

Ron Smith Care Centre @ Elphin Lodge



JUNE 2026 No. 224



Joy through music

Mother's Day celebration gets residents and staff moving

A morning of music and laughter brought residents and staff together at Ron Smith Care Centre as Mother's Day was marked with a celebration honouring mothers and mother figures.

Held on May 15, the gathering focused on gratitude and shared memories. Residents were treated to a live musical performance by Chris Coetzee, who performed a selection of familiar favourites, including *Ring of Fire* and *You raise me up*. His performance quickly drew smiles from the audience, with some residents visibly moved as he walked through the room, singing and gently holding their hands.

He was later joined by RSCC resident Sven Bauer for a duet of *Any dream will do*. Adding to the atmosphere, Chris also took a moment to acknowledge the care staff for their ongoing dedication. Staff members joined residents on the dance floor, sharing in the celebration and strengthening the sense of community within the centre.

One resident captured the spirit of the occasion, exclaiming: "I haven't danced like this in about 100 years!"

Simoné Botha, RSCC's manager for occupational therapy and recreation, says occasions like these play an important role in residents' well-being, helping to foster meaningful interaction through shared experiences.

The event concluded on a sweet note with tea, coffee and conversation, accompanied by lemon cheesecakes prepared by Reef Caterers.



NOELINE ASPELING: RIVER LODGE 1 RESIDENT

My full name is Magdalena Cornelia, although everyone calls me Noeline. I was born in 1934 in Calitzdorp and grew up on a farm in Oudtshoorn, where my father owned an ostrich farm. The simplicity of farm life is so different to our lives today. I completed my primary schooling in Oudtshoorn before attending boarding school in De Rust, where I finished my education. Some of my happiest memories from my younger years were participating in sports after school. Tennis remained a lifelong passion, and over the years I belonged to three different tennis clubs. Although I grew up in an Afrikaans household, I completed my schooling in English and later married an Englishman. After school, I moved to Johannesburg and began working as a clerk for Standard Bank. It was at the bank that I met my husband, John. Together we built a loving family and were blessed with three children: Gustav, Joanne and Robert. Over the years, we welcomed many wonderful grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sadly, John became ill later in life and I cared for him while he lived in frail care for several years. He passed away in 2009, and I still miss him greatly. Despite the sadness of losing him, I remain grateful for the many happy years we shared and for the family and memories we created.

FAVOURITE THINGS AND SIMPLE PLEASURES:

My faith has always been central to my life. I loved attending the Apostolic Church, participating in Bible studies, and running a home group for people with disabilities. I have always enjoyed reading, as well as watching uplifting television programmes. Cooking and baking brought me great joy, and my children fondly remember my rice pudding. I rarely sat still, keeping busy with sewing, knitting, reading, walking, tennis and Canasta. One achievement I am especially proud of was becoming the first female accountant at the Edenvale municipality. Later, I was grateful to help manage the church's books. Today, I live with gratitude and count my blessings.

ELLIOT MASINA: GENERAL MAINTENANCE WORKER

I was born in 1977 and grew up in Standerton, where I lived with my grandfather. My home language is Zulu, and both my parents are of Zulu ancestry. Later, I moved to Johannesburg and completed my schooling in Alexandra. I loved participating in sports at school, especially running and soccer. I met my wife, Julia, while we were still at school. We stayed together over the years and were married in 2015. Our marriage has been blessed with four children – one boy and three girls. After school, I started working at Execu Clean, which later became Prestige Cleaning. From there, I went on to work for Trans-Tel, where they specialised in money tube systems. I later worked for Swisslog, and when work there became less frequent, I started working as a gardener for Land Escape at Rand Aid. Through hard work and dedication, I was promoted to supervisor of the gardening team. When my leg started giving me problems, I began doing piece jobs around Elphin Lodge. In 2013, I was permanently employed by Rand Aid as a general work assistant in the maintenance department. My work involves a little bit of everything and I enjoy helping wherever I can. I truly enjoy my job because it keeps both my mind and body active. I am always busy and moving around, but I enjoy the variety that each day brings.

FAVOURITE THINGS AND SIMPLE PLEASURES:

I am eager to learn and enjoy helping others. My colleagues describe me as friendly and humble. My job has taught me to be patient, stay calm and take life one step at a time. When not at work, I spend time relaxing, helping my wife around the house and spending time with friends playing snooker, draughts or cards. I am grateful to God for carrying me through the difficult times. I believe that God has helped me to climb many mountains. His love helps me wake up each day and gives me the strength to carry heavy burdens. I am thankful for my job, which has taught me to take care of things and value hard work. I live by the motto: We live and we grow.

RESIDENTS

04 June	Ada Lieberman	(RL3)	90
05 June	Doreen Vivian	(CP)	85
12 June	Patricia Hunter	(RL3)	68
14 June	Keith Reid	(LS)	88
19 June	Monica Russell	(LS)	85
23 June	Aletta Brits	(WL)	82
30 June	Veronica Perrin	(RL3)	82

STAFF

04 June	Ramaisela Ngobeni	Kitchen
05 June	Petunia Moleoa	RL1
05 June	Rudzani Muthakhi	RL1
05 June	Lufuno Nemutanzhela	RL3
06 June	Dipuo Ledwaba	WL
07 June	Nomsa Shabangu	RL3
09 June	Kgadi Mabapa	RL2
10 June	Elia Kotyana	Workshop
11 June	Lerato Pebane	RL2
13 June	Nomantsele Nonjiko	CP
15 June	Mpipo More	LS
15 June	Mosima Mojela	RL3
16 June	Nomusa Ndlela	RL3
22 June	Merriam Motaung	LS
26 June	Matsobane Mojela	RL2&3
26 June	Nadine Radford	Office
30 June	Noluthando Tshayisa	WL

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

WELCOME TO...

Noeline Aspelng (RL1)
Wolfgang Aberle (RL3)
Brenda Ortlepp (RL1)
Katrina Lines (LS)

FONDLY REMEMBERED

Brenda Williams (RL1)
Elaine Cohen (WL)
John Lerner (RL3)
Marge Trinder (LS)
Olive Jew (LS)
Gianfranco Piccini (RL1)



This month's HEARTS in Action Award goes to Germinah Baloyi from River Lodge 2 for her warm smile, positive attitude and unwavering dedication. She consistently goes above and beyond, bringing creativity, initiative and enthusiasm to every space she works in, while offering encouragement and support to both colleagues and residents. Germinah's commitment to understanding and living out the HEARTS values each day makes her a truly deserving recipient.