

Ron Smith Care Centre

@ Elphin Lodge



SEPT 2021 No.71

Marie (99) beats Covid – twice!

Ron Smith Care Centre (RSCC) resident Marie Roberts celebrated her 99th birthday on 27 August.

Aunty Marie, as she is fondly called at RSCC, contracted Covid-19 in both the first and third waves, and is renowned at the care centre as 'a very strong lady who sailed through her second infection'.

Marie contracted the virus prior to being vaccinated, but has since received her first vaccination and will have her second shot in September.

"She didn't have many symptoms during her second infection," says Leanie Bessinger, charge professional nurse at RSCC.

"Her love of music carried her through, the first and second time. She had her small radio with her and entertained us in the isolation unit with her music every day. Aunty Marie has a very positive outlook on life and a very sharp sense of humour, which both helped her through her Covid-19 experience," she adds.

Marie was born in 1922, in the one-horse town of De Putten near Zeerust.

"My father was a school teacher who came to South Africa from Scotland. I grew up with six sisters and two brothers, and attended a farm school for the first 10 years of my life – which is where I learnt to speak Tswana. We used to go to school on a donkey cart," says Marie.

"During the depression in 1932, we moved to Johan-

nesburg where I attended Commercial High School. My first job was working for Roistone Motors," she adds.

Marie met her husband Lawrence at the local roller rink in Malvern.

"When he came swooping up behind me and whisked me around the rink a few times, I was smitten. We married shortly afterwards, when I was 19, and were married for almost 72 wonderful years.

"He died in November 2013, and I still miss him very much," she says.

Marie and Lawrence had two sons, William and John, seven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

"I am most proud of the fact that after retiring as a company secretary for an oil company, for which I worked for 25 years, I raised a second family – including my two young grandchildren who lived with us for 15 years. I am so proud of how they turned out," says Marie.

"Lawrence and I shared a love of music. I used to play classical and jazz on our baby grand piano, and he used to play the drums in a band. I can sit and listen to music for hours," she adds.

While her favourite colours are blue and pink, Marie still loves dark red roses. And, she loves her puddings – especially bread, sago and fruit salad!

"My faith is very important to me. I have been very blessed to be part of a big, loving family and to have always had sisters to be my friends," she says.



Dedicated employees celebrated

Laurentia Jooste and Vivian Maphosa from Ron Smith were recently congratulated on their 20 years' loyal service to the care centre and its residents.

Laurentia, who was born in Port Elizabeth, started her nursing career in 1979. She has worked in many fields, throughout the country, but always returned to geriatric care. Her passion is working for the elderly.

Laurentia works on RSCC River Lodge 3 wing, which is home to RAA's residents living with advanced dementia. "The residents are my family," she says.

Vivian, who started working at RAA as a cottage domestic, remembers cleaning paint off the windows of the new head office building when RAA moved from Bramley. She was promoted to kitchen supervisor, employed by Stafflink for three years, and then employed directly by RAA in 2000.

"I like my job. I enjoy the challenge of resolving food service issues and making an unhappy resident smile again. My happy place is when the residents are happy and have good comments about the food," she says.



CELEBRATING A COLLECTIVE 361 YEARS

RON SMITH CARE CENTRE RECENTLY CELEBRATED
ITS RESIDENTS' MILESTONE BIRTHDAYS.

HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY GLADYS!



Lakeside resident Gladys Rosenberg turned 95 on 4 August.

Gladys spent the day with her daughter Joyce and granddaughter Lara. "My mom celebrated her 60th anniversary when my dad died. They had a wonderful marriage. I have two brothers living in Canada, and my mom has 22 great grandchildren. "What a wonderful mom and granny she is! She is a true inspiration to our family," says Joyce.

YVONNE TURNS 91

Yvonne Yardley received lovely surprise flowers from her daughter for 91st birthday on 3 August, and enjoyed spending time with her family who came to visit.

Yvonne, who was a resident of Inyoni Creek for 13 years and one of the first residents to move into the village, has been living at RSCC for the past nine months.

Many former Jeppe High School for Boys pupils will remember Yvonne, who was a secretary at the school for an impressive 23 years.

She was married to Donald Yardley for 65 years and the couple had four children – three daughters and a son, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Yvonne is enjoying her new home at RSCC. She is very social and loves helping the other residents.



ETHELWYNNE'S 85TH BIRTHDAY

RSCC Woodlands' resident Ethelwynne van Eck celebrated her 85th birthday on 3 August, enjoying refreshments, cake and gifts sent to the care centre by her family.

The care centre's staff did some beautiful decorations for her birthday and celebrated it in style with her.

Ethelwynne had a stroke in July 2015, which left her right side paralysed. Prior to her stroke, she was a passionate painter and art lover, and sold many oil paintings, mainly still life and flowers.

Ethelwynne says she was very sad after her stroke, as she thought she would never paint again.

"The situation changed when I was invited to join the Elphin Lodge art group, as an art tutor or advisor. I was at first a little hesitant to join the group, but with Debbie's [Debbie Christen, Rand Aid's recreation manager] encouragement, I agreed to go and meet the people.

She started taking pencils and a sketch book with her, and soon trained herself to draw with her left hand.



LOUISE CELEBRATES HER 90TH BIRTHDAY

Louise Newman celebrated her 90th birthday on 11 August, with RSCC's Lakeside staff and residents.

Her niece came to the care centre to celebrate with her and brought cake and snacks for everyone to enjoy, and her children phoned to wish her.

Birthdays

RESIDENTS

04 Sept, Victor van Eck (RL2)
04 Sept, Maria Wucherpfennig (RL1)
05 Sept, Josephine Kew (RL1)
07 Sept, Heather Zipp (RL3)
08 Sept, Joy Smith (CP)
08 Sept, Irene Watson (RL1)
11 Sept, Elizabeth Trinder (LS)
14 Sept, Josephine Poultney (RL2)
16 Sept, Catherine Basterfield (LS)
16 Sept, Mariana Duvenage (RL1)
18 Sept, Nanna Roberts (RL3)
21 September, Joan Gelman (CP)
24 Sept, Jean Arbesu (RL3)
25 Sept, Christine Kincaid-Smith (RL3)
28 Sept, Esme Joubert (RL1)
30 Sept, Maureen Morrow (RL1)

VOLUNTEERS

03 Sept, Denise Stewart
10 Sept, Tracy Cornick

STAFF

02 Sept, Masegata Mamabolo
06 Sept, Ntombikhona Maphasa
07 Sept, Lusani Mabulele
09 Sept, Amanda Ndlovu
11 Sept, Makgabo Baloyi
11 Sept, Lungile Mhlongo
13 Sept, Nhlalala Mavunda
14 Sept, Siyakubongo Nazo
14 Sept, Iris Radebe
17 Sept, Nomizana Pili
17 Sept, Thivhonali Rananga
20 Sept, Nikiwe Thengwayo
21 Sept, Gloria Bengu
22 Sept, Refilwe Ratema
23 Sept, Phyllis Phyllips
25 Sept, Sedya Malatji
25 Sept, Nonstiki Ngwenya (EL)
26 Sept, Mmamose Maphoso
26 Sept, Carol-Ann Mckenzie
26 Sept, Martha Tsolo
27 Sept, Nicky Ponco
30 Sept, Mmathapelo Magwete

Fondly remembered

07 August, Bella Tworetzky (RL3)
13 August, Julia Williams (RL2)
17 August, Jill Jones (WL)

Welcome to

Dorothea Sofia Ferri (WL)
Josephine Marie Poultney (RL2)
Florence Elsie Ramsay (RL1)
Clyde Herman (RL1)
Lucy Ferguson (WL)

