

# Ron Smith Care Centre @ Elphin Lodge



MAY 2026 No. 223



## Egg-citing Easter

A trio of treats awaited residents in April, with an engaging themed craft session, Easter egg hunt and a morning tea filled with interactive activities.

Preparations began on March 24, when residents and staff came together to make cards and decorate gift packets. These were lovingly filled with chocolate treats and handed out to each resident on Good Friday.

The highlight of the celebrations was the Easter tea held on April 1. In the days leading up to the event, Easter eggs were hidden throughout the centre, creating excitement among residents. Six residents were lucky enough to discover the hidden eggs and received their prizes at the tea. One resident, Maureen Wollenschlaeger, found the most eggs and received a large Easter egg.

The joy continued as prizes and chocolates were handed out throughout the morning. Residents were also challenged

with a riddle, with Ann Raats the first to solve it and claim her prize. Two additional spot prizes were awarded to residents who discovered an Easter bunny hidden beneath their plates.

Karabo Matlaletsa, occupational therapist, led the morning's programme. She followed the prize-giving with a short quiz featuring Easter and Pesach traditions, with winners receiving even more Easter eggs. The quiz ended on a meaningful note, as everyone had the opportunity to taste matzah (unleavened bread), an important part of the Pesach tradition.

"The celebrations brought much joy and togetherness to our residents, while allowing them to learn about different traditions," said Simoné Botha, the centre's occupational therapy and recreation manager.

The morning ended with relaxed conversation over coffee, tea and delicious cupcakes baked by Tracey O'Donoghue from Crazy for Cake.



## Get to know me

### VIVIEN MICHLER: LAKESIDE RESIDENT

I was born in 1947 in Kampala, Uganda. My father was from England and worked as a policeman in Uganda, where he met my mother, who was of Scottish descent. We later moved to Pemba Island, part of the Zanzibar Archipelago, where we lived until I turned seven and had to start school. I then attended boarding school in Nairobi, Kenya. We had a wonderful matron who was strict but kind. I completed my high school education in Kent, England, where I particularly enjoyed hockey and cricket. After finishing school, I began working at Barclays Bank in South Africa, where I met my husband, Keith. We worked in the same office and quickly became good friends. At the time, he was still in another relationship, but it did not last. We had a great deal in common, and I got along very well with his family. We eventually became a couple and were married in 1977. Sadly, Keith passed away from cancer in 2016, and I still miss him dearly every day. Our marriage was blessed with three wonderful children: Patricia, who lives in South Africa; Catherine, who lives in England; and Stewart, who also lives in England. I am also blessed with six grandchildren who are my pride and joy! I try to see the good in everything and make the most of every opportunity.



**Favourites:**  
Reading. Crosswords, word searches and Scrabble. Music you can sing along to. Nature programmes. Gardening. Cooking for my family. Chocolate. My faith – I served as a lay preacher in the Methodist Church for a time. Memories of childhood holidays at the Mombasa coast, trips as an adult to the Kruger National Park and visits to England, Scotland, Canada and the US. I am deeply grateful for my health, family and friends.

### ROBBIE LOMBARD: LAKESIDE RESIDENT

I was born in 1936 in Springs and attended school there. I was a drum major in the cadets and would proudly march down Third Street. One of my greatest passions was rugby, which I played throughout school and continued to enjoy while working. My father was Afrikaans and my mother English, so I was raised fully bilingual. After school, I began working at the Grootvlei gold mine in Springs as a mine surveyor. I spent 15 years there, much of it underground. In those days, transfers were not optional, and we moved several times, first to Kinross in Mpumalanga and then back to Grootvlei. It was in Springs that I met my wife, Gladys. We lived two blocks apart but only started dating when she was 19. Everyone called her Bubbles, which matched her lively personality. We married in 1959 and had three children: Leon, Michelle and Colin. In 1970, I joined Brikor (later called Corobrik). I worked there for 27 years. Retirement took us to Somerset West, where we spent 22 wonderful years. Later, we moved to Inyoni to be closer to our children when Bubbles' health began to decline. She passed away about two years ago, and I still miss her dearly. I spent six happy years at Inyoni and still often visit to spend time with friends.



**Favourites:**  
Being around people and having good conversations. Music – playing the piano and accordion. Watching sports. Captaining my school rugby team in matric in Wales. Memories of family holidays on the South Coast and at the Kruger National Park – one of my grandsons is a ranger there now. My health, the wonderful wife I had, and the family we built – I am extremely proud of my children and my four grandsons.

### SANELE NDLOVU: REC CENTRE RECREATION ASSISTANT

I was born in 1984 at Baragwanath Hospital, spending my early years with my mother in Germiston. When I started school, I returned to Nquthu in KZN, staying with various neighbours as we had little family nearby. It was a difficult time, away from my mother and often sharing homes with up to 10 other children. After school, I moved to Johannesburg and found a job as a cashier at Woolworths, where I worked for several years. During this time, I met the father of my two beautiful daughters. Soon after their birth, I secured an administrative position at the CIPC department at Department of Trade and Industry in Sunnyside. I worked there until 2013, when a transition to online registrations meant my position was no longer needed. This led me to furthering my studies: Firstly, improving my grades 11 and 12 marks and then studying sports psychology. My goal was to help children living with disabilities. I graduated in 2021 and began volunteering at Mind Sports South Africa. In early 2023, I came across Rand Aid and completed an online carer course. I then started volunteering at the REC Centre, where I quickly fell in love with working with older persons. I felt deeply honoured when I was appointed as a permanent REC assistant in October 2023.



**Favourites:**  
My mother, who is my role model and mentor. My daughters, who are both pursuing demanding studies. Time alone to recharge. Learning and growing. Reading the Bible – faith is an important part of my life. Worship music and podcasts. Tulips. New challenges. Memories of childhood holidays in Joburg – visiting the Carlton Centre with my mother over Christmas. Dreams of travelling – Japan and the European countryside are at the top of my list.

## Birthdays

### RESIDENTS

02 May	Ruth Greek,	CP	99
11 May	Tilly Bryant,	RL2	92
13 May	Stella Murray,	RL 2	99
14 May	Grace Lissoni,	LS	87
19 May	Ruth Cole,	WL	86
24 May	Mary Loe,	RL2	94

### STAFF

04 May	Nandipha Ngesi
04 May	Grace Ratisani
06 May	Elizabeth Peterson
06 May	Tshengisile Khoza
07 May	Singathwa Siboto
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 chocolates from reception.

### FONDLY REMEMBERED

Patricia Lowe	RL3
Roy Emmertin	RL2
Esme Trollip	WL
Hu Kai Hong	RL2

### WELCOME TO...

Lena Woolf	CP
Vivian Gwenneth	CP
Naomi Segal	RL3



HEARTS in Action



The HEARTS in Action winner is Iris Radebe (middle), a River Lodge 1 general assistant. She receives the award for consistently demonstrating a strong work ethic, excellent communication and a positive outlook. A natural problem-solver who consistently goes the extra mile for residents, she uplifts others through encouragement and support and is always a willing participant in organised activities. Pictured with her are Portia Ngobeni (left) and (Thily Madiba).



For more Ron Smith Care Centre and other news, follow the Rand Aid Facebook page:

**RandAidAssociation**