

'THE OLIVE CRESTER'

NEWSLETTER NO. 26

MARCH 2014

INTRODUCTION:

Wow, it's been a wonderful summer, with 30 degree temperatures since September 2013, and then the rains came and came and came! All of this beautiful weather has made the gardens of Olive Crest look amazing, with everything growing bountifully and beautifully.

We are so fortunate on the Estate to live in all this indigenous olive forest vegetation, interspersed with large, two billion year old, granite boulders. Thanks to the Estate Gardeners for keeping these common areas in good nick, as well as to the residents for respecting and actively supporting the eco side of daily living in their gardening efforts.

Just hope the residents didn't suffer too many leaks, mold, moss or webbed feet from the recent floods. And of course, finally, thanks to the Lions for looking like a rugby team that will get us sanely through this winter

SOCIAL NEWS:

Due to our long lapse in publications of this newsletter, due to age, indolence, etc, (sorry), there have been a whole lot of new arrivals and departures to the Estate since last we met. So here is the news, with thanks to Suzanne, who has her finger forever on the pulse



#6 – Jacqui and Martin de Lima Nunes and family – this residence has now found loving new owners to restore it to its full potential and current glory! Awesome and welcome!



#19 – Tenants – Shamila and Byron Campbell with their children Luke and Erin.



#22 – Linda Sithole and Feneka Kgala have now completed construction and moved into their new home with adult daughters, **Lusanda and Nandipa** and son **Lunga**.



#23 – Sotiri and Helen have also completed building and moved in with their family.



#31 – Henri and Jana Joubert have bought from Glenn and Mandy Willmott who have left to enjoy the Cape ... the furtherest point away from Joeys they could drive to!



#54 – Vanessa and Raymond Baard and young family who bought this house from Trevor and Cherie Daws (who have sadly gone off to Ballito and must now support the Sharks).



#57 – Candice and Nick Polti and young family have also completed construction and moved into their new home.



#99 – Voli and Danie Maree (renting #99 until their stunningly located house at #111 is complete).



#100 – Francois and Reony Bourbon have moved in with adult children **Sharne and Lain**.

A very **BIG WELCOME** to one and all and trust your time at Olive Crest will be happy and filled with nature at its best. See you all at the next Happy Hour.

The current status of construction on the Estate:

Under Construction	Vacant Stands	Developer's Stands
#27 : #38 : #39	#9 : #24 : #28	#20 – sale in motion
#47 : #71 : #88	#36 : #42 : #44	#26 – sale in motion
#96 : #103 : #111	#45 : #56 re-sold	#30 – sale in motion

	#62 re-sold	#33 – reserved
	#67 re-sold	#37 – sale in motion
	#75 re-sold	
	#77 : #78 : #79	
	#94 : #105 re-sold	
	#119 #53 & #52 consolidated	

OLIVE CREST ACCOLADES:

(1) Magali Malherbe



Magali Malherbe lives at #93 and is the **National Project Manager** of an organization called ‘**Children of the Dawn**’.

On the 6th March she received the 2014 Trophy of the French Living Overseas in the category “Humanitarian and Social” for her work with Children of the Dawn. The event was held at the prestigious Quay d’Orsay where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Paris (France) is based. The event was chaired by the French Deputy Minister for French People Living Overseas and was truly spectacular.

Congratulations Magali, (and well done to husband Rene for not being able to speak French despite all attempts to pull him right). Seriously, if anyone is interested to support this worthy charity, the website is www.childrenofthedawn.org.za. It is a fantastic organization helping many of our fellow South Africans who are not as privileged as we are.

“Sponsor a child, change a life”

(2) Cameron Jenks

Cameron Jenks, living at #49 has been elected HEAD BOY of Trinity Preparatory School. Congratulations! (Cameron was also the first resident in Olive Crest Estate to hear the Red Chested Cuckoo in early October – a little challenge put out in our last Newsletter – and he earned himself a CNA voucher for his vigilance, and for apparently being the only one to read the last newsletter.



Cameron often steps in to help Suzanne as the Estate postman, delivering mail to the residents when no-one feels like collecting postal deliveries from Suzanne's office, and the piles start falling on her head. Well done Cameron, we will be watching all your achievements with anticipation – super proud of you!

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS:

Speaking of Red-chested Cuckoos, (a Piet-My-Vrou to most of us), Mike Rodd has provided us with this photo of a juvenile bird that flew down to the paving in front of his patio.



This young bird has not yet developed its red chest. This is a pretty special photo, as these birds are often heard but seldom seen, like Justin Bieber. It was probably reared by a Cape Robin-chat, which would have been like watching Baby Jake Matlala feeding Kobus Wiese.

Mike also caught this snake in his garage. It is either a harmless Brown House Snake or a deadly Black Mamba, Mike is not too sure, so he let it loose behind his house. So if you ever visit Mike, don't go

behind the house for whatever reason.



Mike also reports that he had a Slender Mongoose come to drink at his pond on Boxing Day, (probably looking for the snake, or for some left over Xmas trifle)

He also recently heard the jackals howling in the early morning. Good to know they are still about.

Our Resident Breeding Owls

Regretfully, it seems as if our resident pair of Spotted Eagle Owls have moved home away from Olive Crest. They have been breeding here for years, so this will be a blow if they stay away again next season. Whether their departure was due to building activities, dogs, cats, rat poisons, or whatever, is not clear. Any sighting news will be welcomed.

Locusts

After our heavy rains we are seeing the first of these annual locusts breeding out. We may get a swarm again this year, but please don't spray poisons on the trees, as the locusts will die out again naturally. The indigenous trees shrug off the heavy leaf stripping that takes place. Our frogs, hedgehogs, birds, etc, will not thank you for a poisoned environment.

Helmeted Guineafowl

Happy to report that the guinea fowls have bred successfully again, but with a fair degree of attrition since fledging. You may have seen the two groups of six adults each, wandering about the Estate. One group is now down to raising ten chicks and the other has only three chicks left, but it seems like these juveniles are now big enough to withstand the ongoing cat, owl and mongoose predation.

Freckled Nightjar

We suspect that there is a Freckled Nightjar in the Estate, as their distinctive call has been heard a few times, so anyone with news on this, please shout, as this would be great news.

ADVERTS (Melinda at # 90)

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Email : melinda@melsflowers.co.za

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*The reasonable man adapts himself to the world:
the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself.
Therefore all progress depends on the unreasonable man.*