

THEMBALAMI & MODA

CARE CENTRE



Place of hope

JUNE 2025



Hip hip hooray

Thembalami Care Centre and the Max Ordman Deaf Association hosted their monthly birthday bash on May 21 to honour residents and staff born in May — and it was a celebration to remember.

The event featured a lively performance by entertainer Ruan Tennant, a solo artist whose energy and engaging style lit up the room. His music had the crowd clapping and the staff members dancing along to Mango Groove's *Special Star*, drawing cheers from the audience.

"Music has a profound impact on older people," said Thembalami occupational therapist Tsakani Shihlomule. "It improves their mood, reduces anxiety, and brings a deep sense of nostalgia. Even those who show little facial expression often respond with a tap of the foot or a nod to the beat — it's incredibly moving."

Among the celebrants was Mavis Knight, who turned 86 and was the oldest resident celebrating a birthday in May. In total, eight residents and six staff members were honoured during the event. The festivities concluded with tea and cake.



ABOVE, LEFT: Happy birthday to May 'baby' Patrick Mahlelehle.

ABOVE: Entertainer Ruan Tennant.

LEFT: Willem Skinner at the May birthday bash.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Residents:

05	Thirugavelli Pillay	(72)
10	Aisla Lee	(79)
10	Caroline Schneider	(83)
15	Blaise September	(78)
15	Pieter vd Westhuizen	(85)
15	Lukas van der Merwe	(85)

Staff:

05	Bongekile Luthuli
11	Constance Nematoka
11	Sannah Moore
12	Sarah Moya
24	Mashudu Nembaye
29	Patricia Masala
30	Paulina Namu

SNIPPETS

WELCOME TO:

Nolan Raath Mona Knodell

REST IN PEACE:

Roger Ward-Smith
Jennifer Becker

DONATIONS

We would appreciate any donations or fundraising ideas. Should you wish to chat with Thembalami's manager Esme van der Walt about your ideas, contact her at:

Email: evanderwalt@randaid.co.za
Phone: 010 534 8771

LEAVE A LEGACY of compassion and hope by including us in your will, ensuring continued care for those in need.

Should you wish to make a once-off or regular donation, see details below:

MODA

Standard Bank
Account no: 420279571
Branch code: 051001
Reference: MODA Supts Fund

Thembalami Care Centre
c/o Rand Aid Association
Standard Bank, Greenstone
Branch code: 051001
Acc no: 001788701
Reference: TH Supts Fund

***Age is something
that does not
matter... unless
you are a cheese!***

- Billie Burke



Elizabeth Andrews.



Reginah Ratshosana.



Maureen Wigoder

Brushing up on a favourite activity

Thembalami Care Centre and Max Ordman Deaf Association (MODA) were abuzz with colour and creativity as residents picked up their paintbrushes once again for a fabric painting session on May 20.

This activity marks the revival of a much-loved programme that had been on pause since last year. Now set to take place twice a month, the initiative aims to foster hand-eye co-ordination and encourage social interaction in a relaxed and enjoyable setting.

Residents enthusiastically painted fabric pieces, with plans underway to turn their artistic efforts into stylish scatter cushions.

"It's more than just painting – it's a fun way to keep minds and hands active, reduce boredom, and bring our community closer together," says occupational therapist Tsakani Shihlomule.



Full focus... Allan Wasserfall.



Thembalami Care Centre and the Max Ordman Deaf Association **celebrated their mothers** on May 9. The dining hall was decorated in pink and all female residents received a small gift while everyone enjoyed cakes with their cuppa. Deputy manager Elize Raath gave a word of appreciation to women and the role they play in society, and the occupational assistants were responsible for the pretty décor. Pictured are Maureen Wigoder and Regina Ratshosana.



MODA residents and members of the deaf community with Elizabeth Binda.

MODA's dear Elizabeth retires after 38 years

After nearly four decades of unwavering dedication, Elizabeth Nomasonto Binda retired from the Max Ordman Deaf Association (MODA) at the end of May.

Born in Volksrust on April 25, 1965, Elizabeth was the eldest of five children. She began working at the age of 16 on a local farm before relocating to Johannesburg at 18, where she took up domestic work. Her journey with MODA began in 1987 in Bedfordview, where she served in various roles, including laundry assistant, cleaner, and escort for residents visiting clinics and hospitals.

Over the years, her dedication and compassion saw her rise to the role of housekeeper. When MODA relocated to Thembalami Care Centre in Lombardy East in June 2016, her presence proved invaluable. "She was an asset to Thembalami as none of the staff at that time could communicate with the residents. As she was able to communicate

in sign language, it was a huge help. She was self-taught and already familiar with the residents, which helped with the transition," says Thembalami manager Esme van der Walt.

Beyond her housekeeping duties, Elizabeth played a vital role in supporting the deaf community, assisting during mealtimes, translating at resident meetings, and celebrating birthdays.

A mother of four and grandmother to eight, Elizabeth is known for her humble, quiet nature and love for gardening. As she enters retirement, she looks forward to spending more time at home and with her family.

MODA and Thembalami have expressed their heartfelt gratitude for her years of dedicated service and wish her all the best in this next chapter. "She will be dearly missed," says the team.



Elizabeth Binda with MODA resident Gail Lester.



Hansie Griessel (MODA resident) hands over a present from MODA to Elizabeth Binda. Also present are Thembalami manager Esme van der Walt and Judy Kamaraat (from the deaf community).