

Ron Smith Care Centre

@ Elphin Lodge



May 2025 No. 111



Easter joy

Ron Smith Care Centre blossomed with Easter joy, transforming the week of March 14th into a celebration.

Residents, sporting cheerful floral bonnets, kicked off the festivities with an Easter egg hunt. A roll of the dice determined their prize, sending them on a quest through the halls, which echoed with laughter and song. The sweet reward? Bags, lovingly prepared by the residents themselves the week prior, full of chocolate eggs. Six fortunate individuals – Esme Joubert (RL1), Ursula Heggenberger (RL2), Stella Granville (RL3), Amy Wright (LS), Maria Longley (CP), and Brian Russell (WL) – discovered extra-special large chocolate bunnies. The merriment continued throughout the week. Creativity flowed as residents decorated Easter-themed biscuits, later savouring their artistic treats.

“The week concluded with a nostalgic viewing of Irving Berlin’s *Easter Parade*, which was a fittingly heartwarming end to the joyful occasions,” says occupational therapist Simoné Botha.



Farewell Matron Avril

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HELGA BUCHER: RIVER LODGE 3 RESIDENT

I was born in 1937 and grew up in Fairmount. My mother passed away 12 days after I was born, and because my father was German, he was sent to Leeuwkop prison during WWII. I was mostly raised by my grandmother. After school, I started working at Barclays bank. During this time, I met Albert, a 21-year-old from Switzerland who was a qualified watch and clockmaker. We often went to the Orange Grove Hotel for dinner and dancing on Saturday nights and got married in 1957. Albert fixed many famous clocks, like the one at the Rissik Street post office, Johannesburg City

Hall and the Simon's Town Naval Bell Tower. He owned a watchmaker's shop on Rissik Street. I stopped working after we got married to raise our two wonderful children; Richard, who lives in Orange Grove, and Monica, who lives in Holland. About 35 years ago, Albert and I moved to Scottburgh where he made wooden toys for six years. Thereafter we moved to Cape Town, to be close to Monica where we stayed until Albert sadly passed away six years ago and I moved back here to be closer to Richard. I am blessed with 4 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.



FAVOURITES

Supporting and uplifting those around me | **Light music** | Crosswords, knitting, crocheting, sewing and reading | **Participating: I belonged to book clubs and a sewing circle** | Tennis: I playing for most of my life | **Bowls: I played in Cape Town** | Baking (my grandmother taught me), however, Albert was always the chef in our house | **Cake and chocolate** | Dogs | Fond memories of trips to Switzerland, our December holidays at Umhlanga Rocks Hotel with the children | I am content and thankful for my wonderful family

MAUREEN COULING: RIVER LODGE 3 RESIDENT

I was born in 1946 as the youngest of two children. I grew up in Orange Grove and went to Linksfield Primary school. I finished my schooling at Edenvale High School. I did not enjoy studying but loved playing netball and hockey at school. I had fantastic parents. My mother could do anything from cooking and baking to sewing, while my father had a lovely sense of humour, which I was lucky enough to inherit. I enjoyed going to church and Sunday school from a young age and it remained important to me. After school, I trained for five years to become a hairdresser, which was a job I loved. I took over the salon I worked at when the owner passed away. I met my hus-

band Alex at the age of 16 as I was riding my bike to school. He was driving his motorcycle, and we later started dating. He was a branch manager at the time and was later transferred to Vryheid. We dated on and off and I visited him in Vryheid. We got married in 1971 at the Berea Methodist Church. Alex and I ended up buying a big old double storey which we renovated over the years and eventually sold. This was the place I loved the most because of all the history and all the work we put into the house. Our marriage produced two wonderful daughters, Lee-Ann and Debbie, who both lived in Perth. We are blessed to have 2 granddaughters and 3 grandsons.



FAVOURITES

My good sense of humour | I love people and always want to help in any way I can | **Reading and listening to music, especially classical** | Crocheting (my grandmother taught me) | **Italian food, especially pasta, lasagne and tiramisu** | I love dogs | **I cherish the memories of our honeymoon in Europe** | Trips to Uvongo as a child | **I am thankful for my parents and my wonderful family** | Being at home with my family and having meals together | **I would love to experience Italy again as it holds cherished memories for me.**

JULIA MOLOTSI: RIVER LODGE 3 CARE WORKER

Most people here call me JuJu. I was born in March 1961 in Alexandra. My home language is Setswana. However, I remember receiving higher marks for Afrikaans in school than Setswana. I grew up in Alexandra, on 7th Street, which is the same street Nelson Mandela stayed on after moving from the Eastern Cape. The street is now a Heritage precinct. I was the fourth of six children, and I remember my older sister taking me to sell vegetables after school, which is where my interest in business started. We are only four siblings left, and we will gather for holidays at my house or my sister's house. My daughter

was born at the end of my matric year, and I had to go back and finish my matric. I worked at various places before I started working at Rand Aid's resource workshop in 2008. I completed my carer training in 2016 and have been working at River Lodge 3 ever since. I have one daughter, Masego, and one granddaughter, Paballo, who is 12. My daughter is an absolute star and a blessing. She makes me the person I am. My faith is important to me, and I am at my happiest when I am at church. I spend lots of my off time at church, serving, praying, exercising with the other ladies or doing hospital visits.



FAVOURITES

Starting my day at church for prayers | **Kaizer Chiefs** | Music (Mariah Carey, CeCe Winans and gospel) | **Watching movies and detective shows** | Rooibos tea | **Pap, meat, gravy and vegetables, especially pumpkin** | Vanilla cake | **I am good at crocheting and make items to sell** | Beautiful clothing and shopping | **I am proud of my life's work** | I am grateful for what I've achieved at Rand Aid | **My dream is to have my own business** | The philosophy I live by is God is first before everything, whatever I am doing it is because of God.

RESIDENTS

02 May	Ruth Greek	CP	98
05 May	Guerino Morgia	RL3	84
07 May	Patricia Lowe	LS	86
11 May	Tilly Bryant	RL2	91
13 May	Stella Murray	RL2	98
14 May	Grace Lissoni	LS	86
14 May	Irene Simon	CP	99
19 May	Ruth Cole	WL	85
25 May	Jacobus Sosef	LS	98
27 May	Maria Longley	CP	76

STAFF

04 May	Nandipha Ngesi
04 May	Grace Ratisani
06 May	Elizabeth Peterson
06 May	Tshengisile Khoza
07 May	Singathwa Siboto
10 May	Senzeleni Nkosi
15 May	Thizwivhoni Ramavhoya
23 May	Maite Mawasha
27 May	Phakamisa Bobotyana
30 May	Ntshunxeko Hobyani

Staff members must please remember to collect their birthday chocolate from reception.

Fondly remembered

Brian Leathley
Anne Brokensha
Sylvia Lasarow

Welcome to

Margot Cohen
Gianfranco Piccini



Avril Maltman interacts with a resident.

Gone but never forgotten

Avril Maltman (64) will be remembered for her no-nonsense yet deeply caring approach to life. The senior nursing services manager at Rand Aid Association, Avril passed away on April 20 after a courageous battle with lung cancer. Her dedication, compassion and strength left a lasting legacy at Ron Smith Care Centre, where she was based. "For 13 years, Matron Avril was more than a nursing manager – she was the steady hand that guided us and a true embodiment of care and leadership," says her colleague and friend, Sister Leanie Bessinger. Avril joined Rand Aid 2012, taking charge of medical interventions and nursing practices, initially at Ron Smith, but later extending to the organisation's retirement villages.