

Rand Aid RAND AID review

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Amazing Grace turns 102

Gracious Grace Snook celebrated her 102nd birthday in the company of friends and family on May 18, 2017.

The smiling, quick-witted woman was seated at the head of the table at Elphino's, the coffee shop in the grounds of Rand Aid's Elphin Lodge retirement village. After living independently until the grand age of 101, Grace moved into the complex's Ron Smith Care Centre around six months ago.

When someone joked that her next big celebration would be her 110th birthday, Grace's legendary sense of humour came to the fore, and she responded, "I hope you have wings."

Born in Southern Rhodesia in 1915, during WWI, Grace and her late husband Cecil had two children, daughter Jill and son Donald.

Always a lover of sport – both as a spectator and participant – at the age of 100 Grace was still cooking for herself and doing container gardening.

Helen Petrie, the Elphin Lodge complex manager, presented Grace with a beautiful card and flowers. "We are blessed to have Grace as one of our residents," she said.



Birthday girl Grace Snook with Elphin Lodge complex manager Helen Petrie and Debbie Christen, Rand Aid's Manager: Recreational Programmes, at her 102nd birthday party.

A Rand Aid team will take part in the 702 Walk the Talk on July 23 in support of active ageing. You can help by purchasing a raffle ticket at any of the Rand Aid complexes' reception desks and guessing how far the team will walk. R10 a ticket and all monies goes to Thembalami Care Centre.



**Clive retires
after 28 years**



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Tarentaal knitters square up for Mandela Day



It is hip to be square! When the residents of Tarentaal retirement village were approached by Jeppe Girls High School to participate in a Blanket Drive, they rose to the occasion. "In no time, they had knitted 315 squares – enough for 10.5 blankets," says Laetitia Goosen, the deputy complex manager of the Rand Aid-run village. The blankets were handed to a Jeppe parent, Desiree Reveley, on April 24 and will be given to underprivileged members of the community. Laetitia explains that the school aims to hand out 67 blankets on Mandela Day. Desiree's dad, Duncan Prillwitz – who is a Tarentaal resident – played his part too, by organising sufficient donations to ensure that the energetic ladies did not run out of wool.



Tarentaal resident Renee Kellow may be 98, but she still feels the music. She danced the afternoon away at the Mother's Day / Father's Day Tea held by the Rand Aid retirement village on Monday, May 22.



Tarentaal's curtain call

After 14 years and plenty of use, the curtains at Tarentaal retirement village's hall were recently replaced. Beautiful burgundy velvet lines the hall's high windows, with light, patterned drops covering the many doors. Apart from hosting many village socials, the large hall serves as the venue for Rand Aid functions which necessitates more space, such as the annual long service awards. Admiring the new curtains are Cecille Tamine and Maryna van Zyl, both members of Tarentaal's residents committee.



Time out for complex managers

Inyoni Creek's Naked Chefs regularly serve up great food and oodles of friendship. Their pub lunches are so popular that booking is essential or residents of the Rand Aid retirement village will not get a seat at the clubhouse on Naked Chef Fridays.

Decked in chef's hats bearing their names, and aprons complete with an appropriately positioned fig leaf, the chefs prepare, cook, serve and clear away plates – all for an affordable R30 a head for a two-course meal.

The tasty pub fare includes favourites such as cottage pie, bobotie and fish and chips, with each plate followed by a bowl of ice-cream and home-made chocolate sauce.

This initiative serves a valuable purpose in terms of social interaction – bringing joy, meaning and meaningful relationships to all involved.

On May 25, the Naked Chefs invited the managers of Rand Aid's various complexes to join them for lunch.

"It was lovely to join in the festivities. The Naked Chef's monthly pub lunch is one of the most well supported events on our calendar. The clubhouse was jam-packed and our Naked Chefs served bangers and mash, gravy and vegetables and ice cream served with their secret recipe chocolate sauce.

"As managers we seldom get to spend time together and it was a wonderful opportunity for us to network," says Jenny Tonkin, Inyoni Creek's complex manager.

She adds that every month, the Naked Chefs give her four lunch tickets to use to treat those staff members who assist in the village, from accounts to workshops and stores. In addition, residents from Tarentaal retirement village are regularly invited as well.



ABOVE:

Rand Aid complex managers at the Naked Chef's monthly pub lunch. From left: Esme Erasmus (Thornhill Manor), Adél Grobelaar (Wedge Gardens), Elize Raath (Thembalami), Jenny Tonkin (Inyoni Creek), Tammy Neilson (Tarentaal), and Helen Petrie (Elphin Lodge).



RIGHT:

The Naked Chefs serve up great food accompanied by community spirit.



In recognition of International Nurses' Day on May 12, Marinda Looyen, the deputy complex manager of Rand Aid's Inyoni Creek retirement village, gave Sr Han-nie Combrink (left) a gift and a certificate in recognition of the wonderful work that she does at the village.

Blarney and beer flowed at Thornhill Manor's St Patrick's dinner on March 16. The décor committee made the community centre look amazing with shamrocks, pots of gold and all the colours of the rainbow. Pictured are Natalie and Ralph Herbert, serving drinks at the bar, in true Irish tradition.

Clive retires after nearly 30 years of service to Rand Aid

After a career spanning 28 years, poor health has forced Clive Haslehurst to retire from Rand Aid Association.

A farewell braai was held under the trees at Rand Aid's head office in Edenvale on May 19. Present were senior personnel from head office and Rand Aid's various complexes, as well as Clive's wife Nan.

Clive joined the 114-year-old NPO at the start of 1989 as clerk of works (workshop manager). Back then, only Wedge Gardens and Bramley House were in existence and Clive has seen Rand Aid grow into the large organisation that it is today, comprising four retirement villages, two frail care centres, a treatment centre for people with substance abuse problems and a home for the deaf. It also has support services including a central laundry and workshop and a catering division.

"Clive was involved in a variety of projects over the years," said CEO Rae Brown.

In 2001, he was promoted to Head Office as property manager and continued to run the workshops as well as preparing maintenance budgets. In 2006, he was promoted to utility and insurance administrator.

His duties included preparing and providing Rand Aid's brokers with renewal terms at the commencement of each financial year, keeping track of any new assets purchased and adding to the insurance portfolio, processing and handling insurance claims and keeping a register and managing all Rand Aid vehicles.

"I am proud to have been associated with Rand Aid and trust the organisation will continue to go from strength to strength," said Clive.



Clive and Nan Haslehurst at his retirement.



NLC FUNDING FOR THEMBALAMI

The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) approved Rand Aid Association's 2015 fund application and has allocated R763 691.00 to the Thembalami Care Centre.

Of this, R200 000.00 was allocated for food, R400 000.00 for salaries, R100 000.00 for utilities and R63 691.00 for the installation of a nurse call system.

The amounts covered almost one month of the expenses for each line item and significantly assisted in the acquiring of the nurse call system, which cost R102 698.00.

"The new nurse call system has been installed and is of great help. It will be especially beneficial when it comes to caring for the residents of the Max Ordman Deaf Association (MODA)," says Ayanda Matthews, Rand Aid's GM of Compliance and the Social React Division.

Rand Aid merged with Moda in 2016, and following extensive renovations to accommodate MODA's residents, they are expected to relocate to Thembalami in the near future.

"The support of the Commission is much appreciated and will assist us to continue rendering services to the less privileged members of our communities," says Ayanda.

The NLC relies on funds from the proceeds of the National Lottery. The Lotteries Act guides the way in which NLC funding may be allocated. The intention of NLC funding is to make a difference to the lives of all South Africans, especially those more vulnerable and to improve the sustainability of the beneficiary organisations.

Available funds are distributed to registered and qualifying non-profit organisations in the fields of charities; arts, culture and national heritage; and sport and recreation. By placing its emphasis on areas of greatest need and potential, the NLC contributes to South Africa's development.

Tarentaal's shining example of teamwork

Rand Aid's Tarentaal retirement village brushed up on its teamwork recently. The village was having the thatch roof of its chapel repaired and as is to be expected with a job like this, the work left a huge mess inside the chapel. Within a short space of time, however, the Chapel Committee had put out a call to residents for help and soon volunteers arrived with buckets, brooms and rags. "It was truly remarkable how they worked," says complex manager Tammy Neilson. People involved in the June 1 cleaning spree included Lorraine Gordon, Arthur Hartzenberg, Rhona Burnham, Ruth Hartzenberg, Laraine Kolberg, John Harvey, Maria Arnold, Ken Denny, Margaret Denny, Saraphina Chokoe and Carla Fasold.



Gardeners reap rich rewards

Rand Aid's Inyoni Creek received a whopping R80 403 in the Gardens of the Golden City initiative, which saw a number of residents of the retirement village open their garden to the paying public. "Once again you have shown us what an awesome village Inyoni Creek is," says Jenny Tonkin, Complex Manager. Proceeds will be donated to Rand Aid's Wedge Gardens treatment centre and Thembalami Care Centre. The cheque handover was done on 11 April at the Inyoni Creek Clubhouse. Pictured are residents Stan Rodkin, Brian Quigley, Pam Barden, Mavis Hicks, Lorna van Heerden, Iris Clark and Steve Foster.

It's Bob, again, for Thornhill Probus

Bob Davies has been inducted as President of the Thornhill Probus Club for a second consecutive year.

Past President Des Edgar performed the induction and presented Bob with the chain of office and the Probus charter.

The induction took place at a sparkling dinner in the main hall of Rand Aid-run retirement village Thornhill Manor on Tuesday, March 14. It was attended by 70 members and guests.

Special guests included Garth Trumble, President of the Edenvale Rotary Club, and his wife Jane. Also present were Ken Warburton, past Rotary President, and his wife Di, who have not missed a single Thornhill Manor induction dinner in 13 years.

Toasts to South Africa, Probus and Rotary international were proposed by Ken Warburton, Bob Davies and Garth Trumble respectively.

The popularity of the Thornhill Probus Club was highlighted in President Bob's report back to members. It is one of the most successful in South Africa. He also touched on some of the interesting talks that have been presented at Probus meetings over the past year.

The Thornhill Probus Club was inaugurated in 2003 under the auspices of the Rotary Club of Edenvale to promote fellowship among retired people with like-minded interests.



Past President Des Edgar congratulates Bob Davies.



The group from Elphin Lodge.

DYNAMITE OUTING FOR ELPHIN LODGE

Friday, June 9, saw a cheerful group of residents from Rand Aid's Elphin Lodge going off to The Dynamite Company Museum in Modderfontein, where they learnt about the history of the development of explosives and chemicals in South Africa.

They were fascinated to hear the story of nitroglycerin-based explosives and how Alfred Nobel found a way of harnessing their power in a substance he called dynamite.

The Modderfontein factory was officially opened in 1896 and was the largest manufacturing operation in South Africa. Today, the practice of blasting is an exact science and AECI Explosives Limited manufactures a range of commercial blasting explosives and accessories, fine-tuned to meet the exacting requirements of the South African mining, quarrying and construction industries.

The group also enjoyed the historical exhibits at the Frans Hoenig Haus (he was the first factory manager), which stands behind the museum and which was built in 1896.

PRIDE OVER TARENTAAL'S PRIZE PUMPKINS

Last year, Tarentaal resident Arthur Hartzenberg had a seed of an idea that soon germinated into something solid, round and orange.

He decided that a pumpkin-growing contest would be a lot of fun. After planting their seeds, the folk of Tarentaal urged their plants to grow and with attention and love, a good harvest of pumpkins was ready for picking in February.

Everyone agreed that Arthur himself was the pumpkin prince but all the villagers were winners, when great chunks of fresh-from-the-earth pumpkin was shared between the residents at the village's morning market on March 3, 2017.

Esther Fourie made a pumpkin pie for the winner, which in the end was shared between Arthur and the Tarentaal staff members.

Tarentaal resident Arthur Hartzenberg with half of the biggest pumpkin (26kg).



Tarentaal retirement village held a fun-filled Easter Bonnet Parade on April 25. The hall was alive with colour and the judges did not have an easy task, but eventually chose Moira Dowds as the winner. Nora de Beer (left front) came second, Patricia Lees (right front) came third and Allan Neilson (left back) shared fourth prize with Arthur Hartzenberg (right back).

Bountiful harvest for Thembalami

Thembalami Care Centre's food garden project has residents and staff members smiling.

The large grounds at the back of the Rand Aid care centre are under cultivation, and its greenhouse is heaving with an array of plants. Spinach, onions, tomatoes, pumpkin, brinjals, carrots, green peppers, chillies, beans and herbs have been successfully grown since the start of the food garden nearly a year ago.

At the moment, staff members buy the produce for their own use, and the money is ploughed back into the care centre.

An exciting development is the herbs and vegetables being nurtured by residents during their occupational therapy (OT) sessions. However, with Thembalami home to many frail senior citizens of limited means, the public's assistance would be appreciated to help this project flourish.

At the moment, the residents are work-

ing in small plant pots that stand on a table because they are unable to bend for long periods, which means ground gardening is out of the question. The care centre would love a supply of Urban Boxes to support this rewarding OT activity. Urban Boxes are colourful, multifunctional containers that are perfect for growing organic vegetables.

In July 2016, as part of Mandela Day, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo spent the day at Thembalami and prepared the ground for a veggie garden. Thereafter, Amon Maluleke of Bambanani Food and Herb Cooperative, stepped in, training the Thembalami gardeners and donating his time to get the project up and running. He still volunteers at the centre two days a week.

Amon, who has become an expert in urban gardening, dreams of expanding the project and eventually implementing a vertical growing system and putting mechanisms in place to support an integrated bio-systems approach to

farming.

Thembalami looks after financially and physically vulnerable senior citizens.

If you would like more information on how you can support this gardening initiative, please give Elize Raath a call at 011 882 4434.



Amon Maluleke of Bambanani Food and Herb Cooperative in the greenhouse at Thembalami Care Centre.



Inyoni Creek hears 'Forever Young' talk

Dr Carmella Mielke, the medical doctor now based at Elphin Lodge, gave a talk to the residents of sister Rand Aid retirement village Inyoni Creek on May 17. Her talk, titled 'Forever Young', was very well supported by residents, with around 60 people in the audience. The doctor at Elphin Lodge prior to Dr Mielke was Dr Aviva Ruch. Pictured with Dr Mielke is village sister Sr Han-nie Combrink.

Gogos spread woolly joy

Alex gogos who are part of the Zamokuhle outreach programme run by Rand Aid's Thembalami Care Centre have hearts as soft as teddy bears. They knitted 140 teddies for Max Green of the Beit Emanuel Synagogue in Johannesburg to hand out to hospitalised children over Easter. This is the second time Thembalami has been involved in making teddies for this worthwhile project. "Max could not keep up with the amount of wool and stuffing the gogos needed," says Thembalami's Elize Raath.



"They really enjoyed doing this and they want to use the same pattern to knit teddy bears for a nursery school in Alex. "Max was overwhelmed by their response and motivation."



Desk delight

A team from All Office was hard at work on May 18 assembling 12 desks that the Johannesburg company donated to Rand Aid's Thembalami Care Centre. The donation was facilitated by another Johannesburg company, Infinitude Design. Thembalami has been a beneficiary of this corporate design and space planning company's corporate social investment programme for a number of years. The care centre is busy with extensive renovations following its merger with the Max Ordman Deaf Association (Moda). Moda residents will be moving into a revamped section of the care centre within a few weeks.

WEDGE GARDENS UNLEASHES RESIDENTS' TALENTS

Wedge Gardens Treatment Centre held a talent show on March 23. "The talent show was in line with the theme of developing self identity. "In occupational therapy the previous week, we tackled the idea of the labels society places on each and every one of us and how that plays into our life stories," explains occupational therapist Kendra Neethling. "However, as individuals we have the ability to challenge and redefine ourselves – becoming more than our labels," she says, adding that for many Wedge Gardens residents, these labels include 'addicts' and 'alcoholics'. She said that they explored the notion that in broadening and building upon intrinsic skills and talents, and by doing things that bring meaning, purpose and enjoyment into their lives, Wedge residents can create a character profile that brings them contentment. "This in turn provides the opportunity for more fulfilling and productive lives – something that we can be proud of."

Book club inspires at Wedge Gardens

Wedge Gardens rehabilitation centre has started a book club.

Residents at the centre have responded enthusiastically to the opportunity to share their thoughts on the books they have been reading as well hear other people's experiences with various genres and authors.

"The book club is voluntary but has attracted dozens of members and as residents join, so others are encouraged to do so too!" says Adél Grobbelaar, Wedge Garden's manager.

Biographies of sportsmen and entrepreneurs, crime, suspense thrillers and self-help books seem to be the biggest hit and a wonderful exchange of books between residents is happening.

"Cowboys are popular too! There is a renaissance of Louis L'Amour and beaten-up old paperback copies of his westerns

are doing the rounds," says Adél.

The book club provides a healthy distraction from life's burdens, great entertainment, exposure to critical thinking, better communication skills and, for many, the discovery of refreshing alternative conversation, explains Adél.

"It is also encouraging further engagement with the Wedge Gardens library and greater awareness of libraries in general.

"The enthusiasm of the book club members has prompted the Wedge Gardens kitchen staff to provide sandwiches for the Friday night meetings."

Guest speakers sought

Book club meetings are held in the library on Wedge Gardens' premises and writers, journalists, librarians and avid readers are welcome to contact the facility with regard to being a volunteer guest speaker at one of the meetings.

Donations of men's-interest books, a coffee or study table and comfortable reading chairs will be greatly appreciated. For more info, call 011 430 0320.

* You can also 'like' Wedge Gardens on Facebook (www.facebook.com/WedgeGardensTreatmentCentre) or follow them on Twitter (@WedgeGardens)



A book club meeting is held on Friday nights in Wedge Gardens' library, much to the delight of residents.

Wedge Gardens gets handy

Wedge Gardens learned the value of team work and pooled resources when they completed their pottery room at the beginning of June.

Residents of the treatment centre worked alongside occupational therapist Kendra Neethling to design and construct shelves for the pottery room. They used old wooden cupboards to make the shelves and in so doing, both shared and developed woodwork skills.

"The project has helped develop initiative and pride within the gentlemen involved. It also presented an opportunity for the transfer of skills that can be utilised outside of Wedge Gardens in future leisure or work pursuits," says Kendra.

The pottery room itself has created much excitement as the therapeutic value of working with one's hands, developing creativity and achieving a state of flow is exceptional, she says.

A state of flow, also called being 'in the zone', refers to an optimal state of engagement that heightens positive emotions and feelings of intrinsic reward.

"The hope is that the pottery room can be utilised as a space where the gentlemen at Wedge can be exposed to numerous skills whilst working towards a market day planned for later on in the year. Thus the aim is to provide the residents at Wedge an opportunity to learn not only task concept and prevocational skills, but also delve into the field of entrepreneurship and learn higher order survival skills such as financial management and budgeting.

"This will help them live productive, goal-directed and meaningful lives," she says.

LEFT: Wedge Gardens occupational therapist Kendra Neethling feels the flow while working with clay.



Care centre holds commitment ceremony

Staff and residents who participate in Ron Smith Care Centre Occupational Therapy Activity Centre recently gathered to present and dedicate a banner to the activity centre. The banner, which took about a year to complete, was made by volunteer Marisa Sabato, and depicts the Vision and Mission of the Care Partners who are involved in the activity centre's programmes. Pictured in the back are Kedibone Shongoane (porter), Salina Mtshali (occupational therapy technician), Debbie Christen (Manager: Recreational Programmes) and Joyce Mabowa (porter). Front: Lee-Ann Ramathibela (lifestyle assistant), Marisa Sabato (volunteer) and Bianca Richards (occupational therapist).





Elaine and Leung Ho with David Eatock and the planted parsley and pansies.

Gardening therapy for care centre residents

Some of the residents from the special dementia wing at Rand Aid's Ron Smith Care Centre had their first taste of Horticultural Therapy on May 10. They watched with interest as tables were covered with plastic sheets and various gardening supplies were brought in for their use. Here was something new to enjoy!

Horticultural or Gardening Therapy is a relatively new humanistic approach and is based on the idea that there is a special connection between people and plants, between people and the gardening pursuit and between people and their natural surroundings. Therefore, Gardening Therapy is a process through which the plants, gardening activities and the innate closeness we all feel towards nature are used as a vehicle to bring certain therapeutic benefits to the participants.

Rand Aid's Debbie Christen, Manager: Recreational Programmes explains: "Elaine and Leung Ho recently responded to our appeal for new volunteers to assist us with various occupational and recreational activities. When we had our first chat, I was so excited to learn that Leung is a horticulturalist who has a Baccalaureus Technologiae in Horticulture from UNISA and that he has a special interest in using gardening activities for therapeutic purposes. I immediately thought it would be a perfect activity on River Lodge 3, our special wing for residents living with dementia."

At the introductory session where care workers came to assist, Elaine and Leung started off with a sensory activity which involved residents rubbing lavender, mint and a special variety called apple mint, between their fingers and smelling the scent that was released. Next was the filling of pots with potting soil, planting parsley and pansies (for colour) and finally watering all the plants.

The session ended with instructions on how to continue caring for their new plants. When practised over time, these simple gardening tasks can provide sensory and memory stimulation and mild exercise, increase movement, improve orientation to reality, increase a sense of community and decrease feelings of loneliness and isolation.

This was a wonderful morning activity which the care workers enjoyed as well. They will all be watching out for the pansies which should be flowering very soon!

Candles lit to bid Maggie farewell

A Candlelighting Ceremony was held on May 26 to say farewell to a Ron Smith Care Centre employee who passed away on May 24, 2017, after a short illness.

Careworker Maggie Kgarose worked on the Cedar Park wing of the Rand Aid care centre. She was known for her kind and caring ways, especially with residents.

The ceremony was attended by management, staff and residents of Cedar Park, as well as by staff from all the other wings. "Maggie was beloved amongst all Ron Smith Care Centre staff," says Rand Aid's Senior Nursing Manager Avril Maltman.

One person after another stood up to attest to Maggie's fine character and what she meant to them. Amongst those who will particularly miss her are Cedar Park residents Gordon and Joy Smith.



Sister Maria Symons lights a candle to honour the memory of careworker Maggie Kgarose.



At their April Lotto draw and tea, residents of Elphin Lodge and Ron Smith Care Centre enjoyed a morning of Easter entertainment by popular pianist Martin Lane. Instead of the traditional Easter bonnets, the care centre residents explored their creativity in the OT Activity Centre and designed Easter masks. Prizes were given for the best Easter masks. Elphin Lodge resident Felicite Horn won a hamper full of delicious Easter treats, whilst Louis Venter won a homemade Easter fruit cake with a friendly knitted Easter bunny for good measure. Pictured are Care centre resident Dina van Holthoon and her carer, Priscilla Dlamini. Dina won a prize for creating a beautiful and colourful mask.



HAPPY 101 YEARS OLD!

Betty Houghton turned 101 years old on April 19, 2017. The resident of Ron Smith Care Centre celebrated this milestone at a lovely tea with her friends at Woodlands, the care centre wing in which she lives.

The management and staff of the care centre presented her with a beautiful bouquet of flowers and a special card, which she graciously received. Her friends remarked how amazing and extraordinary Betty is, for reaching the grand age of 101. Betty, however, replied that her birthday is quite ordinary and that to reach this age, 'you just have to stay alive!'

British born, Betty has lived in South Africa for most of her adult life.

The mother of two sons and matriarch to a brood of grandchildren and great grandchildren, Betty was a keen bowls and bridge player in her younger days. She worked for many years as secretary of Linksfield Primary School.

Today, Betty still keeps herself busy, attending occupational therapy at the care centre where she is always game for any of the activities offered.



Cracking good time!

Resident Bobby Clack was treated to not only a chocolate surprise on the morning of Sunday, April 9, but also to a trip down memory lane to his boy scout days when the troop from 1st Edenvale arrived with baskets full of home-made chocolates to share with the residents of Rand Aid's Thembalami Care Centre. Pictured with Bobby are Kirstynn Switala and Logan MacDonald.

Kitty Venn celebrates milestone birthday

Ron Smith Care Centre resident Kitty Venn turned 100 years old on April 5, 2017.

Some of the care centre staff and residents gathered to sing happy birthday and present her with a special card, flowers and birthday cake. Also present were her daughter and son in-law, Carol and Paul Cunningham, and her son and daughter in-law, Charles and Mitzi Venn from Brisbane, Australia.

Kitty was born Doreen Ruby Mole in 1917 in Swakopmund, South West Africa. She was the fourth child in a family of 12 children. Three of her siblings are still living.

Her father, Alfred Mole, was a magistrate who moved his family to Hamilton Street, Pretoria, where Kitty grew up. She was a good tennis player and only gave up playing tennis just before she turned 80.

After completing her schooling at Pretoria Girls High, Kitty worked for Barclays Bank as a secretary.

After the war she married Oliver Claude Ven and they moved to Sandringham. She and Oliver had four children, 18 grandchildren and 27 great grandchildren, most of who gathered for a huge birthday celebration on April 8.

Family members flew in from KwaZulu-Natal and from around the world – San Francisco, Sydney, Melbourne, Townsville and Australia – to honour Kitty on reaching this special milestone. About 140 people attended the party, including some of Kitty's friends from Elphin Lodge retirement village and the Ron Smith Care Centre.

Daughter Carol commented: "Kitty has always been a very positive person; she never complains and thinks that everyone and everything at the care centre is just wonderful. Everyone loves my mother!"

"It is true that everyone loves Kitty. Since she moved into Elphin Lodge many years ago, we experienced her as a very positive person with a ready smile for everyone," says Zabeth Zühlsdorff, Rand Aid's GM: Services and Advance Division.

Kitty moved to Elphin Lodge in 2000 after her husband died. Her cottage was delightful and she had an amazing 'spring garden' including huge flowering azaleas. She lived there until two years ago, when a fall and subsequent hip replacement necessitated her move to the care centre.



Lovely Kitty surrounded by some of her family, from left to right: daughter and son in-law Carol and Paul Cunningham; and son and daughter in-law Charles and Mitzi Venn from Brisbane, Australia.