



The Villager

Issue 2 • 2016

**Tips to
cope with
the drought**

*IFV supports
Helping out
with the
Hope Grass
Project*

**Local
dancer
Michelle
Oppenshaw
shines**

The skinny on mongooses

**The IFV
Family Fun &
Freedom Day
On 27th April**

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EUNICE: 071 676 5940
RENTAL AGENT

IRENE FARM VILLAGE & CORNWALL HILL

**HOUSES WANTED
IN IRENE FARM
VILLAGE
FOR SALE OR
TO LET**



CORNWALL HILL

R6.45 mill

HIDDEN JEWEL . . .

HOUSE 592M2. STAND 4696M2.

STUNNING 4 BEDROOM HOME, 4 BATHROOMS (ENSUITE), STUDY, 4 LIVING AREAS, 3 GARAGES, S/Q, PATIO + POOL. A MUST VIEW!!

NINA 082 963 1994

WEB REF 937

RENTAL



CORNWALL HILL

R20 000 PM

PICTURE PERFECT

OCC DATE ASAP.

250M2, 3 BEDROOM HOME. 2 BATHROOMS, LOUNGE, DINING, ENCLOSED PATIO, POOL, DBL GARAGE.

EUNICE 071 676 5940

WEB REF 915



CORNWALL HILL

R4.45 mill (Neg)

CUL DE SAC WALK TO SCHOOL!

4 BEDROOMS, 3 BATHROOMS, LOUNGE, DINING, TV ROOM, KITCHEN, SCULLERY, POOL, DBL GARAGE, PATIO, COVERED BALCONY + SERVANTS QUARTERS..

NINA 082 963 1994

WEB REF 939

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Cover Photograph by Andrew McKechnie

The Villager focuses on Irene Farm Villages. The magazine is delivered to the home of each resident on the Estate. The magazine is co-ordinated and published by Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd on behalf of the Home Owners' Association of Irene Farm Villages. The opinions of workers and personnel of Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd do not necessarily reflect those of the HOA of Irene Farm Villages.

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SUPERIOR REALTY

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Jonathan Koen

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R3 299 000

Single storey home that offers an open plan design fit for the entertainer with three living areas with garden access. The open plan solid wood kitchen adjacent to two living areas is the perfect setting to cook and interact to your heart's desire while the kids have their own tv lounge area separate from the main living room and dining room, this space can also be used for a formal lounge. The property offers 3 bedrooms, all spacious and on one level with two full bathrooms. The main suite has its own en suite bathroom and access to the garden



R3 699 000

Want an immaculate home that offers the privacy and tranquility and stunning views over landscaped parks? Want a home with gorgeous finishes, layout and unbeatable location? Situated on a corner stand adjacent to the biggest park inside Irene farm villages, this home offers great entertainment space, with stack doors that bring the outdoors in. Sit on the huge patio, overlooking the sparkling pool while listening to the birds in this tree rich street. The home offers 3 bedrooms, all upstairs, with 2 designer bathrooms with the latest fittings. The main suite opens up to a balcony with great views. Downstairs is a study, open plan lounge dining room and breathtaking beech wood kitchen with granite counter tops



R3 795 000

Working from home? Looking for an open plan home with an unbeatable lay out and amazing finishes? Look no further! This single level home with completely open plan design, featuring a solid wood kitchen with granite work surfaces, dining room that will fit any table and lounge area big enough to entertain any extended family. Open the sliding doors to enjoy the patio area with built in braai overlooking the landscaped garden with water features. The property features spacious 4 bedrooms, the fourth bedroom can be used as a sizable home office complete with storage. 2 Full bathrooms beautifully finished with earthy colored tiles and high end taps. All windows feature solid wood blinds and imported plantation shutters. Servants quarters, 4 automated garages and impressive curb appeal



R4 350 000

Sit on the massive patio and enjoy a stunning view of a landscaped park in the estate adjacent to the property, providing the perfect backdrop for entertaining or just to get away from busy city life. This property with its serene surroundings provides the buyer with the ever elusive estate living without compromising on privacy, space and exceptional finishes. The property offers spacious living areas, all open plan that opens up to the patio with built in braai, stack doors open to provide the perfect balance between indoor and outdoor living, enjoy winter night in front huge fireplace in the lounge dining area. Brand new kitchen with high end appliances, fit for a chef. This property has 3 bedrooms, pajama lounge, large study, 2 garages and a store room, auto sprinkler system and gas fireplaces.

If it's sold you want, it's Jonathan you call

Message from

the Estate Manager



At van Niekerk

Dear Residents

The writing of the monthly Estate Manager's article for *The Villager* is one of my favourite tasks, which I dearly enjoy. The problem is to decide what must be in and what shall stand over till the next issue. However, in this issue, I will endeavour in addressing most of the matters on the table.

At the time of writing this article, we find ourselves in the midst of the second heat wave that struck Pretoria with little or no rain for weeks on end. The parks are in the worst condition since our estate was established in 2000. The garden services team is watering the young plants daily and unfortunately we have no alternative than to do the watering during the heat of the day, which is not the ideal situation. I appeal to our residents that if there is a young tree in the park adjacent to your property, please

assist us by pouring a bucket of water on it, especially in the morning or early evening.



Simon pouring a bucket of water onto one of the small trees near the main gate

Due to the severe drought that was experienced by the majority of grain growing farmers, AFGRI-SA together with the assistance of Dr Annelien Geldenhuys, embarked on the "Hope Grass Project", whereby our residents were invited to take part in this project and to donate your grass cuttings. This project was brought to the attention of the Estate Management by the Minnaar family living in Celtis Street. The same day that we appealed to our residents to drop off their grass cuttings, the estate office was inundated with grass cuttings being dropped off at the contractor's yard at the main entrance. Hennie and Simon were tasked to deliver the grass cuttings

two to three times a week at the LewendeWoord Church in Centurion, where the cuttings are dried and processed and then transported to the drought-stricken areas. I want to thank our residents for being so mindful and passionate in helping our farmers.

On Wednesday, the 27th April our estate will host its first annual family freedom day event. This will be a cultural day to be enjoyed by all. Part of the activities will include our annual tree-planting. This year we are going to plant another hundred (100) indigenous trees along the southern border of our estate.



On the day, there will be an early morning walk of the first leg of the estate's walking trail, a treasure hunt for our kids later in the day and a cultural potjie competition. The CIC and EMC sub-committees stand behind the organisation of the day and any resident who would like to participate in the organising of the event is invited to contact the office. More information will be circulated soon to all our residents. In the



Ilse and little Kara Minnaar with the grass cuttings.



Allan Taylor father of Brad and Ulandi Taylor from Stand 2451



Innocent Kaziputo & Security Staff Member

meantime, you are challenged to make up your team for the potjie competition.



The Irene Farm Villages HOA has gone solar. The HOA private post office, which was shrouded in darkness at night, is now lit using solar-powered lights. From now on you will be able to see your way around the post office at night. After an investigation, the Board approved the installation of this solar system, which provides the power for lights installed on all four sides of the post office building as well as on the inside. The system was installed by SPECTRA Projects. The system uses solar panels installed onto the roof of the post office building to charge lead acid batteries that power the lights. The four external lights function on a day-night switch and power is also available in the inside of the building.

The financial year ended on the 29th February 2016 with a substantial expenditure within the 2015/2016 budget. The Board is currently considering a levy increase of three percent (3%) for the 2016/2017 financial year. The following expenditures were included in the 2015/2016 financial year:

- Upgrade of the Estate-office computer, data server and software equipment;

- Upgrade of the Estate-office cabling network;
- Replacement of the dilapidated outdoor chess set in Silk Oak Park;
- Repainting of the 35 speed humps and the installation of 10 new 40kmp traffic signs;
- Lighting of the Estate post office with a solar driven power system; and
- Drawing of the plans by the appointed architect of the proposed Infra-Structure Development Plan, which includes the main gate, second (North) gate, contractors' yard and the lapa/entertainment buildings.

For the 2016/2017 financial year the following expenditures are planned:

- Planting of 100 trees on the southern border of the estate;
- Additional three speed humps;
- Landscaping of the main gate entrance with an additional amount to the special levy that was allocated in the 2015/2016 budget;
- Rehabilitation of the old dumping site; and
- A number of social projects, which are managed by the HOA sub-committees.

At the last HOA Board meeting, it was decided by the Board to give notice of a Special General Meeting ("SGM"), which is scheduled for Thursday, 17th March 2016. The agenda for the SGM will include the following:



- Approval of the 2016/2017 budget;
- Amendment of the Memorandum of Incorporation to allow for electronic notice of a general or special meeting of the HOA;
- Number of HOA rule amendments;
- Feedback on the Fibre to the home project;
- Feedback on land developments adjacent to the HOA property; and
- Feedback on the Infra Structure Development Plan.

In my previous article, I started with an introduction to the HOA parks. The Yellow Wood Park was the first on my list. The next park, which I would like to introduce to our residents, is Chess Park, which is situated in Silk Oak Drive on erf 2491, covering 1015m². This park accommodates the only open door chess set in the estate, which was constructed and installed in 2006. The initial chess board foundation and the tiled surface was sponsored by the Vos and Mac Dougall families, who still reside in the estate. The chess pieces, which are made of fibre glass, were donated by the families adjacent to the park. This park is frequented by residents,





especially kids, who enjoy a game of chess. The chess pieces have become dilapidated over the years and have now been replaced with a new set. The park also has a well-established rockery with a number of succulents. Residents are invited to take a stroll down to this park and to enjoy the beauty of it.

From a security perspective, it is important to note that although we have not had a security breach for a long time in our estate, there are a lot of criminal activities in and around Irene, Monument Park and Pierre van Ryneveld. Hence it is important to appeal to our residents to be cautious at all times. The security personnel are trained to be vigilant and on the lookout for security breaches, be it during the day or at night. The security personnel are divided into three shifts, with a Shift Manager as

the team leader, who manages his team or shift.

During February a brown house snake was found in Phase One. The snake expert, Johan Marais, confirmed that it was a brown house snake, which is harmless.



The re-registration of the household workers has been completed. In total 871 household workers were registered at the estate office from the 4th January until now. There are about 40 workers who work at more than one stand and where one of the residents have failed to register the worker for a specific day. In such instance the issuing of the access card is delayed pending the registration at all the places of employment in the estate. The Estate Management would like to thank all our residents for their co-operation and patience. Kindly request your household worker to carry the blue access card with them at all times whilst in the estate.

The service agreement between the HOA and our managing agent has lapsed. The Board, through its Finance and Legal Committee, recently completed a review of submissions for the appointment of a management agent. Upon completion of the review, the Finance and Legal Committee has recommended the appointment of AccountAbility as the Management Agent for a three-year period from the 1st March 2016 with an annual increase of 6%. The relevant evaluation documentation is available to members at my office. Any enquiries regarding your levy account can be directed to Winny on 082 780 0059 or accounts@aams.co.za.

In closing I would like to share with you the following quotation that a friend once shared with me:

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away! May all your days be breathtaking."

Best regards
Estate Management



Three Shift Managers, Parick Likwane, Ronnie Mgiba and Lucas Chego

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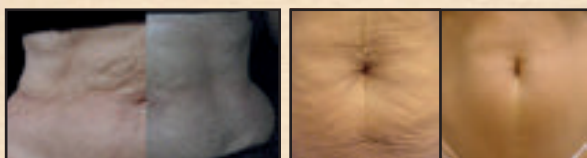
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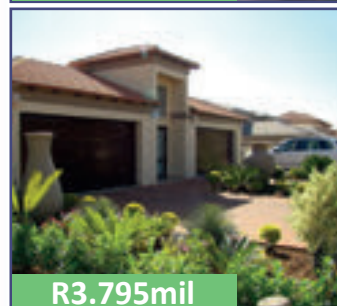
View this beautiful Country home and see what true style and the highest built quality is all about. Spacious carpeted bedrooms, fireplaces gas and wood, two lounges, dining room, study, wooden plantation shutters, UFH, aircons, brand new kitchen, lounge very spacious braai patio overlooking a park, Just to much to mention It is in a pristine condition. Just move in!

R4.390mil



Spacious single story house with huge open plan living areas features a lounge, dining room, second lounge, a study or another lounge with stack doors opening onto a beautiful garden. Kitchen with granite tops, scullery, pantry, & ample cupboards, 4 bedrooms all with doors that open onto the garden, 2 bathrooms, including full main en suite with bath & shower, separate toilet & ample his and her cupboards. Double tiled garage, indoor braai area, sprinkler system, aluminum window frames is just some of the features of this unique property.

R3.290mil



This remarkable extremely neat single story home offers a spacious kitchen, separate scullery and laundry, 4 ultra spacious bedrooms, full size bathroom with high quality finishes. The double sized master bedroom, en-suite features a dressing, servant's quarters with bathroom, 2 double automated tiled garages, sprinkler system, security gate to bedrooms, alarm, intercom, wooden blinds with plantation shutters & aluminum frames.

R3.795mil



English style home offers a dining room, Cherry Wood and stainless steel Kitchen, breakfast counter, huge pantry, separate scullery & spacious laundry, 4 bedrooms downstairs, 2 bathroom of which one is an en suite.. The spacious loft offers a bedroom, bathroom, gym corner, lounge & entertainment room. Extras are a workshop, irrigation, Telkom ADSL tower and spacious d/garage. The garden is a child's heaven and offers jungle gym, trampoline, sandpit, hop scotch blocks and a bunny cage.

R3.1mil

**I CAN DO
THE SAME FOR
YOU!**



083 457 3184

Tips on coping with drought

Drought is a reality and who knows when we'll have sufficient water again. It is therefore up to each and every one to make a concerted effort to use as little as possible of this precious life-giving commodity.

Here are some ideas on how to save water, starting in the garden.

- Start by planting only drought-tolerant plants from now on and replace some of plants that require too much water.
- Think about turning garden beds into paved areas that don't need water.
- Reduce your water use in the garden by mulching trees and plants, and watering your lawn only when absolutely necessary.
- If your garden really needs a watering make sure you only water before 6am and after 6pm so as to avoid wasting water by evaporation.
- Go around the house and check that taps and water pipes are not leaking.
- Post reminder notes not to waste water over all your sinks and basins.
- Take short showers and turn the shower off between soaping and rinsing. Use a timing device so that you don't go over your goal time (no more than 5 minutes). And install a water-saving shower head.



Kathy Thersby

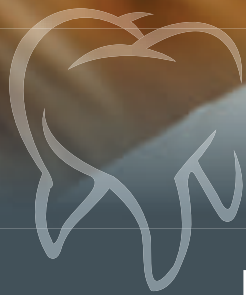
- Similarly, turn the tap off when brushing your teeth, washing your hands, shaving, washing vegetables...
- In the shower, while the water is warming up, catch the cool water in a bucket and either full up the cistern of the toilet or use the water on the garden.
- Take a filled 2 litre plastic container and put it in the cistern – that way less water is used in every flush.
- Don't flush your tissues down the toilet – throw them in the dustbin.
- In the kitchen while waiting for the water to warm up, keep handy a 5 litre container rather than letting the still cold water run down the drain.
- If your bathroom basin takes

forever to warm up, use a splash of heated kettle water combined with tap water in a bowl to wash your face before bed.

- Only switch on the dishwasher when it's full.
- Wait until you have a full load of laundry before washing clothes.
- Price pool covers. The average pool can lose a jaw-dropping 75 000£ to evaporation annually.
- Adjust sprinklers to hit only the lawn, not the sidewalk, the patio and your neighbour's house.
- Don't hose off driveways, just sweep them.
- Shop around for rain barrels now, so you're ready when the rain finally hits in earnest.



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Dear Residents

There was no Security breach in the Estate during the past month. Besides the normal Security duties, the Security staff responded to the following reports from Residents in the Estate:

Dog reports: Three (3) barking dog reports, Five (5) reports of dogs roaming around, Two (2) missing dog reports. Open garages: Twenty-two (22), Loud music: Five (5) Suspicious people: One (1).

Irene Farm Villages falls under the Lyttelton SAPS precinct. Lyttelton have four (4) SAPS Sectors and Irene farm Villages falls under Sector 3. The following crime comparison for December 2014 and December 2015 for the Lyttelton SAPS precinct was recently made available.

- 0 Murders in December 2014 versus 4 Murders in December 2015.
- 0 Attempted Murders in December 2014 versus 4 Attempted Murders in 2015.
- 7 Common Robbery in December 2014 versus 9 Common Robbery in December 2015.
- 6 Robberies in December 2014 versus 10 Robberies in December 2015.
- 0 Sexual harassments in December 2014 versus 1 Sexual harassment in December 2015.
- 0 Hijackings in December 2014 versus 4 Hijackings in December 2015.
- 0 Truck Hijacking in December 2014 versus 1 Truck Jacking in December 2015.
- 59 Theft from Motor Vehicle in December 2014 versus 71 Theft out of motor vehicle in December 2015.



Marchell Galant

One of the crimes committed most frequently in our area is theft out of motor vehicle and can be divided into two categories. Remote jamming of the locking mechanism of cars is done by criminals who target shopping centres to commit this crime. They normally park at a shopping centre where they can observe vehicles that enter the parking area. Once you park and get out of your vehicle they jam your remote control signal. You will see your lights flashing as an indication that your vehicle is locked but it is not actually locked. Once you walk away from your vehicle, the criminal checks your doors to find an unlocked door. The criminal will then help himself to anything valuable in your vehicle. To prevent this from this happening to you, make sure that there are no valuable items visible in your vehicle. Take a minute to check the doors of your vehicle after you have pushed the remote control button to lock your vehicle.

The second category is smash and grab. Criminals mainly target females driving alone. These criminals sometime work in pairs – one will draw your attention when you stop at a red traffic light and the second will approach your vehicle on the passenger side to quickly check what is valuable and that can be stolen. Should the criminal identify a valuable item, a spark plug is used to shatter the window and gain entry into the car. You can prevent this from happening to you by making sure there are no valuable items visible in your vehicle.

Residents are requested to put stepladders away and out of sight as they can easily be used to gain entrance at an open window on the first floor.

In a Security Forum Meeting that I recently attended, we were informed that Drugs and Prostitution is on the rise in the Centurion area. The Lyttelton SAPS and Metro Police are currently focusing on combating these crimes.

Residents should always be vigilant when doing shopping. Criminals are out there watching us and what we're doing and they look for an opportunity to strike.

Kind Regards

Marchell Galant

Contract Manager
EPS Irene Farm Villages
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Mobile: +27 82 300 1835
E-mail: galantm@proteacoin.co.za

remember

Make Sure

- That all vehicles that are parked in driveways must be locked and all valuables (e.g. laptops, wallets, handbags and GPS navigators) must be removed from the vehicle.
- That alarm systems must be activated and in a working condition. Please test your alarm system regularly to ensure that it is in a good working condition and that it does

- send out a signal when activated.
- To be vigilant at all times in the Estate and report any suspicious activities directly to the Bidvest Protea Coin Security.
- To be law abiding citizens and prevent crime, register all domestic workers and gardeners and make sure that they have IDs or valid passport documents.

Residents can contact me directly should they be interested in having an alarm system linked to our Protea Coin 24hrs Call Centre in Highveld Techno Park.

Marchell Galant • galantm@proteacoin.co.za • 082 300 1835

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

24HR SECURITY GUARD ROOM:

012-662-1688

24HR CONTROLLER:

082-947-7610

24HR SHIFT MANAGER

082-838-7779

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IRENE FARM VILLAGES HOME OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Summary Income Statement January 2016

January 2016 Year to Date YTD Variance
Actual Budget Actual Budget Value %

Operational Income						
<i>Levy Income</i>						
Normal Levies	884 123	884 145	9 399 622	9 399 858	(236)	0.0%
<i>Other Income</i>						
Interest Received	11 360	11 400	339 864	121 200	218 664	180.4%
Contractors Permits	44 858	16 530	188 105	175 740	12 365	7.0%
Estate Agent Registration	0	0	108 023	95 000	13 023	13.7%
Post Box Annual Fee	250	1 710	31 630	31 020	610	2.0%
	940 591	913 785	10 067 244	9 822 818	244 426	2.5%
Operational Expenditure						
<i>Professional /Administration</i>	75 959	79 631	748 377	680 547	(67 830)	-10.0%
Accounting Fees	38 323	38 468	396 644	396 721	77	0.0%
Audit Fees	(288)	0	79 836	75 254	(4 582)	-6.1%
Bank Charges	2 122	2 736	26 879	29 088	2 209	7.6%
Insurance	30 331	34 437	123 869	137 064	13 195	9.6%
Legal & Professional Fees	5 472	3 990	121 148	42 420	(78 728)	-185.6%
<i>General Office</i>	10 266	11 719	147 352	161 380	14 028	8.7%
Office Equipment	1 334	1 026	13 996	15 908	1 912	12.0%
General Expenses	23	1 687	43 645	40 736	(2 909)	-7.1%
Office Refreshment	1 214	855	10 003	9 090	(913)	-10.0%
Printing & Stationary	2 944	3 990	34 529	42 420	7 891	18.6%
Telecommunication	4 752	4 161	45 180	53 226	8 046	15.1%
<i>Operational Expenses</i>	174 500	196 108	1 585 507	2 198 615	613 108	27.9%
Municipal Charges	37 448	59 244	368 910	600 456	231 546	38.6%
Recycling	8 247	8 483	86 435	87 906	1 471	1.7%
Donations	0	5 700	5 000	66 300	61 300	92.5%
Wildlife Conservation	0	0	5 451	10 840	5 389	49.7%
Meetings	0	798	33 885	23 304	(10 581)	-45.4%
Salaries & Wages	128 806	121 883	1 085 826	1 409 809	323 983	23.0%
<i>Security</i>	534 392	509 617	5 221 648	5 211 749	(9 899)	-0.2%
Access Control (ClickOn)	20 805	20 520	218 905	218 160	(745)	-0.3%
- ClickOn Recovery	(11 855)	(11 970)	(125 404)	(127 260)	(1 856)	1.5%
Equipment Maintenance SLA	40 335	19 046	227 021	194 548	(32 473)	-16.7%
Security Maintenance	14 925	6 555	100 650	69 690	(30 960)	-44.4%
Guarding Services	470 182	475 466	4 800 475	4 856 611	56 136	1.2%
<i>Repairs & Maintenance</i>	115 553	135 494	1 347 089	1 419 064	71 975	5.1%
Equipment Maintenance	145	6 042	40 067	64 236	24 169	37.6%
Fuel	1 537	3 306	24 213	35 148	10 935	31.1%
General Maintenance	1 858	3 990	36 619	42 420	5 801	13.7%
Infrastructure Maintenance	4 001	4 583	34 619	48 724	14 105	28.9%



IRENE FARM VILLAGES HOME OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Summary Income Statement January 2016

	January 2016 Actual	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Actual	YTD Variance Budget	YTD Variance Value	%
Park Facing Boundary Walls	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Park Maintenance	0	4 902	57 263	52 116	(5 147)	-9.9%
Park Maintenance Contract	108 012	110 049	1 150 939	1 148 544	(2 395)	-0.2%
Vehicles	0	2 622	3 370	27 876	24 506	87.9%
	910 670	932 569	9 049 973	9 671 355	621 382	6.4%
Operating Profit / (Loss)	29 921	(18 784)	1 017 271	151 463	865 808	
Non-Recurring Revenue						
Special Levies	0	0	858 000	858 000	0	0.0%
Estate Penalties	0	0	49 439	0	49 439	100.0%
Late Building Penalties	0	0	106 500	0	106 500	100.0%
Late Payment Penalties	6 550	2 280	44 993	24 240	20 753	85.6%
Expense Recovery	750	0	750	0	750	100.0%
Other Income	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Plan Fees	750	0	81 773	0	81 773	100.0%
Sale to Members	10 684	0	39 436	0	39 436	100.0%
Non-Recurring Expenses						
ILC Land Purchase	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Debt Write-off	0	0	432 214	0	(432 214)	100.0%
Park Development	0	0	6 080	0	(6 080)	100.0%
Dolomite Risk	0	0	4 608	0	(4 608)	100.0%
Village Identity Project	0	0	309 233	250 000	(59 233)	-23.7%
Boundary Walls	5 534	0	92 004	160 000	67 996	42.5%
Historic Tshwane Accounts	0	0	0	408 000	408 000	100.0%
Water Tanks	0	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Environmental Development	0	0	7 339	47 000	39 661	84.4%
Cash Provision	0	17 100	4 000	181 800	177 800	97.8%
Stand Sales	0	0	141 702	0	(141 702)	100.0%
Net Positive/ (Negative)	13 200	(14 820)	183 711	(164 560)	348 271	
Net Profit / (Loss)	43 121	(33 604)	1 200 982	(13 097)	1 214 079	

Account Ability

Office Address:

Sovereign Drive,
Route 21
Corporate Park

Accounting Office Hours

8:00 to 13:00
Monday to Friday

Office Tel:

082 780 0059

Accounts Email:

accounts@aams.co.za

IFV Accounts:

Winnie Boshoff

Summary Income
Statement by
Account Ability



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Background

We have been a mother and daughter team operating in Pierre Van Ryneveld, the greater Centurion and Pretoria East since 2006. Christa completed her NQF 5 in Real Estate and Nadia has completed an NQF 6 National Diploma in Real Estate and is currently busy with her LLB degree. Both of us are registered principles at the Estate Agency Affairs Board.

We offer a full range of real estate services, from sales and rentals to maintenance and once off cleaning services.

Purpose

We have been growing steadily for 10 years in a very unpredictable property

market, and will keep on growing from strength to strength.

Vision

We are committed to providing the most unique and comprehensive customer service for people interested in selling, buying or renting property.

Mission

To build long term relationships with our clients to provide quality service that exceeds the expectations of our clients. Our aim is to build a good reputation in the field of Real Estate.

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We believe in treating our clients with respect.
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I am an admitted attorney of the High Court of South Africa. My vibrant and dynamic specialist law firm, Yolanda Barnard Attorneys, is a licensed 3%.Com Properties® franchisee for the Irene-area. I have extensive experience in the transfers (conveyancing) of property and I have more than 13 years' experience in the administration of deceased estates. In addition, my firm also specializes in drafting of antenuptial agreements, last will and testaments and Trusts.



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Come
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Dream – Believe – Achieve

Without a doubt Gauteng has some of the country's best talent.

Although born in Port Elizabeth, Pretoria is where local dance star Michelle Oppenshaw was brought up. A dancer is told their career is short and mostly over by 28, but Michelle says it is at that exact age that her career is coming into full bloom. She started dancing at the age of 5, and never once doubted that it was her dream career. She sacrificed sport and social activities growing up to be at dance class and competitions but still managed to be a top student at Willow Ridge High School. Thereafter she travelled and sought out the finest training in the world before coming home and working on leaving her mark.

“Set your dreams beyond the level you think you can reach, make sure you have the character to handle it, believe and act as though you are fully capable of doing it and then watch your dreams come true.” These are words from Michelle Oppenshaw, local dancer and choreographer. And if her 2015 was anything to go by, we will certainly be seeing enormous things happening in her life and career this year.

Michelle Oppenshaw has just returned from filming the Honey 3 Hollywood movie which was set and filmed in Cape Town. The director was the world renowned Bille Woodruff, who directed the first two Honey movies, Bring It On and many of Whitney Houstons music videos.

Michelle was the only non-Capetonian female dancer invited to audition and was selected as one of the core dancers for the movie. She worked alongside the likes of Cassie (international RnB recording artist) Kenny Wormald (lead actor in



Michelle on set with international RnB singer Cassie.

Footloose) and British actor Bobby Lockwood.

“I grew up watching Honey. I knew every single step in that movie and still own the soundtrack CD. So when I got the request to audition it was incredibly surreal. Call times in the morning were extremely early and we often left set late at night. It really tested your grit. I learnt so

much more about the entertainment industry and myself.”

2015 also saw Michelle go from the hip hop circles to the crystal ballroom of Strictly Come Dancing. Michelle was one of the dance professionals on the recent season and was paired with local celebrity and hip hop artist, Slikour. Strictly Come Dancing was immense fun. Sometimes I feel it



*Michelle on set
with Director
Bille Woodruff*

was far harder for me than it was for Slikour. As a female in dance we are taught to follow the male's lead but on Strictly I often had to lead and pretend to follow."

Other achievements and opportunities Michelle have to her name include being dance coordinator for e-tv's Turn Up and

Dance reality show, choreographer and dancer in Mi Casa's Turn You On music video, assistant choreographer on So You Think You Can Dance SA, choreographer on Step Up or Step Out, dance co-ordinator for the Jonathan Butler Foundation Purpose Kills Addiction campaign as well as many other national and international titles.

**I have achieved most of my dreams
so it's time to dream even bigger.**



Michelle – Strictly Come Dancing.

What's next?

Michelle has many new projects in the pipeline for this year, starting with the Michelle Oppenshaw Dance Studio (M.O.D.S) which has just opened its doors in Constantiapark Ridge shopping centre in Pretoria. M.O.D.S is a dream Michelle has had for 16 years and is a hub for all things dance ranging from dance classes for all ages and levels, to spectacular entertainment and choreography for productions and corporate events. Trained in Latin American, Hip Hop, Street Dance, Freestyle, Contemporary and Ballet, Michelle is one of the few dancers in the country with such a broad range of knowledge and experience.

"To me, dance is far more than just entertainment, so I don't approach what I do as merely that. I always aim at adding value to people's lives and their experiences. I am blessed to be a blessing. I have achieved most of my dreams so it's time to dream even bigger."



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The over sized front door opens onto free flowing spaces in the entrance hall with a functional staircase going down to the spacious family lounge area with sliding doors onto an entertaining patio with built in braai. Easily accessible to the beautiful landscaped garden with fountain. Looking inward on the interior design of this home is nothing less than open plan spaces. A solid wood kitchen with granite counter tops creating the perfect working spaces and breakfast counter! Separate scullery and laundry space. The home boasts a generous open plan dining room area. Leading down the passage, you will find four ultra spacious bedrooms with unique designed cupboards. There are two full sized bathrooms with pleasing aesthetics and top quality cabinetry finishes. Master bedroom is en suite with a walk in-wardrobe. The fourth bedroom can be used as an office or TV lounge. A fairly sized servant's quarter with bathroom. Large storeroom! Four automated garages. All windows feature solid blinds and plantation blinds. Alarm system. This home compliments the beautiful secured estate in every way!

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Web LFIE-0589

A contemporary feel was used to create this beautiful family home. The open plan design allows all areas to be connected so you can stand at one end of the house and be able to view the other. Home boasts 4 living areas comprising of a formal lounge, TV lounge, dining room & an indoor entertainment area whether there is sunshine or rain you can have a gas braai. Easily accessible with the folding doors on either side of the room looking onto the sparkling swimming pool & Jacuzzi which is surrounded within the garden. Memphis Cherry kitchen with stainless steel finishes. The kitchen projecting out just enough to make a unique eye catching feature which has the perfect granite working spaces. Separate scullery & laundry space. Huge pantry & breakfast counter. A spiral staircase leads you up to a generous landing area where you will find 4 ultra-spacious bedrooms with built in cupboards. 3 Full size bedrooms with top quality finishes. Adding a touch of luxury to the master bedroom is en suite full bathroom with a sky dome. Spacious & private 4th bedroom found on a separate wing of the house with a full bathroom. Servants' toilet facilities & double automated garages. For the chilly winters you will find heater panels & under floor heating.

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R3 650 000



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Web LFIE-0489

The front door opens onto free flowing spaces throughout with a double volume reception area. Looking inward brings the interior design of visually pleasing aesthetics in combination with practical solutions. Functionality combined with quality and durability is seen in this master chef kitchen. The open plan kitchen creates the perfect granite working spaces, a breakfast island, separate scullery and laundry space with large pantry. The home boasts optimum flow between indoor and outdoor areas and features a family TV room, formal living room with fireplace and dining room opening onto an atrium area with fountain. Entertainment enclosed patio, braai and glass folding doors opening onto the sparkling pool. Office or study area on the ground level! As the staircase leads you up to a generous landing area where you will find three ultra-spacious bedrooms with substantial amounts of built in cupboards. There are two full sized bathrooms with pleasing aesthetics and good quality finishes. Master bedroom is en-suite with walk-in cupboards. It has a private Juliet balcony for the summer breeze. Air-conditioning units and under floor heating throughout! Servant's quarter with bathroom can be used as a separate flat for the au pair and double automated garages.

IRENE FARM VILLAGE ESTATE

R2 760 000



SOLD BY
STEVEN



WARM AND INVITING FAMILY HOME!

Web LFIE-0572

This beautiful contemporary home is situated in the tranquil Irene Farm Villages Estate. The over sized front door opens onto a double volume entrance with a staircase that is rounded off with stainless steel finishes and double volume glass windows. The home boasts two living areas and three bedrooms. The spacious family lounge area has a built in wood fireplace, wooden folding doors that open onto the patio with built in braai. All entertaining on the patio which over looks the gorgeous swimming pool and landscaped gardens. Looking inward on the interior design of this home you will find the private dining room, Maple Wood and stainless steel Kitchen with the perfect granite working spaces and breakfast counter. Huge pantry and separate scullery and washing space for three appliances. Guest toilet facilities! Upstairs you will find a generous landing area, three spacious bedrooms and two full bathrooms! Master bedroom is en suite with walk in cupboards leading into a radiant bathroom with quality finishes, oval bath, double vanities and a large shower. Wooden doors open onto a private Juliet balcony over-looking the green garden. Domestic room and toilet facilities! Double automated garage with lots of extra space. This home compliments the beautiful secured estate in every way!

The skinny on mongooses

Andrew McKechnie

Low-slung, slender and beady-eyed, mongooses are among the most conspicuous of Irene Farm Village's four-footed inhabitants. The mongooses frequent the open areas and green strips of the estate, and anyone walking along the northern boundary fence will regularly encounter them on the steep hill near the estate's northwestern corner. The aptly named Mongoose Village is home to several families.



The mongooses that live in IFV are yellow mongooses, and go by the scientific name *Cynictis penicillata*. Yellow mongooses are widespread in southern Africa, occurring everywhere from northern Namibia to inland KwaZulu-Natal. They occur in habitats ranging from deserts to grasslands but avoid both very dry and very moist areas, being absent from the Namib Desert as well as the Lowveld and KZN coast.


As the human residents of IFV will no doubt have noticed, yellow mongooses adapt well to suburban areas and readily make themselves at home among our houses and gardens. One of the reasons IFV seems to be prime mongoose habitat concerns the number of drainpipes conveniently protruding from walls. These drainpipes provide a surfeit of boltholes and shelters for the mongooses as they go about their business.

The diet of yellow mongooses consists predominantly of insects, including termites, beetles and grasshoppers. But they will also readily take reptiles, rodents and even birds. My own impression is

that a mongoose's menu is limited only by its ambition; last December, in the green strip between Queens Way and Duke Avenue, I watched a hungry mongoose rocket out of a drainpipe and latch onto a grey go-away-bird that was feeding on the ground, oblivious to the lurking danger. Yellow mongooses are also known to occasionally make themselves unpopular by becoming partial to chicken.

Yellow mongooses are mainly diurnal, in other words active during the daytime. They spend the nights, and often the heat of the day too, underground in burrows that may extend a metre and a half below the surface. The species usually occurs singly or in pairs; the groups of three or four mongooses often seen in the estate are probably breeding pairs with recent offspring that have not yet left their parents' territory. Breeding females usually produce two litters each year, with each litter typically consisting of two pups.

No article on yellow mongooses would be complete, unfortunately, without mentioning rabies. This species is one of the most significant



drainpipes provide shelters for the mongooses as they go about their business

carriers of the disease among South Africa's indigenous wildlife, and a number of cases in humans and domestic animals can be traced back to mongooses. There is absolutely no reason to suspect that any of the estate's mongooses are dangerous, but it is nevertheless important to make sure that pets are vaccinated against rabies. Also, children should be taught from an early age never to approach a mongoose, especially one that seems unusually tame.



Thendele and the great wall of South Africa

By James Clarke
Pictures: Mary Broadley

One of the top 10 iconic African panoramas – along with Mt Kilimanjaro, the Serengeti Plains, the Victoria Falls, the Okavango, Table Mountain, etc is the one that fills one's vision as one sits on one's private stoep in Thendele Hutted Camp. The camp is on the threshold of the uKhahlamba Range of which most South Africans have never heard.

uKhahlamba – the “barrier of upright spears” – is more popularly known as the Drakensberg.

This particular spot at the 'Berg's northern end is part of the Royal Natal National Park. In fact this magnificent region is neither royal nor a national park. It is a provincial reserve administered by Ezemvelo

KZN Wildlife – the body that took over from the Natal Parks Board many years ago.

The word “royal” in its title was adopted to remind people that King George VI and his family stayed there in 1947. Indeed the current monarch, Queen Elizabeth, would remember it fondly for she was 21 at the time.

The assumed term, “national park”, was part of the old Natal's wishful thinking but, I am glad to see, the title has been retained.

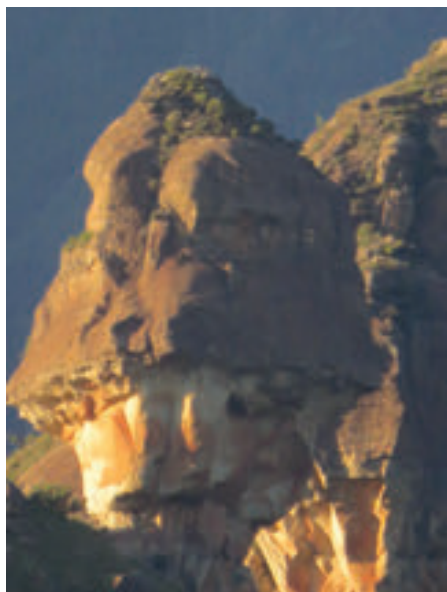
The Royal Natal Hotel, inside the park – now long closed – used to have a black Daimler permanently outside its front door – the car the Royal Family used in South Africa.

One drives past the derelict hotel soon after entering the reserve at Rugged Glen not far off the R74 that leads from Harrismith.

From the reserve's gate, and after passing the visitors' centre and the turn-off to Mahai Camp site (for caravans and tents), the road follows the tumbling Tukhela River – Tikhela being the revised and more euphonic name for the Tugela.

The road ends at a carpark from where a private road leads up a long and steep pass to Thendele, which is perched high above river. The pass enhances the camp's air of privacy and remoteness.

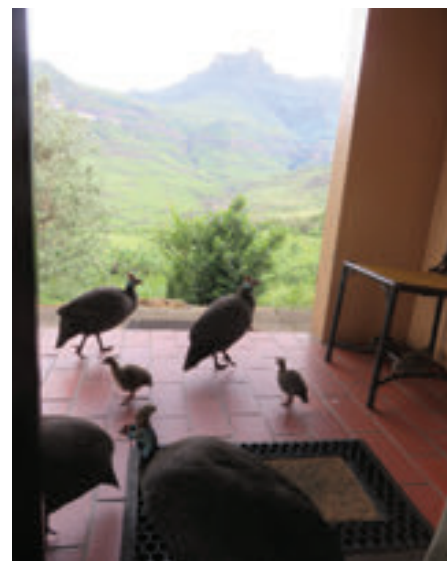
It's a camp of many charms. First each cottage has a spectacular view of the



The Policeman's helmet.



Tiger Falls in January – the driest summer in years.



Guinea Fowl family depart after being shown the door.



Amphitheatre, that 5km long basalt rampart that towers a kilometre above the sandstone hills of the Tukhela valley.

Each thatched cottage is self-catering (an excellent kitchen and there's even DSTV in the lounge) and each cottage has its attendant birds. We, at number 16 in the upper camp, were visited daily by a family of Guinea Fowl with their half-a-dozen well-behaved chicks. The beautiful Chorister Robin was never far away and, for only the second time in my life, I saw a Bush Blackcap, which is one of South Africa's rarer endemic birds.

We saw mountain reedbuck near the camp and grey duiker and a Cape grey mongoose came around. Baboons are also around so one has to shut windows and lock doors when leaving the cottage. Lock? Oh yes, baboons have learnt how to open doors and cupboards. The cottages have individual braai facilities but one has to bring adequate supplies of charcoal and firelighters. The nearest shops are at Bergville, which is now shockingly rundown and chaotic. Best to use Winterton.

The Amphitheatre is part of Mont-aux-Sources and is one of the world's greatest cliff faces. The mountain is the source of South Africa's three biggest rivers: the Gariep (formerly the Orange River); the Wilge which feeds the Vaal which in turn joins the Gariep on its course to the South Atlantic –

and the Thukela itself which flows in the opposite direction to the Indian Ocean.

The Thukela drops over the wall of the Amphitheatre producing a fall almost a kilometre high. Some argue it is the world's highest, saying that Venezuela's Angel Falls – popularly credited with being the highest – may have been incorrectly measured.

From Thendele one has a view of the Policeman's Helmet which stands out like a ship's figurehead on the "bows" of a massive buttress. In fact the helmet is a favourite walk from the camp.

It was hot when we were there at New Year and we found the trail to the Tiger Falls which were buried in a thick patch of forest, tough going yet, next day, when we did it again, it seemed quite easy and we went on well beyond.

I was saddened to see how bracken – a fern that grows on every continent except Antarctica – has smothered a great deal of the hillside grassland since I was last there. The fern is toxic to cattle – a cause of bovine cancer. Not that cattle are allowed in this threshold region of the 'Berg. Can it be controlled? It apparently has a value: Stellenbosch graduate and forester, Lucky Sibambo, is farming bracken in Mpumalanga and selling the fiddleheads (the tightly-curved young fronds) to Asia where they are considered a delicacy.

Thendele Huttet Camp.

There are a variety of walks from the camp but there's a really adventurous one that requires driving up the now-upgraded Oliviershoek Pass, passing through Phutaditjhaba and up to the Sentinel car park above Witsieshoek (two hour's drive from Thendele). From there one can walk to the top of the Amphitheatre.

I did the walk one Christmas Eve in hot weather and sat on the edge where the Thukela – freezing cold – tips over the precipice. I could see Thendele down below. This is a serious walk though not arduous and involves climbing two chain ladders. And one must watch the weather because a calm sunny day can turn life-threateningly foul. One must declare where one intends hiking by signing Thendele's register outside the camp shop. This goes for all major walks.

Thendele is just three-and-a half hours' drive from Johannesburg and four from Pretoria. Go via Harrismith and then on the R74.

If you have never been to Thendele, and, one day you go, you'll be forever grateful for being told of it.



Protea veld – so characteristic of the 'Berg.



Ground woodpecker often seen around Thendele.

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Our domestic worker, Precious is looking for work on Tuesday and Thursday in the estate or surrounding areas. She is extremely honest;

reliable; punctual; so very hard working and has vast experience in cleaning and ironing.

Please contact Precious on 063 179 8261 directly and Movashini Naidoo on 083-228-7975 for references.

Lucas has been working for me as a gardener for the last eight years. He has now resigned from the garden service company, where he previously worked, and is available to work for residents of IFV. He is completely reliable and can work unsupervised. I have no hesitation in recommending him. You may contact me on 082-457-7416 or Lucas directly on 078-297-3401.

My domestic worker Grace is looking for a work on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 01 February 2016. She currently works and stays with me in the estate. She is thorough and trustworthy and hardworking and reliable. Please contact me Flucia 081-701-2345.

Sinah is looking for work Mon–Fri. Her mother Linah is working for me and she is very loyal and trustworthy. Please contact Sinah on her cell 076 638 4756

Catherine Kekae is looking for work. She has reference letters from her previous employers. Please call her on 079-548-9164.

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- Dog rope toys

I have studied Animal Behaviour, Puppy Training and done a Pet First Aid Course. Please contact Lindsay on 083-225-3860 or lshever@gmail.com.

PET SITTING: Contact me, I take excellent care of your pets while you are away – at your house. I have clients in and outside IFV who can provide reference on my quality of pet caring. Phone Michiel: 071-016-0913/ 082-448-5844. [www. MyPetcare.co.za](http://www.MyPetcare.co.za)

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Bedrooms 4 / Bathrooms 3 / Garages 2 / If you have connoisseur taste and require an immaculate home, this is the home for you. As you open the huge double doors of the home, you cannot but say "wow" as your sight is drawn down the long expanse of porcelain tiles towards the marbled centre island of the kitchen. The kitchen needs to be seen to be believed, with a lovely TV room as an extension to the area. Downstairs guest bedroom, a lounge area and grand dining room - all leading onto a lovely entertainment area.

UNDER
OFFER



Irene Farm Villages / R3.4 Million

Ref# CN1250631

Bedrooms 3 / Bathrooms 2 / Garages 2 / The heart of this home is the immaculate kitchen with exceptional quality cherry-wood units and a beautiful marble island, in close proximity to the family in the TV room, dining room, formal lounge or the covered entertainment area. The scullery and staff quarters lead off the kitchen. The whole of the ground floor area is light and bright with huge windows, quality tiles and air-conditioning. Upstairs, the home has three spacious bedrooms, a big study and two well-appointed full bathrooms.



Please contact me for a free market related valuation of your property
Peter Varrie 082 457 7416 • peter.varrie@pamgolding.co.za