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PINELANDS COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

ISSUE 167 | November 2025



Summer Steak Sarmies

Heleen Meyer



Thornton Community

Fitness by Alex



Marrakech

Brian Watkyns



Helen Keller

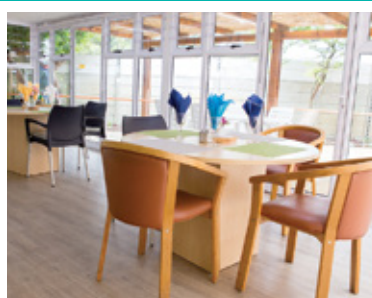
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WELCOME



Max Schutte

The poppy is a symbol of remembrance associated with World War I which ended on November 11th at 11:00 in 1918. Today ceremonies are held to remember all of those who have fallen or served to keep the peace. Traditionally poppies are worn and a two minute silence is held for remembrance and thanks.



Little Egret

A fairly small egret with a long black bill, black legs and bright yellow feet. During the breeding season males have cream eyes, mauve face, elongated plumes on the nape, mantle and foreneck. This change in colouration does not last long and is seen mainly at the start of the breeding season. Little egrets are fairly common and mostly resident. However one bird ringed at Rondevlei was found 1 840 km north-east of its ringing site.

Little egrets are mainly found on the shores of inland waters, but can also be seen foraging along the seashore. These egrets roost gregariously and may gather in hundreds at a good feeding supply. They eat fish (mainly small) also frogs, insects and small lizards.

John McFarlane, author of the regular Muse bird feature enjoys the company of garden birds at his home in Pinewood Village. He has the usual bird feeders for seed and fruit and a bird bath to attract a variety of birds. His time spent in game parks including Kruger National Park is always rewarded with plenty of bird sightings.



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THE REAL FAKE NEWS

I find that it's getting progressively harder to recognise manufactured 'news' from the real thing, and I don't think I'm alone in this. When sane and rational observers have to continually consider and check the 'facts' before accepting them, it speaks to a bit of a crazy situation. This conundrum is coming at us from two sides...

On one side, the tools available for making highly convincing, but false, articles, recordings and even videos, and disseminating them at scale are developing and spreading at pace. These tools are being used by all strata of the population, from presidents to schoolchildren to misinform, anger, mock and bully.

On the other side, what you might conclude must be fake news, can often, shockingly, turn out to be true - a measure of how the extremes of opinion have found their way into positions of power and also how everyday citizens are afforded a far louder and widespread voice without filter nor limitation, whether for beneficial or nefarious purposes.

It seems an ingrained trait of human nature that any invention intended for good will immediately and equally be abused for selfish gain. The suddenness of this AI arrival has also meant that as a society we have had little time to come to terms with the this two-faced newcomer in our midst. There is no putting this genie back into the bottle so we will have to learn quickly to understand its nature and how to live alongside it and, in the words of the Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young song, "teach your children well" so they can get the best out of it and avoid the worst.

In the early days of Google, when it was newly launched, the company motto read simply "don't be evil" - a clear and laudable guideline given to human staff. It was later watered down to "do the right thing". In the AI led future of the internet, I do wonder how an AI will interpret this instruction and who and what it will deem to be 'right'...

If this all seems a bit dark, take refuge in the words of Bob Marley... "don't worry, about a thing, 'cause every little thing gonna be alright."

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Max Schutte

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November

Saturday 1 Nov 2025

PINELANDS METHODIST CHURCH "MARKET ON UNION"

Get in early for Christmas. Find gifts and gift ideas. Enjoy warm fellowship as you munch your Saturday brunch of a pancake and/or an egg and bacon roll. Then find some take home eats and treats. Between 09:00 and 12:00, in the church hall at 2 Union Avenue. Call Joan on 082 810 1889.

Saturday 1 Nov 2025

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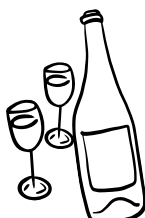
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THE AMAZING DUCK RACE

Saturday 1 Nov 2025

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Wednesday 5 Nov 2025

HAPPY HOUR SOCIAL GROUP

Come to the Pinelands Library Activities Hall from 09:30 to 11:00 for some fun and games. All welcome. Call Santa 083 235 6730.

Saturday 8 Nov 2025

THE AMAZING DUCK RACE

Come to 14 La Gratitude from 09:00 for fun and entertainment for the whole family at La Gratitude. Adopt a duck - and stand a chance to win some fantastic prizes!

Wednesday 19 Nov 2025

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

At the Pinelands Library Committee Room from 10:00 to 11:00. Meet local author, Daryl Henning for a chat about his book *Rainbows Beyond The Door*. This powerful narrative follows the story of a man navigating the complexities of life in a deeply segregated South Africa. RSVP: Verna/Lauren 021 814 1780.

Wednesday 26 Nov 2025

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

Meet at 18:30 in the Pinelands Library Activities Hall. This will be the AGM and end of year meeting.

Email Martin: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com.

Wednesdays (see dates below)

CANSA SUPPORT GROUP

Meet in the committee room at Pinelands Library on the last Wednesday of the month from 10:00 to 12:00. Meet various guest speakers. Dates: 26 November.

Call Abedda 083 645 6460 or Cheryl 079 848 5794.

Fridays (see dates below)

HELEN KELLER SOCIETY BOOK ROOM AND NURSERY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The Helen Keller Society will open their book room and garden nursery for sales to the general public on the last Friday of every month between 10:00 and noon. Call Bev Wroth on 021 531 5311.

Friday: 28 Nov 2025; 30 Jan 2026.

Saturday 29 Nov 2025

ANNUAL FÊTE AT PINESWOOD RETIREMENT VILLAGE

Come and enjoy bric-a-brac, plant sales, cake sales, a tea lounge, bacon and egg rolls, boerie rolls, book sales, crafters and much more between 09:00 and 13:00. Find the village off Ringwood Drive.

Call, Kaare James 0724448082.

Sunday 30 Nov 2025

PINELANDS UNITED CHURCH

Please join us for a Carols by Candlelight Service at 19:00. We would love to see you. Tea & coffee will be served after the service. 3 Nerine Avenue, off Crassula or Daffodil (from Ringwood Drive)

e-mail pcchurch@cybersmart.co.za

Fridays 2025

PINEES PRAM JAM 10:00 to 10:40

Bring your toddlers from birth to 4 years old to the Pinelands Library Hall for exciting stories and lively music and movement sessions.

Saturdays 2025

FAMILY BONDING: STORIES AND SMILES

Join us and ignite your imagination with an engaging, fun-filled Saturday storytime in the children's section at 10:30.

Saturdays 2025 09:00 to 13:00

BRIC-A-BRAC SALES FOR KAPS

Visit Gloria at the Karoo Animal Protection Society (KAPS) bric-a-brac table at the Pinelands Club. All donations are welcome. For collection call Gloria 083 450 2782.

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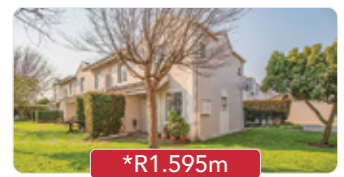
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RE-IMAGINING EDUCATION: EQUIPPING YOUNG MINDS FOR A DYNAMIC AND PURPOSE-DRIVEN FUTURE



Article by
Shireen Stadler

Principal
Pinelands North
Primary School

(The Red School)



Education and our evolving world

As the world rapidly evolves through technological advancements, shifting economies, and global challenges, the need for a more inclusive and adaptive approach to education has never been more critical. Traditional academic routes alone can no longer serve as the sole foundation for preparing young minds for an uncertain future. Instead, an holistic, forward-thinking curriculum that prioritizes both academic excellence and practical skill development must take centre stage.

Education, by its very nature, should not be static. It must be dynamic and responsive, catering to the diverse needs of pupils in a fast-paced and interconnected world. Our children deserve more than rote memorization and standardized assessments — they need to be empowered with a versatile set of skills that will enable them to thrive, regardless of the challenges they may face in the years to come.

The Need for Innovation in Education

In today's ever-changing world, the boundaries between professions are becoming increasingly blurred. The modern workforce no longer functions in silos; instead, it thrives on adaptability, innovation, and interdisciplinary thinking. Schools must reflect this reality. An innovative curriculum should expose pupils to a wide range of subjects and skills — from critical thinking and problem-solving to collaboration and creativity. Full-service mainstream schools have a unique opportunity to lead this shift. By incorporating non-traditional subjects such as woodworking, needlework, and horticulture into the curriculum, educators can provide pupils with a more enriching and practical education. These subjects offer a wealth of benefits: not only do they introduce pupils to alternative career paths in craftsmanship, carpentry, and modern manufacturing, but they also cultivate patience, precision, and perseverance.

Empowering Pupils Through Practical Skills

Subjects like needlework and knitting are often viewed as outdated or secondary, but they hold immense potential in today's context. These skills can serve as the foundation for entrepreneurship, tourism-related ventures, or community-based development projects. For example, pupils who learn the basics of sewing may eventually go on to create their own clothing brands, start repair businesses, or participate in local markets—skills that contribute directly to economic growth and sustainability.

Similarly, introducing horticulture at the primary school level can help children reconnect with nature and gain a deeper understanding of food production, sustainability, and environmental stewardship. Beyond the practical applications, gardening fosters responsibility, patience, and an appreciation for life cycles—traits that remain valuable well into adulthood.

Fostering Transferable Skills & Adaptability

At the heart of this re-imagined curriculum lies a focus on transferable skills—essential abilities that can be applied across multiple contexts, industries, and life scenarios. Communication, adaptability, problem-solving, and decision-making should be cultivated as core competencies in every classroom. These skills not only help pupils succeed academically but also prepare them for real-world situations. Whether navigating a job interview, launching a start-up, or managing personal finances, the ability to think critically and act decisively empowers pupils to thrive.

Entrepreneurship as a Core Discipline

Entrepreneurship education, in particular, should be recognized as a crucial component of modern schooling. Far more than just teaching pupils how to start a business, it instills a mindset of creativity, initiative, and resilience. Entrepreneurship encourages pupils to identify problems and

find solutions, to collaborate effectively, and to take ownership of their goals.

By embedding entrepreneurship into the curriculum, schools can nurture a generation of proactive thinkers—individuals who are equipped to participate in and shape the economy. Pupils who understand value creation, financial literacy, and risk-taking are more likely to become job creators rather than job seekers.

An Holistic and Integrated Approach

What's important to note is that these changes do not require an overhaul of the entire education system. Rather, subjects and skills can be seamlessly integrated across existing curricula. For example, mathematics lessons can incorporate budgeting exercises as part of entrepreneurship projects and science classes can include sustainable farming methods in collaboration with horticulture. This integrated approach not only broadens the skill-sets of pupils but also enhances their understanding of how different disciplines connect in the real world. More importantly, it nurtures personal growth, self-confidence, and the belief that every pupil has something valuable to contribute.

Preparing for a Purpose-Driven Future

The time has come to move beyond a one-size-fits-all model of education. To prepare future generations for the complexities of the 21st century, we must adopt a curriculum that values innovation, practicality, and holistic development. By integrating skills such as woodwork, sewing, horticulture, and entrepreneurship into mainstream education, we not only broaden opportunities — we build a more resilient, capable, and empowered society. Education should be a springboard, not a funnel. Let's re-imagine it as a space where every learner can discover their strengths, develop meaningful skills, and confidently navigate the ever-changing world they are inheriting. ■

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Local Couple Brings Thornton Together Through Free Community Fitness Sessions

Proud Thornton residents Alex and Julia have returned from three years in the Republic of Ireland and felt deeply inspired to create something that focused not just on physical health, but on community connection and inclusivity. That's how *Thornton Community Fitness* was born.



Alex Mateus

Alex worked as a strength and conditioning coach at the Rugby Academy of Ireland and as a personal trainer at a private gym in Dublin. That experience really shaped his passion for accessible, holistic fitness.

What started as a simple idea between a young couple, Julia and Alex, has quickly become a movement to reconnect the Thornton community through health, kindness and shared motivation.

The pair recently launched *Thornton Community Fitness* by Alex, a free initiative designed to bring neighbours of all ages and fitness levels together for outdoor workouts in a welcoming and encouraging space.

"After seeing how isolated people had become, especially post-pandemic, we wanted to create something that would get people moving again, not just physically

but socially," says Julia, co-founder of the project. "This isn't just about exercise. It's about building a stronger, more connected Thornton."

Alex, a qualified personal trainer, leads the sessions with a focus on inclusivity, motivation, and accessibility. "Fitness should never feel intimidating or be stuck by an unattainable paywall" he explains. "Everyone starts somewhere and we're here to make that journey fun and supportive."

The community response has been overwhelming. Within weeks of the announcement, over 70 residents joined the WhatsApp group (call 081 681 2497), eager to take part. Their first meet-and-greet session at Silveroak Park was a heartfelt success—complete with refreshments provided by BOS Ice Tea, one

of the first local brands to collaborate with the initiative.

Upcoming free community workout sessions will take place weekly, with participants asked only to bring a workout mat, towel and water bottle. Consent forms are available online to ensure the sessions remain safe and well-organised. Request these via the whatsapp group.

The couple is also working alongside the Thornton Ratepayers Association to secure a more permanent indoor venue, allowing the initiative to continue rain or shine.

"Our dream is to make this a lasting part of the Thornton community," says Julia. "We want to show that when people come together with a shared goal, not for profit, but for growth, the ripple effect can be incredible."

Thornton Community Fitness by Alex stands as a testament to the power of local spirit: a reminder that wellness and togetherness go hand in hand.

Follow on

Instagram @thorntoncommunityfitness. ■



Participants of the fitness class Saturday 18th October



MONEY MATTERS



By
Sue Torr
Director
Crue Invest



What many investors don't know about their retirement funds – but should

For most South Africans, a retirement fund forms the foundation of long-term financial security. Month after month, we contribute to something that feels distant but essential, trusting that one day those savings will provide freedom and stability. Yet, while most people know they should be saving, few truly understand how these funds work or the rules that govern them.

Governed by the Pension Funds Act, the Income Tax Act, and several related laws, retirement annuities operate within a strict framework designed to protect investors and encourage disciplined saving. The rules may appear restrictive, but they exist to safeguard your capital and ensure that retirement savings serve their intended purpose.

The structure behind your savings

Most people save through either an employer's pension or provident fund, or a personal retirement annuity (RA). Employer-based funds, known as occupational funds, usually receive contributions from both employer and employee and are often compulsory. On the other hand, RAs are voluntary and ideal for the self-employed or for anyone wishing to supplement existing savings. In March 2021, the rules for pension, provident, and RA funds were harmonised. At retirement, you may take one-third of your savings as a lump sum and must use the rest to buy an annuity that provides income. Provident-fund members who were 55 or older at that date retain their previous withdrawal rights, but for everyone else, the rules now align.

Trustees and transparency

Every registered retirement fund must have a board of trustees whose duty is to act in the best interests of members. Trustees ensure that contributions are received, investments are responsibly managed, and the fund operates according to its rules. They are required to undergo training and to seek professional advice when needed. While they do not report to individual members, they carry a fiduciary duty to the fund as a whole. It is worth knowing who your trustees are and how to access your fund's performance reports—because it is, after all, your money.

The tax advantage

One of the greatest incentives for retirement saving is the tax deduction on contributions. You can invest up to 27.5% of

taxable income or remuneration, capped at R350 000 per year across all of your funds combined. These contributions reduce your taxable income and can meaningfully boost long-term returns. Over decades, the compound effect of these savings becomes a major advantage.

Access and the Two-Pot System

Retirement funds are designed for long-term security, not short-term withdrawals. In most cases, you can access your savings only from age 55 onwards. Preservation funds allow one pre-retirement withdrawal, after which the balance must remain invested. From 1 September 2024, the Two-Pot Retirement System allows limited annual access to a 'Savings Component' while the remainder stays locked in a 'Retirement Component.' This offers flexibility without undermining the goal of protecting long-term savings.

The fine print that matters

Retrenchment, divorce, and death can all affect your retirement savings. When retrenched, your severance package and retirement withdrawal are taxed together, with the first R550 000 tax-free—once in a lifetime. Planning the timing of withdrawals is critical to avoid exhausting this benefit too soon. In a divorce, a spouse may claim a portion of your fund's pension interest, calculated differently depending on the type of fund. These are complex areas where professional advice is invaluable.

When you pass away

In terms of Section 37C of the Pension Funds Act, the fund trustees must distribute the death benefit due among financial dependants and nominees in a fair and equitable manner. Because these benefits are paid directly to dependants, they fall outside your estate and are exempt from estate duty. It is important to review your nomination form regularly to ensure that your wishes remain clear.

Retirement funds are complex but invaluable vehicles for long-term wealth creation. Understanding how they work—the laws that govern them, the tax benefits they offer, and the limits they impose—empowers you to make confident decisions. Do not simply contribute out of habit; engage with your fund, ask questions, and align it with your goals. The more informed you are today, the more secure your tomorrow will be. ■

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When is the best time to review your medical aid?
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Speak to our HEALTHCARE TEAM

Chantelle Cooke, Corlene Botha, Danielle Botha

The end of the year isn't just about wrapping up your finances — it's the perfect time to take stock of your healthcare cover.

As your life evolves, so do your medical needs. A new baby, a change in health, or even a shift in lifestyle can alter the kind of cover that's right for you. Yet many South Africans allow their medical aid and gap cover to roll over unchanged from one year to the next — often at the cost of unnecessary premiums or inadequate benefits.

We believe that medical cover should be reviewed with the same care as your financial plan. Our healthcare advisory team, led by Corlene Botha, specialises in helping individuals and families navigate the complexities of medical schemes and gap products.

Start the new year with confidence, knowing your healthcare protection is current, comprehensive and cost-effective.



Crue Invest Healthcare Division

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MARRAKECH

"We're riding on the Marrakesh Express," sang Crosby Still Nash and Young in 1969. In 2025 we were riding on the Stansted Express to Stansted Airport to fly to Marrakech. Marrakech was founded in 1062 by the Almoravid, a Berber Muslim dynasty and was the capital of Morocco from around 1551. The country became a French Protectorate from 1912 until independence in 1956, which resulted in Rabat replacing Marrakech as the capital. The majority of Moroccans are Sunni Muslims, but Morocco is considered to be a relatively liberal country emphasising tolerance including religious freedom for minorities.



Breakfast on the roof of the riad



Inside the riad

www.pinelandsdirectory.co.za

Day 1

Our taxi from Menara airport stopped in the old part of the city outside a mosque which had been destroyed in the 2023 earthquake when over three thousand people died. We followed him with slight trepidation as he zig-zagged down narrow passages to our BnB known in Morocco as a riad. As with most riads it is a three-storey family home with an open courtyard in the middle but without outside windows. Our host could only speak French, so we communicated via a translation app on her iPad. The official language is Arabic but is a dialect influenced by Spanish, Portuguese and Berber. Arabic and French are taught in schools.

Day 2

After a traditional breakfast on the roof of the riad we set out to meet our tour guide. Excellent free tours are offered by Guruwalk in many cities around the world with a donation at the end. The tour started at the Koutoubia minaret built in the 12th Century, before walking to various places of interest, including Mellah, the Jewish quarter dating back to 1558 with the Lazama synagogue. Finally, our tour group walked down the crowded Semmarine, the main street in the Souk, with its exotic smells and colourful merchandise, where our tour ended.

After the tour we enjoyed traditional mint tea at a stall on Tinsmith Square (aka



Tinsmith Square

Article written
by Brian
Watkins

Place des Ferblantiers). We then set off to explore the 19th Century Bahai Palace with its ornate designs which is currently used by the royal family for events. We enjoyed an excellent and inexpensive traditional supper at the Restaurant Dar L' Hassira recommended by our guide.

In this old part of the city the most popular form of transport is a 50cc moped for which no drivers licence is required. Every household owns at least one. They buzz around like swarms of speeding mosquitoes—everywhere. Sometimes there are two adults and two children crammed on the small motorbike.

Day 3

After breakfast on day three we explored the narrow alleys in the Souk including the Rahba Kedima where unusual items are sold, such as dried scorpions. The variety

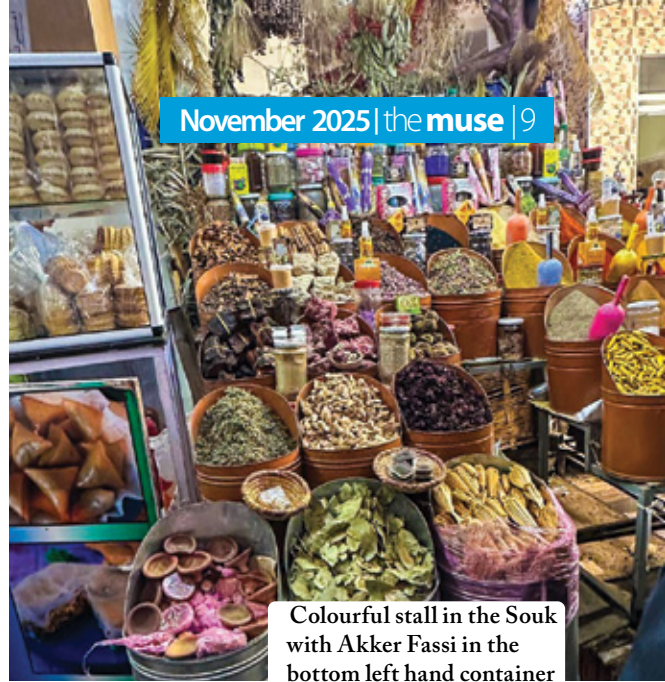
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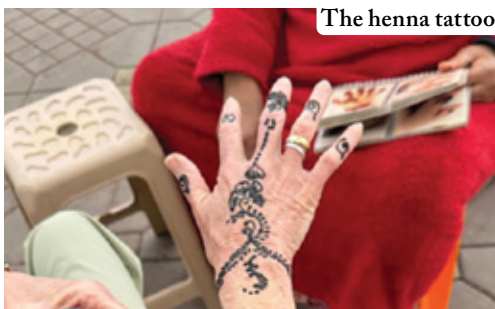
November 2025 | the muse | 8



Bahai Palace



Colourful stall in the Souk with Akker Fassi in the bottom left hand container



The henna tattoo

of small shops took us all morning to explore. Ann purchased Akker Fassi, which is a lipstick made of poppy petals and pomegranate rind in a small terracotta pot. I enjoyed Hawaii, a local soft drink.

In the afternoon Ann visited a traditional Haman. The sauna is in a large communal room with women of all ages including daughters, granddaughters and groups of friends. It is very sociable and noisy with everyone comfortable in their nakedness. There are no cubicles, taps or showers. A basin of hot water and black soap, called Savon Beldi made from olives, is brought

to you. An assistant scrubs you with a mitten to exfoliate before washing you and shampooing your hair. Finally, you receive a full body massage using argan oil made from the nuts of the argan tree in southern Morocco.

Later we joined a pre-booked tour to Lalla Takerkoust on the edge of the Agafay Desert. On the way we stopped at a workshop where argan oil is handmade. At our destination we took a 20-minute camel ride which was marred by rain and bitter cold. Soaked, we went into a Bedouin tent to be served a traditional meal including tangia which is meat slow cooked in distinctive clay pots. The evening ended with a fire show and Berber music around a campfire.

Day 4

Our last day started with exploring Jemaa el-Fnaa Square, studiously avoiding sunglass sellers, beggars, the performing monkeys and snake charmers. Here, Ann had henna tattoos done on her hands. They use a syringe which squirts out the dye in a

pattern which you choose. Disappointingly the tattoos partly rubbed off by the end of the day. For lunch we went to the Hadj Mustapha Chez Lamine restaurant for the famed Mechoui which is a traditional serving of lamb roasted for 24 hours in a deep, sealed underground pit.

On our way to the airport, we decided to find a tannery on the outskirts of the city where the skins are soaked in pigeon droppings. The skins had just been brought by the Berbers who live in the nearby Atlas Mountains, and they were leaving later that day. As we were unable to find the tannery, a local offered to help. Generally, locals assist cheerfully, expecting nothing in return. However, when we emerged from the tannery, the local accosted us for money. By then we had no cash left over, which led to an intimidating argument. We read later about hustlers in the area. An unfortunate ending to our trip.

Nevertheless, we enjoyed an incredible, relatively inexpensive and totally memorable experience. ■



There will be a canal clean-up on Saturday 1 November, sponsored by resident Rawson Properties agent, Anthony.



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Image courtesy of the South African Legion



MEMORIES FROM THE VENTURA PLANE CRASH ON JULIANAVELD IN 1956

By James Berrangé

I was going through an unfamiliar folder on my hard drive which turned out to be scans of old transparencies, mostly wedding shots and family scenes, when to my delight and surprise I discovered three photographs of the Lockheed Ventura Bomber that famously crash-landed in Pinelands. The slides were not in good condition, but fortunately the scans were, so with help from Photoshop and some careful retouching I managed to turn them into the usable pictures you see here.

In Pinelands we're all used to the sound of aircraft flying overhead but on the afternoon on the 26th of November, 1956, a different turn of events began to unfold. At Ysterplaat airport 2nd Lieutenants J H Nel and R C Palk had taken off in their twin-engined Lockheed Ventura PV-1 Bomber,

no 6515 of 17 squadron, which was used for training purposes in Commonwealth countries. A few kilometres away, in Pinelands, Regina Barten and Marie Roe, both aged ten, were playing on the wide grass island between Morningside and Avonduur when they noticed a large plane approaching, flying very low, but unconcerned, they carried on playing.

Unbeknown to them, while flying over Maitland a serious situation had developed when one of the engines of the Ventura failed. It was later reported that in fact it had been both engines that had failed due to fuel starvation. Finding themselves over a built up area and losing altitude fast they realised that Julianaveld was the only available place to put the plane down. However Julianaveld is only 230 meters

long and the Ventura was a large aeroplane. Things must have been extremely tense in the cockpit as the two pilots fought to control their descent, belly landing on the grass and crashing first into a tree, then an electric pole on the corner of Sunrise and Avonduur. Seeing the plane coming

towards them, Regina and Marie were joined by some ladies who were screaming in terror, and they all ran for their lives. The plane continued on its path, ploughing its way in a cloud of dust and sand across Morningside, narrowly missing the girls by a mere 5 metres, destroying another electric pole, causing others to collapse with 'a loud eerie sound across the area', and ground to a halt on the far side of the veld about 40 metres from the houses in Julianaveld South. A Mrs Holderman of 23 Morningside rushed across to help, and two friends who were cycling past tried to get in but the rescue crew kept them away. Another two school kids went rushing home to tell their mothers, screaming "There's a plane crashed on Julianaveld, s'trues God, s'trues God!" Everyone must have been very relieved to see a hatch opening, the dazed pilots clambering out to safety with no obvious injury, and walking calmly away. The pilots were later credited with handling a difficult situation well by the Minister of Defence.

On inspection it was found that the bomber was badly damaged. The fuselage had broken in two, a section of one wing had been left behind, wrapped around the first of the three poles it hit, and a network of electrical wires were tangled around the wreckage. This in itself could easily have ignited the fuel on board causing the plane to explode in a ball of flame. The crash caused some damage to the landing site and no small consternation among those on the ground, but fortunately there was no loss of life.

The three images below are courtesy of Yola Tansey





If anyone has other photographs of this event the Friends of the Ysterplaat Air Force museum would be keen to see them with a view to making copies.

Call 082 436 6870.

Reports of this fascinating event can also be found at:

- <https://pinelandshistory.co.za/the-plane-crash/>
- <https://gadgeteer.co.za/historyofpinelands/>
- <https://samihistory.com/tag/ventura/> (see B/W image above)

ANOTHER VENTURA PLANE CRASH NEAR PINELANDS IN 1953

In the memorial booklet, *A Time to Remember*, World War II bomber pilot Major Eric Johnson, recounts his experience flying a Lockheed PV1 Ventura on 31st January 1953. He was flying with Captain A.Q De Wet and carrying 14 young Airforce recruits who were out for a joyride from Ysterplaat. At a height of 500 feet they experienced engine failure of both engines and had to do an emergency landing. They opted for a sports field near Athlone just beyond the golf course fairway. Happily the crash landing resulted in only one minor injury to one of the recruits. The fault was put down to the fuel system. Major Johnson knew of four Venturas that were lost, possibly due to fuel problems.

Major Johnson said "The post war Venturas were modified from their more dangerous wartime aircraft in that more powerful engines were fitted and the wing loading was improved by increased wing area. These modifications made this aircraft a much safer aeroplane and a pleasure to fly, in spite of its complicated fuel feeding system".

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<https://saafww2pilots.yolasite.com/eric-johnson-booklet.php> ■

COMMUNITY NEWS

CANNONS CREEK VALEDICTORY AWARDS

On Thursday 16 October, Cannons Creek Independent School held its Matric Valedictory Awards Ceremony, celebrating the culmination of 12 years of schooling. The Matrics were wished success for their final examinations, and also their future endeavours. Mr Morton (High School Principal) encouraged the Matrics to be excited about the possibilities ahead of them. He reminded them that they are confident, ready, and equipped for the next step. As is tradition, the audience was treated to a special

video showing the Matrics' journey, which sparked laughter and tears; and the two Head Prefects honoured each Matriculant in an address whilst the parents and staff were also thanked. Families that have been with the School since Pre-Primary, were given a special token of appreciation; and the Matrics unveiled their gift to the school - a Bass Drum. Of special significance was the incredible 24 Matrics who achieved Academic Colours and Honours - more than half the Matric group.



Mr Angus Morton (Principal) with some of the main prizewinners: *Back row:* Scott Wilkins (Collier Trophy for Senior Victor Ludorum, and Principal's Honour Award - joint), Ella Molema (School Dux Trophy - Humanities). *Front row:* Reese Rumble (Principal's Honour Award - joint), Molly de Witt (Needham Trophy for Culture), Emma Atkins (Van Cuyck Trophy for Senior Victrix Ludorum), and Ciaran Steenveld (Kleinsmith Trophy for School Dux - Sciences).



The Academic Colours (minimum aggregate equivalent to 75% attained during the September examinations) and Academic Honours (minimum aggregate equivalent to 80% attained during the September examinations) recipients for 2025.

It was a record-breaking number of 24 pupils, more than half the Matric group.

PINEHURST WINTER SPORTS WRAP UP

Pinehurst has had another exciting and rewarding season of winter sport, which has continued to grow. This was very evident in the number of sports teams fielded by the school, with over 40 teams playing on a weekly basis across their sporting codes.

The U13A boys' and girls' hockey teams went on tour to George at the start of the June holidays. Both the boys' and girls' teams played three games and enjoyed a number of other team building activities. It was the first tour for many of the children and everyone had an amazing touring experience.

Pinehurst also attended many festivals and tournaments which provided opportunities for the children to compete against schools that they do not regularly play against in the Pinehurst league fixtures. One of the highlights was the Panorama Primary School rugby festival, where the Pinehurst U8 and U9 rugby boys had the opportunity to play under floodlights for the first time. Pinehurst hosted a number of events for the first time this winter season, including the U9 Rugby and Netball Festival, and their first Derby Week with The Grove Primary School. The Derby Week was a massive success with all of the Pinehurst sports



teams competing against The Grove during the course of the week which culminated in a Saturday of fierce, well spirited rivalry. Pinehurst now looks forward to the 2025/26 summer season, where they will take to the track, pool, pitch and courts once again for a packed summer sports programme.



CELEBRATING THE ARTS AT PINELANDS NORTH PRIMARY SCHOOL

On 23 September, Pinelands North Primary School hosted its annual "Celebrating the Arts" event, an evening that brought together creativity, performance, and community spirit.

Pupils showcased their talents through a series of musical performances, including

drumming, violin, piano, guitar, marimba, and vocal items. In addition to the live performances, an impressive display of visual art filled the space, reflecting the imagination and dedication of pupils across all grades.

The event, co-ordinated by the Creative

Arts and Music Departments, offered families an opportunity to appreciate the diverse artistic skills nurtured at the school. The warm support from parents and relatives created a special atmosphere, making the evening both memorable and meaningful for everyone involved.



THANK YOU! FROM THE HELEN KELLER SOCIETY

The Society held its annual fundraising fête on the 4th October 2025. We would like to thank the community and all its volunteers and our staff for all their on-going support over the months. Special mention goes to: Tony Wyllie, Vitacare Pharmacy Rondebosch, Rozprint, Mrs I Dixon, BCS Security, Western Province Caterers, Lions Club, Rotary Club of Pinelands, Pinelands High School and SMA Security. The Society is most grateful for their time and efforts.



LIBRARY STORYTIME GETS AN UPGRADE: MEET THE AUTHOR!

On 7 October, local author Hidayat Adams, visited the library for a special book reading during our September school holiday programme. The morning kicked off with a library orientation, with 50 children from Pinelands North Primary School's holiday club. The learners took a tour of the library and learnt all about what the library has to offer and how to utilise it. They also had the exciting opportunity to meet an actual author and hear him read from his children's book, *Elephant Ears* - a cautionary

tale about the art of listening, and the value of shared wisdom. Hidayat's engaging storytime captivated the audience and had them hooked.

We wrapped up the fun with lucky draws and prizes, including copies of his book. The kids were thrilled!

A huge thank you to Hidayat for sharing his passion for storytelling and to Pinelands North Primary School for spending the morning with us. Moments like these make our library come alive!

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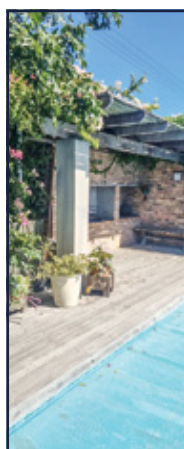


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By **Heleen Meyer**

Pinelands resident,
foodie and author of
Food from the Heart,
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Steak sarmies

Serves 6

30 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
10 ml (2 tsp) dried thyme
10 ml (2 tsp) ordinary paprika
2,5 ml (½ tsp) ground coriander
juice & finely grated rind of 1 medium lemon
500 g thick cut of steak, like rump or sirloin
salt and pepper to taste
200 g baby tomatoes, halved
2-3 handfuls of rocket or baby spinach leaves
6 fresh ciabatta rolls or 1 large ciabatta
¼ cucumber, cut into ribbons
pecorino or white mature cheddar cheese,
cut into shavings with a vegetable peeler

1. Mix the oil, thyme, spices, lemon juice and rind together in a shallow dish, large enough for the meat to fit into.
2. Place the meat into the spice mixture and rub the marinade all over the steaks. Marinate for 30 minutes.
3. In a large frying pan over a medium heat, pan-fry steaks for 3-4 minutes on each side, until golden brown, but still rare to medium-rare on the inside (or to your preference). Season steaks to taste while they fry or braai. Add a bit more oil to the pan, if needed.
4. The steak's thickness will determine the frying time but don't overcook the meat, as it will become tough and dry. Alternatively, braai the steaks over the coals for that extra smoky flavour.
5. Remove from the heat and allow the meat to rest for a few minutes. Then slice thinly, cutting against the grain. Cutting meat along the grain can toughen meat.
6. Place the tomatoes in the same pan and add any remaining marinade. Pan-fry tomatoes just until softened and the skins burst. Season.
7. **Seasoned cottage cheese** (optional): In a bowl, mix 250 ml (1 cup) plain, smooth cottage cheese with 45 ml (3 tbsp) chopped Italian parsley, and 10 ml (2 tsp) wholegrain mustard. Season to taste with pepper. It's so simple, but really tasty.
8. Arrange the elements on a large platter or two and invite everyone to build their own sandwich.



Summer steak sarmies

Summer has officially landed in Cape Town, and during the warmer season, we are more inclined to eat outdoors, whether on the patio ('stoep'), at a picnic, in the park or even at the beach. It's also a time to make the most of the fresh produce the season has to offer. This fuss-free recipe is perfect for the outdoors!

I start by making a flavourful herb and spice marinade with olive oil and lemon – a versatile marinade that will become a staple in your kitchen. In summer, it works best if you braai the marinated steaks over the coals until medium-rare and then thinly slice them. I also give the pan-fried version in the recipe. Then baby tomatoes are pan-fried in the same marinade to perfectly complement the steak. If steak is not to your liking, just substitute it with chicken or pork fillet. Or for the veg-curious, use large brown

mushrooms or slices of brinjal. Marinate them and braai over the coals as well. Serve the veggies with hummus and extra cheese. To add to the goodness of the sarmies, I make a super easy, seasoned cottage cheese which is absolutely divine on any sarmie, or if you have any leftovers (which I doubt), it's delicious in wraps, pitas or burgers. It is even a great dip with veggie sticks or dolloped as a sauce onto grilled chicken, mushrooms or roasted potatoes. Make it part of a festive cheese or charcuterie platter this holiday. All these yummy ingredients are then sandwiched in fresh ciabatta rolls with fresh rocket, cucumber ribbons and cheese. Make sure to get the whole family involved and let everyone 'build' their own sarmie. Not a fan of bread? No problem! Serve the ingredients as a deconstructed summer salad without the bread – similar to the Italian dish known as a steak tagliata. Enjoy summer!

Follow & subscribe

Heleen has a passion to inspire, encourage and teach everyone about the joy of food that is good for you. She uses everyday ingredients and her recipes, tips and creative ideas will make you feel like a chef in your own kitchen. Keep an eye on her social media for her next cooking demo on 28 November. SCAN the QR code to SUBSCRIBE to her website; or follow her on Instagram @heleenmeyerfood for delicious ideas and more.



Portrait and food shot: Adel Ferreira
Food image: courtesy of LiG Magazine

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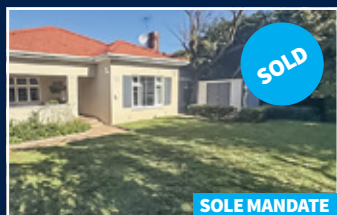
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