



OUR FIRST OWL HATCHLING

FWG RESIDENT:

SA represented at the
NXL World Speedball Championships

Bubbles and Canapé Evening

IN THE PICTURES:

Trick or Treat

The World's Most Famous Fish



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Cover photograph: Elmine Durandt

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Estate Office 011 465 7731
(operating hours 08h00 - 16h00 Mon to Fri)
info@fwg.co.za

Estate Security 24/7 011 465 5465/66
Main Control Room

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Medical Response 011 444 2237
Netcare 911 082 911

Council Service 011 375 5555
and Enquiries:

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MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

Welcome to the Christmas edition of our magazine! I can't believe it's December already!

The Fourways Gardens HOA Management team would like to wish all our residents a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you for being part of our community this year, and we look forward to another great year ahead in 2019!

Christmas is about spending time with family, giving to others and of course, the traditions. Traditions are an important part of the holiday season. Maybe your family doesn't really celebrate Christmas, but you still like to get together and enjoy each other's company. Whatever your traditions are, there's always a way to integrate them with an altruistic lifestyle. If you and your family would like to focus on giving back to others this Christmas, here are some ideas:

- Give a toy;
- Put together a package for the less fortunate;
- Volunteer with a cause.

It's getting near to the end of 2018, and boy has it been a busy year! Looking back at some of the things we've been doing in the community this year... here are some of the highlights!

- Upgrade of Cambeboo Road – Phase 1 & 2.
- Appointment of Turfnet as the new Gardening and Landscaping contractor.
- Installation of new EntryPro Biometric Access Control System.
- Installation of internal and perimeter CCTV cameras.

It's the time of year when holiday decorations are hung and a festive spirit fills the air in communities across the country.



PRACTICAL SECURITY TIPS FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON

Security doesn't take a holiday

Ask friends to collect your mail and to stop junk mail from building up in your letterbox while you're away from home. A neighbour parking in your driveway can also help signal the house is not unoccupied. Other measures could include internal lights or a radio set on timers and organising for someone to mow your lawn.

We tend to our safety measures for granted when we are in holiday mode, but the devil is in the detail, and sometimes it's the attention to detail on the small things that makes the biggest difference.

Here are a few practical tips that you can keep in mind during the festive season.

- Make sure that your holiday decorations and displays do not obstruct your security systems. Watch out specifically for those that may obstruct video cameras or set off motion sensors.

- Spectacular thunderstorms during the summer months can wreak havoc on alarm systems. Regularly check your systems in case of lightning damage.
- Sliding doors can be secured simply by placing a piece of timber cut to size in the sliding rail. This is to ensure that sliding doors cannot be lifted vertically.
- Do not leave ladders, spades or tools outside, as they can be used to break into your house.
- Be smart about seasonal employees. If you hire new staff just for the holidays, make certain that they only have access into the areas where they need to gain entry and only during the hours that you wish them to have access.
- While on holiday, don't assume that the place you're staying in is crime-free. Always continue to be aware and vigilant, as you would at home.

As you and your families and friends settle into the festive season, I'd like to wish you all a peaceful and joyful time of receiving and spreading kindness and generosity.

Gary

The Fourways Gardens Estate Magazine focuses on the Fourways Gardens Residential Estate. The magazine is distributed to all residents at the guardhouses. The magazine is co-ordinated and published by Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd on behalf of Fourways Gardens Homeowners Association. The opinions of workers and personnel of Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd do not necessarily reflect those of the HOA of the Fourways Gardens Residential Estate.

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011 465 2302

011 465 2005

FWG Site Phone: 076 200 5280

Email: sitemgrfge@24-7security.co.za assistsitemgrfge@24-7security.co.za

Stay in touch

We look forward to suggestions and recommendations via the General Manager, Gary Haynes, which we will address accordingly.

Holiday Preparation

Before you head off for your much-anticipated summer holiday, make sure that your security preparations are taken care of.

- Have your alarm serviced by a technician of your choice and test it with the on-site Control Room.
- Get into the routine of switching your alarm system on whenever you go out and turn the system on when you leave for the holiday.
- Ensure that all doors can lock and that broken windows have been repaired.
- Ensure all doors, windows, garage doors, etc. are closed and locked before you leave.
- If your home is vacant, inform the Control Room so it can be checked on.
- Book a kennel for your pets.



- Before leaving, make sure your home is recorded in the "Holiday Register" at the Control Room so that our officers are aware that you are on holiday.
- If going abroad, ensure that there is a contact person appointed for security to contact in case of an emergency.

Any incident that may occur must be reported to the security office immediately.

Incidents are difficult to resolve when reported hours or days after they have taken place.



Kaitlyn van Rooyen

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Monthly Draw – 26 October

Kid's lucky draw: Adiwa from 6 Celtis Crescent

Adults' Lucky Draw:

- **Andrew Borreson, 7 Cape Chestnut Road** who won a bottle of bubbly
- **John Lamprey from 10 Crab Apple Place** won a bubbly hamper

Main draw for R10,000:

- **Garry Trant 32 Coral Tree Crescent** was not present.

This means we have a roll-over and a guaranteed draw at the end of November. R11,000 in the pot with a guaranteed draw. We will draw first for R11,000, and if not won a second time for R7,000 and if not won we will draw for R5,000 until a winner is present!

Thanks to Joep and Tania from Century 21 for sponsoring this fun monthly event for the residents of Fourways Gardens Estate!



These Fine Properties For Sale!

FOR SALE



R5 500 000

Web Ref: 21DN-2973

Private Home set on a corner stand with a walled garden, ensuring total privacy to the family. This 3 bedroom home has been newly renovated and perfect for the family who enjoys entertaining. This home opens into the interior featuring two large reception areas plus a spacious dining room. Included is a state of the art, temperature controlled wine cellar. An open plan modern kitchen fitted with granite tops and ample cabinets for storage and scullery. 3 Bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, 2 en-suite, with modern fitted vanities in the bathroom and a walk-in closet in the master bedroom. A gym or optional 4th bedroom and a separate study. The entertainment areas all open up onto a large sunny covered patio that offers ample space for an outdoor dining and lounge area, featuring built-in braai. The patio overlooks the sparkling pool and garden. Double automated garage and driveway parking.

FOR SALE



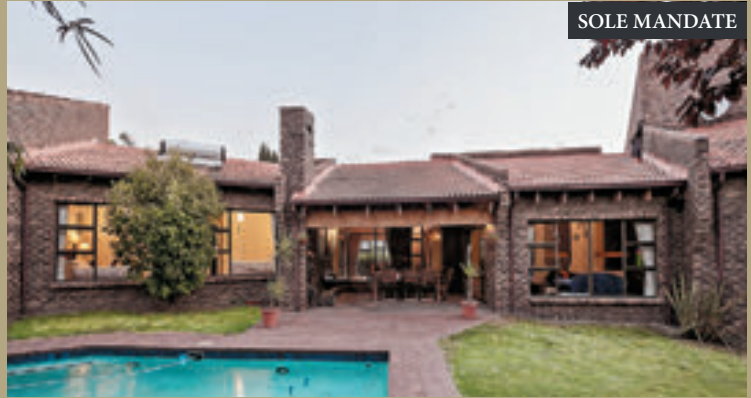
SOLE MANDATE

R4 995 000

Web Ref: 21DN-2920

Spacious interior featuring a formal and informal lounge plus a private entertainers room with built-in wooden bar and TV lounge. Formal dining room opening onto the patio. Japanese styled garden courtyard off the study. A covered patio overlooks the large sparkling pool surrounded by wooden decking, set in a spacious private and walled garden. Modern fitted kitchen with breakfast nook including high-gloss fitted cabinets and granite work tops; space for a double-door fridge and a separate scullery. Upstairs rumpus room, home office or gym. A separate wing hosts the spacious 4th guest bedroom with Victorian en-suite bathroom. All family bedrooms are on the same level and the master en-suite bedroom has a sliding door opening onto the exterior. Large 3rd bedroom or optional granny flat, complete with kitchenette and en-suite bathroom. Double garaging, and off street parking for guests.

FOR SALE



SOLE MANDATE

R5 200 000

Web Ref: 21DN-2978

Large family home in mint condition with 5 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. The home has a private self-contained flatlet complete with kitchen, bathroom, spacious lounge and a bedroom which could also convert into a home office. The interior of the home has been refurbished boasting contemporary finishes, modern fitted bathrooms and a superb kitchen featuring built-in cabinetry with granite and a breakfast nook. The front entrance lead into an expansive double volume reception area, fitted with a wood burning fireplace; separate lounge or home office and dining room adjacent to the modern kitchen with separate scullery. The family bedrooms are situated in a private wing including 4 bedrooms and 2 full bathrooms (MES) plus a guest toilet. A large covered patio ideal for outdoor entertainment, also features a bar. Excellent self-contained garden flatlet situated above the garages.

FOR SALE



R4 499 000

Web Ref: 21DN-2656

Spacious contemporary family home with lots to offer. Included are 3 bedrooms and a study or 4th bedroom, plus 3 bathrooms (MES). The master bedroom has a walk-in wardrobe and full bathroom plus access to a north facing balcony offering views of the surrounds. 3 Reception rooms consisting of a double volume lounge with sliders leading to the covered patio overlooking the large pool and mature garden; dining room adjacent to the solid wood built-in bar and a family lounge with sliding doors offering access to the garden. Modern eat-in kitchen with plenty of cupboard space with granite tops; double eye-level oven and a gas hob with overhead extractor fan and a separate scullery. Deluxe staff accommodation with kitchenette. Double automated garage with direct access to the home and ample off-street parking for guests.

If you are considering selling or renting your property contact Century 21 Lifestyle Team for a qualified evaluation. We welcome your call and will be pleased to discuss your property needs at any time.

Our experienced team will provide you with the best professional service!

Tania Heurtaux 082 550 2222

Joep Rijntjes 083 462 2756

Tel: 011 460 1599 | Email: lifestyle@century21.co.za | www.century21.co.za

FWG ACTIVITY PROVIDERS

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
08:00	Outdoor Fitness Classes (8:00-10:00)		Outdoor Fitness Classes (8:00-10:00)		Outdoor Fitness Classes (8:00-10:00)
08:30	Rhona Williams 083 600 1868	Pilates - Tracey (8:30-9:30) 082 894 6096	Rhona Williams 083 600 1868	Pilates - Tracey (8:30-9:30) 082 894 6096	Rhona Williams 083 600 1868
09:00	Yoga - Wendy (9-10:15) 011 465 7155 083 400 6211				
09:30					
10:00					
10:30	Nunu's and Nannies (10:30 - 12:30) Vanjee Smith 079 1800 330 vanjeeleigh@gmail.com			Nunu's and Nannies (10:00-12:00) Vanjee Smith 079 1800 330 vanjeeleigh@gmail.com	
11:00					
11:30					
12:00					
12:30					
13:00					
13:30					
14:00					
14:30					
15:00			Helen O'Grady Drama Academy (15:00-18:00) Kerry Holbrook 083 410 2940 www.dramafrica.com	Ballet (15h00-15h30) Nicky Ridley 072 238 8063 nickyridley33@gmail.com	
15h30	Jazz (15:45-16:45) Debbie 082 425 6098				Yogabats (15:30-16:30) Desley White 011 465 1939 / 084 465 1939
16:00			Boxing lessons (16:00-17:00) Sean 076 854 8650		
16:30		Goju-Ryu (16:30-19:30) Stef and Roberta 083 384 3026 / 083 309 5352		Goju-Ryu (16:30-19:30) Stef and Roberta 083 384 3026 / 083 309 5352	
17:00	Flamenco Dance (17:00-18:00) Cristina 076 521 8750				Boxing lessons (17:00-18:00) Sean 076 854 8650
17:30					
18:00	Yoga (18-19:15) Wendy 011 465 7155 / 083 400 6211		FOR HOA AND AGM MEETINGS		
18:30		FWG Running Club secretary@frfa.co.za Mandy 083 462 2725		FWG Running Club secretary@frfa.co.za Mandy 083 462 2725	
19:00					
19:30					
20:00					

Clubhouse Phase 2 Outside Phase 2 Tennis Gazebo

All fees and times to be confirmed with the activity provider concerned.

SOUTH AFRICA REPRESENTED AT THE NXL WORLD SPEEDBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN FRANCE



Jordan Timberlake (second from the right) from Fourways Gardens represented South Africa in France in September at the NXL World Speedball Championships in Chantilly. He was first selected to represent U19 Gauteng and was then selected for the South African Team.

Speedball is another form of paintball but much faster. They shoot paint at 12 balls a second to get the other team out before they gain the point. The game is fast, strategic and relies heavily on teams communicating effectively with each other.

Teams competing were France, Norway, Sweden, Great Britain, South Africa and Russia. Chantilly is a small town north of Paris and is the centre of horse racing in the country. The paintball fields were set-up in the centre of the racetrack with the magnificent castle and horse stables in the background.

Playing against world class teams was a true highlight. Some of the teams have professional players so the standard was incredibly high. As it was an international event, Jordan got to meet the top professional players in the world and watch them in person. He learnt so much about strategy, reading the field and he made great friends as well.

"It was a privilege to represent my country," he said.

South Africa came 4th in the Championships, beating the 2017 World Champions. We are proud of all our players for representing our country with such talent.



OWL PROJECT HAS FIRST HATCHLING IN FOURWAYS GARDENS ESTATE



Approximately four years ago the Fourways Gardens HOA in conjunction with Ecosolutions started owl releases from a safe area in the Nature Reserve. The first pair of owls that were naturalised and released were Spotted Eagle Owls, but as they are territorial birds, subsequent releases were all Barn Owls.

In October we received wonderful news that a privately installed box in Phase 2 had a Spotted Eagle Owl pair nesting on an egg and perhaps the chick was born already. Ecosolutions investigated and advised that the chick had to grow

to about 8 weeks, at which time it could be ringed.

Another concern of the residents were that the owl box was very exposed to the elements and had deteriorated to a point where they wanted to install a new box for the Spotted Eagle Owl family in a more suitable location.

Ecosolutions came through to the Estate on 7 November with qualified staff to ring the little chick and to install a new box. Bystanders gathered and the process was riveting. As they removed the little chick, the mom flew out but kept a

watchful eye from the house across the street. The chick was ringed, named and replaced in the new owl box. The reason for waiting until the chick was 8 weeks old, is that the mother could hear its call from afar at that age. So even if she did spook and fly away, she would be able to hear her baby's call and return to the new box.

We wish to thank Ecosolutions for their dedicated service in saving bats and owls and for the wonderful educational programmes they have begun with schools and in rural communities. If you wish to have an owl or bat box installed, please contact them directly.



Mommy and baby doing just fine in their new home.

PHOTO: Steve van Niekerk



Ecosolutions

Tel: 011 791 7326

Cell: 072 365 9777

Email: info@ecosolutions.co.za

Physical address: Unit G1 Metropolitan Park, Wakis Street, Strydompark, Johannesburg.

TRICK OR TREAT 2018



Phase 1 winners - 28 Parkway Pettitt family



What a fantastic evening it was for the residents and guests of Fourways Gardens Estate! We had houses really going to town with creative decorating and in some cases, families interacting and giving little children a good old scare along the way.

The children's costumes this year were unbelievable! The prize giving was absolute chaos and next year, we will definitely split the age groups further apart to ensure everyone gets noticed!

We wish to thank all the homes that took part in being sweetie spots this year. Phase 2 residents were definitely in the majority as sweetie spots, but the Pettitt family from the Haunted House, 28 Parkway redeemed Phase 1! They also won the best decorated home and we truly hope that this tradition will carry on. If you missed it this year, make sure to visit their home next year!

The Phase 2 street that had everyone talking was definitely Raintree Crescent! It was a difficult decision between the "Ghost Ship" and the "Cemetery", but the Du Plessis family from 30 Raintree Crescent won on the night!

Lastly we wish to thank Century 21 for sponsoring the fun prizes for our kids and the beautiful prizes for the best decorated homes.

Have a look at the fantastic costumes and décor that our kids could enjoy on the night!



Phase 2 winner - 30 Raintree Atanya du Plessis









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Christmas

Our annual Christmas Market took place on Saturday 10 November. With sixty stalls packed to the brim with great shopping, our residents could enjoy a fantastic day of shopping, right here in the Estate.

While the parents were shopping the kids could enjoy playing on the jumping castles or have a pony ride! There was definitely something for everyone to enjoy.

We wish to thank The Little Field Mouse Market for once again selecting and inviting high quality stallholders to join us for the day!





Market 2018



QUIZ NIGHT

Our last Quiz Night for the year took place in November. With a jam-packed room, it was fantastic to see the families and friends interact and brainstorm to come out on top. Some teams took it very seriously as they had a reputation to uphold!

We wish to thank our sponsors for the evening and for making it so much fun for the residents and friends of Fourways Gardens Estate.

Prizes for the evening were:

1st Prize – R1 000 cash from Francesca Beattie Properties

2nd Prize – R400 cash from Denoon Sampson Ndlovu Inc transferring attorneys and a R300 meal voucher from the Clubhouse

3rd Prize – R200 meal voucher from the Clubhouse

Our winning teams were:

- 1 TEAM KEIP
- 2 DRINKING CUBS
- 3 LAMBTOYS



Winners – Team Keip



First runners up – Drinking Cubs



Second runners up – Lambtoys









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Set a Table

BY KAREN DUDLEY

Following the success of her previous cookbooks, *A Week in the Kitchen* and *Another Week in the Kitchen*, renowned restaurant owner and My Kitchen Rules SA judge Karen Dudley invites us into her world in her wonderful new book, *Set a Table*.

This is a sumptuous cookbook to encourage and instruct home entertainers on gathering family and friends around the table for a truly memorable dinner. Karen effortlessly guides the reader through a colourful range of magnificent but easy-to-follow recipes. With stunning photography from Claire Gunn, the recipes will inspire you to create a timeless and beautiful experience for all gathered around the table.

The recipes in this book are carefully selected to showcase exceptional flavour, but are easily achievable at home. Many of the recipes are well-loved signature dishes from Karen's restaurant, *The Dining Room*, that have been developed for home cooks to share with guests. You will find that all the recipes in this book are extremely versatile. Many of the vegetable dishes can be served as main courses, accompaniments or even as canapés or 'small plates'.

'As the host, some honour is accorded to you. It is acknowledged that you have gone to some trouble and thought to orchestrate an occasion. This is why, when you begin (or revive) entertaining in your home, you understand that it is something of a rite of passage. For young entertainers it's quite a grown-up business, and for more seasoned entertainers, there is the realisation that you are expanding and embracing your social circle. There is an old-fashioned sense of service in keeping relationships and the social fabric strong.'



Dijo: My Food, My Journey

BY LESEGO SEMENYA

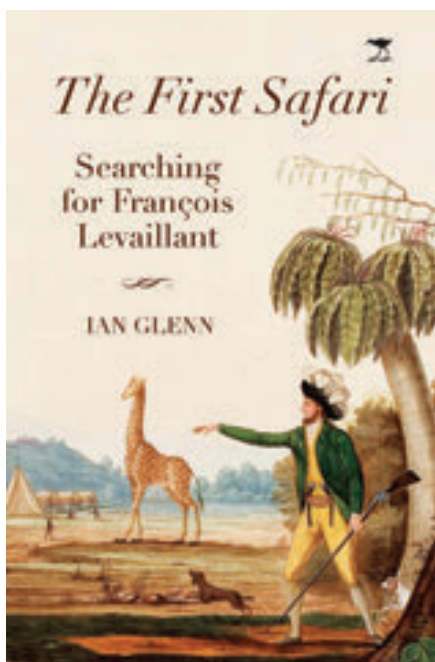
Soweto-born chef Lesego Semanya, well known as LesDaChef, shares his journey from the corporate world to being a chef, and offers township cuisine with a twist in his debut cookbook *Dijo: My Food, My Journey*.

'My goal as a township-born African chef trained in fine-dining cuisine is to remove all the snobbery and showcase the important parts of our food: the stories and memories behind each dish, and the rich and beautiful heritage that comes with it.'

This book is an affirmation of South African cuisine, its heritage and its unique flavours. Full of mouth-watering recipes such as Cape Malay Pickled Fish, Spicy Trotters, Asian-style Oxtail, Smoorsnoek with Croutons and Mint Chimichurri Crusted Lamb Rack with Mint Balsamic Sauce & Sweet Potato, this book is also filled with stunning photographs and beautiful food styling.

Every dish that is featured in *Dijo* has a story that speaks of passion and nostalgia. Sharing both the recipes and their history will give foodies a way of getting to know Lesego's food background while growing up in Soweto, as well as the fine-dining techniques he learned at chef school and a few hot chef secrets, too.

'Let's cook what brings us joy; let's have fun and make new memories.'



The First Safari

Searching for François Levallant

BY IAN GLENN

The First Safari tells how, for a quarter of a century, Ian Glenn searched for François Levallant's notebooks and the fate of his collection and tried to solve puzzles and mysteries of Levallant's life and times.

Levallant was the first and greatest South African birder, noted ornithologist, explorer, naturalist, zoological collector and anthropologist of the Cape. He collected thousands of specimens of birds and subsequently published the six-volume *Histoire Naturelle des Oiseaux d'Afrique* between 1799 and 1808. His contribution to ornithology in Africa was immeasurable, and some of his specimens still exist in museums in Europe.

Through his travels, he also shaped a range of media genres: the hunting narrative; the safari; the anthropological field record; the illustrated and mapped first-person account of travel we associate with National Geographic stories; the colonial adventure story with a well-armed hero; the erotic exotic; the investigative report on colonial brutality.

This book will be a great companion to all natural history lovers, to researchers, teachers looking for new South African literature and people interested in the bush or birding who want to know more about Levallant.

The famous King's Map that Levallant inspired for King Louis XVI is also included in the book.

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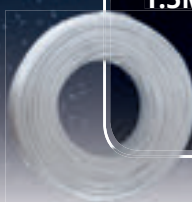
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The 2019 Leadership team

The importance of academic success in school is obvious: the education system in South Africa, like almost all countries, is geared towards preparing students to write a school exit exam and exam grades continue to be the yardstick by which employers and universities measure potential candidates.

Dainfern College has a stellar record of academic success, with a 100% matric pass rate since its first students wrote the National Senior Certificate in 2001, but it also believes strongly in the holistic development of students beyond just academics. Like many schools, it

promotes the benefits of sport, culture, service and leadership. Unlike many schools, however, this is an intentional programme built around the Round Square IDEALS of Internationalism, Democracy, Environmentalism, Adventure, Leadership and Service.

As a Round Square school, Dainfern College is part of an international network of over 200 schools worldwide who ascribe to an approach to education based on the teachings of Kurt Hahn. Hahn was a key figure in the development of experiential education and founded the first United World College, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award (President's

Award in South Africa), Gordonstoun school in Scotland, and Outward Bound, the international network of outdoor education schools.

Dainfern College's Leadership Programme is therefore based on the Round Square 'Spirit of Leadership'. The concept of 'servant leadership' is ingrained at an early age, with students encouraged to help and support each other at every opportunity. Through an intentional Leadership Academy programme that starts in Grade 8, students are given opportunities to explore the concept of leadership and acquire leadership skills through



Heds of school: Pumelele Vabaza and Feranmi Oluwadairo



Deputy heds of school: Courtney Baker and Sahil Bramdhaw



Heds of Griffin House: Viennle Ledwaba and Michael Swart



Heds of Kraken House: Rachel Calaz and Miles Taylor



Heds of Phoenix House: Caryn Love and Matthew Gillard

group work, grade camps and team activities that include interhouse and interschool sports and cultural events. This empowers students to engage with others, strategise, problem solve and learn about the responsibility that comes with leadership roles.

Students build up a personal Leadership file of the activities and events in which they have participated and the training they have had. They are also expected to serve their community through the school's Outreach activities. In Grade 11, interested students put together a leadership CV and apply to head up a particular portfolio in their Grade 12 year. They motivate their application with a speech to the school, before their peers and the school staff vote.

Unlike the traditional 'prefect' system, at Dainfern College each student on the Leadership Programme is then appointed to a specific Leadership Portfolio, and is assigned a personal mentor teacher who guides them and challenges them to grow their leadership skills. At the end of their

term of office, the leaders are assessed on their performance and how well they have managed their portfolios. Based on this, top achievers are then rewarded with a Leadership Scroll, Full Colours or Honours for Leadership, ensuring they are recognised for their performance rather than their status.

The student leaders for 2018/2019 were inducted on 8 October and are headed up by the Heds of School: Pumelele

Vabaza and Feranmi Oluwadairo, and Deputy Heds of School: Courtney Baker and Sahil Bramdhaw.

The Round Square 'Spirit of Leadership' is perfectly aligned with this innovative Leadership programme and fulfils the Dainfern College mission to give students the skills for life 'to unlock unique personal potential and to nurture creative thinkers with the confidence to become leaders'.

DAINFERN
College



For further information about Dainfern College, please contact marketing manager Deidre Proxenos on 011 469 0635 or dproxenos@dainferncollege.co.za.

FWG Wine Club – Bubbles and Canapé Evening



Fourways Gardens
Wine Club

The Fourways Gardens Wine Club ended the year with a bang, quite literally. Bottles of bubbly were popping while the guests mingled, laughed and enjoyed all the sparkling wine varieties on offer. We were lucky enough to have Boschendal, Spier, Sartori, Krone, Steenberg, Miss Molly and Valdo join us for a most enjoyable evening which took a slightly different form to usual. The Estates displayed their bubbly around the room allowing the guests to taste everything on offer from each Estate and to return as many times as they liked. Francois and the FWG team served tasty canapés throughout the night and Elmine captured all the fun that was being had.

We would like to thank Francois, his team and Elmine for all their hard work throughout the year to make the wine tastings such an enjoyable event each month. We would also like to thank Sharon McLintock for all that she has done growing the Wine Club from a few members to a large group of wine lovers who are regulars at each event. Sharon will be stepping back from organising the tastings but has already lined up a wonderful selection of Estates for 2019 so we hope to see you there. Our first event will be taking place on the 6th of February 2019.

Lastly, we are proud as your Tyson Properties specialists to confirm that we will be continuing our sponsorship of the Fourways Gardens Wine Club for 2019! We look forward to having you on board again next year.

Merry Christmas and
a Prosperous 2019
for all!

Sally and Dee





A COMPETITION TO WHET YOUR APPETITE

We have noticed that eating out is a firm favourite amongst Gautenggers – which is why we have come up with a tempting competition for you! For each issue we have a prize up for grabs – for this edition, the winner will receive a R500 meal voucher from one of the restaurants featured on this page.



Each restaurant has been carefully chosen and we hope that you'll enjoy visiting them whenever you are looking for a memorable culinary experience.

The question for this month's competition:

Who represented South Africa in the NXL World Speedball Championships in France?

Please email your answer along with your full name, your cell number and your stand number, detailing '**FWG Restaurant Competition**' in the Subject line, to: info@eiapublishing.co.za. The winner will be notified by email.

Terms and Conditions:

1. Vouchers cannot be exchanged for cash.
2. Portions of the monetary value of the voucher cannot be refunded as "change".
3. Bookings need to be made in advance with the restaurant detailed on the voucher.
4. Service charges/gratuities are not included, regardless of any balance left over after the meal.
5. Vouchers will be numbered. Please provide your voucher number when you make your reservation.
6. The competition is open to readers over the age of 18.
7. Indemnity: The publishers, Fourways Gardens Estate and any other associated parties are not responsible for the fulfilment of the service from the restaurant once the prize has been awarded.



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BUDGET YOUR PET-SPEND

4 Key areas to maximise the fur-dollar

There's no doubt about it, the current economic situation is putting everyone under pressure. Many of us are having to put a lot of thought into where every penny goes. And as much as we'd love to spoil our pets with goodies every day, pet-care spend isn't exempt from the spotlight. We've put together some ideas to help you use your pet-care budget most effectively.

Pet-care budget tip #1 - Nutrition

Next to veterinary care, nutrition is probably the most important investment you'll make in your dog or cat's health and well-being. While food is not the area to skimp on, there are a couple of excellent, cost effective products that have emerged in the South African pet-food market recently, that may help reduce feeding costs significantly, without compromising on good nutrition.

Twisted Whiskers clients, regardless of their income, have one thing in common: pets are considered members of the family and their owners are prepared to spend whatever they can afford to ensure that their beloved fur-babies are happy and healthy.

If you're sold on grain-free, antioxidant-packed, high-protein diets, but are finding some of the overseas imports a bit of a strain on the budget, why not consider Field + Forest? We have introduced many customers to this proudly South African product since its launch earlier this year and have received only good feedback. Dogs literally go wild for the taste and, at roughly half the cost of its overseas competitor, pet-parents are smiling again.

Twisted Whiskers never stocks a new dietary range without doing a thorough

analysis of its nutritional value, ingredient sources, packaging materials, cost-effectiveness, manufacturer reputation, etc. Our veterinarian and our pet nutrition aficionado go through the information with a fine-toothed comb and crunch all the numbers before we're happy to put our recommendation behind what our furry clients consume, and Field + Forest has come up trumps! It's of outstanding quality, backed by a money-back guarantee, contains South African novel protein sources and is a nutritionally sound, value-for-money range that you can have absolute peace of mind feeding.



Another local food that is gaining popularity is the reformulated Ultradog range. Available only in the veterinary channel, Ultradog has recently undergone a formulation upgrade, positioning it favourably against other locally produced veterinary diets, often with a price advantage. Ultradog Superwoof is a tasty premium diet with increased protein and fat levels. The Ultradog Special Diet range includes the maize-free Ultradog Premium Recipe and the therapeutic diets Ultradog Hypoallergenic, Ultradog Weight Control and Ultradog Joint Health.

If you've been considering changing from a premium diet to a grocery brand, worrying that none of the diets available from your vet are within your price range, think again! Twisted Whiskers staff will happily do a cost per day calculation for you to show that Ultradog Optiwoof can be more affordable than leading grocery brands! And your dog will be getting the benefit of veterinary nutrition research, guaranteed ingredient quality and fixed recipes that are not subject to changes based on whatever ingredients happen to be cheapest or more easily available on a given day.

If you're a Eukanuba, Iams, Hills or Royal Canin customer, you can rest assured that you're feeding one of the leading, most innovative brands that delivers everything it promises, with a money-back guarantee. You're paying for cutting-edge science, the best nutraceuticals, novel ingredients proven to promote health and longevity, and you're getting them!

Pet-care budget tip #2 - Pet Insurance
Veterinary costs are potentially our biggest spend when it comes to ensuring our pets' medical needs are met. Anyone who has had a fur-child with an unforeseen illness or accident will tell you that, while every cent spent was worth it, the outlay set

them back financially. Others may tell you that they wished they'd had the means to do absolutely anything to help their beloved friend, instead of having to put him to sleep.

Fortunately, the above scenarios are avoidable. It may seem counter-intuitive that we suggest an additional monthly spend in the form of pet insurance premiums when times are tough, but this is an investment that you will be most thankful for if your pet needs pricey or chronic treatment.

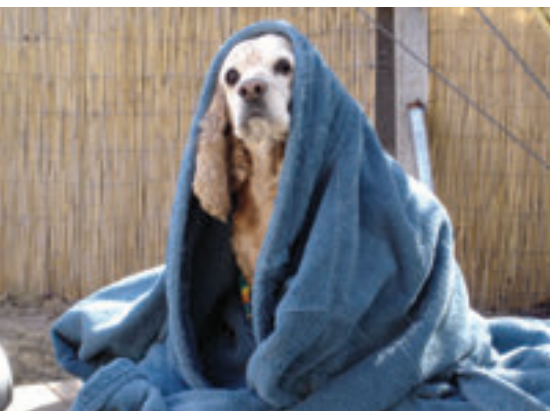
There are many new pet insurance companies to choose from, and they offer pet parents different options, from simple medical savings accounts to full comprehensive medical aid that contributes to the costs of routine necessities like vaccinations, parasite control and sterilization and even holistic and behaviour therapy. We consistently hear positive feedback about MediPet, both from within the veterinary profession and from clients. The independent website www.insurepet.co.za answers FAQs about the ins and outs of pet insurance and gives a helpful breakdown of some of the other products currently available and their respective monthly costs.

Pet-care budget tip #3 - Skin and Coat Care

If you have a short-haired dog or cat, chances are you can happily manage those pesky shedding issues by brushing regularly at home, without needing the services of a grooming parlour. But, if your pet has a long, thick coat or is sensitive about washing or brushing, grooming costs will need to be factored into the monthly budget.

Grooming is by no means purely aesthetic. Long-haired animals whose coats are





allowed to get into a matted state suffer severe discomfort as a result. The matting eventually forms a hairy straitjacket, limiting movement and ripping the healthy hair out by the roots. Parasites and garden debris often get stuck between the mats and the skin, causing itching and sores. Worst of all, a matted, smelly animal gets few cuddles and, even if these are forthcoming, he can't enjoy the sensation of pats or tickles on his skin.

Removing extensive matting is a big job for groomers and is consequently an expensive exercise. A convenient way to avoid this unnecessary expense is to keep your pet's coat in good condition year-round by booking regular grooming appointments and committing to the necessary home-maintenance in between. Twisted Whiskers offers a handy repeat booking system that ensures that your fur-baby has his own set appointment and guarantees that you won't be disappointed to find you can't get a booking close to the time. The regular schedule will also prevent your pet's coat from getting into a nasty mess. We all know how stressful life can be and how time can get away from us, despite our best intentions. And if you're not able to bring Fluffy in yourself, she can catch a ride in the Twisted Whiskers Spa Limo - fully air-con'd and compartmented for the comfort and safety of all our furry passengers.

We offer great discount packages for pets, so be sure to ask our staff for more info.

Pet-care budgeting tip #4 – Parasite Control

A potentially costly mistake many pet-parents make is skimping on parasite control. Whether your dog or cat spends most of his time indoors or on your property, or out and about socialising



with other animals on a regular basis, managing ticks, fleas and worms is something that cannot be compromised on. It may be tempting to relax tick and flea control in winter, or to use it intermittently throughout the year, if at all.

Parasites put your pet at very real risk for contracting potentially fatal illnesses. While worms and fleas are generally more uncomfortable than life-threatening (except in severe cases), it's ticks that we need to concern ourselves with. That said, a flea infestation in the home can be both difficult and expensive to eradicate. And no-one wants their pets passing worms on to the rest of the family either. Pets should be dewormed every 3 months, unless they have regular contact with other animals (eg. puppy school, shows, or the dog park), in which case, it should be done more frequently.

Use Milbemax (the only dewormer that covers all types of worms as well as the dreaded *spirocerca lupi*) together with an additional tick and flea remedy.

Ticks spread diseases like biliary and *Ehrlichia* in dogs and *Haemobartonella* in cats, which can be fatal. They can also carry the parasite for human tick bite fever. Any tick might carry these diseases, so the only effective way to safeguard your pet is to be fastidious about a parasite prevention programme.

There are a variety of tick and flea prevention products available to suit your pet's lifestyle and your budget, but these are our top recommendations.

Brand new on the market for cats is Broadline, a monthly odour-free, sting-free, alcohol-free top-spot preparation, which gives broad-spectrum protection against all types of worms, as well as ticks



and fleas, in an easy-to-use applicator.

Seresto collar - ideal for dogs who swim or are bathed regularly, as the active ingredient is impregnated into the special polymer material of the collar and can't wash off. This collar (available for cats as well) is fully effective for 8 months and, provided you have the budget for the initial outlay, is the most cost-effective option, when compared to other products.

Bravecto oral tablet – is a product that works systemically and conveniently offers protection for 3 months per single dose. It is presented in a tasty chew tablet which most dogs chomp down without protest.

Nexgard oral tablet - this works in the same way as Bravecto does but has the advantage of being available in monthly doses, which may be helpful if you don't have the cash available for 3 months' worth of tick and flea control in one go.

Of course, the most important budget planning needs to happen BEFORE you bring a pet into the home. Caring properly for animals costs money and they have every right to receive good care from us. Before being swept along by emotion looking at a beautiful puppy or kitten, or a wizened senior who tugs at the heart-strings, do the sums and consider carefully whether your household budget can comfortably cover all the associated costs. A fur-child is for a life-time, not just for the holidays.

We won't be in an economic slump forever but, for now, with some careful budgeting on our part, our animals can enjoy "the lifestyle to which they are accustomed". Happy Holidays and a very 'Merry Twistmas' from all of us to you and your furry loved ones!

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THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS FISH

"Somebody's just discovered a live dinosaur!" Those were, I always believed, the first words of Professor JLB Smith as he rose from sitting at the breakfast table just after Christmas in 1938. He was staring at a letter in his hand and for some moments stood in stunned silence. It was a letter from an East London woman.

In a few weeks' time, on January 3, it will be exactly 80 years since that letter arrived at the professor's holiday home in Knysna – that was the day the story of the world's most famous fish began.

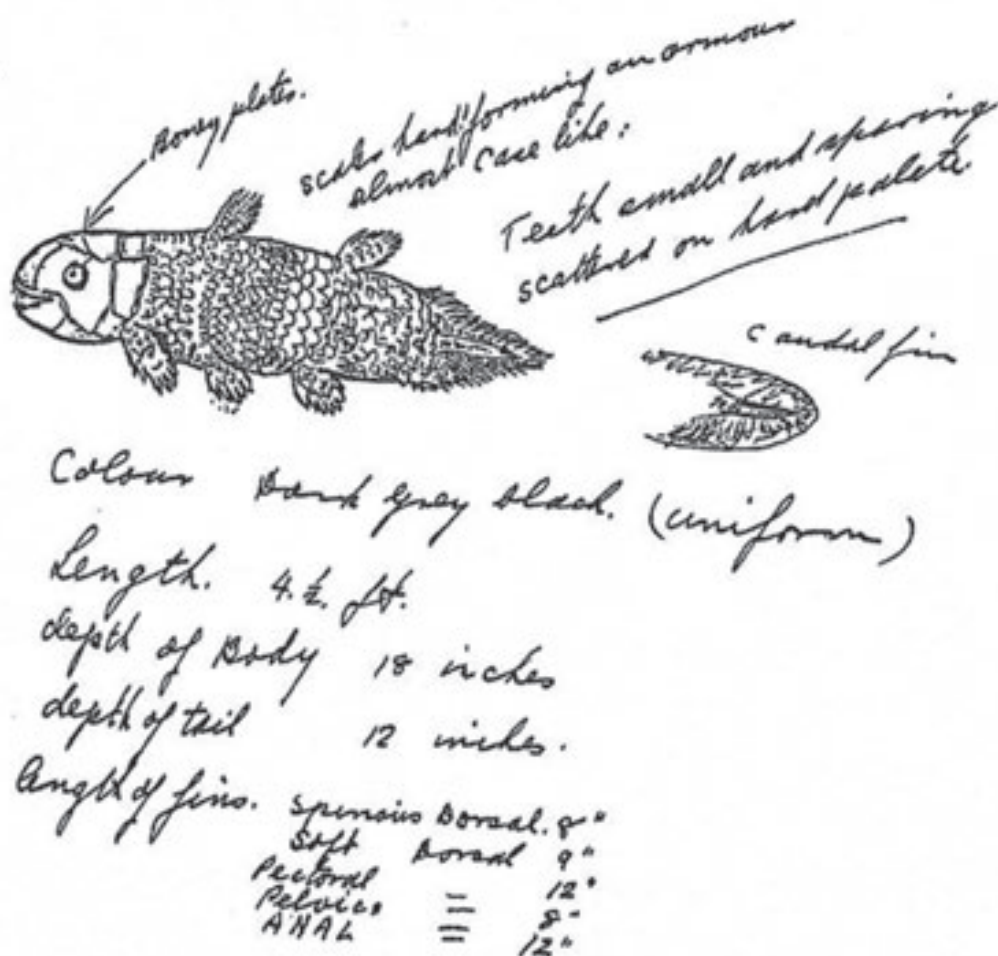
The woman, Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer, director of the East London Museum, had written to Smith about a large newly-caught fish she had just retrieved from the city's fish market. It was her amateurish sketch that riveted his attention.

Smith was puzzled at first but then, from the deep recesses of his memory, he remembered seeing pictures of coelacanth fossils found around the globe over the years, all dated between 420 million and 65 million years. Sixty five million years ago . . . that was when a meteor smacked into the earth causing sun-blocking debris to circle the planet for years, extinguishing the dinosaurs and uncountable numbers of other creatures.

Naturally, it was assumed coelacanths died in 'The Great Extinction'. Smith's often quoted remark about the dinosaur was in fact not uttered, according to a definitive book by Professor Mike Bruton on the notoriously taciturn and often difficult 'JLB' and his more outgoing family – and his celebrated fish.



Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer, the East London Museum and the trawler, Nerine, that found the coelacanth.



Marjorie Courtenay-Latimer's rough sketch of her unusual 'limbed' fish.



Smith was a professor of chemistry at the time but was also a widely respected and knowledgeable amateur ichthyologist (fish expert). I never met JLB but knew Margaret, his widow who, by the time I met her, was director of the JLB Smith Institute of Ichthyology at Rhodes University, and I worked on projects with their son, William, the country's most popular science teacher. Mother and son were compulsive and brilliant teachers as is their biographer, Bruton himself – an articulate scientist with many and varied interests.

I thought I knew a bit about the Smiths but as I became absorbed in Bruton's 344 page book on their private lives – with all its warts, I realised how little I knew about the effect of this spell-binding episode of science history and the impact on their lives. Smith, in some ways, was inexplicably slow in getting to East London to actually see the fish for himself, yet, that January, he immediately wrote to Courtenay-Latimer saying he strongly suspected she had on her hands a creature that would shake the scientific world. "Zoologically sensational," he called it.

Smith said it was imperative that she



Admiring the second coelacanth on arrival in the museum (1953).

Photo courtesy of NRF/SAIAB



JLB with the second fish. This year marks the 50th anniversary of JLB's death.

Photo courtesy of NRF/SAIAB

preserved the fish's organs but the museum director had had nowhere to preserve them and had already thrown them away for they were putrid. It was heroic enough that she, alone, got the human-sized fish (58,6kg) from the harbour to her museum and preserved it.

That day was December 22 1938. Her letter took 12 days to reach JLB. Bruton, with unlimited access to the Smith's papers, recalled her description of the

moment she saw the fish: "I picked away at the layer of slime to reveal the most beautiful fish I had ever seen. It was a pale mauvy blue, with faint flecks of whitish spots; it had an iridescent silver-blue-green sheen all over. It was covered in hard scales, and it had four limb-like fins and a strange puppy-dog tail."

Its colouring soon disappeared.

Smith wrote to her saying, "I cannot help



JLB and staff photographing coelacanth No.2.

Photo courtesy of NRF/SAIAB



Son of JLB, William Smith, known to tens of thousands of science students across South Africa.

but mourn that the soft parts of the fish were not preserved even had they been almost putrid. I am sorry to say that I think their loss represents one of the greatest tragedies of zoology."

Even so, Smith himself, took another 44 days to get up to East London. Admittedly, it was 580km away and on rough roads and the professor had a pile of Rhodes University exam papers to mark. He was frankly also scared of making an ass of himself. As Bruton says, he realised the find was "utterly fantastic and highly unlikely". Smith told Courtenay-Latimer, "...my mind still refuses to grasp this tremendous impossibility."

It proved indeed to be a sensation and rocketed JLB and his wife, Margaret, into a new life. Smith became, in the public's eye, the world's most famous ichthyologist. The fish, which quickly became a crown jewel of evolutionary science, had been caught off the East London coast and now the search was on for another specimen.

JLB felt the French Comores in the Indian Ocean was the likely home range and, by way of posters, offered a substantial reward for a specimen. World War 2 came and went. So did the 1940s.

It was 14 years later, again around Christmas, that a second coelacanth was caught off the French Comores. JLB



Margaret Smith in laboratory: she was vital to JLB's career.

Photo courtesy of NRF/SAIAB

feared the French would claim it or that it would decompose in the mid-summer heat. But nobody was prepared to fly him out and bring the fish home.

As a last resort he appealed to the Prime Minister, DF Malan. Everybody knew Malan believed evolution contradicted the bible and yet, Malan, who apparently had JLB's hefty tome, *The Sea Fishes of Southern Africa*, at his bedside, was impressed on hearing JLB himself on the phone – and also impressed by JLB's pleas that national prestige was at stake.

He assigned an Airforce Dakota and maximum crew to take JLB and bring the fish home. JLB, known to be rather

humourless, when he knelt down to examine the huge fish, wept. He planned to name it *Malania anjouanae* (for Malan) for he thought it was a different genus but it was later discovered it was a smaller, damaged version of the original which was named after Courtenay-Latimer - *Latimeria chalumnae*. The specific name refers to the Chalumna River mouth near East London where the first one had been trawled.

The coelacanth is now listed, internationally, as "critically endangered" – just one degree above the final category: "extinct".

Extinct! How bitterly ironic that would be.



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CARPETS & FLOORING: (vinyl planks, laminates, solid & engineered wood) 37 years in the business, workmanship guaranteed, all brands, competitive prices. Contact Tony on 083 290 1757 or tony@bonetts.co.za, www.bonetts.co.za

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND: "Higo" we offer Indoor and Outdoor playground, please call 011 397 1390 / 076 296 6666, you are welcome to visit our showroom – unit 15 Jan Smuts Park, Jet Park.

CHARTWELL STABLES: Looking for a riding school? Chartwell Stables in Fourways is the place to be! Lessons for all ages and levels, Healthy & well-schooled horses / ponies, Safety is first priority, Child friendly facilities, Interschool's Success, Regular shows held at yard, holiday camps, workshops and fun days, Ponies available for half bait, contact our Stable on 073 952 8572 or Shirley on 083 500 0103 / www.chartwellstables.co.za

CRICKET COACHING ACADEMY: We offer all year round professional cricket coaching for children and adults. All welcome from beginners to professionals, call Amos on 060 900 0625.

DAMP - PROOFING / WATER PROOFING / PAINTING: Owner supervision. All work guaranteed. Call Richard on 082 352 6382.

DÉCOR SPECIALIST: Whatever your style, we will help you achieve it! Full consultation, manufacture & installation services specialising in Curtains, Blinds, Upholstery, Wall treatments, Custom Furniture and much more. Contact Estelle from I on Design 082 847 1220.

DIGITAL MARKETING: Need a website? Or social media support? Digital Butter has the 21st century skills and suss to help with all your digital marketing needs...and we're right here in FWG. We're about purpose, as well as profit, and love what we do for our NGO and business clients. Call Richard or Robyn on 082 890 4793 for a chat anytime or pop onto www.digitalbutter.co.za

DRY FIREWOOD: "Razor sharp service" email: brightfirewood@gmail.com / 082 786 3225.

DSTV DOCTOR: Approved DSTV – all installations, Aerials, Sales & Repairs, Multi choice accredited installer. Call Junior on 078 228-3182 / 011 072 6791 or email: 4wayssat4@gmail.com, www.dstvdoctor.co.za, address; Plot 79 Cedar Rd, Chartwell.

EB CONSTRUCTION: All renovations, Additions & Extensions and Paving. Full Turnkey and Project Management, call Ben on 078 872 8844.

E & J GAS INSTALLER: Maintenance, Repairs, Installations, Eddie (Cert Gas Installer) call - 079 8852528 or Julio 082 654 4888 / eduardocasanoves@gmail.com / jzw@telkomsa.net

ELECTRICIAN: (Lazis Electrical) Certificate of Compliance, New Installations, Tripping & Fault Finding, Power Failures, Geysers, Stoves, Plugs, Lights, Installation of Generators, call 078 739 6773 / 073 127 3921.

ELECTRICIAN: Hassan Electrical, for any type of electrical work in commercial and industrial please call 076 711 1175 / 082 389 9880 / electric1services@gmail.com

ESCAPE MASSAGE THERAPY: IN PAIN??? ESCAPE for a HEALING SPORTS MASSAGE. Deep tissue manipulation to get rid of those TENSION KNOTS, OLD CRYSTALIZED KNOTS / SCAR TISSUE. Operating from a secure complex in Fourways, I have strong healing hands and more than 20 year's experience. STRICTLY PROFESSIONAL. HALF HOUR – R170 (Back and legs – combo), AN HOUR – R320 (Back and legs), HOUR AND HALF – R450 (back, legs, head, shoulders and feet – full body). Contact Leila for appointment on 062 117 4347.

ESSENTIAL TANNING: Spray tanning in Fourways Gardens. We use an amazing product called "The Tan Lab", that will not only give you a natural looking tan, but will also ensure a long lasting tan that will fade evenly. Please contact ESSENTIAL TANNING for bookings and specials on 083 410 7299.

FOREVER LIVING PRODUCTS: Aloe Vera Gels, C9 Detox Program, F15 Program, Agri +, Skin care ranges, Sunscreen and many more products in the Forever Living range. Please contact Deanne on 083 410 7299 for more information on product and prices.

FOR "GREEN FRIENDLY" HOUSEHOLDS: Eco-friendly toilet paper, hand towels, serviettes, roller towel available at best prices. Contact Clem Angus on 082 449 1781. Minimum quantities apply.

FIXIT FOX HANDYMAN SERVICE: (FWG Resident) general home repairs & installations including cupboards & shelving, wood & steelwork, minor electrical & plumbing, picture hanging etc. All work done personally. Contact Andre Le Cordeur on 011 465 8902 or 083 473 9362 / fixitfox1@aol.com

FOURWAYS PLUMBING: Resident plumber for all plumbing requirements, reasonable rates and same day service, 011 705 2145 or call Steve on 082 440 5111.

GARDEN REFUSE REMOVAL SERVICE – GARDENDRUMS: Garden refuse picked up weekly – service agreement with monthly fees. Options: Steel drum with lid OR 6 standard household plastic bags per week. Email us: gardendrums@mweb.co.za / Philip 082 782 4864.

GARDEN BOYZ: For all your garden needs, Landscaping, Irrigation, Lawn cutting, Garden clean up, Composting, Lawn Dressing, Garden Maintenance, Weeding, Tree Felling, Pool services, owner supervision. Try us and see the Difference, call Jordan on 073 849 0927 / 083 406 3893.

GARDEN MANAGEMENT SERVICES: Top class garden and pool service at affordable rates. We also specialize in clean-ups, instant lawn, irrigation, tree felling. Contact Rob 082 778 5566.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE: IML Service specialize in Garden clean up, Landscaping, Composting, Weeding, Lawn Dressing, Lawn cutting, Tree Felling, Pool service, contact Isaac 084 846 6336 / Nthabiseng 074 610 0582 / isaacpty01@gmail.com

GATE MOTOR REPAIRS: Alarms, CCTV, Gate Motors & Intercom System Repairs & Installations. Call Ninja 011 071 0773 or Quinton on 084 354 5596 / 7.

GENGROW – LANDSCAPING: Garden maintenance, installations, Clean-ups. Irrigations-installations, repairs, Water-feature installations and repairs. Tree felling, Compost, Lawn dressing, Pool maintenance and repairs, Lawn care program, Rubble removal - contact Doane- 083 456 3480 or email: doane@gengrow.co.za

GERMAN TUTORING: For all ages, specializing in children from 3 years. Contact Tanya for more information on 082 337 4845 or tanya@fallingintoplac.co.za

HAPPY MILK: Do you remember milk being delivered to your home in glass bottles by the milkman on his early morning milk run? As your local milkman, we are here to give you the environmentally friendly alternative. Not only providing you with the freshest, most wholesome milk but also assist in reducing your plastic footprint. Place your order online or call our local rep: www.happymilk.co.za / 072 362 7417.

HANDYMAN: Over 15 years of reputable Handyman Services in Fourways area, specializing in Wood work – decking, woodwork repairs, custom built woodwork, oil treatment of window frames and doors. Building, damp proofing, water proofing, steel work, tiling, roofing, underfloor heating, painting, minor electrical, plumbing, solar technology, special features and odd jobs. References on request. Please contact Grant on 060 343 6626 / www.grantbarnes.co.za

HANDYMAN EMMANUEL: We do renovations, plumbing, tiling, ceiling repairs & installations, cornices & skirting, painting, building work and paving, call Emmanuel on 073 110 3590 / 084 333 0267 / 011 050 7264 / email: emchikati@yahoo.co.uk / www.wondersrenovation.co.za

HEDGEHOGS PLAYSCHOOL: This is a small and nurturing Educational Playgroup run by a qualified teacher in Fourways Gardens Estate, Phase 1. Ages 18 months to 3 years. Weekly themes and creative activities form part of the curriculum. REGISTER NOW FOR 2019! For more information, or to make an appointment to visit the school, contact Debbie Hutchinson on 083 253 1414.

HERBALIFE INDEPENDENT DISTRIBUTOR: Free Delivery. Call Carin on 082 557 4638 for a free wellness evaluation.

HOUSE AND PET SITTING: Going away for a few days or on holiday? There is no need to be concerned about your beloved pets. Entrust them to us, a mature couple. We will love and care for them in the security of your home. Our

years of home and pet sitting will provide you with peace of mind. We will also care for the pool and garden if you wish. Please call Henry 082 565 9317 or call Deidre on 082 335 5096 deidredevine89@gmail.com References available on request.

HOUSE / PET SITTING: Going Away? No Worries! As a mature woman with many years of experience, I will feed & walk them, take them to the vet if necessary, & even keep them company in the comfort of their own home. Areas: Lonehill, FWG, Fourways, Dainfern & Cedar Lakes. Many references available. Call Nicky on 072 129 0698.

HOUSE SITTING: Extensive experience in house and pet sitting in JHB North. Mature couple residing in FWG available to care for all types of pets in your home. Your pets 7 home will be in the best hands. Contact Laura 079 757 6635 or pabla@vodamail.co.za, references available.

HOUSE AND PET SITTER: Why leave your pets alone and away from home in an impersonal kennel? Rather leave them in their own loving home in my competent hands; Mature Lady with 20 years' experience will fill the gap that you leave. Please call Dee-Jean 076 035 6908 / djb160453@yahoo.com, references upon request...NB (including Dainfern, 4WG, Cedar Lake)

LAWN CARE PLUS: All year round lawn care, 14 year's experience, winter lawn root-boost in preparation for spring, all lawn problems sorted, weeds, insects, disease, shade, aeration, rats, de-thatching, new lawn, tree felling, irrigation etc. contact Philippa on her cell 072 208-3587 / lan on 084 888-1632 / 011 704 4614.

INTERNET & TELEPHONE: Need Faster Internet, contact Travis Copley@Centracom and get a free Feasibility done! Currently running promotions on Fibre, wireless and LTE services. Get a competitively priced quote across 15+ providers within 24hrs. Centracom manage services and implementation. Centracom Do Voip, Cloud Solutions and Connectivity services. Contact Travis Copley on 083 600 4439 / travisc@centracom.co.za

IRRIGATION – SOFT RAIN: I have gone solo after 4 year's and I have two partners each with over 12 years' experience. All sorts of irrigation from maintenance repairs to new installations call Isaac on 078 658 4371.

IML SERVICE: We specialize in Housekeeping, wall, carpet, Brasso, Silvo, tile cleaning, window washing, contact Isaac for more info. 084 846 6336 / Nthabiseng 074 610 0582 / isaacpty01@gmail.com

KARATE: Goju-Ryu Classes are conducted in a fun environment while learning a form of martial arts. Benefits are discipline, strength building, bilateral integration, co-ordination and focus to mention a few. As an instructor I have more than 15 years of teaching experience with Children through to Adults. Ages welcomed from 4 years to 18+ years. A Free Introductory lesson is provided should you be interested. Contact Sensei Roberta 083 309 5352 5th Dan Goju-Ryu Instructor.

MOKOPANE ELECTRICAL: Installation, Maintenance repairs: Energy efficient solutions, emergency call out, tripping problems, garden and security lights, Geysers – no hot water, Timer switching, Fault finding, Lights and Plugs, Pool & Spa motors, Certificate of Compliance, Under floor Heating, Call Ronald: 072 154 9735 / mokopane.electrical@hotmail.com

MOBILE PET GROOMERS: Soapy smooches – the best in town! Give us a try – we conveniently come to your home to pamper your pets in our fully equipped pamper van and animal loving, professionally trained, caring staff. Collect your loyalty smooches every time, 10th wash is free! All we require is a connection to an electricity point and a tap and then...a booking, call or WhatsApp us on 061 087 8247.

MGUNI GREEN FINGERS: Garden maintenance, Garden refuse removal, Tree felling service, call Isaac on 083 582 0636 / isaac@mgunigreenfingers.co.za / www.mgunigreenfingers.co.za

OUTDOOR CREATIONS & LANDSCAPES: Lawn maintenance, Irrigation, Home & Garden renovations, organic rich lawn dressing and Instant Lawn services, Garden revamping, contact the team that offers more than just a service but after service as well, contact Jared on 076 668 2188 / outdoorcreations@mailbox.co.za

OSAM CARPENTRY: Door Hanging, Wood laminate flooring, built in cupboards, Kitchens, Ceilings, Cornices, Skirting, Dry walls, Painting & Varnishing. Call Ozzy on 073 058 0464 / osamakwera@gmail.com

ORGANIC RAW HONEY: Straight from our hives at avo-macadamia-blue gum-jacaranda farms in Brits. 0.5kg honey @ R100, limited quantities. Collection at 58 Karob Crescent Phase 2, Mon to Fri between 12:00 to 18:00. Please send your order with pick up date and contact details to fwghoney@gmail.com

PAINTING / DAMP-PROOFING / WATERPROOFING: Owner supervision. All work guaranteed. Call 082 352 6382.

PATSONS PAVING: For all you're paving and tiling requirements – no job too big or small. Everyone is welcome. There are various designs available to suit your individual taste. Call Patson on 082 676-2668 or 084 288 6149.

PAINTER: John and team of painters are doing all types of painting jobs, specializing in transforming kitchens using Annie Sloane Chalkpaint, please call John on 071 113 1331, for references call 082 817 1978.

PAINTING: IML Service specialize in Painting, Renovation, Waterproofing, Plastering, Skimming, Rhinolite and Building, contact Isaac on 084 846 6336 / Nthabiseng 074 610 0582 / isaacpty01@gmail.com

PHYSIOTHERAPY: Vanessa Fourie Physiotherapy, 30 years of experience, treatment for headaches, neck and back pain, post op rehabilitation, sports injuries, home visits within 3 km, medical rates charged, 26 White Ash Street FWG, call Vanessa on 083 458 4720.

POOL SERVICES: Maintenance, repairs, re-marblelite, pumps, sand changes etc. For all pool requirements call Jackie or Martin on 072 132 5703.

POOL REPAIRS: Since 1989 / Winter is the best time to give your pool attention! We design and build new pools as well as renovate, repair and improve existing pools. We have a dedicated team and long standing suppliers which, together with our commitment to using only the best materials and proven techniques, enables us to create beautiful swimming pools and provide quality solutions we can be proud of. Contact Derek Wood on 082 552 8470, you can also check HelloPeter to see what people say about us.

PAUL POOLS SERVICES: Repair pump filters monthly charge- R550.00 Including chemicals. Contact Paul on 072 193 0680.

PLUMBER: (RC PLUMBING) Reliable professional local plumber for all your plumbing maintenance needs at reasonable rates. Please contact Ryan on 082 598 4881 or 011 465 5198.

PROFESSIONAL TAX PRACTITIONER (SA): Registered caring tax practitioner with a proven track record to sort out all your SARS problems and TAX returns, contact Sharon on 072 248 0198 / sharonaley@yahoo.com

QUICK SERVICE I.T.: QUICK SERVICE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. We provide quick, quality, onsite I.T. services. Hardware and software technical support, repairs, sales, networking etc. Contact us for all your I.T. requirements, call 083 600 2533 / www.quickserviceit.co.za / quickserviceit@icon.co.za

RELOCATING: Or just clearing your cupboards? Make cash from your second hand clothes, shoes, handbags, bed linen, towels, toys,

crockery, baby stuff, etc. We buy and collect. Please contact Lindy on 072 656 0470 or email: silindenid@gmail.com.

SUBA INSTRUCTOR: Just in time for the Holidays! Please contact Dino for all your Scuba needs! I can renew certification, give Discover Scuba classes for kids, Open water and even Technical Diving! PADI and GUE certification. Please call me on 079 548 2838.

SMART HOME AUTOMATION: Voice Control your Home, 100% Retrofit, Lighting, Music, TV, Air Conditioner, Call Voice Automation For a Free Quote, Call Greg on 072 472 7588 / greg@voiceautomation.co.za / www.voiceautomation.co.za

SIYAKHISIZWE BUILDERS: Available to do all alterations (major or small extensions) driveways, tiling, patios and rubble removal, and garden refuse guaranteed quality and professional workmanship. Please call Alfred on 082 407 7022 / 078 417 5151.

TENNIS FOR LIFE: Professional tennis coaching for beginners to advanced players, adults and children, individual and group lessons. Contact Ina on 082 859 8565 / info@tennisforlife.co.za or www.tennisforlife.co.za

TKPILATES: Balance, Health and Wellness. Improve breathing, core strength and muscle tone. Private and small classes. Wednesday afternoon sessions held at Fourways Family Health Centre cnr. Granite & Uranium. For info or bookings contact Tamrin Kirk REPSSA Qualified Pilates Mat instructor: tkpilates@icon.co.za or 072 321 3848.

THE CLASSICE BOUTIQUE & CLEANERS: Tailoring & Alterations, Commercial and Industrial Laundry, Shoe

Repairs, Same day delivery, at the Fourways Gardens in the Car wash area, 7 days a week, from 7 to 7, call 011 074 9918 / 074 622 0735, shop no: 40 Uranium and Granite, Fourways Gardens.

THE WINDOW LADY: We specialize in window cleaning for estate household, companies, hotels & restaurants, personal services, offering monthly, quarterly, twice a year and once off service, contact Thabang 082 927 0081.

TRABLE TREE FELLING: Tree Felling, Trimming & Pruning, Stump Removal & Rubble Removal, Free Quotation, do you need to cut the Wood? Call Pascal on 081 055 4089.

TREE CARE: Tree felling, stump removal, rubble & garden refuse removal, palm trimming & irrigation maintenance & installation, contact Frank on 076 669 1918.

TUTOR: Available, I am a Medical student from the University of Pretoria and I can tutor in Maths, Science, Life Science, Accounting, English, Afrikaans and L.O. Grade 8 – 12. R200 an hour. Contact Dani Knight 072 532 8703.

WONDERS CONSTRUCTION & RENOVATIONS PTY LTD: NHBRC registered, we specialize with new construction, extensions & alterations, bathroom renovations. Contact: 011 050 7264 / 084 333 0267 / 073 110 3590 / emmanuel@wondersrenovation.co.za / www.wondersrenovation.co.za

EMPLOYMENT:

DEBTORS: As I will be retiring at the end of the year, due to company policy, I will be looking for a new job. For the past 23 years I have worked on Debtors and related Finance administration at Deloitte. I have been a resident in FWG for 28 years, if I can be of any assistance to you please let me know. Joanne Ashcroft 082 924 3745 / 011 465 3262 / joanneashcroft@telkomsa.net

FOR SALE:

" Snooker Table, Union Billiards, three quarter size, slate, all accessories incl. Pristine condition. Sells new for R77 000, open to any reasonable offers. Call or WA Stephan on 082 452 8185"

DOMESTIC WORK:

Beauty: Is available on Tues & Thurs, a true angel, Beauty is brilliant at her job and a gifted child carer and very hardworking, she will quickly become an essential member of the family, call Gill for reference 079 477 8306 or Beauty on 083 952 4713.

Joyce: Fabulous for all domestic work and highly recommended. Joyce will often notice what needs cleaning before I do, and will take initiative to get it done beautifully, she communicates well and is a pleasure, open to full or part time work, call Robyn for a reference on 083 324 1521 or Joyce on 084 397 6312 / 078 746 0626.

Thandi: Our wonderful, gentle domestic helper is looking for full or part time work due to us relocating to Durban. She is wonderful with babies, children and animals. Has a driver's license and has done CPR and first aid courses, an excellent worker, call Bronwyn on 071 602 4236 for a reference or Thandi on 072 815 2284.

Emma: My domestic is looking for work on Tues & Thurs and December holidays, please call 078 903 1495, for ref. 072 180 3030.

Agnes: A reliable, trustworthy and hardworking Malawian looking for work as a domestic part time on Mon & Wed, call Agnes on 062 061 2038 or Stephen on 082 788 4866 for a reference.

Daisy: Our reliable maid is looking for part or full time work, she is honest and efficient with a dedicated manner, highly recommended, call Daisy on 084 447 3136 or 083 371 0495 for a reference.

Maria: Looking for domestic or child care work Mon to Fri live in position, excellent in cleaning and ironing, call 072 242 0245.

Alice: Looking for domestic work in the week, pleasant to have around, excellent in English, call 076 071 9688.

Lindiwe: Reliable lady looking for domestic work, available any day during November and December 2018 – need not be permanent. Honest and dedicated, her employer emigrated, but she anticipates starting a new job in Jan 2019. For reference call me 076 527 1313 or Lindiwe on 072 677 0696.

Nellia: An excellent, trustworthy, hardworking lady, she has 4 year's domestic experience, Tues, Thurs & Sat, call 074 309 5916.

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Juliet: Due to relocation our domestic who has been with us for 6 years is looking for live in or live out position as a domestic or child minder, she is currently studying a course in child minding, she is very trustworthy, Juliet 078 260 0930 or Barry 082 909 0200 for ref.

Everlyne: Has worked with us for many years taking care of our disabled child who has since passed, she has become a great part of our family but due to financial reasons she is looking for more day's work, highly recommended, for a reference please call 060 750 9773 or Everlyne on 078 421 8007.

Mpho: Full time live in position required for my honest, reliable, hardworking home helper, she loves animals and has a quiet happy nature, we are downsizing and are unable to employ her further, Mpho has been working in FWG for me for 24 years, please call Wendy on 083 604 0931 for a reference & interview.

Privilege: Looking for domestic work for Mon to Fri, she is an excellent worker, honest and reliable, she speaks excellent English and is pleasant to have around, Call Privilege on 079 142 6317 and for references call Nicola on 082 782 9702 or Freddy on 082 882 4857.

Martha: She has been working for me for more than a year, she is reliable, trustworthy, honest and hardworking, we are relocating and she is available on Tues & Fri, for a reference call 074 367 8516 or call Martha on 082 868 6184.

Elsie: Looking for part time live out employment, she is reliable & hardworking, she has worked in Fourways Gardens for 6 years, please call Wendy on 083 604 0931 or Elsie 076 973 3916.

Mallium: Due to relocation my domestic worker is looking for full time work Mon to Fri, for a reference call Deenash on 078 149 1672 or call her directly on 073 750 7930.

Subusisiwe: Looking for work as a care giver, she is loving and caring, manages to administer medication, can work day or night shift, reliable and trustworthy to leave patient with, contact 062 262 5346 or for more information call Melissa 083 417 6204.

Karen: Looking for part time domestic work, she has 20 year's experience in child care and a driver's license also computer literate, please call Vailmal on 082 964 7349 / Dane on 082 925 0156 for references.

Tholakele: Looking for full time domestic work, live in, Mon to Fri, she is brilliant hardworking lady and excellent with kids, with 10 year's experience. She can cook and clean as well as take care of the kids, she can also drive, call her on 076 015 0506 or call Tammy on 076 307 5535 for a reference.

Precious: Is a fabulous, hardworking and honest domestic worker, she is looking for one or two days a week, we have her employed full time but with children going to school no longer need her full time. Contact Andrea 078 658 6824.

Anna: Our lovely housekeeper is looking for full time position from Nov 2018 due to relocation, trustworthy, hardworking and proactive. First Aid qualification, fantastic with kids. Contact Anjali 081 877 8113 / Anna 063 077 0046.

Helen: Our family is emigrating and we would love to find a live in position for our nanny who has been with our family for last 6½ years. Helen will be available from 1 October 2018, she loves kids and pets, is friendly, reliable and a hard worker. For further details, please message me on 082 880 3006.

Mandiswa: Has been working for me for 4 years as a Char, she is hardworking, reliable and good with small children and animals, she is looking for live in position or live out, please call Mandiswa on 078 202 6803 or for a reference call 081 496 2701.

Christina: Our domestic helper of 6 years is looking for full time live in work as we are emigrating at the end of the year, she is honest, polite and attentive and highly competent carrying out all household duties. Please contact Carrol for a reference on 082 490 9764 or Christina on 082 392 1660.

Ana: Looking for permanent live in position, available 1 December 2018, her skills include full housekeeping, children care, shopping and caring for the pets also garden support, she is reliable, honest and extremely hard working, worked in the estate since 2013, references available on request, call Ana on 084 028 5616.

Cecilia: Looking for full time live in domestic work, she has previous work experience with cooking and is great with children, she would be an asset to any home, call Cecilia on 061 275 1455 or for a reference call 084 083 9634.

Hilda: Looking for part time or full time domestic work, she is S.A. She is honest and is good at ironing, loves kids and animals, she has been with me for 5 years, does not need live in position, call Hilda on 076 786 6594 or Cindy 082 378 3440.

Thokozile: Looking for domestic work any day of the week, she is reliable, honest and hardworking, call 073 687 9372 / Liz for a reference on 083 280 6400.

Christine: Mature lady looking for clients who need alterations of male and female clothes, curtains or linens. Also looking for domestic or child minding work on Tues, Wed & Fri, contact Christine on 084 650 6661.

Annastacia: Has worked for me for 10 years & is available for Tues, Wed, Sat, is SA citizen, honest & reliable, I would recommend her without hesitation, please call Sharon Caradoc 082 560 7042 or Annastacia on 078 188 6016.

Hilda: Due to relocation, Hilda is looking for new employment, she is friendly, trustworthy, independent and very patient with kids, she has basic CPR training and takes very good care of the house, she has been working in FWG for past 15 years with expat families, call Martha 079 017 6779 for a reference or call Hilda directly on 082 099 1080.

Nancy: Our family is emigrating and we would be thrilled to find a live in position for our nanny and domestic, Nancy. She is an exceptional person, friendly, honest, hardworking and wonderful with kids. She will be available from mid-January 2019. For further info, please message Astrid on 082 577 2416 or contact Nancy directly on 078 743 7167.

Sekesai: Is available from the 7th of January for full time, live in domestic work, she has worked with us for 3 years, she cleans, irons and also looks after our 3 children, contact Nina for a reference on weeks016@gmail.com or call Sekesai on 073 763 7057.

GARDENERS:

Domestic and Gardener Accommodation: Looking for a couple to live at my house in the Granny Cottage (could be a husband and wife but no kids) free of charge but in return they would need to work a day a week keeping the garden / pool looking good and dusting inside the main house They would also have to had lived / worked in FWG with references for at least 3 – 5 years. Contact Ian Temperley 083 661 4684 / 011 467 8841.

Frank: Looking for extra jobs, a reliable and thorough person, who is filling in during my gardener's absence. References from H Enoch 083 276 3369 or Kristina 082 900 7238, or Frank on 083 359 7270.

Joseph: Malawian gardener of 5 years is looking for work on Mon, Wed, Fri & Sat, he is hardworking and reliable, for reference call Lara on 072 673 3714 or call Joseph 063 469 3430.

Gripsy: Malawian looking for gardening work on Tues, Thurs & Fri, can also do house work as well, call Gripsy on 071 792 8058 or Jess on 083 274 4821.

Andrew: Has worked for me for 3 years and is very reliable and hardworking, he works well without supervision and is trustworthy and honest, available Tues, Fri and Sat, call Andrew 083 645 9607, for a reference call 078 706 6414.

Fanwell: We have used Fanwell (originally from Brads) for 9 years, highly recommended, he is free on Mon & Sat, for references call Gill 082 440 9816.

Ingram: Has 9 year's experience of gardening, he uses his own initiative and is hardworking, his handyman skills are also fantastic! Please call Shelley 083 601 8555 or Ingram on 078 285 4399.

Mike: Malawian seeks gardening work on Mon, Wed and Tues he needs every 2 weeks, He is very honest, hardworking person, he works without supervision, eager to learn more, highly recommended, please call Grant 082 881 0713 for a reference or Mike on 073 800 2107.

Masabane: A reliable hardworking handyman good for gardens, swimming pool, available on Mon, Tues, Fri & Sat, call Norman 082 452 1671 for a reference or Masabane on 076 745 0576.

Christopher: Gardener & Handyman requires work on Mon, Wed & Thurs, reliable, competent and hardworking, references available, call Christopher 083 359 7270 or Wendy on 083 604 0931.

Philip: Malawian seeks part time garden work on Tues, Thurs & Sat, he is honest and efficient as well as dedicated, highly recommended, call Philp on 073 721 8097 or Elizabeth on 084 391 3517.

Anthony: Malawian looking for part time work as a gardener on Mon, Wed, Thurs & Sat, totally honest, hardworking, please call 064 402 1 704 for more information.

Aleck: Has worked for us for 14 years, he is reliable, friendly, good worker and always on time, highly recommended, he can also do house work, call Aleck on 083 773 7749 or Eva on 083 882 5610.

Muzamo: Honestly the nicest kind hearted gardener we have ever had, great with my garden, instruction, thinks for himself, motivated and amazing with interruptions from my kids and dogs, available on Thurs & Sat, call Natasha 071 869 8165 for a reference or call him on 084 590 9362.

Stanly: My reliable gardener is looking for part time work on Mon, Wed & Sat, he is honest & efficient with a dedicated manner, highly recommended, call Stanly 083 371 0495 or for reference call Neil 083 281 1871 or Doreen 078 188 0786.

Sam: Our wonderful gardener of 6 years is looking for work on Tues & Thurs as we are emigrating, he is kind reliable and hardworking, we will miss him greatly, he can paint and do a few odd jobs, please call Carroll for a reference on 082 490 9764 or Sam 072 896 7761.

Nelson: My gardener is looking for additional work on Tues. Nelson has worked for us for the past 3 years and is cheerful, reliable, trustworthy and helpful. Dogs and kids love him! Please contact myself for a reference Caryn 082 460 4074 or Nelson on 074 248 4219.

Dickson: Malawian gardener works for me on Mon, Wed, Fri, is looking for work on Tues, Thurs & Sat, he is honest, very hardworking & enthusiastic, for a reference call Allyson on 082 461 5893 or Dickson on 078 687 7853.

Sangwangi: Looking for gardening work on a Mon, he has worked for us for many years and is very honest and trustworthy, please call 071 068 7204 or call Caroline on 083 287 1486 for a reference.

Simon: Looking for part time work on Mon, Wed & Thurs as a gardener, painter or driver, honest and hardworking, Simon 074 405 8944 for a reference call Christina 083 660 8944.

Andrew: A reliable, hardworking gardener, has been helping me 3 x per week while my gardener took 6 weeks leave, he is now looking for week and is available Mon to Sat, call Nikki on 082 418 6681.

Joseph: Extremely hardworking, honest and reliable Malawian available Mon to Fri or Sun call Joseph on 078 442 5492 or Debbie on 083 253 1414 for a reference.

Giddias: Is a hardworking, honest & reliable person available on Mondays, call Gill for a reference on 079 477 8306 / 078 576 7446.

Joseph: My gardener is looking for additional work on Mon, Fri or Sun, he has worked for us for the past 3 years and is reliable, cheerful, resourceful and takes great care of our garden equipment. He also walks our dogs and looks after the pool. Please contact myself for a reference, Caryn 082 460 4074 or Joseph directly 063 824 7511.

Joffrey: Malawian gardener, intelligent, hardworking & reliable, working in FWG for 5 years, available Wed & Sun, call 074 784 1666 or 083 703 2600 for a reference.

Isaiah: Malawian, excellent gardener, working in FWG for 12 years, knowledgeable with plants, sunny personality, great with kids & pets, will have your pool & garden looking its best, available Mon & Sat, call 073 160 3128 or 083 703 2600 for a reference.

Maxwell: Malawian gardener is looking for work on Mon, Thurs & Fri, he is honest & hardworking person, highly recommended, works well without supervision, call Maxwell on 073 358 3165 or 083 287 5587 / 083 460 6484 for a reference.

Joseph: Malawian looking for part time or full time work as a gardener or houseboy, for a reference contact Deenash on 082 929 0953 or call Joseph directly on 078 077 8737.

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APPROVED ESTATE AGENTS FOR 2017/2018

Please remember that only Fourways Gardens Approved Estate Agents are allowed to list and sell houses in Fourways Gardens.
You may contact any of the following agencies to sell or let your home:

Agency	Agent	Cell Number	E-mail	Website
	Tania Heurtaux Joep Rijntjes	082 550 2222 083 462 2756	tania.h@century21.co.za joep.rijntjes@century21.co.za	www.century21.co.za
	Brian Falconer	082 651 7890	brian.falconer@everitt.co.za	www.chaseveritt.co.za
	James Le Bihan	082 777 3543	james.lebihan@engelvoelkers.com	www.engelvoelkers.com
	Geoff Mander	073 251 1206	geoff.m@fineandcountry.com	www.fineandcountry.com/sa
	Ingrid Manni Maureen James	083 601 5521 082 882 0228	info@fourwaysgardensrealty.co.za	www.fourwaysgardensrealty.co.za
	Francesca Beattie	083 678 8001	info@fbproperties.co.za	www.fbproperties.co.za
	Denalee Droskie	082 874 5828	denalee@frankiebells.co.za	www.frankiebells.co.za
	Gaye Cawood Susan de Boer	083 601 1593 082 452 0086	gaye@gcr.co.za sue@gcr.co.za	www.gcr.co.za
	Philip Myburgh	079 241 1245	philipm@sothebysrealty.co.za	www.sothebysrealty.co.za
	Martina Forsyth Tracey-Lee Savage (rentals)	083 260 1562 083 654 2729	martina.forsyth@pamgolding.co.za traceylee.savage@pamgolding.co.za	www.pamgolding.co.za
	Charmaine Rousseau	071 331 5944	charmaine@remaxexec.co.za	www.remaxexecutivegroup.co.za
	Michele Zuccollo Trish Walton	082 850 8356 082 442 9112	michele.z@seeff.com trish.walton@seeff.com	www.seeff.com
	Dee Thomas Sally d'Hotman	083 375 5646 082 442 7693	dee.thomas@tysonprop.co.za sally.dhotman@tysonprop.co.za	www.tysonprop.co.za

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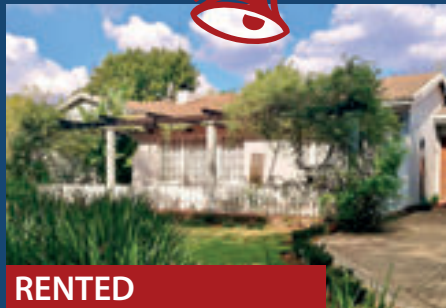
Best wishes to all our Clients, Residents of Fourways Gardens, and Colleagues. May you and your loved ones have a joyous Holiday Season, and a Happy New Year filled with health, love and spectacular success for 2019. Thank you for your continued support.



Ingrid and Maureen



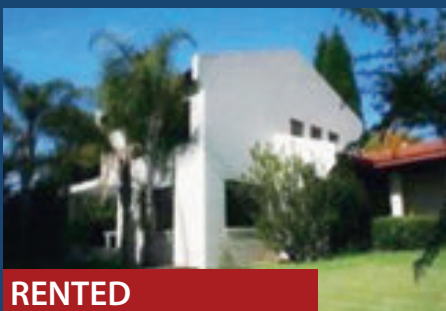
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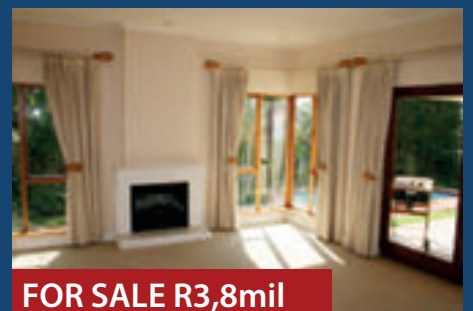
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OH NO, CHRISTMAS TIME AGAIN

I enjoy Christmas. I enjoy all the childish things we do. And I enjoy having children around. Christmas and children go together like *Germ* and *iston*, or *Rama* and *phosa*.

On Christmas Day one of my family dresses up as Father Christmas and, inevitably, in trying to make an impressive entry, a perilous situation arises.

One year my brother-in-law, Boris (who gets quite carried away), distracted all the small children by shouting that he'd glimpsed reindeers in a distant cloud. Stampede. Meanwhile one of his sons, dressed as Father Christmas, sneaked up on to the roof from where he rang a bell. Two dozen children spun around and were agog. Especially when it came to getting him off the roof.

We were all agog. At one point we were going to call the fire brigade.

But the daftest thing we do every year is pull Christmas crackers. I say this because over the last 40 years nothing exciting has ever fallen from a cracker.

The Christmas crackers of my childhood contained all sorts of exciting things. We would shake them and peer down their narrow throats all Christmas morning wondering what exciting things they held. We were never disappointed: - Oh joy - a whistle with a genuine dried pea inside! A great thing for enlivening a sleepy

Christmas afternoon. Or you could get a flat tin thing which, when placed on the tongue and blown through, would imitate bird calls. It had the added thrill of being able to choke a person to death.

Luckier kids would find a tin frog in theirs which would click loudly just like a real frog. You could click and click for hours until some adult struck out with a backhander or accidentally trod on it.

These things were well made in my day and guaranteed to last the rest of Christmas Day. They don't make them like that anymore. They're not even dangerous. I've noticed that if the cracker's contents fall under the table children don't even bother to pick them up.

And the paper hats.

Now, in my childhood the paper hats, as I recall, were robust things you could wear outside in a gale. Today they make them from recycled Kleenex and as one perspires in the midsummer's sun, one's forehead becomes dyed purple or yellow and only surgery can remove it.

And there are the jokes that every cracker contains. In my childhood the jokes were hilarious...

Question: Why did the chicken cross the road?

Answer: To get to the other side.

We would howl with mirth and pound the

table and beg each other to stop reading them out. (Maybe it was the way we told them. Maybe it was the brandy sauce.)

These days they don't have jokes any more. They have little slips of paper with what one could call 'educational' information.

"DID YOU KNOW? In Ancient Greece a woman's age was counted from the day of her marriage."

I read this out to my assembled family and friends. Their knives and forks froze in mid-air, they stopped chewing their turkey and they all looked at one another and said no, they hadn't known that.

"DID YOU KNOW? Snow fell in London on Christmas Day only seven times during the 20th century." Everybody said, "No".

"DID YOU KNOW? American Red Indians used to name their children after the first thing the mother saw after the birth of her baby. Hence, such strange names as Running Water and Sitting Bull."

"What would they have named the little kid," asked Boris, who can be very basic, "if the bull was having a dump?"

It was at this stage that the conversation lost all dignity and the children were removed by their mothers.

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