Reaching out to everyone

February 2023 Issue 11

## WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2023: RESTORING WETLANDS

Author: Wetland Working Committee

Back in 1971 several nations, including South Africa, concerned about the alarming state of wetlands, met in Ramsar, a city in Iran. They drafted the Convention on Wetlands (also referred to as the Ramsar Convention) which finally tems, preserve biodiversity, control came into force in 1975. In the same year, South Africa registered the first two Ramsar wetland sites of international importance, namely De Hoop Vlei in the Western Cape and Baberspan in North West Province. They were followed by four more in 1986 and today we have a total of 28 Ramsar sites.

The Ramsar Convention's definition of wetlands is really broad and includes all lakes and rivers, underground aquifers, swamps and marshes, wet grasslands, peatlands, oases, estuaries, deltas and tidal flats, mangroves and other coastal areas, coral reefs, and all human-made sites such as fish ponds, rice paddies, reservoirs and salt pans". That covers just about every wet place on earth except the oceans!

Ramsar Convention and 2,471 sites have been registered across the world. The Convention encourages prudent use of wetlands, listing wetlands with

World **Wetlands Day** 2 February 2023 wetland restoration Ramsar to ensure that they are wisely managed, and international cooperation for transnational wetlands.

Wetland ecosystems play an important role in preserving our environment. Among others they purify water sysflooding, recharge groundwater and counter climate change. Sadly, wetland areas and their quality continue to decline throughout the world. It is estimated that since the 1700s 90% of the world's wetlands have disappeared.

Some of the most threatened wetlands are those in or near urban areas where development causes severe damage and even destruction. In Gauteng only one wetland is listed with Ramsar, namely Blesbokspruit near Springs on the East Rand. Not originally a natural wetland, it formed as the result of road and embankment construction in 1930. Blesbokspruit was registered with Ramsar in 1996 to protect it after serious contamination by polluted water from adjacent mines.

179 countries currently subscribe to the South Africa is a water scarce country. We need to treasure our wetlands that act as sponges and assist in purifying contaminated water to flow out as clear streams. In urban areas wetlands also provide access to nature and recreation. Ramsar regards them as being sufficiently important to state that 'Urban wetlands make cities liveable'.

> Although World Wetlands Day has been on the calendar since 1997 to promote wetlands, only last year was the second day in February officially named Worlds Wetland Day by the United Nations.

This year the theme for World Wetlands Day is "Restoring Wetlands". Here at ORV, we are making our own contribution, even if small on a national scale, to restore the silted up dam area which evolved into a wetland after the weir breached in 2012. If you want to look at the area yourself, join the Wetland Working Committee on Thursday 2 February to listen to a talk on wetland birds under the trees opposite the small gate next to the jungle gym. See the notice board for more details.

Sources: https://www.ramsar.org [Accessed 2023-01-05]

https://

www.worldwetlandsday.org/ [accessed 2023-01-07][

http://

www.saramsar.com/2015/04/ blesbokspruit.html [Accessed 2023-01-07[



Blesbokspruit in Gauteng Photo credit: Southern Africa's Ramsar Sites. Blesbokspruit

#### THE FIGHT AGAINST ALIEN INVADERS

Invader plants are often very pretty, and many were brought into the country as garden plants.

Examples of such plants are the Bugweed and Yellow Flag Iris, both introduced in this way. Having no natural enemies here to keep them under control, these alien plants spread rapidly and then start to push out our own indigenous vegetation, reducing the biodiversity as they do. This problem is so serious that the Biodiversity Act (No 10 of 2004) makes provision for hefty fines where some of

these plants are not removed or controlled, especially those in Category 1b of which a number grow in our wetland area.

One of the first steps in the rehabilitation of the ORV wetland area is to remove the alien invaders so that we can revegetate the area with plants endemic to this site. We are currently using several methods to get rid of invasives as the photos illustrate.

In 2018 more than forty large Eucalyptus trees were cut down along the northern galvanized fence in compliance with the permission to fence the area and at no cost to the village. These Australian trees have adapted to dry conditions in their natural habitat and their deep roots suck up an enormous amount of water. Since they were cut down, the former dam area is visibly wetter than before.

Bugweed can grow into quite large shrubs. These have all been cut down and the stumps poisoned to prevent regrowth. Some other small alien trees have been eradicated in the same manner.

Willow trees are aliens originally from China and they cause problems in some important wetlands such as Seekoeivlei near Memel. For now, we will leave them to provide shade. The ones that have toppled

over will be trimmed but largely also left in place as is. The Spanish Reed is controlled by regularly cutting new growth. Eventually the roots of the reeds are exhausted by repeatedly having to support the new growth and they die off. Understandably, this is a slow process and can take some time, but it is an environmentally friendly method. The Spanish Reed is not popular with the weaver birdsthey much prefer to nest in the indigenous fluitijesriet that grows near the dam embankment. Those reeds will be contained once the area floods when the weir is repaired as they do not grow in water deeper than 1.5 meters. interestingly the lowest point in the dam area is not at the weir but in the southeast corner nearest to the village.

A large area has been cleared of the Yellow Flag Irises by cutting off the leaves and pulling up the rhizomes as far as possible. The regrowth will need to be controlled - as if even one piece of rhizome is left in the ground, it will simply grow again.

Last year some twenty black bags of Morning Glories were removed along the fence, mostly before they seeded. So far, these annuals have not come back with the same vengeance this year.

A recent invader is the Spider Wort which we first noticed last summer. It is an aggressive invader across the world. It belongs to the same family as the well-known Wandering Jew ground cover, which is not invasive. Large patches of these plants were removed, but within one season it covered an extensive area on the southern part of the former dam. It also grows back very quickly, and we are currently investigating whether poisoning may not be a last resort.

Two huge clumps of South American Pampas Grass grew in the wetland. These were cut down and the stumps removed by controlled burning, which successfully prevented regrowth. The South American Pampas Grass was at one time planted on revegetated slimes dams all over the Witwatersrand to stabilise the slopes.

The above information gives an idea of the enormous task that it is to rehabilitate the dam area. There are many more invader plants present but we tackle them in the same way as one eats an elephant, one bite at a time :)



Area being cleared of Yellow Flag



Fresh growth of Spanish Reeds,



Controlled burning of Pampas



Invasive growth of Spider Wort

#### **EDITORIAL**

HELLO 2023 AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Welcome to our February issue of The Olive Branch.

We continue to strive to make our newsletter more 'newsy and fun' interesting and informative. To those who have contributed to the News & Views, thank you, and I take this opportunity to encourage others to put pen to paper:'... and fingers to key boards to write a short article about your own special interests, travel experiences make someone smile!

Thank you for all of your support, and please reach out if you have any queries.

Happy reading!

Lots of Love



#### HAPPY VALENTINES DAY

"Love is the most powerful force in the universe, and it can be found in every moment of every day, if we choose to look for it." –



#### **Word Search**

The theme is Art. There are 56 words, two of which are missing.

#### **SOLUTION IS ON PAGE 9**

М	U	R	Α	L	S	D	С	R	Α	F	Т	R	Z	Т	R	W
G	L	F	Ε	G	Α	L	L	О	С	Q	U	1	L	L	U	U
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Α	Н	Α	F	С	U	G	Υ	S	K	Ε	Т	С	Н	F	L	W
В	R	U	S	Н	Р	R	K	Ε	С	Ν	G	Ε	Α	U	О	Α
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Т	М	Ε	О	В	С	Р	1	М	Т	В	L	Ε	Μ	U	Ν	Е
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#### **BEAUTIFUL WORDS**

Apricity (n.)

Pronunciation: a-PRIS-i-tee

Origin: Latin

Definition: The warmth of the sun in winter

Abstract	Line
Art	Marble
Batik	Model
Bridge	Mosaic
Brush	Mural
Carve	Paint
Clay	Paper
Collage	Pen
Colour	Photo
Craft	Pigment
Depict	Pounce
Draw	Print
Easel	Quill
Enamel	Ruler
Eraser	Scale
Film	Sculpt
Form	Shade
Frame	Sketch
Gesso	Style
Glass	Tone
Glaze	Tools
Gold leaf	Tube
Graphic de-	Video
sign	Visual
Hue	Wax
Image	Wheel
Ink	Wood
Kiln	

#### LIFE'S A LAUGH A MINUTE.

#### By Maureen Lamprecht

On the day that SASSA grants were due, three friends, Elaine, Dolores and Charmaine went in Elaine's little car, to a shopping centre to collect their grants. The car is a small two door Opel Corsa. Charmaine sat at the back. When they arrived at the centre the front seat was pushed forward for Charmaine to get out. She somehow slipped between the front and back seats, lost her one shoe and couldn't move. She was stuck. No matter how she tried she couldn't get out. All the while Dolores is saying: I've got your shoe: I've got your shoe. A parking guard helped her from the car, amid much laughter. All was well and off they went to collect their money.

When time came to go home, Dolores said as her legs are shorter she would sit at the back. Yes, you guessed it. When they arrived back at Olivedale, Dolores couldn't get out. She also slipped between the front and back seats and was unable to lift herself out at all. Sam was passing by and he was called upon to assist. He took hold of Dolores somehow and with a mighty heave, hauled her out of the car. I wasn't there but I'm sure by this time all were in peals of laughter. Who knew SASSA grants could be so much fun.

The moral of the story is don't sit in the back of a two door car if you are over 60!

#### TRUE STORY TWO:

It was Norma Acutt's birthday so two friends (myself and one who shall not be named) said they would take her out for a meal and decided on a certain Friday night. The outing was supposed to be the previous Saturday but Norma in error took a sleeping tablet and was too tired to go out, so the Friday night it was. We hadn't bargained on loadshedding and the effect it would have on traffic. When we stopped at the first set of robots there was a stream of cars in all directions and we realised it would take us an hour to reach the All Saints centre. A quick right turn took us to the Olivedale corner where we decided to have our meal. We were in the car of the nameless one and as I went to get out I couldn't open the door as the childproof lock was on, so the driver opened for me. While I went to see where we would eat. she and Norma tried to disengage the childproof lock. I don't know who pushed what, but the lock clicked and then the door wouldn't close at all. We ask a man for help but all he could offer was a four-pound hammer, which we declined.

We had our meal and I held the door closed as best I could as we drove back to ORV. We dropped Norma off at the main entrance and drove to the parking area. I suggested we try Q20 and we duly did so, but we couldn't move the lock. I tried to prise it open with a screw driver but it wouldn't budge. I then decided to have a look at the lock on the other rear passenger door, and, more fool me, I touched the lock ever so lightly, and that too jammed and that door couldn't close either. So what to do now?

I went back to my flat to fetch string to tie the doors closed as a temporary measure, and when I was back at the car heard this little voice calling, "Maureen, I'm in the back seat and have managed to partly close both doors. I don't want to open one again in case I can't close it again, so open the front door for me to get out". This is when it was really became funny. Ever seen a 70 plus woman climbing over the front seats in a small car? By this time were both laughing so hard that I could hardly stand, with the nameless one telling me to stop, all the while laughing so much herself. Then she says, "This was much easier when I was young!" That just finished me. Don't know when last I had such a good laugh!

The next day the owner of the car phoned her daughter in New Zealand who told her how to rectify matters. I'll never sit in the back of that car again and the owner will ensure that no one ever tries to disengage the childproof locks.

"A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked."







Some special moments were captured at the Olivedale retirement villages Frail Care. I felt very honoured to have been a part of this whole beautiful experience - Angie Moir



Jog Kisses
Everything





# Fresh Strawberry Crisp

This Fresh Strawberry Crisp is the best summer dessert ever! Fresh juicy strawberries are topped with a buttery and crumbly oat topping, and is absolutely swoothworthy with a big scoop of vanilla ice cream on top!

Prep Time 10 mins Cook Time 35 mins Total Time 45 mins

Servings 8
Calories 387
Author Ashlyn Edwards | Belle of the Kitchen

#### Ingredients

5 heaped cups (5X 250ml) fresh strawberries, hulled and quartered 62,5ml granulated white sugar 5ml vanilla extract 3X 15ml corn starch

Topping

250ml all purpose flour 3X 60ml cup old fashioned oats 80ml cup granulated white sugar 80ml cup packed brown sugar 1/2 teaspoon salt 3/4X 5ml teaspoon cinnamon 125ml cup butter, melted

#### Instructions

- Preheat oven to 175 °C. Grease a deep-dish pie plate or large baking dish with butter or cooking spray and set aside.
- Combine the chopped strawberries and sugar in a large bowl and mix until the strawberries fully absorb the sugar. Add in the corn starch and vanilla extract and stir until all the strawberries are evenly coated. Pour into the prepared baking dish.
- In a separate medium size bowl, combine the flour, oats, brown sugar, granulated sugar, salt, and cinnamon. Pour in the melted butter and stir well until well coated and crumbly. Sprinkle the crumb mixture evenly over the top of the strawberries.

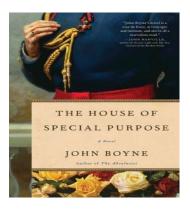
Bake in the preheated oven for 35-40 minutes until fruit is bubbly and topping is golden brown. Allow to cool slightly before serving. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream on top.

#### **BOOK REVIEW**

The House of Special Purpose by John Boyne (2009)

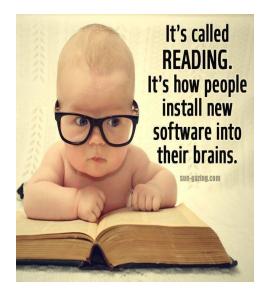
Not a new release but one by a favourite author.

A interesting story of life in Russia for the peasants and the huge contrasts to the life of the Tsar and the ruling Romanovs in the early 1900' Well researched, as always by John B, this is a captivating story of the life of Georgy Jachmenev, a 16 year old farmer's son and how his life unfolds.



#### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

John Boyne was born in Dublin, Ireland, and studied English Literature at Trinity College, Dublin, and Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia, Norwich. In 2015 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by UEA.



# UP COMING EVENTS FEBRUARY

4th General knowledge quiz by Alan Eady.6pm R 50

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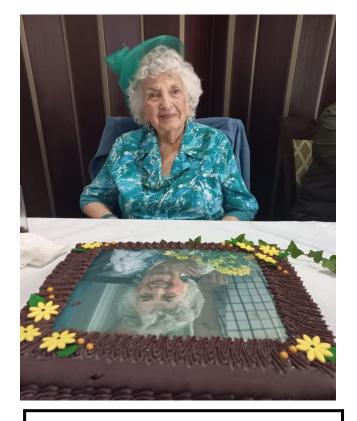
13th Birthday tea. 3pm R 20

25th Irish Band by Tony Ward 6pm R50



#### **A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY**

### **December / January entertainment**



RESIDENT IRENE DULEY CELEBRATING HER 95TH BIRTHDAY.



**MUSIC QUIZ NIGHT** 





**CHRISTMAS BINGO EVENING** 



**NEW YEAR'S DAY LUNCH** 



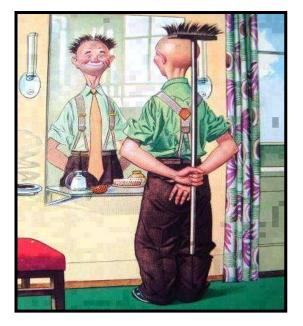
**CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH** 

#### WISE SAYINGS TO INSPIRE US (MORE OR LESS)

- 1. When one door closes and another door opens 12. I run like the winded.
- you are probably in prison.
- 2. To me "drink responsibly" means don't spill it!
- 3. Age 60 might be the new '40', but 9: PM is the new midnight.
- 4. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
- 5. When I say "The other day," I could be referring to any time between yesterday and 15 years ago.
- 6. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.
- 7. I had my patience tested I'm negative.
- 8. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
- 9. If you are sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say "Did you bring the money?"
- 10. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it doesn't mean that I am free today. It just means that I am doing nothing.
- 11. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.

- 13. I hate it when a couple argue in public, and I missed the beginning and don't know what side I am on.
- 14. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint, and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
- 15. When exercising and doing the 'squats,' are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on aluminium can stuffed with celery?
- 16. I don't mean to interrupt people. I randomly remember things, and just get excited.
- 17. When I ask for directions please don't use words like "east."
- 18. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head... that'll freak you right out.
- 19. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
- 20. My luck is like a bald guy who in a raffle just won a comb.

#### SUDOKU PUZZLE **SOLUTION ON PAGE 9**



8			5			6		9
	9	6						3
7								
5	1	2		8				
		4					7	
		8			6	2		
					7		8	
				1		4		7
1	6				4			

#### DIK-KOP BIRD FAMILY

#### **MOIRA BERRY 168**

I have been privileged to have a beautiful family of 'Dik-kop' birds choosing my garden for their 'home'. The family consisted of Mom, Dad (who mate for life) and their adolescent offspring.

Mom chose a spot and laid 2 eggs. I had a ringside seat to observe the extent to which these birds would go to protect their nest. Anyone who happened to be walking their dogs would be confronted by two very angry birds!

I have tried, to the best of my limited ability to protect them from any stress.

They would become very agitated if dogs were nearby.

I would recognize this distress call. If some innocent dog-walker would want to dispose of their 'poo bag' in the nearby bin, I would ask them to rather stay on the far side of the road and I would dispose of the bag for them.

As my house is situated where many

people pass by, everyone was aware that the birds were nesting....and excited!

As an aside:

The juvenile was pecked and bullied by one of the parent birds, which I presumed was to encourage it to 'push off' as it was big enough to fend for itself.

One Sunday I heard a terrible commotion the birds were being chased by two dogs. With the help of neighbours, we were able to restrain the dogs.

Dawn, one of my neighbours who walks regularly with her dog was able to trace the owner of the dogs, who happened to be a visitor. The visitor was not aware that her dogs were running around causing havoc and heartache. The biggest heartache was finding a dead chick which had been killed by the visitor's dogs.

Since this incident many residents are heartbroken and angry about this unfortunate experience that could have been prevented by responsible dog ownership.

We all hope that this type of incident

will never happen again!

Since writing the above article, I received a message from Anine giving me the GOOD NEWS that we have a surviving chick which she spotted in a garden near her house.

Such wonderful news for all of us who were interested in the wellbeing of this family of birds.

So thrilled that mother bird has been rewarded after a month of sitting on her eggs in rain, hail and the hot sun!

I am blown away to think that whilst this commotion was taking place this tiny creature had the instinct to hide amongst the plants!

Let's hope that this little chick survives.

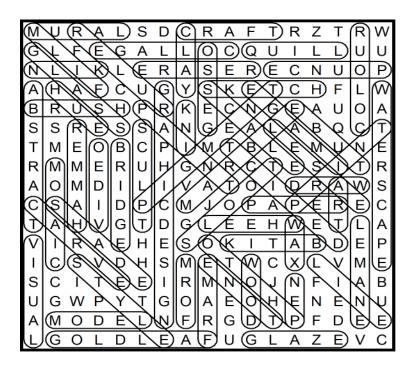


#### SUDOKU SOLUTION

8	4	3	5	7	2	6	1	9
2	9	6	1	4	8	7	5	3
7	5	1	3	6	9	8	4	2
5	1	2	7	8	3	9	6	4
6	3	4	2	9	1	5	7	8
တ	7	8	4	5	6	2	3	1
4	2	5	9	3	7	1	8	6
3	8	9	6	1	5	4	2	7
1	6	7	8	2	4	3	9	5

#### **Word Search Solution**

MISSING WORDS hammer and waterscape.





LOOK, OFFICER, I'M
NOT TRYING TO
START ANYTHING.
ALL I'M SAYING IS
THAT IF YOU CAUGHT
ME, YOU WERE
SPEEDING TOO!

#### CHRISTIAN TOUR

#### TO ISRAEL!

Join Rev Trevor Slade on an 8-day tour to Israel following the footsteps of Jesus.

We invite you to travel with us to the land of the Bible. We have never been more excited about taking people to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. As we visit the many sites you have heard and read about, the Bible comes alive in a way as never before.

The 8-day tour will take you from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem where you will visit the Mount of Olives, walk in the footsteps of Jesus along the Via Dolorosa, visit the Dome of the Rock, the Wailing Wall and many other sites in the city. Then on to Bethlehem, Bethany, Jericho, and the Dead Sea. We travel north to Galilee to visit Tiberias, Nazareth, Capernaum and Caesarea.

Cost: R34,995 including airfare, breakfast and dinner, transfers and entrance fees, and a boat ride on Sea of Galilee.

We need a minimum of 20 people to join us in June so contact Rev Trevor Slade on 083 391 1215 or—tslade1946@gmail.com for more information or to join fellow Christians on an inspiring trip to the Holy Land.

Bar stool disappeared on 6 Jan. It was standing behind my car, parked at parking 519 at the entrance of Winterberg South. A reward is waiting for a person who returns it. Thank you! Elma van den Berg unit 503.



#### **Articles for Submission**

Submissions for inclusion in the Olive Branch can be sent directly to the Editor or emailed to:

#### olivebranch@olivedalerv.co.za

Submissions should be in Word format with separate photographs. Hand-written submissions will also be accepted.

The deadline is the 25th of each month or the preceding business day if over a weekend or public holiday.

Acceptance of articles will be subject to date of submission, space constraints and suitability for publication.

# Editorial Contacts Editorial Committee

Angie Moir, Editor
Maureen Lamprecht
Elaine Little
Elma Van Den Berg

#### **Advertising**

Nicole Mulder

Village Management

Chris Heyneke

**Responsible Director** 

To be advised

#### **Disclaimer**

The articles and ideas published in this newspaper are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Olive Branch Editorial Committee or the Olivedale Home Owners' Association NPC

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## Advertising Rates for 2023

- Published monthly format is A4 portrait.
- Circulation: 400 black-and-white printed copies.
- Full page: R800-00
- Half page, landscape only: R400-00
- Quarter page, portrait: R200-00
- Strip Ads across bottom of page: R100-00 (3cm high)
  - Small advertisements and notices R15-00 (size subject to space availability. Size generally is about 6,5 X 4.5cm)
- Submissions by 25th of each month or preceding business day, if over a weekend or on a public holiday.
- Contact Nicole on 010-596 5497 to place advertising.



Happy Yalentine's Day

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Friday 10am to

to 3pm

11am

#### Useful ORV numbers

***************************************	
	EXTENSION
Fail Care Office	5010
(Matron)	
Frail Care Reception	5011 / 5462
Kitchen Office	5493
Kitchen Orders	5494
Tuck Shop	5492
Hair Salon	5496
Clinic Sister	5495
Reception	5500 / 9
Security	5400 / 5183
Beauty Salon	5192
Phone Balance	0999#

#### **CLINIC HOURS**



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Tuesday 2pm to

3pm

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Wednesday

12 noon

Doctor: 12 noon

to 1pm

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