

'THE OLIVE CREST'

NEWSLETTER NO. 19

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012

INTRODUCTION:

Sorry we are a bit late with this newsletter (the editor's husband had too much of a good time in the Kalahari), but welcome and best wishes for 2012 to all the families on the Estate,. May this be a great year for us all. With the new coach we are now well on the way to winning the World Cup in 2015. We trust you all had a great festive season and that not a day passes by without you meticulously ticking off another failed New Year resolution.

We seemed to get a lot of rain, thunder and lightning on the Estate through December and January, so that the trees and plants are now looking thick and lush. The waterfall area, in particular, is looking particularly wild and wonderful, thanks to Lloyd's efforts, so try to walk through there in the evenings, as the summer sun goes down.

Just mind you don't stand on a hedgehog.

SOCIAL NEWS:

- ↪ A hearty welcome to **Neil and Terry-Leigh Buckley** who moved into # 12 in early December 2011.
- ↪ **Peter and Tertia Bolt** have moved into # 106 – hope there is not too much construction chaos, and that you will have good times in Olive Crest.
- ↪ An important new arrival has happened at # 95 – **Jo-Anne Hausberger** was born on 10 January to **Helene and Brendon**. Congratulations – may be there be lots of love and laughter in the growing years!
- ↪ Just a question: As we now have soooo many kiddies in Olive Crest are there any moms out there who may be keen to start a 'Kids' Corner' and perhaps arrange something along the following lines:
 - Art competition (display at clubhouse)
 - Poems by kids about the Estate (display at clubhouse)
 - Egg and spoon race around the Estate
 - Teddy bears picnic in the park
 - Mini-gala at the pool
 - Any other suggestions?

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS:

Some awesome news from Glenn Willmot No. 31

“Just in case anybody was wondering if there is still the family of hedgehogs alive and well after all the construction going on! Well here's proof (see attached pictures) of a healthy male I found in my garden at around 1 am last month.

We awoke to the infamous CODY, (he's our dog in case you're wondering) barking abnormally. The last time we heard this tone of bark was when we found a few individuals on our premises wanting to borrow a few household items!

The hedgehog was quite vigilant and was not at all offended by the continuous probing and barking by Cody, he only continued to forage around the garden. In saying that he was utterly disgusted when I

picked him up to place him in one of the vacant stands next to us. He continued to hiss and grunt till I released him.

These are pretty rare to see in the wild, and as avid bush goers and outdoors people I think we should possibly look at getting a company that rescues wild animals from estates to release back into the wild. I have no doubt that once the construction is complete and we have 100% occupancy, these rare creatures will be gone for good. Maybe we can have a vote on a type of sanctuary for them up near the pond? Any suggestions?"



- ✓ The other good eco news is that the resident Estate owls have had another successful summer in terms of procreation, and they are now just about finished with the thankless task, (ask any parent), of raising their two fledglings. If you walk to the common area park in Bushwillow Close, most afternoons, you can still see the youngsters sitting on their branch, hissing away at the passers by. Spotted Eagle Owls return to their same breeding spot, year after year, and they thrive on rats, mice and Cody.



- ✓ More good news is that the Estate is blessed with a plague of Helmeted Guineafowls and they have also not held back in the breeding stakes (bird seed must be even more potent than rhino horn). There are at least two broods consisting of ten chicks or more, wandering over the Estate as if they owned the place. What better sight than to have a mom and pop guineafowl, plus fifteen tiny little freeloaders, sneak onto your lawn to steal your expensive bird seed. (Guineafowl recipes will be provided in a future edition.)



- ✓ **REMEMBER - RE-CYCLE REDUCE RE-USE**
ECOmonkey has a collection service in Olive Crest. Buy your **BLUE BIN** and for a nominal amount every month, you can have all your recyclable items collected from outside your house. www.ecomonkey.co.za for more information.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTION :

- ✧ **GARDENS OF THE GOLDEN CITY** (See a copy of all the details on the board at the Clubhouse)

Lloyd & Jean Irvings' garden at No. 304 Olievenhout Avenue will be open to the public on 11th and 12th February. To quote from the brochure : "This wonderful eight acres of indigenous garden makes you believe you are in the bush just a stones throw away from 'The Dome'. Because of the wide variety of indigenous trees, it also makes for an interesting visit for birdwatchers and butterfly lovers alike. The trees and shrubs are well established. One olive tree is reputed to be around five hundred years old.

One can spend time observing the antics of the frogs, dragonflies and wild ducks in the natural pond which is surrounded by a wide variety of grasses and Louisiana Irises. Ancient rocks abound. This garden is a guide to the natural world that exists in our cities if we are aware of its magic."

AND NOW FOR THE EXCITING BIT We would like to invite **ALL RESIDENTS OF OLIVE CREST** to meet at the **Clubhouse at 10:00 on Saturday, 11 February** with your walking shoes/hats/suntan lotion/kids in prams/kids on shoulders/grannies/granddads – **just everyone come along!** We will walk to Lloyd's house, (it's just around the corner), for a morning of liaising with nature, getting some exercise and supporting 3 worthy charities by enjoying pleasant company AND tea and cake (R20 entrance fee, Children under 12 free).

ADVERTS:

Angie Munzara at No. 100 Bushwillow Drive
has some clothes from the U S if anyone would
like more info, kindly contact Angie at 071 444 8657.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

Work hard, play often and live in love.
Stuart MacFarlane

