

# Rand Aid • RAND AID review

Tel: 011 882 2510 SEPT 2016 Fax: 011 882 4670 Email: info@randaid.co.za

## A Pat on the back



Rand Aid Association Honorary Life President Patrick Abrahams in front of a photograph of Elphin Manor. After serving on the NPO's board as both member and chairman for a whopping 28 years, Patrick is relocating to England.

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### ANNUAL GOLF DAY

Rand Aid's annual golf day takes place on Friday, October 28, at the Modderfontein Golf Club.

Contact Carol Steyn at 011 882 2510 to book a fourball or enquire about becoming an anchor sponsor, co-sponsor or sponsoring a hole or prizes.



#### LONG-SERVING EMPLOYEES OF RAND AID ASSOCIATION:

Back: Mercia Sekgarametso (35 years), Ayanda Matthews (25 years) and Frans Mpete (the longest serving employee with 41 years). Front: Esme Erasmus (25 years), Jubilee Boikanyo (40 years) and Stella Dibotelo (25 years). Not in the photo is Eunice Lakay, who has a 39-year service record.

■ READ ABOUT THE LONG SERVICE AWARDS ON PAGE 8



#### 402 YEARS BETWEEN THEM:

Kira Plessis (101), Betty Haughton (100), Minnie Sterling (100) and 101-year-old Grace Snook (standing). Rand Aid recently held a tea party to honour these four centenarians.

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**Rand Aid  
celebrates  
residents' lives**



## Rand Aid celebrates residents' lives

**T**wo lives were toasted at Rand Aid's Ron Smith Care Centre when residents Lynn Kingston and Frank Lucas were ceremoniously handed mini biographies.

Friday, August 26, saw a long-time dream of the care centre's liaison officer Phyllis Phillips come to fruition, when the first two 'My Story' booklets were handed over to Lynn and Frank in the presence of family, friends and loved ones.

The idea was gleaned by Phyllis on a trip to Australia. It involves a friend, volunteer or loved one spending quality time with a resident taking trips down memory lane and capturing his or her story.

A booklet is then produced, complete with photos across the ages.

"This is a therapeutic, meaningful project," said Phyllis. "Rand Aid is amazing," she said, in thanking the NPO for supporting the initiative. "Through the people-centred Eden Alternative programme, Rand Aid acknowledges the importance of its residents as individuals – who they are and what they are is as important as the care they receive; we are not just here to look after our residents."

Lynn's story was captured by Elphin Lodge resident Jean Johnson, while Frank's was

documented by his wife Pat – who lives at Elphin Lodge – and his daughter Jill Middleton.

"This is a wonderful honour to bestow on my Dad," said Jill at the hand-over tea, adding that the book will be handed down the generations. Frank has achieved much in his lifetime, including being Mayor of Bedfordview, but his greatest success is the wonderful, close-knit family he heads. All four of his children, a number of his grandchildren and even a great grand-daughter were present on the morning.

Lynn was deprived of oxygen at birth and has lived with cerebral palsy. Despite her challenges, she contributed positively to society, working for 46 years as switch-board operator at her alma mater, Forest Town; and helping to raise Lucky Dinake, who today is a PR councillor for the DA in Bedfordview.

"You might see a little person sitting in a wheelchair," said author Jean, "but she is phenomenal. A real dynamo."

"Lynn was and is a mother to me – she was my best friend, substitute mother and partner in crime in our incredibly alternative family. She endured so much difficulty with so much grace and inspired me to be the man I am today," said Lucky.



**ABOVE, LEFT TO RIGHT:**

Back: Author Jean Johnson; and Ron Smith Care Centre liaison officer Phyllis Phillips, who drove the 'My Story' initiative. Front: Lynn Kingston and Lucky Dinake.

Pat and Frank Lucas with daughter Jill and great grand-daughter Amelia.

## Rand Aid celebrates its centenarians

Four hundred and two. That is the combined age of four Rand Aid Association residents who attended a tea party in their honour on June 9, 2016.

The oldest is 101-year-old Kira Plessis, a resident of Thembalami Care Centre who was born on March 29, 1915 – smack bang in the middle of the First World War, in an age long before cellphones, computers, the internet or even the microwave oven and sliced bread.

Just two months younger than Kira is Grace Snook, who still lives independently at Tarentaal retirement village. She is well known for her spunk and amazing sense of humour. Grace was born on May 18, 1915.

Third oldest is Minnie Sterling, a resident of Elphin Lodge who was born on January 25, 1916; and the baby of the group is Betty Haughton, a Ron Smith Care Centre resident who joined the centenarian club on April 19, 2016.

Rand Aid CEO Rae Brown said at the tea party that he was tempted to call the four 'grand ladies' but given that a grand is one thousand, they were only 10% on their way to earning that title.

"You have lived through the most dramatic times," he said.

One hundred years ago, the world literacy rate was only 23%, women were not allowed to vote, the average life expectancy for men was around 48 years, movie theatre tickets were only £1 and Johannesburg was but 30 years old.

The women all have remarkable tales to tell. Minnie did yoga regularly until the age of 95 and she firmly believes that the benefits of yoga have contributed to her longevity. Grace was among the first residents of Tarentaal nearly 30 years ago and was a keen sports-woman. Today, she loves nothing more than watching sport on TV. A keen bowls and bridge player in her younger days, Betty now attends occupational therapy at the care centre, enjoying a range of arts and crafts that keep her mind and fingers nimble. Born in Russia, Kira spent much of her young adult years travelling Europe and has fascinating adventures to relate.

### CELIA WALKS THE TALK:

She is only two years shy of 80, but Celia Fish was among the 50 000+ walkers who did the 702 Walk the Talk 15km event on Sunday, July 24, 2016. A resident of Rand Aid Association's Tarentaal retirement village, Celia and the other participants donned their walking shoes to highlight a variety of worthy causes, beliefs and charities in the spirit of Lead SA under the theme – 'What are you walking for'. She completed the event in under three hours.



# Active Ann to take a backseat

**A**fter nearly a decade of actively serving on various Rand Aid Association committees, Thornhill Manor resident Ann Raats (82) is taking a backseat in the affairs of the village.

"We moved into Thornhill Manor in May 2003 and soon realised it was one of the wisest moves we ever made. Carefree living in beautiful surroundings, caring neighbours - soon to become valued friends, a 'lock-up-and-go' lifestyle and Rand Aid Association, with over 100 years' experience, to look after our interests," says Ann.

In late 2007, she was invited to join the village committee. "Little did I realise that the changes Rand Aid would instigate would make this one of the most fascinating and rewarding experiences of my life."

Ann's realisation of the importance of playing an active community role was strengthened years ago, when she and husband Arnold served as Bedfordview's Mayor and Mayoress. They both also played an active role on various church committees.

"We need to give back to our country – and the people of our country – for some of the benefits that we have enjoyed," says Ann on the importance of being involved in public and charity work. "But more than that," she adds, "it is interesting to see what a difference a little bit of involvement can make."

The highlight of the former book-keeper's life was playing a pivotal part in the building of St Margaret's Anglican Church in Bedfordview in the mid-70s, 'from ground level, with a mere R7 500'.

Ann thus had a wealth of experience to share when she first joined Thornhill Manor's village committee.

"It became apparent that a strong Constitution was required and Rand Aid established this, with the approval of village committees and residents of their villages in May 2010.

"This gave each village representation on Rand Aid's Board of Management as well as on the Board of Trustees of the RA Welfare Development Trust. The exposure brought understanding of the importance of Thembalami and Wedge Gardens [a subsidised care centre for vulnerable senior citizens and a substance abuse treatment facility, both run by Rand Aid].

"This wise decision has led to a strong partnership between Rand Aid and its villages. Village representatives motivated many of the changes residents today enjoy after frank discussions with Rand Aid's management on new ideas, requirements or needs."

With specific regard to Thornhill Manor, Ann says this partnership has enabled the village committee, in conjunction with Rand Aid, to successfully complete a number of major projects, including the establishment in July 2011 of a Levy Stabilisation Fund, extensions to the community centre hall, pub, library and offices, the installation of individual electrical meters in the cottages, and the purchasing of a new village bus. Many of the major projects were jointly funded by Rand Aid and through funds raised by the village.

With no Rand Aid committee work to undertake since the end of May 2016, you would think Ann would now have



**Ann Raats has served Thornhill Manor with dedication for nearly a decade.**

time to spare, but already her days are full. With a large family, many friends, a keen interest in the bush, conservation, history and gardening, her life continues to be a whirl of activity.

"My heartfelt thanks go to our residents for voting for me over the years, bringing about my direct involvement with Rand Aid's executive committee. I was also invited to the Board of Management of Rand Aid Association and also the Board of Trustees of the RA Welfare Development Trust, in addition to serving on the Thornhill Manor village committee. My involvement with all aspects of Rand Aid broadened my realisation of how much they do, without personal gain, in caring for the elderly and those with substance abuse problems."

## Lace-makers add a touch of whimsy to Thornhill Manor fete



Dynamite Lace will display their exquisite work at Thornhill Manor's annual Family Fun Day and Fete on Saturday, October 1. The ladies gather at the retirement village's community centre on three Saturdays of each month to hone their craft. Although their items will not be on sale at the fete, members of the club hope to create awareness of this delightful hobby. Dynamite Lace is open to everyone, not just Rand Aid residents, and beginners are most welcome. The fete will have plenty to keep visitors of all ages busy, with stalls offering unique items rather than mass imported goods; food stalls; and a beer and tea garden. It will run from 9am to 1pm, although the lace ladies will pack away their goods at noon. Pictured is Maggie Rajah – who says lace making has eased her arthritic hands, Thornhill Manor resident Penny Perrow and Lorraine Blount (standing). \* Thornhill Manor is situated at 158 Westlake Drive, Lakeside, Johannesburg Road in Modderfontein. For information, call Esme or Jackie at 011 608 2480. If you wish to join Dynamite Lace, contact Hilary at 083 273 8075.



# Wedge Gardens leaves indelible impression on OT

**R**and Aid's Wedge Gardens Treatment Centre has said a sad farewell to its occupational therapist, Zainab Badat, who is moving to New Zealand.

As a special farewell, Zainab organised a ladies tea for the Wedge staff as part of the Wedge café initiative she implemented to expose residents of the substance abuse rehabilitation centre to a host of practical skills.

The café is one of the many projects offered at Wedge Gardens to ensure holistic rehabilitation, which includes preparation for entry or re-entry into the job market.

The Wedge team in turn hosted a breakfast for Zainab to wish her well as she starts the next chapter of her life. Her last day at Wedge Gardens was on August 19.

"I will always have very fond memories of my time here," said Zainab in a letter of farewell. "This experience has equipped me with such valuable tools and skills that I will take with me wherever I go. You have contributed to my knowledge and passion in the intimidating field of substance abuse. I have a newfound empathy and compassion for people with substance abuse problems, as well as greater confidence in my own ability to add value to their lives."

"You are all such extraordinary individuals and I wish each of you every success in future."

For more information, contact the Wedge Gardens Treatment Centre on 011 430 0320 / 071 690 4942 or visit Wedge



**Wedge Gardens' former occupational therapist Zainab Badat (front right) with the Wedge Gardens team. Seated in front is Wedge Gardens Manager Adél Grobbelaar.**

Gardens on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/WedgeGardensTreatmentCentre](http://www.facebook.com/WedgeGardensTreatmentCentre) or follow them on Twitter @WedgeGardens.

## Treatment centre gives back on Mandela Day

A group of patients from Rand Aid's Wedge Gardens Treatment Centre, accompanied by former occupational therapist Zainab Badat, took to the streets of Alexandra on Monday, July 18, to donate their time and services to the desperate community.

On their arrival, the group received a warm welcome from Linda Twala, a well-known philanthropist who has been dubbed 'the son of Alexandra' due to his countless years of service and dedication to restore the wellbeing of the community members.

After giving the visitors an exclusive tour of Alexandra, which included a visit to Nelson Mandela's original home settlement, Linda escorted the group to the Phutaditjaba community centre for the aged. "He introduced us to the various services that are running at the centre, which include a crèche, youth development programmes and various feeding schemes. Thereafter, the Wedge residents distributed soup (prepared at Wedge Gardens) and bread to hundreds of women and children at the community centre, warming the hearts of all those involved. We also had an opportunity to enjoy the festivities with live music, singing and dancing," says Zainab.

The patients of Wedge Gardens thoroughly enjoyed the experience which they described as inspiring, motivating and humbling. Linda's accomplishments and selfless attitude prompted each patient to reflect on the legacy that he would like to leave behind.

### FEEDBACK FROM PATIENTS WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT:

"I had the privilege to give back to the less fortunate which is an area of my life I have not previously explored but have an increasing desire to do so now."

"My legacy should be one of good faith, strong will and friendship."

"The experience reminded me that giving is a lot more satisfying than receiving. You can make a big difference in the smallest of ways."



### WEDGE GARDENS GETS GOING WITH SPORTS DAY:

Fourth year Wits OT students Amy Grose and Victoria Johnstone organised and hosted a sports day for the in-patients at Rand Aid's Wedge Gardens treatment centre on Thursday, June 9, 2016. The event formed part of the students' university requirements, with the aim of promoting health and wellness whilst facilitating cohesion and a sense of group belonging. The Wedge residents divided themselves into teams and rotated between four activity stations, including soccer, volleyball, 30 Seconds and 'The Amazing Race'. It was a highly-anticipated event and the residents played an active role in the planning and preparation. "They made posters to advertise the sports day, as well as refreshments, which included popcorn, cupcakes and marshmallow sticks," says Wedge Gardens' former occupational therapist Zainab Badat, who oversees the Wits students.



## Mandela legacy strongly rooted at Thembalami

**T**hembalami Care Centre was richly blessed this Mandela Day. A small fleet of vehicles carrying around 30 Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo workers drove into the gates of the Rand Aid-run care centre on July 18 and within hours, the extensive yard had been transformed.

And while City Parks was busy in the grounds, a small contingent of people from the Arwyp Group spread a little magic inside the care centre, donating curtains, offering to do maintenance and handing out cupcakes to everyone.

The care centre, which now incorporates the Max Ordman Deaf Association, looks after elderly people in need of nursing care, and extends an outreach service to a number of residents from nearby Alexandra through its Zamokuhle programme.

City Parks removed dead trees, planted new trees, pruned plants and trees, prepared a vast vegetable garden, raked the grounds to clear them of garden debris, painted gates and tackled some interior painting as well.

The work began a few days before Mandela Day, when some workers arrived to do ground work for the big day, and culminated in the ceremonial planting of a Wild Olive (*Olea Africana*) tree.

Complex Manager Elize Raath and Rand Aid's GM Compliance & Social React Division Ayanda Matthews walked around the grounds with wonder in their eyes. "I am overwhelmed by the scale of City Parks' Mandela Day gesture and all that has been achieved," said Elize.



Jerome Ogle, Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo's Region A Manager, Thembalami Care Centre Complex Manager Elize Raath, and Siya Zuma, City Parks senior horticulturist plant an *Olea Africana*.



Keith Campbell and Neville Harvey put their heads together at the Inyoni Creek Quiz Evening held on Wednesday, August 24. With tables of friends and neighbours working together on the answers, bring-and-share table snacks, a cash bar and a most professional quiz master in the form of Neil Munro, the event is a highlight on the Rand Aid retirement village's social calendar.



A friendly welcome from security officer Michael Hadebe awaits visitors to Thembalami Care Centre.

## WARMER WELCOME FOR THEMBALAMI VISITORS

At Thembalami Care Centre, the welcome is not on the mat, it is at the gate.

The Rand Aid Association complex that looks after financially and physically vulnerable senior citizens and houses the Max Ordman Deaf Association is sporting a spiffy new entrance, complete with guard house and a landscaped garden, all of which make visitors to the centre feel that much more welcome.

The landscaping was done by Schäffler's Garden Nursery and Landscaping. "Indigenous, water-wise plants were used to create a welcoming space that is not only eye-catching but also easy to maintain," says owner Anthony Schäffler. Schäffler's donated its labour free of charge to the NPO.



**NEW BUS FOR TARENATAAL:** Samson Moagi of Rand Aid's Tarentaal Village stands proudly beside the new bus that was purchased with money raised by the village, and supplemented by Rand Aid. Samson drives residents to government hospitals and clinics for check-ups and to collect their medicines, and on scheduled excursions to shopping centres.





## HORSING AROUND FOR DURBAN JULY:

Ron Smith Care Centre joined in the action of Africa's biggest horseracing event. On Friday, July 1, 2016, the day before the Durban July, some of the staff, residents and volunteers dressed up and had fun parading around in their fancy hats and Durban July finery, much to the delight of all the residents. They seemed to enjoy the spectacle and many residents remembered their previous experiences with horse racing and all that goes along with it. "We had the fashion, we just needed the horses, champagne and oysters to complete the day!" remarked one spectator. Pictured is volunteer Shirley Blieden ablaze in orange.



Conversation across the generations: Elaine van Heerden, Sanelisiwe Ngobese, Zandi Zwane and Kaycee Joubert.

## Spa Day bridges generation gap

**T**he Occupational Therapy (OT) Activity Centre at Rand Aid's Ron Smith Care Centre was transformed into a Spa on Monday, August 8, 2016, in preparation for a wonderful day of pampering and relaxation for residents and staff.

Held in celebration of Women's Day, the event organisers ensured that special attention was given to the residents of River Lodge 3, the wing for those living with dementia.

Fourteen grade 11 students from Edenglen High School, along with their teacher Debbie Cloud, joined OT staff and volunteers in offering their services as 'Spa Beauty Therapists' for the day.

Aside from all the visiting, laughter and chatting that took place, the students took part in a chair exercise session for the residents and then served tea and some delicious muffins which they brought along with them. Then it was on to the pampering session, where both male and female residents were treated to their choice of beauty/relaxation treatments, including hand and foot massages, manicures, pedicures and/or make up sessions.

The students donated some sponsored nail care and beauty products, which added to the choices on offer.

The residents thoroughly enjoyed their day and especially loved the interaction and loving care given out by the younger generation. Residents Lorraine Lowden and Colleen Daly said, "This day has been so much fun!" and Janet Smart couldn't stop admiring her nails, which student Saiyuri Tshworlal had just finished painting.

"My nails match my outfit!" she exclaimed. Student Keagan Roos said that he enjoys working with people and making a difference in their lives, and he was happy to have met the care centre residents who are so special, he added.

After lunch, it was the care centre staff's turn to be pampered, and they so appreciated being told: "Sit back, relax and enjoy. You work very hard and we are here to give you a treat!"

Debbie Christen, Rand Aid's Manager Recreational Programmes, remarked: "The way we celebrated this Women's Day blossomed into a special day for all. Men and women, young and old, residents, staff and students all had the opportunity to be enriched. In giving care to one another, each one received in return. It was a beautiful, fun day filled with the blessing of connecting with others and creating magical moments."

### THORNHILL CONTINUES ARBOR DAY TRADITION:

As is the case each year on Arbor Day, Thornhill Manor planted a tree donated by Servest on September 1. Pictured from left to right are Arthur Mlangeni (Thornhill Manor driver and grounds man), Andrew Montshwo (Servest Village Manager), Esme Erasmus (Thornhill Manor Complex Manager), Johannes Mosoma (Thornhill Manor Grounds man) and Jeffrey Bodirwa (Servest Village Supervisor). In the background on the right is Lynn Peters of the Chapel committee who said a prayer and blessed the yellowwood tree that was planted. After the ceremony, tea and eats were served in the community centre.





## NEW COMMITTEES IN PLACE



Thornhill Manor retirement village has elected its new residents' committee for 2016/2018. Committee members are, back from left to right: Keith Perrow (Treasurer), Brian Burls (Deputy Chairman), Dave Webster (Chairman) and Martin Damstra. Front: Evelyn Neuhaus, Penny Perrow, Luiza Tsakos, Milena Palmer (Secretary) and Enid Dixon. The committee is already in full swing arranging the village fete to take place on October 1.



Inyoni Creek retirement village recently elected its Village Committee. Back: John Hooper, Mike Tudhope, Jenny Tonkin (Complex Manager), Roger Matthews and Graham Brokenshire (Vice Chairperson). Seated: Peter Moore, Glenda Myers, Helen Parkinson (Chairperson) and Steve Foster. Peter and Graham were chosen to represent Inyoni Creek on the Rand Aid Association Residents Committee.



Elphin Lodge retirement village has a new Residents' Committee. The newly elected team will serve residents' needs for the next two years. Pictured are (back) Len Segal, John Cowen, Helen Petrie (Elphin Lodge Complex Manager), Keith Anderson and Maurice Creswick. Front: Des Sonnenfeld (Vice Chairperson), Jean Johnson (Chairperson) and Barbara Thompson. Absent: Joan Marshall (Secretary).



Tarentaal retirement village has elected its new Residents Committee, to serve for the next two years. They are, back: Maryna van Zyl (Chairperson), Tammy Neilson (Tarentaal Complex Manager) and Raymond Berson (Treasurer). Seated: Jackie Murdoch (Secretary) and Cecille Tamine (Deputy Chairperson). Absent from the photo is Irene De Kock.

■ The committees are wished a productive, successful and happy two years in office.



## ELPHIN LODGE HAS MANDELA DAY ALL KNITTED UP

Rand Aid's Elphin Lodge Complex held a Crochet/Knit-a-ton for Mandela Day on Monday, July 18. Staff members, residents from Elphin Lodge village and elders from the Ron Smith Care Centre enthusiastically participated, seeing who could complete the most knitting or crocheting in the allotted 67 minutes. The completed squares will be joined to make blankets which will be donated to the less fortunate. Pictured is Shirley McTaggart hard at work. Greer James was the knitting queen, having completed 102 rows. In second place was Vera Lenthall and third was Jean Johnson. The fastest with a crochet needle was Aletha de Klerk, who managed three squares. Irma Lederman (two squares) was second and Rae Hurwitz (one-and-a-half squares) was third.



# Nearly three decades of service to RAA

When businessman Patrick Abrahams was asked by a colleague to make himself available as a board member of non-profit organisation Rand Aid Association (RAA), he had little idea that he was about to embark on a 28-year journey.

Then a man of 44, Patrick knew little about Rand Aid. Soon, however, he was immersed in helping the organisation deliver on its mission of caring for vulnerable senior citizens.

"I have seen Rand Aid evolve from an organisation that was basically insolvent, into the enormous, well-run entity that it is today," says Patrick.

Founded in 1903, Rand Aid now manages four retirement villages, two frail care centres, a treatment centre for people with substance abuse problems and a home for the deaf.

Rand Aid has a strong welfare focus and provides subsidised accommodation, care or treatment to over 500 people on a daily basis at its Thembalambi Care Centre, Tarentaal Village and

Wedge Gardens Treatment Centre.

Support services include Cookchill, the catering arm that prepares 35 500 meals a month; the stores; central workshops; and the laundry.

"I am proud of the small part I played in this phenomenal journey," says Patrick, adding that all the milestones the organisation has reached is thanks to its strong board and management team, as well as its partnerships with its residents.

After joining the Rand Aid board of management in 1988, Patrick was made honorary life president in 2011, at the NPO's 106th annual general meeting. He was chairman of the board for 13 years, from December 1998 until July 2011, when he handed over the reins to John Robinson.

On Wednesday, August 24, Patrick attended his last RAA board meeting and enjoyed a farewell with his peers afterwards. On September 7, he and his wife will leave to start a new chapter of their life in England, which is now home to the Abrahams' daughter and her family.

He says he considers his greatest contribution to RAA the 'capturing from SARS' of current CEO Rae Brown. "Rae has done a remarkable job. Without his input and huge ability, much of what has been achieved would not have happened.

"I have gained much gratification and satisfaction from being able to assist people who through no fault of their own are in a less fortunate position. It has been a wonderful experience. There has been lots of stress and many worrying times, but also a great many happy times. I do not regret a minute of it."

Unfortunately, says Patrick, the culture of active citizenship is not as strong as it once was. "People want to be rewarded for their time and effort," he says.

The Bryanston resident has been involved in the financial arena all of his life, from commercial banking to discount houses, merchant banking, private equity and finally as director of Brait Merchant Bank. Born in Kimberley, Patrick was raised in Zimbabwe and settled in Johannesburg in 1979.

## RAND AID REWARDS LONG-SERVING EMPLOYEES

Rand Aid Association inspires loyalty. This is evident each year when the NPO holds its long service awards, and the service record of its staff complement is toasted.

On August 25, 25 employees were honoured when Chairman of the Rand Aid Board John Robinson presented them service badges and other tokens of appreciation.

"The long service awards are the highlight of my year," said CEO Rae Brown. "I am so proud of the staff and what they give to our residents."

The people who received awards this year have a combined 250 years of service, while another four members of the Wedge Gardens personnel with a combined service of 65 years were also honoured.

"Since we started the long service awards, we have recognised 9 520 years of service, including that of 73 staff members who have given us over 20 years each, and eight Wedge personnel with over 20 years each," said Rae.

Jubilee Boikanyo received an award for a staggering 40 years of service. The only staff member there longer than her is Frans Mpete with 41 years, who received his long service award last year.

A supervisor in the Rand Aid central laundry, Jubilee joined Rand Aid in 1976. "It has been a joy to have Jubilee in our midst; she is a pleasure to work with. Jubilee is a loyal, hard worker who gets along well with everybody," said Rae.

A 35-year award went to Tarentaal Village enrolled nurse Mercia Sekgarametso, who Rae said is 'loved by the residents and, of course, the rest of the staff'.

Twenty-five-year service awards went to Ayanda Matthews: GM Compliance & Social React Division, who is known for calling a 'spade a spade' and is a 'real asset to the Rand Aid management team'; Esme Erasmus, the Thornhill Manor Manager, a 'people's person' who, according to Rae, has



Part of Wedge Gardens' personnel, Blaise September has given Rand Aid Association a solid 20 years of service. Presenting his award is Chairman of the Rand Aid Board John Robinson.

proven her dedication to Rand Aid over the years; and Stella Dibotelo, a member of the housekeeping staff at Elphin Lodge whose work ethic and friendly demeanour earn her many a compliment.

Gwen Coutinho, Joyce Mabule, Laurentia Jooste, Salaminah Mooi, Tanya Switala and Vivian Maphoso were all given 15-year service awards. In addition, six people were recognised for 10 years of service and 16 for five years.

Four members of the Wedge Gardens team were also honoured: Blaise September (20 years), and Vernon Eekhout, Wimpie Rautenbach and Willie Van Dijk (15 years).