of cheesecake as well. After we'd feasted on delicious bread and cheese, I stuck a plastic fork (it was 2006, we still used plastic forks) into the cheesecake, and took my first bite. I probably should have said nothing, but I couldn't resist sharing, so I offered my companion, Don, a bite.

(Do you remember the movie *When Harry met Sally*? Well, it was a bit like that, but Don is a man so it was not quite as noisy, and much shorter than Meg Ryan's epic performance.)

We immediately retraced our steps only to find that it had all sold out. That's when I really regretted sharing. I went back home to Cape Town, dreaming about cheesecake, and it was more than a year before I managed to hunt it down again, after which I have made a point of keeping tabs on Aidan Pomario, and on where I can find his cheesecake. (Not in Cape Town, which is probably a good thing!)

A means to an end

Having qualified as a pastry chef at the Cordon Bleu School in London, you'd think baking was Aidan's first love. But it's not. It's just a means to an end. 'I started baking so that I could afford to farm,' he says. What really gets Aidan out of bed in the morning is tending to the pretty white Saanen goats that roam happily around on his 38-hectare farm in Hoekwil, and – of course – making delicious cheese from their milk.



He bought the farm and four baby goats in 2005, and reverted back to his chef training to support the goats, build up the farm, and get more goats. He makes an awesome sourdough bread, which pairs well with almost any cheese, but he needed a real money spinner. And, seeing as he was just down the road from the Lancewood Cheese Factory, he invested in a few buckets of full-fat cream cheese and started experimenting. Every cheesecake he made was good – after all, he had spent two years training as a pastry chef – but, after five attempts, he made a cheesecake that magically had a perfect silky texture with none of the stodge of a German or a New York cheesecake, but sufficient body to stand up for itself. And, one of the trickiest aspects of a cheesecake to get right, the perfect balance of sweet and sour – just enough lemon, not too much sugar.

You can't improve on perfection

But you can expand it. Aidan made just the one – perfect – lemon cheesecake for years. Then he added a Belgian chocolate one to his string. This made life hard for me when I

travelled through the Garden Route. I either had to choose between them, or buy two slices. I bought two. And then he added a blueberry cheesecake.

Where to find the best cheesecake in the world

You are so lucky you live in George, because the best cheesecake in the world is just a short drive away along the scenic and delightful Seven Passes Road. The new Merchant and Maiden restaurant in Hoekwil stocks these delectable treats. You can also get them at the Blue Olive and the Green Shed in Wilderness but, be warned, other places in the area claim to sell 'the best cheesecake'. These imitations are perfectly good cheesecakes but they are not the best!

And, on Saturdays, you can get the cheesecake (and the fabulous goat's milk cheese and wonderful bread) from the Wild Oats Market in Sedgefield. (On the off chance you are a new resident in George, who does not know about this fabulous market, you should consider making a Saturday morning pilgrimage.) And, of course, you can order a cake for a special event – or just because you want to – by calling Aidan on 072 427 3892.

I didn't make this up

It sounds as if I am biased, but I'm not the only person who thinks Aidan's cheesecake is the best in the world.

Aidan's cheesecake was awarded Best Baked Sweet Product by Eat in 2010. Okay – granted – they probably didn't sample *all* the cheesecake in the whole world, but the *Chaîne des Rôtisseurs* (World Gastronomy Association) gave the cakes a special achievement in 2017.

So, while there may be a small doubt that it is the very best cheesecake in the whole world, I would put money on its being the best cheesecake in a thousand-mile radius of George.



Aidan Pomario



Running down the fences



Making the world a wilder, better place.

In the last edition of *The BUZZard*, we had a look at the Eden to Addo megahike – a fundraiser for the Eden to Addo Corridor. Now the Eden to Addo Corridor is a great initiative, but it could be better – or, at least, longer. And that's where the Addo to Great Fish River Corridor initiative comes in – and it comes complete with a fabulous event that is just as exciting as the Eden to Addo hike, but so much more accessible



Addo to Great Fish River Corridor

As we discussed in the previous newsletter, conservation requires extensive uninterrupted reserves or parks, as tiny pockets of preservation are not sustainable. And we are lucky in South Africa to have some pretty big parks already – some of which are quite close together, as in the Eastern Cape. Nestled between the 1,640-square-kilometre Addo Elephant National Park and the 45,000-hectare Great Fish River Nature Reserve are a number of private reserves separated by farmland – and some towns, including Makhanda (previously Grahamstown).

The aim of this inaugural annual fundraising marathon is to raise funds for conservation devastated by the tourism shutdown, but also – and perhaps more importantly – to create awareness of the need for biodiversity corridors. It is similar to the well-established Lewa Safari Marathon in Kenya, which has raised about R150 million over the last 20 years. The funds raised in 2021 will contribute to the survival of existing conservation areas, and future events will raise funds for consolidating this whole area into one contiguous conservancy that will allow the free movement of animals.



Running down the fences

There are four 'events' – a standard 42-kilometre marathon for the real hard-core runners, a 21-kilometre half-marathon for serious runners, and a 12-kilometre run for beginner or weekend runners. And then there's an eight-kilometre walk/run that offers a really accessible option for the not-so-fit. It's happening on the weekend of 10 to 12 September, which gives you ample time to train if you want to make the 12-kilometre option your debut 'race'. And, while it is, technically, a trail run because it's not on the road, it's a soft entry into trail running, as most of the route is on jeep tracks, so even die-hard road runners shouldn't suffer too much culture shock.

Except, of course, for the fact that there will be no minibus taxis, and no trucks, but there will be big, furry creatures with big teeth, or tusks or horns. Yup, you will be running in Big Five territory – but the reserve staff have all the safety precautions in place.

Most importantly, though, Running down the fences is not a race – it's a relaxing weekend safari at a wonderful, secluded, malaria-free game lodge with stylish accommodation, the great food you expect from a luxury game lodge, a fabulous celebratory bush boma dinner, and an optional helicopter flight over some of the planned expansion areas.

But what about Covid?

Here's where this gets really clever. Game lodges are among the safest accommodation options because each room is – by design – isolated, and most of the public spaces are outdoors, or semi-outdoors. So, the main thing about this event is that it is not a public event. It is an 'on-reserve activity' that is open only to guests who are staying for the whole weekend. So as long as the reserves are allowed to operate, it will go ahead – and game lodges were open right through the second wave.

Other safety precautions include the following:

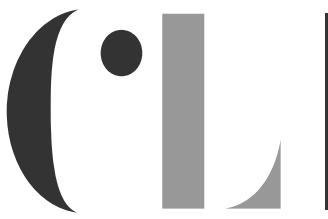
- Each lodge and each game-viewing vehicle will be a mini bubble if required, and even the finish line area, and the celebratory bush boma evening, can be divided into lodge groups.
- The field is really small, and – combined with the open air – the run should be very safe. If, however, the organisers feel it is necessary, they will start the run in waves so that accommodation bubbles will start together.
- And, if the wheels fall off and we end up in Level 5 before September, there is an alternative date of May 2022.

Make it happen

Running down the fences clashes with the Eden to Addo megahike, but it is so much more accessible – financially, fitness-wise and time-wise. So get together a bunch of friends, an extended family or a corporate group, and book your place by contacting Lance on lance@runcation.co.za.

 Jen Stern





CONNECTED LIVING

Brought to you by Estate Living

MISSING THE ESTATE LIVING MAGAZINE AT YOUR ESTATE?

Well you don't have to!

Welcome to OUR NEW Connected Living App, FREE to download for all management and residents

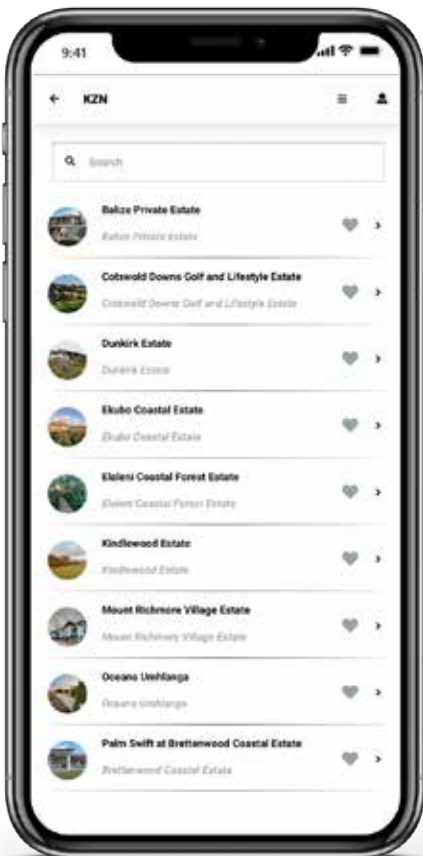
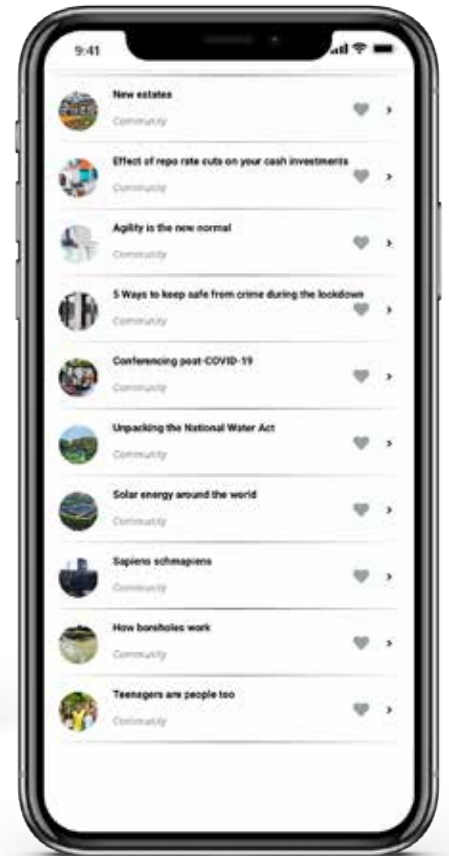
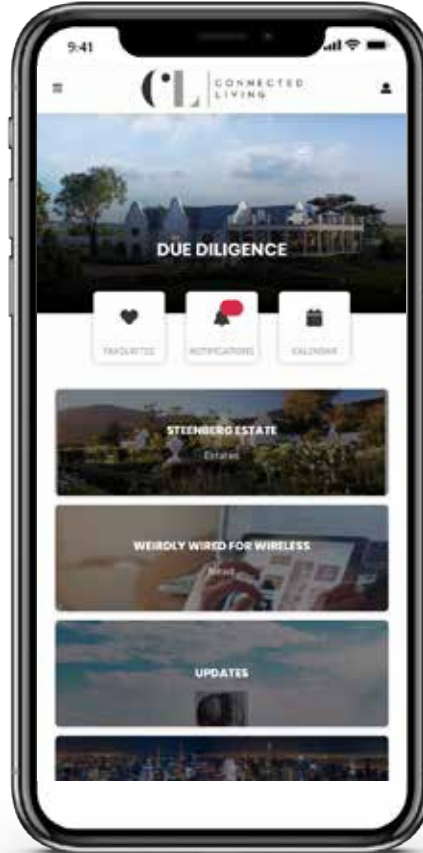
Connect to Estate Community News

Learn about your Rights and Obligations

Explore Global Property Opportunities and Regulations

Research Retirement Living at its finest

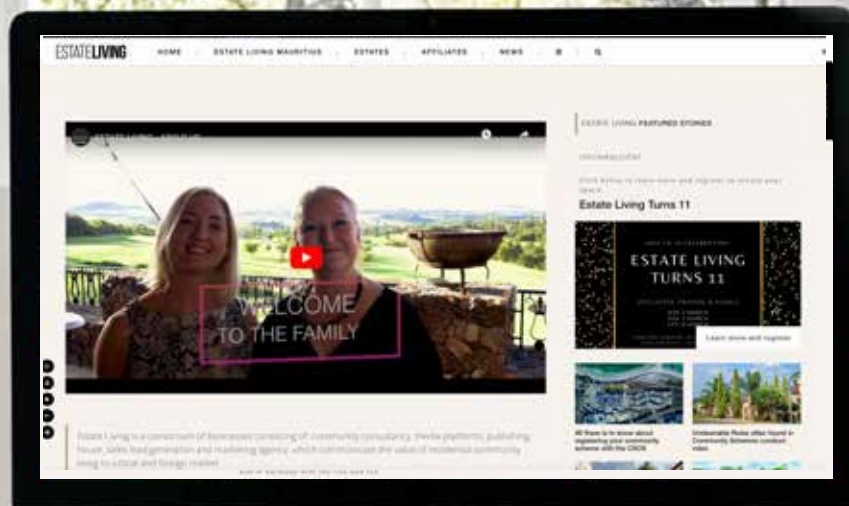
Access Industry Experts and insightful video content ... AND MORE



Learn, Grow, Connect and Start living



Find everything you need to know about Estate Living.



Estate Living is your go-to resource for a complete understanding of estate life.

From new developments launching to homeowner association information or finding the right supplier for your needs.

Estate Living strives to share with you the best of community living.

estate-living.co.za