

Rand Aid **review**

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Dorothy dances her way to 100

Sitting in a pool of sunlight, Dorothy Mary de Bruyn's face lit up when she was handed a bright bunch of flowers and a special card on the afternoon of her 100th birthday.

Her family celebrated her centenary a few days earlier, to coincide with a visit from daughter Rosalie who lives in the UK, but management and staff of Rand Aid's Ron Smith Care Centre, where Dorothy lives, made sure that her actual birthday was memorable too.

Dorothy was born in Joburg on August 21, 1918. Her parents were Evelyn May and Robert Johnston. The families were originally from England and Scotland respectively.

She spent her early life in Johannesburg and was educated by nuns at the Belgravia convent. Her father drove the first steam engine to Swaziland and the family spent many years living in Carolana.

Dorothy's childhood was dedicated to ballet and at the age of 16 she passed the Royal Academy of Ballet Elementary exam and started teaching.

The family had by this time moved back to the East Rand where her father was the engineer at the Far East Rand hospital. She met and married Christian Mauritz de Bruyn. As a couple, they were keen ballroom dancers and gave exhibitions at local dances.

They settled in Brakpan and Dorothy's first ballet studio was in Kritzingen Avenue. She was a well-known ballet teacher on the East Rand at a time when June Meyer, the Gardener sisters, Rosemary Wilson and Thelma Isaacs were all active and teaching. A highlight of the dancing calendar was the Springs Eisteddfod where everyone competed.

She has had a lifelong love and enthusiasm for ballet and even took her studio to see Nadia Nerina and the Royal ballet when they toured South Africa in the 50s.

Their son Chris was born in 1944 and worked as an engineer for South African Airways. Rosalie was born in 1950 and worked as a paediatric radiologist at Great Ormond Street children's hospital after immigrating to the UK. Dorothy has five grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

In the 60s and 70s she travelled weekly from Brakpan into the Platteland and had large ballet studios in Bethal and Ermelo. She was very highly regarded and became an examiner for the Royal Academy of Dancing. At the age of 50, she learned and took all the examinations in Classical Greek dancing and became very knowledgeable about Greek mythology.

This led to her choreographing a dance of Persephone, the Queen of the Underworld, coming back from the Underworld carrying a pomegranate. In later years, she helped former pupils like Jacqui Chalom teach before finally retiring in her late 70s.

Dorothy has always lived her life with enormous energy and enthusiasm. She particularly loved travelling and exploring new places. She was a regular visitor to the UK but particularly liked the buzz of the markets in Hong Kong and Bangkok.

"She loves food and going to good restaurants and she never forgot a good meal or how much it cost! She has a lovely sense of humour and her granddaughter has abiding memories of her saying she 'was as full as a tick' after a particularly filling meal," shares Rosalie.

PHOTO:

100-year-old Dorothy de Bruyn is presented with flowers and a card by Sr Leanie Bessinger, the charge sister at Ron Smith Care Centre's River Lodge 1.



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Tarentaal's chapel committee wishes the village well on its 30th anniversary. Pictured are Ruth Hartszenberg, Lorraine Gordon, Maureen Street, Wini Dean, Rhona Burnham (who has lived in Tarentaal for 21 years) and Elizabeth Andrews.

Tarentaal celebrates its 30th anniversary

Back in 1988, the first residents moved into Rand Aid Association's newly-built Tarentaal retirement village in Lyndhurst. Today, 30 years later, Tarentaal continues to provide a safe harbour for people to enjoy their golden years.

One of the original residents, Grace Snook, sadly passed away shortly before her 103rd birthday in May this year. She lived independently in her Tarentaal home for 28 years, until the end of 2016 when, at the age of 101, she moved to Ron Smith Care Centre, which is also a Rand Aid property.

Still happily ensconced in the village is Joan Strugnell, who moved in in 1990 – two years after Grace, when the village was a mere two years old.

Initially, Tarentaal consisted of 192 apartments. A beautiful thatched chapel was added in the early years, and a dam to attract the area's rich birdlife was built. In 1994, the village hall was extended and two years later, in 1996, a further 108 units were built, creating a community of 300 double or single households.

With its secure grounds and generous garden areas, the village offers a comfortable existence for its residents. In June, the chapel committee organised a thanksgiving service and tea to celebrate the village's birthday and continued existence.

Happy 17th to Thornhill Manor

Thornhill Manor's 17th anniversary was celebrated with a non-denominational thanksgiving service in the on-site chapel, followed by a brunch, on Friday, August 10, 2018. "It was the most uplifting morning, with a wonderful thanksgiving service given by Clive Locke of the Presbyterian Church of Edenvale. The sing-a-long was wonderful to hear, with resident Gretha Pecoraro on the piano and duets by Brian Burls and Enid Dixon," says Thornhill Manor manager Esme Erasmus.

"Champagne and orange juice were flowing and a three-course brunch – prepared by Rand Aid's in-house catering division Cookchill – was enjoyed." Pictured is new resident Joanne Jourdan with fellow resident Ursula Kaminske.



New look and new menu for Elphino's

Elphino's, the charming coffee shop situated in the grounds of the Elphin Lodge retirement village in Lyndhurst, has had a make-over.

Interior designer Anne-Mare Liebenberg worked her magic to give the coffee shop a fresh new look. A huge panel of pink roses is the focal point of the shop, which is bright and inviting.

Sheer roller-blinds have been installed at the outdoor seating area to protect visitors from the elements.

Elphino's opened in 2012 in the Rand Aid retirement village. It is a wonderful gathering spot for people visiting residents of Elphin Lodge and Ron Smith Care Centre, but also welcomes anyone who is looking for a supportive environment to enjoy an outing with an older person.

Wanda de Groot, who took over as manager of Elphino's just over a year ago, is also introducing a new menu. Old favourites have been retained and there are a few tempting new offerings.

The food is freshly prepared and very well priced. To give you a teaser: a chicken mayo toasted sandwich served with chips is R29, a cheese and bacon spud with coleslaw is R35, fish and chips is R45, a Cajun chicken and avo wrap is R42 and breakfasts range from R27.50 to R50. Enjoy a scone with jam and cream for R20, chocolate or toffee pudding for R30, a filter coffee for R18 or a milkshake for R25.

Elphino's is open from Tuesdays to Sundays from 9am to 4pm and provides a welcoming environment for older persons and their loved ones or carers.



Elphino's coffee shop has been given a fresh, modern look.



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National Lotteries Commission funding for Max Ordman Deaf Association

The Max Ordman Deaf Association (MODA) has received R80 080 from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC).

MODA is situated in Lombardy East and provides holistic services to older deaf persons. The services include, amongst others, housing, meals, nursing and occupational therapy services.

The funding has been allocated for personnel salaries and benefits, food, water, electricity and rates. It will cover almost one month's expenses.

"The funding from the NLC is greatly appreciated and will help make ends meet while less privileged members of our communities are served," says Ayanda Matthews, the general manager responsible for managing MODA.

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 in the lives of all South Africans, especially those more vulnerable, and to improve the sustainability of 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.

Rand Aid Association receives National Lotteries Commission funding

Rand Aid Association has received R828 030 from the National Lotteries Commission (NLC). Rand Aid Association received nearly R480 000 for a fire detection system and medical expenses at its Thembalami Care Centre; and just under R350 000 for medical expenses and an oxygen concentrator at its Wedge Gardens treatment centre.



The Rand Aid Association team before they set off for event.

Rand Aid walked the talk

A large Rand Aid contingent took part in the MTN Walk the Talk with 702 on July 22 to promote active ageing and create awareness of the organisation.

Founded way back in 1903 – which is the year of the Wright Brothers' legendary flight, Rand Aid is still going strong. This year, it was one of 702 Walk the Talk's official charities.

Rand Aid Association was started to help destitute people following the Boer War. The Star of 10 March 1903 reported: "A Government Department created by Lord Milner, the Refugee Aid Committee, and the Present Help League, which was created by Rev. Kelly in Central Avenue, Burghersdorp (Fordsburg), were today merged under the auspices of Lord Milner and the Rand Aid Association was founded with Lord Milner as Honorary President."

Today, 115 years later, Rand Aid continues to do its good work, helping vulnerable elders and those battling substance abuse. It manages four retirement villages, two frail care centres, a treatment centre for people with substance abuse problems and a home for the deaf. Support services include Cookchill, the catering arm that prepares 35 500 meals a month; the stores; central workshops and the laundry.

All the complexes are situated in and around the Lyndhurst area, just outside of Johannesburg.

Ayanda Matthews, Rand Aid's GM Compliance & Social React Division, who also did the walk, says: "The cohesion, the camaraderie and the team spirit were unparalleled."

Many thanks to the sponsors, who helped ensure the success of Rand Aid's participation: Sovereign Construction, Dent Carpets, Hurlyvale Meats, TCC Interior Project, Master Chip Fruit & Veg and Bramley Mica.

Fun walk bridges Rand Aid villages

The residents from Rand Aid-run villages came out in their numbers to participate in the fun walk that was held on Friday, July 20. Almost 200 residents, staff and volunteers from Tarentaal, Inyoni Creek, Elphin Lodge, Thornhill and Thembalami enjoyed a 2km walk which started at Tarentaal and finished at Elphin Lodge.

The route meandered through Tarentaal village, up to the Inyoni Creek Clubhouse and then carried on along a lovely treed pathway which led to the re-erected bridge crossing over the Jukskei River. It finished at the Woodlands Lapa, inside the grounds of Elphin Lodge.

On arrival at the finish line, cool drinks and delicious snacks ranging from home-made cakes, biscuits, muffins, and cupcakes to assorted sandwiches and crisps were offered to the walkers, who had worked up a hearty appetite! Most of the eats were made and donated by Rand Aid residents.

The purpose of the fun walk was to introduce Rand Aid residents and staff to the joy of walking for health and well-being and to promote interaction, connection and a sense of community with other Rand Aid villages.

LEFT:

The walkers pose for a photo after finishing the course.





Anthony Schäffler, Amon Maluleke from Thembalami Care Centre; Elize Raath, the manager of Thembalami, Jemina Mkhize from FTFA; Darrel Moodley from Cummins; and Siphso Mathe from FTFA at the tree-planting day.

Fruit trees a plum donation for Thembalami and MODA!

A total of 200 fruit trees and vines were planted at Thembalami Care Centre on July 11 – thanks to Cummins Filtration and Food & Trees for Africa (FTFA).

The Lombardy East care centre provides a haven of hope for elders who are either financially or physically vulnerable. It also incorporates the Max Ordman Deaf Association (MODA).

Thembalami is blessed with large grounds and has an existing herb and vegetable garden, which is lovingly nurtured by Amon Maluleke, one of the founders of Bambanani Food and Herb Co-operative in the centre of Johannesburg, and a team of Rand Aid gardeners. Amon volunteered for many months at Thembalami and helped establish the centre's vegetable garden, before being offered a full-time post as grounds assistant in October 2017.

It was primarily thanks to Amon that Thembalami was chosen as one of Cummins' CSI beneficiaries. Emily Jones, Trees and Carbon Programme Manager at FTFA, says that Amon's involvement with Thembalami and passion for growing plants and growing people meant that Cummins could rest assured that a dedicated and experienced gardener would be on site for years to come.

"This convinced Cummins that its investment would be taken care of for the benefit of the community. In addition, Thembalami is a well-run centre that serves vulnerable community members," she says.

"The 80 Cummins volunteers worked really hard to ensure as many trees as possible were planted on the day, in soil that was well-mulched and composted. We are all very excited to visit Amon and Thembalami again and see the trees growing and bearing fruit."

Environmental awareness and stewardship are part of the DNA of Cummins, a global energy and power leader. Thus, tree planting and food gardening are some of Cummins' ongoing CSI programmes, and the company also supports a number of food gardens and small farms in the Alexandra area, which is a stone's throw away from Thembalami.

FTFA's relationship with Cummins has over the years resulted in a number of successful food gardening, tree planting and environment programmes at schools and community institutions. The emphasis is on staff volunteerism as well as long-term support for greater impact.

"We cannot say thank you enough," says Thembalami manager Elize Raath. "Not only did Cummins donate the trees, but its staff members gave of their time to personally plant these trees. Thank you for blessing our garden. We cannot wait for the trees to start blossoming and bearing fruit!"

107 extra pairs of hands make light work of planting

Over 100 Cubs of the North Rand District arrived at Rand Aid's Thembalami Care Centre on July 21 to dig in for Mandela Day.

The youngsters arrived at 8am, armed with gardening tools, the will to work and the desire to plant around 5 000 vegetable and herb seedlings. Accompanying them were parents and team leaders who were just as happy to get stuck in. These volunteers were joined by a handful of care centre residents who worked alongside the visitors, settling cauliflower, broccoli, beetroot, cabbage, spinach, lettuce, spring onion and celery plants, among others, into the well-prepared soil.

The seedlings donation was secured by Anthony Schäffler of Johannesburg-based Schäffler's Garden Nursery and Landscaping, and additional herbs were donated by the cubs.

Before they started planting, the youngsters were given a few tips by Anthony and Amon Maluleke, a food garden expert who is part of the Thembalami team.

The following cub groups were involved on the day: 1st Kengray, 1st Bedfordview, 1st Edenvale, 1st Hellenic, Eastleigh, Harmelia and 1st St Benidict's.

"The North Rand District can be proud of these youngsters. They were well behaved, disciplined and prepared to listen to the planting demonstrations," says Elize Raath, the manager of Thembalami.



Before they dug in, the Cubs were given a demonstration on the correct way to plant a seedling by plant expert Anthony Schäffler.

NEW VILLAGE COMMITTEES



Elphin Lodge's village committee members are, back row: Denise Friederichs, John Cowen, Joan Marshall (chairperson), Helen Petrie (Elphin Lodge complex manager), Keith Anderson and Barry Tedder. Front: Len Segal, Dr Des Sonnenfeld (deputy chairperson) Felicity Kanichowsky and Jean Johnson.



Inyoni Creek's village committee for the next two years is: Back: John Hooper, Mike Tudhope, Graham Brokenshire (chairman) and George Tokarczyk. Front: Steve Foster, Jenny Tonkin (complex manager), Peter Moore and Mike Edwards. Absent: Glenda Myers (deputy chairperson) and Helen Parkinson (past chairperson).



Thornhill Manor's committee for the period 2018-2020. From back, left to right – Evelyn Neuhaus (Thornhill Manor representative on RAA residents committee), Enid Dixon, Jaap Mol (deputy chairman), Alan Rae, Patrick Ayling (chairman & Thornhill Manor representative on RAA residents committee), Keith Perrow (treasurer). Front – Jenny Brownson, Luiza Tsakos and Robbie Wesbster. Not present – Sue Ryan.



The new Tarentaal village committee members are: Back - Mary-Ann Englebrecht, Karyn de Wet (deputy) and Bill Toseland (chairman). Front - Maureen Street, Jackie Murdoch (secretary), Sandra van der Linda and Helen Edwards (treasurer).

Helen awarded for 25 years' service

The manager of the Elphin Lodge Complex, Helen Petrie, was honoured for 25 years of dedication to Rand Aid Association at the NPO's long service awards on August 23.

Helen joined Rand Aid on 24 May 1993 as an accounts administration clerk at Elphin Lodge. In 2004 she became responsible for the sale of life rights units at Elphin Lodge and placements in the Ron Smith Care Centre. Three years later, in December 2006, she was appointed to the position of manager.

"Helen has numerous excellent qualities that makes her a most valued staff member and colleague. She is committed, dedicated, loyal and responsible. Moreover, she loves the residents of Elphin Lodge and will go out of her way to improve their well-being. Her heart is in the right place!" said Rand Aid CEO Rae Brown.

Despite her impressive service record, Helen is a 'newcomer' when compared to Frans Mpete, Rand Aid's longest serving employee, who has racked up 43 years of service.

At this year's awards, 32 staff members were recognised for a combined 305 years of service, ranging from five years to 10, 15, 20 and 25 years.

Awards for 20 years' service went to Shelly Joy and Adèl Grobbelaar. Shelly does reception and administration work at Tarentaal village. She left the banking environment to join Rand Aid's Elphin Lodge, initially as a craft and recreation assistant, and has filled various positions at a number of Rand Aid properties since then. Adèl started working at Rand Aid as a social worker but prior to this, she was an intern student in 1980. In 2005, she was promoted to manager of Wedge Gardens. She has seen many changes during her tenure and was instrumental in the research and implementation of Wedge Gardens' full circle treatment programme. Adèl was a board member of AA South Africa for four years and is currently the chairperson of the research portfolio for Sanca National.

Tammy Neilson, the Tarentaal manager; and Sr Mary Steeneveldt and Sr Dorcas Moalusi, both professional nurses at Ron Smith Care Centre, were recognised for 15 years of service.

Three people who found long-term accommodation at Wedge Gardens – Patrick Mahlelelele, Paul Swanepoel Roland Chapman – were also recognised for the contribution they have made to Rand Aid.

Patrick started off as a resident orderly 20 years ago. He then became the laundry attendant at Wedge Gardens and also did escort duties to hospitals. Paul, who has also been a resident for 20 years, is a plumber and builder who is always 'on duty and ready to assist residents and staff alike'. Roland was awarded for 15 years of service. He too started as a resident orderly, then was a kitchen supervisor before moving into the stores, where he is still today keeping an excellent watch on stock.



These employees received 15, 20 or 25-year service awards: Sr Dorcas Moalusi, Shelly Joy, Helen Petrie and Tammy Neilson, and in front: Sr Mary Steeneveldt and Adèl Grobbelaar.



PERFECT SPRING DAY FOR TARENTAAL FETE - Rand Aid staff happily ensured that visitors to Tarentaal village's annual fete could enjoy freshly braaied wors rolls. The well-supported fete was held on Spring Day, which dawned sunny and bright. Pictured are Anita Erasmus, Joyce Mabule, Bianca Richards and Pam Moodley. Manning the braai in the background is George Vermeulen.

WOMEN'S MONTH HAPPY HOUR CELEBRATION

Women's Month was joyously celebrated at Ron Smith Care Centre on 30 August at a Happy Hour event, with the theme of honouring inspirational women from the past and present. The hosts of the evening were the residents and staff who live and work on the Cedar Park wing of the care centre.



Wine, sherry, fruit punch and an assortment of delicious sweet and savoury snacks, including the cheese straws that the residents and staff had made earlier in the afternoon, were enjoyed by all and a fun quiz was held. Pictured is resident Josephine Kew.

Thornhill Manor holds Mandela Day shoe drive

Eleven-year-old Cassidy Scott might be young but she already understands the concept of ubuntu.

The pupil of Crawford school had become aware that unlike her, many people do not have shoes to keep their feet warm and protected. She approached her mom, Jackie Scott, the deputy manager of Thornhill Manor, with the idea of a collection being done among the residents of the retirement village.

"This was run past the Entertainment Committee and they fell in love with the idea. It was agreed that the shoe collection would be an ideal Mandela Day project," says Jackie.

A request was sent out to all 213 cottage residents to make donations of all kinds and sizes of shoes. The response was overwhelming and 214 pairs of shoes were collected.

These will be sorted and sent to Rand Aid's Thembalambi Care Centre, the Joseph Gerard Old Age Home and Creche and the Marikana Orphanage in Hillbrow.

"It was wonderful to see the villagers coming together to reach out to less fortunate members of the community," says Jackie. "We are now thinking of doing another collection, this time of school shoes to donate to the Nobel Primary School in Modderfontein. Well done to all who participated and opened their hearts and wallets to support and assist in this worthwhile cause."



Thornhill Manor receptionist Margaret Maluke, deputy manager Jackie Scott and Entertainment Committee chairperson Janet Colville with the donated shoes.



PARKRUN MILESTONE FOR NEIL - Inyoni Creek's Neil Munro completed his 50th parkrun on Spring Day, September 1. Considering the resident of the Rand Aid-run retirement village had both knees replaced in 2010, this is no mean feat. Neil did some running in high school but nothing much in between that and doing his first parkrun. Now, like millions of people across the globe, he is an avid parkrunner. Throughout the world, runners and walkers gather on a Saturday morning at a parkrun event to run or walk 5km. The event is highly social, easy-to-enter and caters for people of all levels of fitness. "I love that there are so many different venues," says Neil, who did his parkrun in Umfolozi, KwaZulu-Natal, on September 8. Internationally, around 1 300 parkruns happen each week. An Inyoni Creek resident for the past 11 years, Neil spends huge amounts of his time in the bush and is an avid photographer. He is known as the 'Quizmaster' in the village, for the fun and challenging quizzes he has helped host for fellow residents. Pictured with Neil is Modderfontein Reserve parkrun event director Wayne Morsink.



FANCY SOME JAMES OR JODI AND BARGAIN PRICES? - Book lovers, be sure to circle October 6 in your diary. That is when Thornhill Manor's Family Fun Day and Fête happens. Already, the retirement village's store-room is filling up with books that will be sold on the day. Hundreds will be on offer, across all genres and in good condition. Best of all, they will sell for between R5 and R20. Pictured are residents Audrey Blewitt and Erna Lloyd, who are happy to do what they can to help ensure the fun day's success. The annual event offers a diversity of stalls selling quality goods, wonderful eats, a refreshment and tea garden and entertainment for the little ones. The book stall, which groans under the weight of its many offerings, is a hit each year. "Burt and Ann Harrison have run the book stall for the past four years. They work extremely hard and sort, price and pack books on a weekly basis," says Jackie Scott, Thornhill Manor's deputy manager. For more information, or to book a stall, call Jackie or Esmé on 011 608 2480.



FOOD, FUN AND LOTS OF SHOPPING AT SUMMER FEST - Rose Barry (left) has painted a range of cute Santas which will be available for purchase at Inyoni Creek's Summer Fest on Saturday, November 3. The resident of the Rand Aid-run retirement village also paints greeting cards. She and other residents have put their creativity to work to ensure that visitors to the Summer Fest are offered unique, hand-made pieces rather than mass-produced items. Apart from the usual fete offerings of a white elephant stall, cake stall and food and drink stations, there will be a fun walk for people of all ages – wheelchairs and prams will be happily accommodated; a potjie competition and games for children. Pictured with Rose is fellow resident Merle Matthews, who has played an integral part in the day's success. Inyoni Creek is run by Rand Aid Association and is situated just off the N3 near Johannesburg, on the corner of Modderfontein and Wordsworth roads. Call Marinda Looyen on 011 430 2014 for further information.



TARENATAAL VILLAGE KNOWS THE DRILL WHEN IT COMES TO FIRE SAFETY

Fire ready ... Rand Aid-run Tarentaal retirement village's fire committee did training on 19 June with Kris Snyman and Tio Pitschmann from Dumela Diamond Fire Services so that, in the unlikely event of a fire, they are well prepared. Pictured is the head of the committee, Karen Fitzwilliam, being put through her paces.

Twiddle Muffs soothe and warm restless hands

While they may look a bit like knitted leg warmers, Twiddle Muffs provide visual, tactile and sensory stimulation for people living with dementia.

Often people with dementia have restless hands and Twiddle Muffs, which are knitted tubes with various accessories attached to them, help soothe and comfort those who are anxious or agitated.

Edenvale resident Helen Tuininga kindly knitted and donated 50 Twiddle Muffs to Rand Aid's Ron Smith Care Centre. In a letter accompanying the donation, Helen explained that in memory of her 81-year-old mom, Peggy Waldron, the donation of Twiddle Muffs is a small gesture to say thank you to Rand Aid and all care staff who make a difference in the lives of the elderly.

She said that the Twiddle Muffs were made especially for residents living with dementia and Alzheimer's disease and commented that "in some research, it is alleged that Twiddle Muffs help relieve anxiety when fiddled with and they are good hand warmers as well!"

The care centre's staff and volunteers recently handed out the Twiddle Muffs to the residents on River Lodge 3, the special wing for residents living with dementia, and they were received with delight.



Barbara Wapnick is pleased with the Twiddle Muff she chose.



Thornhill Manor resident Amanda Brown with former Thornhill neighbour Tony Surtees. Tony relocated to Thembalami over a year ago.

Thembalami shows off to other Rand Aid residents

Nearly three years ago, Winifred Algar had a heavy heart when she had to leave her husband Rowland at the Thembalami Care Centre in Lombardy East. Rowland had Alzheimer's and Winifred was no longer able to care for him on her own. She says she spent much time with him and eventually grew to accept what she could not change.

She found great comfort, however, in seeing the work being done to transform the Rand Aid care centre into an inviting and nurturing home for its residents.

Winifred saw first-hand the big changes that have been made to both the building, the décor and the grounds over the past years. "Our deepest appreciation and sincere congratulations," she said at a high tea held on Friday, August 3, to showcase the new-look centre to the staff and residents of other Rand Aid properties.

The 115-year-old NPO runs a number of retirement villages for older persons as well as a second care centre, all situated in and around Edenvale.

Around 60 residents from Rand Aid's Tarentaal, Elphin Lodge, Thornhill Manor and Inyoni Creek attended the tea to see for themselves the structural and aesthetic changes made.

"I stand here today with gratitude in my heart for the hard work and careful thought that has gone into bringing about this remarkable transformation," said Winifred.

"A pleasant environment has been created – both inside and out – for those who find themselves no longer able to attend to their daily needs.

"Management has an open-door policy and I have found the Thembalami team to be extremely approachable and obliging. They will go the extra mile to accommodate a request or attend to a problem.

"This morning, with pride, we are showing off our 'new' Thembalami," she said.

After refreshments and the handing out of donated goodie bags, visitors were taken on a tour through Thembalami. "The feedback was positive. Our visitors could not believe the transformation," says Elize Raath, the manager of Thembalami Care Centre, which incorporates the Max Ordman Home for the Deaf.



THE ART OF NURTURING TALENT AND FRIENDS - For 17 years, the Elphin Lodge Art Group has been creating a space for like-minded people to enjoy some 'me time'. To read the full story, go to the Rand Aid website - www.randaid.co.za, click on 'Latest News' and then click on the Elphin Lodge tab on the right-hand side. You will also find a host of other interesting articles on Rand Aid and its residents by clicking on the 'Latest News' button. Pictured are some of the current members of the Elphin Lodge Art Group with original members Olive Jew, Cecily Zetzer and Ruth Greek. From left to right: Daphne Martin, Barry Tedder, Olive, Cecily, John Cowen, June Branthwaite, Isobel Kohll, Ruth, Denise Friedrichs and Sandra Diment.



JUBILATION AS INYONI CREEK GETS BUS - All aboard! After many years of fundraising, Rand Aid's Inyoni Creek retirement village has acquired a village bus to take residents on shopping excursions and other outings. The Village Liaison Fund was able to raise 50% of the cost, and the balance was paid by Rand Aid Association.

RAND AID REACHES OUT TO JORDAN HOUSE - On August 21, Ron Smith Care Centre delivered hand-knitted blankets, clothes, grocery items, crockery, shoes and other treats to the residents of Jordan House Old Age Home. The blankets were the result of the centre's Mandela Day knit-a-thon organised by Rand Aid's Ron Smith Care Centre Activities Team for Mandela Day. The caring team from Rand Aid also brought along eats and shared these at tea with the 80 residents. Pictured are some of the Rand Aid care team with the director of Jordan House, Pearlene Meadows, (second from right) and some of the residents. Rand Aid's Inyoni Creek complex also held a Mandela Day knit-a-thon.



Our mission: To provide the best possible care on an holistic basis to all people accommodated in our facilities — focusing primarily on less advantaged senior citizens, both ambulant and frail, as well as men suffering from substance abuse. Visit www.randaid.co.za or phone Erica Woodward at 011 882 2510.

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assist. alleviate. accompany.