

Ron Smith Care Centre

@ Elphin Lodge



JAN 2026 No. 119



Elves and games add to festive fun

In the festive spirit of Christmas, residents and staff at Ron Smith Care Centre gathered on December 19 to share in a special celebration of joy and togetherness.

"Residents and staff came together in their respective wings to enjoy a festive Christmas High Tea filled with laughter," says Simoné Botha, the centre's occupational therapy and recreation manager. "Tables were beautifully decorated in red and gold, and everyone embraced the spirit of the day by dressing in red, white and green," she says.

The morning began with cheerful Christmas music and a lively game of Pass the Parcel, which had everyone smiling and engaged. There were a few fun surprises hidden in the layers of paper, with the final winners walking

away with a box of chocolates.

The celebrations continued with tea and coffee, along with a box of sweet and savoury treats for each resident, lovingly prepared by Reef Caterers.

While Friday marked the main Christmas celebration, the festive spirit had been alive at RSCC for weeks beforehand, says Simoné. "The annual Christmas Spirit Competition encouraged each wing to decorate and bring its own unique holiday flair. This year, a few mischievous elves also appeared throughout RSCC, delighting residents and staff alike. The elves were named by residents and staff, with winning names announced on Friday, including Long Legs, Spicy Pants, Elphie Elf, Jelly Tot and Happy Joe."

Pass the Parcel winners:

River Lodge 1: Irene Watson
River Lodge 2: Cathy Basterfield
River Lodge 3: Myra Forfar
Woodlands: Pearl Porter
Cedar Park: Marge Garden
Lakeside: Olive Jew

Christmas Spirit winners:

■ River Lodge 1 received the Spirit of Christmas Award for truly embodying the heart of the season. Through teamwork, creativity, clever use of available resources and keeping the naughty elf fun alive each day, they reminded everyone that the true spirit of Christmas lies in connection, joy and working together.

■ River Lodge 3 received the Festive Showcase Award for transforming their space into a Christmas wonderland. Their creativity, attention to detail and stunning photo booth created festive magic and sparked joy for everyone who walked through their doors.



The Ron Smith Care Centre leadership and support team



As we step into 2026, our leadership team is excited to continue leading with compassion, respect and kindness, nurturing meaningful relationships, creating welcoming and homely spaces and working together with purpose and integrity. These values guide how we care for our residents, support our families and collaborate as a team. Meet the people who are here to support you:

Ulricka Beukman: Manager

Leads the community with compassion, ensuring quality care strong teams, and smooth day-to-day operations.

Leanie Bessinger: Nursing services manager

Oversees clinical care, supporting nursing staff and ensuring safe, respectful and person-centred care.

Nadine Radford: Social worker

Provides emotional support and guidance, helping residents and families feel heard, supported and connected.

Simoné Botha: Occupational therapy and recreation manager

Promotes independence and dignity through meaningful activities and functional support and creates engaging programmes, with the recreation team, that bring joy, connection and purpose to daily life.

Boniswa Sithole: Accounts clerk

Manages accounts accurately and kindly, supporting residents and families with financial queries.

Feel free to contact us at:

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Birthdays

RESIDENTS

05 Jan	Sydelle Morris	(CP)	93
10 Jan	Claude Easter	(RL3)	90
19 Jan	Beryl O'Donnell	(WL)	96
21 Jan	Ria Milburn	(WL)	82
21 Jan	Marlene Rimmer	(RL2)	89
26 Jan	Molly Matroos	(LS)	54
28 Jan	Charles Power	(WL)	86
29 Jan	Trudi Thijs	(RL2)	94

STAFF

01 Jan	Lucy Kgafela
01 Jan	Matevhu Nethononda
01 Jan	Mafemani Chauke
03 Jan	Rose Lebjane
03 Jan	Makau Nkadimeng
09 Jan	Lucia Nkuna
12 Jan	Silungile Dube
15 Jan	Madikana Matshaba
21 Jan	Pulane Malatji
22 Jan	Tshepo Malatjie
25 Jan	Laurentia Jooste
29 Jan	Vuyokazi Mkhwambi

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

FONDLY REMEMBERED

Carole Pieterse	RL1
Mervyn Miller	RL2
Colin Didcott	RL3
Vera Meyer	RL3
Basha Videlefsky	RL1

WELCOME TO...

Monica Russel	LS
Warwick Silverthorne	WL

Staff appreciation spotlight: Recognising dedication and care

Esmeralda Rusike

Sister Esmeralda started her journey at Rand Aid in September 2020 and has been the sister in charge at River Lodge 3 since October 2020.

During the Christmas season, Sr Esmeralda went the extra mile to ensure that both staff and residents felt at home and appreciated. She created a beautiful Christmas-themed photo corner in River Lodge 3 where everyone could capture special moments with their loved ones. The festive atmosphere was unmistakable, made even more special with thoughtful touches such as juice and cookies available in the photo booth area.

Matron Leanie Bessinger mentioned that Sr Esmeralda understands that advanced dementia care is not only about clinical skill, but about human connection. She knows when to speak, when to listen and when words are no longer needed at all. Through gentle reassurance, a steady hand and quiet dignity, she creates a sense of safety for residents. She meets each resident where they are, never rushing, never correcting, always respecting. Even when memories fade, the feeling of being cared for remains – and that is the gift she gives so selflessly.

RSCC sincerely thanks Sr Esmeralda for her dedication, her professionalism and her unwavering kindness.



Elliot Masina

Elliot's journey at Rand Aid is a wonderful example of growth and dedication. He began his career working as a gardener, later promoted to supervisor of the gardening team. In 2013, he officially became part of the Rand Aid team as a general work assistant – a role in which he has truly flourished.

If there is ever a need for help, Elliot is usually the first person people think of. He enjoys staying busy and thrives on the variety his work brings. Elliot is known for his willingness to jump in and make sure everything gets done. His energetic nature may come as no surprise, as he did soccer and athletics at school.

While Elliot is used to running around, he also values time to slow down. Outside of work, he enjoys relaxing at home and spending time with friends playing snooker and draughts. He is always eager to learn and says he has gained valuable lessons during his time at Rand Aid.

Elliot's kindness shines through in the way he cares for others – from previously looking after the chickens to now caring for the bunnies. He often involves children, showing them the bunnies and helping them feed them, creating moments of connection. Thank you, Elliot, for the difference you make and the warmth and dedication you bring to our community.

