

# Kyalami Times

NOVEMBER 2011

## CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

I trust this message finds you in good spirits and health as we feel the effect of our first heat wave this summer! There is no Estate Manager's report in this edition and I hope to cover some operational aspects in my report.

There has been much activity at the Office. On the HR front, Roddy Wakeford has resigned and we also bid farewell to our Office Cleaner, Julitha Mafologela. We are in the process of appointing an acting Estate Manager and will embark on a search for our Estate Manager. In the meantime you would appreciate that the KEHOA staff have been working in a focussed manner to ensure stability on the work front. Our Directors have also been remarkable and generous in giving of their time and expertise on the many issues requiring attention and action. We would appreciate your understanding and patience during this interim and handover periods, so that we can work constructively as a team on our common goals.

Security remains a priority and unfortunately we have had to halt the re-enrollment process as there were insufficient checks and balances to vital aspects for security verification. The process will resume once more rigorous processes are in place. The main objective is this must be a sustained process for enrollment at all times for all categories of access (residents/visitors/businesses on the Estate/contractors etc.) and not just special emphasis annually at the time of re-enrollment. We also welcome on board the new Fidelity Security Manager, Mr Jaco Gerber who will be focussing on identified areas of improvement requiring attention and upgrade.

At our last residents forum we received valuable feedback where residents expressed concern that the rules of the Community Participation Manual (CPM) were not being consistently enforced and there seemed to be slippage in certain areas. The objective of our CPM: "a high quality lifestyle for residents" needs to be continually upheld as a partnership between the resident and the KEHOA Office. The Office will be enforcing compliance in the spirit of the broken window effect and I look forward to your cooperation in sustaining the lifestyle we all desire in Kyalami Estates.

Theft of the Telkom lines remains a vexing issue and attempts to resolve the issue through their customer centre have been futile. We have now requested a meeting with the Telkom CEO to try and find a viable alternative and long term solution to the problem. In the interim, security patrols will be stepped up in the vicinity of the cables that are the target of theft.

On the financial side, we are underspent on our CAPEX, largely due to a lack of adequate proposals for planned projects. Whilst this is an emphasis for this financial year, we are also cautious that we do not spend and then suffer the consequences of badly planned projects. We will be initiating a process to address and prioritise the backlog of projects which may well result in retained earnings over the next financial year or commitments that will need to be carried over to next year.

Environmental, safety and health issues have come also under the scrutiny of your Board. The major focus areas are the proposed taxi rank, just outside our top gate and the infrequent but high impact sewage spills into Kyalami Estates from the Sewage

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS TO REMEMBER

- Kyalami Estates  
011 468-3001  
*Option 1* Control Room  
*Option 2* Visitors  
Pre-Clearance  
*Option 3* Security Manager  
*Option 4* Estate Office
- Security Manager  
Jaco Gerber  
084 832 2370
- Kyalami Estates Office  
011 468-3001  
Fax: 011 468-1246



Beautiful Bougainvillea, welcoming summer to Kyalami Estates.

(Cont. on page 2)

# CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS *(Continued)*

Treatment Plant to the north of Kyalami Estates (owned and run by Johannesburg Water) – which leads to an ingress of sewage into the Estate at St. Leger's Dam. We are in the process of hopefully making some in-roads in finding definitive measures to address the issues. We will report on this as we make progress. We also urge those residents who have traction in these areas to please come forward and support the teams working on these problems.

Closer to home, the Owlswood dam has been repaired and the first meaningful rains will evidence the success of the work.

## *Chairman's Tip*

With the Climate Change COP 17 soon to be held in Durban, this is a good time to do some "green cleaning" in your home and office. Replace all your incandescent bulbs with CFLs and LEDs.

## Relevant contact numbers:

### EMERGENCIES ONLY

(Alternative if Neotel and Telkom non-operational and major emergencies):  
**078 771 4268.**

**VANIDA LENNON**  
*Chairman*



*Summer in full bloom in Kyalami Estates.*

# SECURITY REPORT

**O**ur security has been on high alert for several months now and whilst we cannot be complacent, incidents of theft have been less frequent. Fidelity were a hair's breadth away from catching the two robbers who we believe are the instigators of all the recent incidents. Two arrests have been made in relation to crimes both in Kyalami Estates and Dainfern Estates and we hope that a prosecution will be forthcoming soon.

The result is a good one, but we have yet to find the 'moles' within the Estate and that is proving difficult for the police and Fidelity's investigating team.

We have and continue to strengthen our security measures and despite government reassurances that crime figures are waning, it appears that in this area (Midrand, Vorna Valley, Blue Hills and Kyalami) we still have plenty with which to concern ourselves. We will do our bit within budgetary limitations to ensure that you will be protected around the perimeter, at the access points and using patrols within the Estate. Unfortunately in this day and age, it is imperative that you think about your own security within the Estate.

Security experts talk of three perimeters to ensure your safety:

- We are taking care of the outer perimeter;
- You need to secure the immediate perimeter of your home;
- You also need to create a safe "cocoon"/safe room. In other words don't make it easy for the criminals.

The other consideration is to ensure that your actions in entering and leaving the Estate and allowing access to people in the Estate does not provide an opportunity for would-be criminals to have access.

Spare a thought perhaps for the guards themselves. It's often a thankless task and over the last few months, even more so. This is especially so, when there is pressure to catch the culprits, blame is being apportioned, suppositions are made and all the while, they are expected to be cheerful, helpful and efficient. They contend with the weather, technology, pre-clearance and whilst it is their job to do so, on the whole they do so with much aplomb.

We subscribe to the local "Fight Against Crime" newsletter which I suspect some of you may also do and they always provide some good, common sense tips. Here's some which should be relevant to this Estate:

## PREVENT HOUSE ROBBERY AND THEFT

- Keep a copy of all your emergency numbers in the main room and the bedrooms.
- Make provision for good outside lighting, but switch the lights off during the day.
- Never open the gate or door automatically whenever the bell rings or if someone knocks. Make completely sure the person wanting to enter is expected.

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# SECURITY REPORT *(Continued)*

- A watchdog is a good early warning system.
- If your house alarm goes off, or you hear strange noises or your dogs bark switch on the outside lights.
- Do not go outside if your house alarm goes off – call security.
- Always check the identity of strangers who visit for business purposes, to do deliveries or repairs.
- Install the best security you can afford, for example the security gates at outside doors.
- When approaching your house entrance by foot or by car ensure that it is safe to enter and that you have not been followed. Be aware of persons loitering at the entrance.
- Always keep your keys safe to prevent duplication thereof.
- Do not leave keys in a hidden place for domestic staff or children, robbers often stake out a house and will find out about these hiding places.
- Know your neighbours and build a relationship of mutual trust and support. When going away inform them.
- It is always best to arrange with persons living in the same street as you to be ready at all times to come to the rescue of one another in dangerous or suspicious times.
- If you buy luxury goods, cut up the boxes and dispose of these in tied black bags – a branded box is a tell-tale sign of what thieves could find in your house.
- Keep cash and valuables in banks or safes.
- Store your firearms in a safe.

KUGEN NAIDOO  
*Security Director*



## COMMUNICATIONS

*Let's talk...*

- Let's talk about being the change that we'd like to see in Kyalami Estates.
- Let's talk about the community outside our gates as well.
- Let's challenge ourselves to make a difference.
- Let's stop complaining about our neighbour's renovations – celebrate the change with them and invite them over for drinks to get away from the mess.
- Let's stop complaining about the barking dogs and talk to the owners to reach a mutually satisfactory solution.
- Let's take a stand against the use of racially derogatory words and aggressive behaviour towards others.
- Let's encourage our families to recycle, to use less power, to save water, to plant a tree, to pick up any litter close to home.
- Let's be the change we expect from the government, our companies, our neighbours.
- Tell us how you think Kyalami Estates could be better, more community conscious and more involved. We'll publish the best suggestions: [ourcommunity@kyalamiestates.co.za](mailto:ourcommunity@kyalamiestates.co.za)

STEVE ROGERS  
*Communications Director*



# HUMAN RESOURCES

By STEVE ROGERS – *Human Resources Director*

WELCOME BACK *Heather*



A few years ago, she held the Board position of Environmental Director, Heather recently joined us as Client Relations Officer and Personal Assistant.

Previously the Environmental Affairs Director, Heather takes over from Kate Amner in the office, as the Personal Assistant to the Estate Manager, also dealing with Client Relations.

Heather and her family have been living in Kyalami Estates for about 11 years and credits the sense of community, the parks and amenities for their happy time here. After working in the publishing industry for the past five years, Heather has now decided to change focus and move her career closer to home.

"I'm excited to be back and happy to be helping the community of Kyalami Estates. I look forward to a long, happy time at the Kyalami Estates Office."

NEW SECURITY MANAGER *Jaco*

Jaco Gerber joins the Kyalami Estates community as Security Manager.

After spending thirteen years in the Johannesburg Metro Police Department, Jaco decided to pursue better opportunities in the private security industry.

He's married and has 8 four-legged children as he calls them; six dogs and two cats.

Jaco says he aims to make Kyalami Estates as safe as possible, ultimately making residents feel so secure, that they're able to sleep with their doors unlocked. He admits this will take time and a lot of commitment, but he's up for the challenge.

Jaco's top security tip: "Keep vigilant at all times. If you're concerned about anything, no matter how small, call the security office on 011 468 3001 – choose option one."



# ARCHITECTURAL & MAINTENANCE

As issues surrounding building and maintenance arise continually, I would urge residents to inform the office or me timeously, when you feel there are items that are dangerous or could cause further damage in the future.

## Electricity boxes

One of the issues of concern which I have had for the last three years is the state of the electricity boxes which house your meters. They are supposed to be locked and only City Power or the meter readers have the keys. However, you may have noticed that most of them have the covers propped-up and are easily accessible to anyone.

I don't have to tell you that with 380volts flying around in there, it's a potential death trap. Now it seems that it's a City Power problem, but between them and the meter readers, nobody seems to take responsibility for them.

It's crucial that you make sure that your children keep away from the electricity boxes until we manage to galvanise someone into action.

## Renovations

From an Architectural perspective, I see a lot of new and renovation activity taking place on the Estate. I urge you to make sure that your contractors understand our code of rules regarding rubble and the screening of building activity.

The screens are not just for aesthetic purposes, they are also meant to keep children out of harm's way. Also, please be respectful of your neighbours, who often have to endure the dust and noise of construction when you're not there.

Maybe you could do what a neighbour of mine did and take around a bottle wine with a note saying "sorry for the inconvenience". It's a good way to start a friendship.

**DAVE GRANT**

*Architectural & Maintenance Director*

## Owlswood Dam

The Owlswood Dam has seen a number of incarnations since it's origins, but the latest rehabilitation is probably the best yet. As I don't live in that part of the Estate, I was unaware of it's importance as a meeting place for seniors and a fun place for juniors. Only when we received the petition from the local residents did we on the Board, realise how passionate they were about it. Accordingly, we jumped into action and started work four months later!

We chose a contractor who offered a "natural" solution rather than a plastic liner. They used a product called sodium bentonite which, when mixed with soil, expands like clay and forms a waterproof layer. The Estate has been given a five year guarantee from the contractors, so hopefully we should enjoy the fruits of their endeavours for many years to come. As a gesture of goodwill, may I suggest that Owlswooders extend an invitation to the rest of the Estate to join them on one of their "sundowner" evenings.



*Contractors from "Geo-Seal" and "DamSeal" watching the dam fill-up while Martin, our Maintenance Manager, looks-on (2nd from the left).*



*Left and below: Dam, nearly full... next rains should do it!*



# Nana's nightingales

It took one phone call to a Kyalami Estates resident, to round up Nana's Nightingales.

In May this year, Physiotherapist Allison Dendy and her team needed help. They had been alerted to the plight of a rural KwaZulu Natal woman, who was suffering from Elephantiasis – a disease causing severe swelling of the lymph nodes.

Nana Ntobela had been confined to her home for several years. The disease had caused her left leg to swell painfully, she couldn't walk and her quality of life had deteriorated. With the help of etv's *3rd Degree* and Netcare 911, Nana was brought to Johannesburg, where she would get the treatment that she so desperately needed.

Kyalami Estates resident Ernie Browne, who works at the Physiotherapy practice, says she didn't realize the enormity of the work that lay ahead of them, when Nana came into their lives. "Allison said 'I have the opportunity to change someone's life, but I need help'. It was also an opportunity to help someone without access to first class medicine and one to raise public awareness about the disease, which is completely controllable and treatable.

One of the major obstacles, to bringing Nana to Johannesburg, was finding accommodation. "I literally asked one person, who asked one person and Sue Blane, without hesitation, said yes." The Blane family agreed to give Nana a room at their home for four-and-a-half months. "They were just amazing, because people were coming in and out of their home on a daily basis, several times a day, treating Nana."

Browne then set up a Facebook page to find out how the community felt about Nana joining them and if anyone would be able to help. "I cannot tell you how easy the community made it for me. I never, ever had to fundraise and within 24 hours, I got exactly what I needed from the people here." Browne was able to collect everything necessary to keep Nana comfortable, including a bed, linen, clothes, groceries, towels, pots and gift vouchers for food.

For many, it was the gift of time that they provided, sitting with her when she was lonely, putting together a scrapbook with her and pushing her wheelchair to the park. Among those who volunteered to sit with Nana and counsel her, were Kyalami Estates residents Sandy van der Wel and Biokineticist Emma Griffiths, who helped to strengthen Nana's upper body.



*Nana with Ernie Browne on surgery day.*

With Dendy's team of three physiotherapists and four assistants lifting and treating Nana's leg every day, the swelling subsided. Finally the woman, whose leg initially weighed between 60 and 70kg, was admitted to Sunninghill Hospital, where another Kyalami Estates resident Dr Dirk le Roux, removed almost 8kg of excess skin. Browne says there were many tears during the process, "But the satisfaction on her face, every time she made progress was just wonderful to see".



*Sue Blane with her house guest Nana.*

Some weeks after Nana was discharged from hospital, she was transferred to the Netcare Rehabilitation Centre, where she was finally able to stand up for the first time. She returned to the Blane's home, where Browne says Nana was pushed to walk. "It wasn't easy", she says "because she was in a lot of pain, but with perseverance Nana was walking".

During this time, another woman suffering from Elephantiasis came forward, asking for help. Zodwa Webber had also been living with the disease for many years, but unlike Nana, her leg wasn't as badly swollen. Again the call went out and this time, Martina Welsh offered Zodwa her guestroom. With intense treatment provided pro-bono by Dendy's practice, Zodwa's leg healed.

Nana's long journey in Kyalami Estates ended on the 16th of September, when she was driven down to Margate Hospital where a welcome home reception was held in her honour. When she was finally reunited with her family in her village, Browne, Dendy and Sue Simpson from the physio practice were there to witness it. "We wept when we saw her hugging her daughter and her mother", she recalls.

It was a hard journey and Browne says there were too many tears to count, but it took one happy event every now and then, to make the process worthwhile for all involved.

She credits the many residents of Kyalami Estate with providing a total stranger with the help that Nana so desperately needed. But it was the passion, dedication and blood, sweat and tears shed by the Estate's three physio's that ultimately got Nana up and walking after several years.

"People here are very kind. They just needed somewhere to put that kindness".

*(Cont. on page 7)*

# Nana's nightingales *(Continued)*

## Thank you

The spirit of Ubuntu is alive and kicking in this Estate!

- Sue & Malcolm - Hotel Deauville!
- Pick 'n Pay Kyalami – all you ever said was yes
- Erica & Constance - Sisters on call!
- Sandy - you beaut!
- Jen - Schlepper deluxe!
- Irene - fund raiser extraordinaire
- Tracey, Emma - you kept Nana moving
- My givers and gophers. No words for you!
- My colleagues – Amazing people, amazing practice!



Zodwa Webber and Nana Ntobela.  
Physiotherapists Cath Egbers, Sue Simpson and Allison Dendy.

*Kiss, kiss and all of that – Ernie*

## *Kyalami Times*

We want to make the Kyalami Times more appealing to you.  
What would you like to see in *your* magazine?

- More news from areas surrounding Kyalami Estates?
- Social events?
- Residents achievements?
- Announcements (births, weddings etc.)?
- Letters to the Editor?
- Other...

Please send your suggestions and news to [kyalamitimes@gmail.com](mailto:kyalamitimes@gmail.com)



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