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PINELANDS COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

ISSUE 173 | June 2026



Butternut Fritters

Heleen Meyer



Liverpool Musical Journey

Brian Watkyns



Pinelands CID Update

See page 10



Helen Keller

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Max Schutte

About the cover:

Our very best wishes go to our national soccer team Bafana Bafana as they play the opening match of the 2026 FIFA World Cup on 11 June against Mexico in the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City. On 18 June South Africa plays the Czech Republic and on 24 June South Africa plays South Korea.



Ring-necked Dove

Found throughout sub-Saharan Africa, the ring-necked Dove was previously known as The Cape Turtle Dove. A small pale grey dove with a pinkish wash on the neck. It has a dark eye with no eye ring and a distinctive ring around the back of the neck.

In flight the tail feathers are white, making it easily distinguished from the red-eyed dove. Apart from forests, the Ring-necked Dove is found in all habitats, feeding on seeds. The call is a very clear Kuk-coorrr-uk. On a recent trip to Kruger, a guide told me that the call was "work harder, work harder" but only until 5 pm. I was fascinated why only until 5? He replied, after that it changes to "drink lager, drink lager."

John McFarlane, author of the regular Muse bird feature enjoys the company of garden birds at his home in Pinewood Village. John feels that the best place for a birdbath is a shady spot near a tree or bush. There will be less evaporation in the shade and will also give the birds an escape route in case of danger. To attract birds to the garden useful plants to have in the garden are: Wild dagga (*Leonotis Leonurus*), Salvias, Cape Honeysuckle and flowering aloes.



A CUT-OFF LOW: IT'S ALL IN THE NAME

We wish everyone well after the widespread destructive storms and hope that life is getting back to normal. Storms have always been a part of living in the Cape, but it does seem to me that they are becoming more frequent and stronger. This latest weather event was attributed to "an intense cut-off low". As the previous bad storm was also blamed on the same thing, I thought I ought to find out just what it is. I did that... so, I will now share my understanding of it with you.

A cut-off low happens when a very cold, low-pressure system detaches from the upper atmospheric Jet Stream. Although it is still at a high altitude, it no longer has the very fast Jet Stream prevailing winds to move it on, so it lingers over one area for several days. This creates a strong funnel of air being pulled up from the ground causing persistent thunderstorms, high winds and heavy rain. It differs from a "normal" storm in that it is very slow to move away, being "cut-off" from the Jet Stream, leading to local flooding and wind damage. It also has a more intense up-draught, sucking warm, moist surface air upwards towards the cold low-pressure above, where it condenses and feeds the hectic rainfall, monster winds... and level 8 warnings.

So there you have it... I now know why I was feeling blasts of warm, moist wind before each downpour. I guess I can't really hope for warmer summer breezes to return anytime soon, but here's wishing for a calmer, milder winter than this dramatic start.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Max Schutte

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NEXT EDITION

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Sunday **31** May 2026

**CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH
AUTUMN MARKET 10:00 to 14:00**

Enjoy a wonderful community morning of delicious food, Father's Day gifts, new and pre-loved clothing, books, bespoke handmade items, toys, and much more. All are welcome at the market in Woodside Drive.

Wednesday **3** June 2026:

**HAPPY HOUR SOCIAL GROUP
09:30 - 11:00**

Meet at the Pinelands Library activities hall and enjoy a "Winter Health" talk by Heleen Meyer. All welcome. Call Santa 083 235 6730.

Saturday **6** June 2026

**PINELANDS METHODIST CHURCH
"MARKET ON UNION" (09:00 to noon)**

Beat the cold with some warm tea/coffee, warm food and warm fellowship. Join us and start your weekend browsing some interesting stalls with some tasty eats and treats to take home. Between 09:00 and 12:00, in the church hall at 2 Union Avenue. Call Joan on 082 810 1889.

Wednesday **10** June 2026

PLANT SWAP 10:00 to 11:00

Plant lovers - share plants, cuttings and seed packs, every second Wednesday at Pinelands Library. Call 021 814 1780.

Wednesday **17** June 2026

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB 10:00 - 11:00

Come to the Pinelands Library committee room for a book talk with Kennethea Jackson Williams, author of *The Business Breakfast Club Chronicles*. Call 021 814 1780.

Wednesday **24** June 2026

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

Meet at 18:30 in the Activities Hall above the Pinelands Library. Members can display "Sports related stamps." Email Martin: m.tristan.crawford@gmail.com.

Wednesdays 2026 15:00 - 17:00

CHESS AT PINELANDS LIBRARY

Learn, practice and sharpen your chess skills and connect with others in a warm and welcoming space. All ages and levels are welcome. Call 021 814 1780 or email pinelands.library@capetown.gov.za.

Fridays 2026 (see dates below)

**HELEN KELLER SOCIETY BOOK ROOM
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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.

Friday: 29 May; 26 June.

Call Bev Wroth on 021 531 5311.

Fridays 2026

PINEES PRAM JAM. 10:00 to 10:40

For toddlers from birth to 4 years in the Pinelands Library Hall. Stories, lively music and movement sessions. Call 021 814 1780.

Saturdays 2026 09:00 to 13:00

BRIC-A-BRAC SALES FOR KAPS

Support the Karoo Animal Protection Society (KAPS) at the Pinelands Club. All donations of pet food pet bedding would be welcome. Call Gloria 083 450 2782.

Saturdays 2026 10:30

FAMILY BONDING: STORIES & SMILES

Fun filled story time in the Pinelands Library children's section. Call 021 814 1780.

Saturday **25** July 2026 10:00

**PINELANDS BAPTIST CHURCH
DIVORCE CARE COURSE BEGINS**

Meeting at 14, The Triangle, the course will run every Saturday for 13 weeks commencing 25th July at 10:00am with light snacks provided. Cost of snacks and manual will be R450 per person. Please do not let this put you off - funding is available where necessary. Contact us if you are going through divorce or separation or even thinking about it. Let us know if you are interested in a Divorce Care for Kids course. Call Alan Minogue on 083 456 1196 or the church on 021 531 3922.

29 July to 2 August 2026

**CENTENARY ART EXHIBIT
ST STEPHENS CHURCH**

Calling all local Artists to exhibit work for sale at St Stephens Church in the newly renovated St Stephen's Victory Hall. Entry for artists: Adults R200 and R50 for Scholars. Contact Bob at 082 202 5303 or Barbara at 074 103 8999 for more information and an application form. Saturday 25th July 2025.

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Send content for the July 2026 edition by 19 June 2026.

Publication will be 30 June 2026. R187 ensures placement

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HAJERA ESBACH—FIGURE SKATING SENSATION

The Pinelands Primary School learner, Hajera Esbach, is making a name for herself in the figure skating arena through her remarkable talent, devotion and determination. Hajera began skating for the Black Panthers Club as a novice skater at the young age of seven. In 2025, she took an exciting step forward by competing professionally on 27 August 2025, in her debut competition, proudly earning a gold medal in front of an encouraging audience that included several of her educators. One educator described the occasion as, "An incredible experience to witness one of our Blue School learners transform from a quiet, modest pupil in uniform into a confident and captivating performer on the ice." Hajera's commitment and discipline are reflected in her demanding daily routine. At 4 am each morning she heads to the

ice rink for her training routine before school. Despite the challenges of balancing academics and sport, she continues to thrive both on and off the ice. In October 2025, Hajera qualified for the South African National Figure Skating Championships, and she was also awarded Western Province Colours for Figure Skating in recognition of her hard work, dedication, and outstanding achievements. On 7 March 2026 Hajera successfully passed her Western Province Medal Test, achieving Skills Level 3 in Figure Skating. Hajera competed at the National Championships from 10 to 12 May 2026, where she was placed 6th out of 18 skaters. Another great achievement. The Pinelands Primary is extremely proud of her achievements and wishes her every success.
Linda October, The Pinelands Primary School.

PNPS JOINS KEEP CAPE TOWN WARM DRIVE WITH GOOD HOPE FM AND COMMUNITY CHEST TO SPREAD WARMTH THIS WINTER



Above: Learner donating blankets to keep Cape Town warm this winter.



Above: Sharing warmth one blanket at a time



Above: PNPS Marimba member bringing the beat on the drums

On 6 May, PNPS had the privilege of hosting Good Hope FM and Community Chest as part of their "Keep Cape Town Warm" drive. This initiative unites schools, businesses and communities across Cape Town. The purpose of this initiative is to collect blankets and non-perishable food items for individuals in need during the winter season. The event fostered a strong sense of

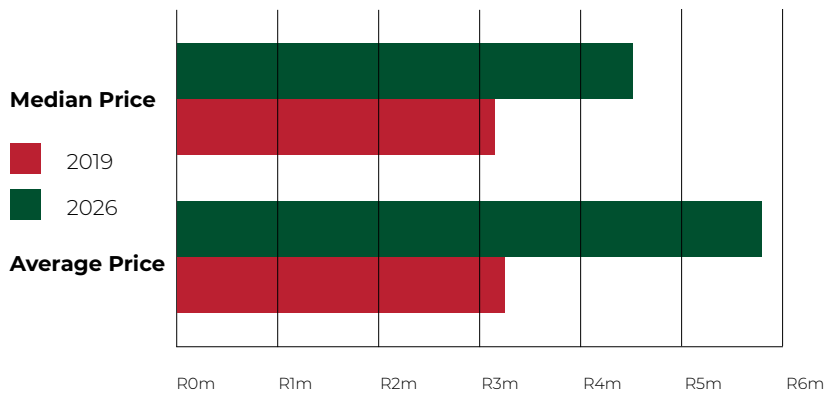
community engagement amongst learners and staff, while reinforcing important values such as empathy, generosity and social responsibility. It highlighted the impact that collective effort can have in supporting vulnerable members of society. As a school community, we are reminded that even the smallest gesture of kindness can offer comfort and dignity to those in

need. We express our sincere appreciation to the PNPS community for their generous support and to Good Hope FM and The Community Chest of Western Cape team for leading this meaningful campaign and for encouraging active community participation.

HOW MUCH HAS PINELANDS CHANGED SINCE 2019?

A homeowner's guide to what buyers value in 2026

2019 VS 2026 PROPERTY PRICE COMPARISON



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WHAT HAS CHANGED?

- Pinelands has shifted firmly into a seller's market, with limited stock placing upward pressure on prices.
- Average price per square metre has increased by approximately 71% since 2019, from R3 884/m² to R6 643/m².
- Average selling prices have risen from R3.26 million in 2019 to R5.81 million in 2026.
- Homes are achieving record prices, with properties requiring work being absorbed quickly.



PINELANDS INSIGHT

- Pinelands, known as the Garden City, is one of Cape Town's most established green suburbs.
- Known for leafy streets, generous plots and a settled residential character.
- Demand remains strong thanks to access to schools, major routes, the CBD and Airport Industria.



WHAT BUYERS WANT IN 2026

- Security, secure parking and backup power readiness.
- A separate dwelling, work-from-home space or income potential.
- Erven with room to adapt, extend or renovate.
- Homes with good bones in a strong, community-oriented neighbourhood.

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GREAT SOCCER PLAYERS START SOMEWHERE - USUALLY AT SCHOOL!

By Batandwa Ntsebeza

As the FIFA World Cup draws near, attention turns to the world's biggest stars — players performing on football's grandest stage, representing their countries with pride and purpose. But long before that stage is reached, every journey begins somewhere quieter. A school field. A local tournament. A team learning not just how to play, but how to compete. Every World Cup carries with it a simple but powerful reminder: all great players start somewhere.

Players who went on from school soccer to represent clubs locally and abroad

include Glenn Jordens and Colin Gie, whose journeys took them to clubs such as Cape Town City, Stoke City (England), SV Darmstadt 98 (Germany), Highlands Park, Kaizer Chiefs, and Hellenic FC. That legacy is not just something to admire. It is something to chase.

So, as the World Cup looms and attention turns to the global game, there is another narrative worth following — one closer to home. The gap between school football and international football may seem vast, but the principles are the same.



The journey from school sport to the world stage is not guaranteed. But it is possible.

PINEHURST HOCKEY BOYS SELECTED FOR WESTERN PROVINCE U13

Pinehurst Primary School is immensely proud of two hockey boys, Nicholas Redfern and Max Parker, who have been selected to represent Western Province during the June/July school holidays.

Nicholas has been selected for the U13A team, and will be traveling to Gauteng to represent Western Province at the IPT

National Tournament, from the 27 June to 1 July. Max will be representing the Western Province U13B team at the Inter-Regional Tournament in Paarl, from the 28 June to 1 July. Both boys have worked incredibly hard to achieve the above, and have dedicated many hours on the astro to their craft. As a school, Pinehurst would

like to wish them all the best as they represent their province at the respective tournaments.

Joshua Carroll
Pinehurst Sports Director.



THE PINELANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES A TALENTED ATHLETE

Zayb Miller is an outstanding athlete whose talent, dedication, and sportsmanship have made her stand out at The Blue School. She excels across a variety of sporting codes, and in particular has earned herself a reputation in athletics and hockey, where her skill and determination shine.

She is not only admired for her natural athletic ability and positive attitude on the field and track, but also for the respect and humility she shows towards her teammates, coaches, and opponents. Her

good sportsmanship and humility towards success make her a sound example for fellow learners.

One of Zayb's proudest feats to date is being awarded Western Province colours for U13 hockey — an outstanding accomplishment that reflects her hard work, commitment, and passion for the sport. Receiving provincial recognition, at such a young age, bears evidence to her outstanding ability and carves out a bright future for her in hockey.

The Pinelands Primary is extremely proud of her achievements. Her dedication and discipline continue to inspire those around her. We congratulate Zayb on her success and wish her all the best and continued achievement in her sporting journey.

Linda October, The Pinelands Primary School.





Photo credit: Batandwa Ntsebeza

PINELANDS HIGH SOCCER CELEBRATES OUTSTANDING SUPER SCHOOLS RESULTS

Pinelands High School 1st Team Soccer: *Back row:* Qadeer Ganief, Noah Arendse, Yaseen Edwards, Rahim January, Malakai Davids, Coach Fadiel Dove, Mr Sayer (Principal), Cee-Jay Swartz, Nashah Ockhuizen, Eli Mchelm, Marlo Heyns. *Front row:* Shiloh Alexander, Isaiah Eaves, Logan Frantz, Fruitful Brown, Ra-is Matthews, Jamie Mac Millan, Laszlo Jacobs, Ethan Bowman.

Pinelands High School hosted and performed well at the 2026 Western Cape Super Schools Soccer tournament in April, with the boys' 1st team winning the final 1-0 against Wynberg Boys' High School. Both schools, along

with third-placed Phandulwazi High School, qualified for the National Championship, which will take place in August 2026. The Pinelands High girls' 1st team finished in the top four, while the U16 boys finished in 3rd place.

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THE GIFT OF BOREDOM: WHY YOUR CHILD NEEDS DOWNTIME MORE THAN ANOTHER ACTIVITY



By
Tracy Wahl

*Principal
Cannons Creek
Primary School*

"I'm bored."

It's a phrase that can instantly make parents tense. We feel we need to fix it, to suggest something, organise something, entertain them, solve it. But what if boredom isn't a problem? What if it's a gift?

In today's world, children are busier than ever. Between school, sport, tutoring, music lessons and social commitments, not to mention the constant stimulation of phones and screens, many children are living in a state of near-constant activity. Their calendars are full. Their minds are full. Their nervous systems are full. And yet, many are exhausted, anxious and struggling to regulate their emotions. Perhaps the issue is not that our children are bored. Perhaps the issue is that they are rarely bored enough.

How Children Become Over-scheduled and Over-stimulated

As parents, we often schedule activities with the best of intentions. We want to build their skills. Strengthen their resumes. Expose them to opportunities. Help them succeed. But when every afternoon is structured and every quiet moment is filled with a screen, children lose something critical: downtime. Downtime is not laziness. It is not wasted time. It is not neglect.

Downtime is a need – not a luxury

When children are constantly stimulated, they don't learn how to down-regulate. They don't practise calming their own minds. Over time, this can show up as:

- Anxiety and agitation
- Short attention spans
- Mental exhaustion
- Low frustration tolerance
- Difficulty completing everyday tasks
- Emotional "meltdowns"

Children who are always busy don't necessarily become more capable. They may become more dependent on structure and external direction.

Why Boredom Is Actually Powerful

When a child says, "I'm bored," something remarkable is happening. Their brain begins to wander. They start to daydream. They begin imagining possibilities.

Daydreaming is not a waste of time. It is a powerful tool for brainstorming, problem-solving and creativity and it is often in

these quiet, unstructured moments that imagination is born. Think about the inventions, novels, artworks and films in our world – none of them would exist without imagination. It is amazing what children can create when we don't step in too quickly. Bike jumps built in the backyard. Elaborate LEGO cities. Bonfires carefully supervised in winter. Games invented in the pool. Tree climbing adventures. Makeshift tents in the lounge room. Dressing up the dog. Hours of hide and seek. These are not just games. They are life lessons in disguise.

Resilience is Built in Boredom

Resilience comes from trying something, not getting the outcome we want – and then trying again. When children are given space to struggle a little, they learn perseverance. They learn to adjust. They learn to problem-solve. They learn that discomfort is temporary. But when we swoop in too quickly to entertain, fix or soften every challenge, we unintentionally send a message:

- You can't do this.
- You can't do this on your own.
- You need help.
- You don't know how to figure it out.

Over time, this can lead to learned helplessness and children stop trying because they assume someone else will handle it. Doing less as parents often allows children to become more capable. Let them tie their shoes, even if it takes longer. Let them pour their drinks, even if they spill. Let them struggle with homework — and ask guiding questions instead of giving answers. Let teens create their own plans for sport, jobs or future study. Let young adults book their own appointments and gather their own information. Support them, but don't rescue them.

Screen Time is NOT Downtime

When children think of downtime today, they often think of scrolling on a phone or watching videos. That is not true downtime. True downtime might look like this:

- Lying on the grass watching clouds
- Staring at the ceiling fan
- Going for a quiet walk
- Reading a book
- Sitting outside in silence
- Creating something with their hands

Scrolling brings its own dangers – constant comparison, fear of missing out, and the subtle message that everyone else's life is more exciting. This can quietly fuel anxiety and sadness. Real downtime allows the brain and body to reset. It gives children the mental space to think, reflect, imagine and regulate their emotions.



Balance Between Activities & Freedom

Organised activities absolutely have value. They teach teamwork, discipline and skill development. But more is not always better. A helpful guideline many experts suggest is simple: Schedule less. Do less as a parent. Ask more questions. One meaningful activity per season may be more beneficial than a packed calendar.

Practical Points for Parents

Here are some simple ways to build healthy boredom and resilience into daily life:

- Create blocks of unscheduled time. Protect it like you would any other appointment.
- Resist the pressure to fill every afternoon.
- Provide materials to spark creativity - art supplies, LEGO, dress-ups and books.
- Model downtime yourself. Read a book. Take a walk. Sit without your phone.
- Create screen-free boredom blocks. Let children sit with "nothing to do."
- Ask guiding questions - "What could you try?" "What's another way?"
- Allow manageable struggle because growth happens in discomfort.
- Encourage self-advocacy. Let them ask for help when needed.

Remember: it is your responsibility to help children develop the skills to manage their own time, emotions and challenges.

Confidence That Comes From Creating

For a child to experience the excitement of having created something, no matter how small, is crucial for self-esteem. When the LEGO tower finally stands. When the tent doesn't collapse. When the homework problem is solved after three attempts. When the game they invented actually works. They feel capable. Nothing builds confidence like succeeding at something you figured out yourself.

In Summary

Boredom is not something to fear. When children have true downtime and unstructured play they:

- Become more creative.
 - Develop independence & initiative.
 - Strengthen resilience and emotional regulation.
 - Improve problem-solving skills.
 - Build social confidence.
 - Learn perseverance through trial & error.
 - Allow their nervous systems to rest & reset.
- Over-scheduling may look productive, but free play and downtime are powerful. Most children don't need more activities.

They need more space. So the next time your child says, "I'm bored," pause before responding. You may be witnessing the beginning of creativity, resilience, and confidence quietly taking root. ■

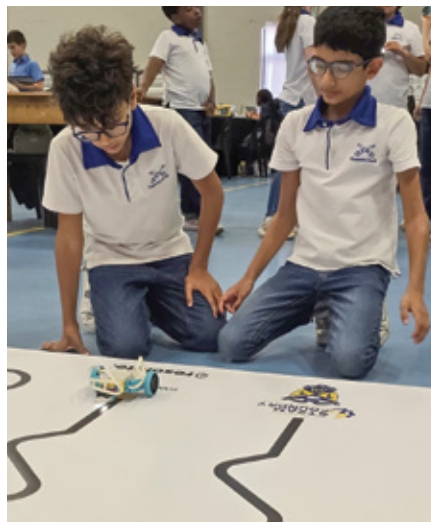
CANNONS CREEK PUPILS AT THE PAARL ROBOTHON



Saturday 25 April 2026 marked a special occasion for Cannons Creek Independent School as they entered the competitive robotics realm. Fourteen Grade 4 and Grade 5 pupils participated in the Paarl Robothon, which was hosted at La Rochelle Girls High. With six teams in the mix, the young engineers spent the day tackling three intense rounds of line following challenges. For many of the pupils, this was their first time seeing how their code holds up under the pressure of a live competition. Congratulations to all the pupils who gained valuable technical experience, and a special shoutout to Shaughan Gay, Viggo Sorensen and Thaakir Parker for winning the 'Vibe Coders Award' for being the most spirited team at the event.

"I couldn't have asked for a better start to our competitive robotics journey. Everyone learnt a ton, played hard, and most importantly, had a blast. It was a perfect warm-up for the World Robotic Olympiad later this year." - by Mr Darren Osborn, Digital Literacy & Coding Teacher.

Above: Mr Darren Osborn (Digital Literacy & Coding Teacher) stands proudly with the Cannons Creek Robothon team.



Above: Grade 5 pupils Zidane Adams and Adam Parker eagerly watching their robot tackle the line challenge.

QAYLAH OMAR ELECTED ONTO THE JUNIOR CITY COUNCIL (JCC)



Congratulations to Cannons Creek Grade 10 pupil Qaylah Omar who has been elected onto the Junior City Council (JCC), in her role as a City Ambassador where she will represent both the City of Cape Town and the youth within it.

"My application process began in November 2025 and included assessments of my leadership skills and knowledge of how the city operates, followed by an interview. Throughout the programme, I will take part in workshops and discussions about local government while also planning and implementing a community project that will hopefully make a meaningful impact. I am so excited for what this year holds!"

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Pinelands CID continues to make steady progress across our public safety, environmental upgrades and community engagement initiatives as we move into the winter season.



In recent months we have seen several exciting developments aimed at improving the quality of life for residents, businesses and visitors alike.

INFORMATION SESSION

One of the highlights was the recent Community Information Session held on 28 April 2026 at Mutualpark, where residents were updated on ongoing projects, operational priorities and safety initiatives. The session was well attended and positively received, reinforcing the importance of transparency and collaboration between the Pinelands CID and the community.



NEW DIRECTORS

The CID also welcomes several new directors who have recently joined the organisation and are already contributing to strategic planning and operational oversight. Their expertise and commitment will help guide important projects currently underway.

Sean van Zyl has been elected as the vice chairperson of Pinelands CID. Sean has a wealth of knowledge in disaster risk management and has proposed plans for fire prevention in Pinelands.

Paul Rist, along with one of the current Board members, was part of the team that helped to establish the Pinelands CID. As a long-time Pinelands resident, Paul has a keen interest in ensuring that the Pinelands CID is successful with a particular focus on environmental & maintenance matters. **Jack Thonissen** CA(SA) joins the board in the Social Development portfolio as a Pinelands resident of 41 years. Jack is a passionate resident who hit the streets to canvas votes to establish the CID.

Taariq Joseph also joined the team as a board director. Taariq is a quantity surveyor and is passionate about public spaces. He will be working closely with the environmental projects team.

SECURITY SUPERVISOR

Shiraz Rorich was appointed as Security Supervisor to strengthen the Public Safety portfolio. Shiraz has already taken on several operational responsibilities, including hotspot management, signage projects and coordination initiatives to improve public safety.

STREET SIGNS

In another exciting collaboration, the CID is working with the Pinelands Residents and Ratepayers Association (PRRA) on street sign design and upgrades. The project aims to modernise and standardise road signage in Pinelands while preserving the suburb's unique identity and character.

WINTER READINESS

With winter approaching, the CID's Winter Readiness Programme is already underway with increased fieldwork, support interventions and efforts to improve shelter placement opportunities for vulnerable persons during the colder months. It also includes road sweeping and drain cleaning in hotspot areas.



SAFETY APP

The Pinelands CID Safety App has completed the development stage and will be launched soon. The application is for Pinelands residents to connect directly with CID's public safety team. The app offers live location tracking enabling rapid emergency response for users and their families.

CANAL BENCHES

Residents can also look forward to the installation of new benches along the Elsieskraal River and surrounding parks. These additions form part of the CID's broader environmental enhancement strategy to improve public spaces and encourage outdoor recreation and community interaction.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Public Safety team conducted Vehicle Check Points in partnership with SAPS, Law Enforcement and Metro Police, resulting in several arrests linked to drug possession, shoplifting and public intoxication. A total of 10 arrests were recorded in April, with coordinated operations continuing across identified hotspot areas. The CID Safety App will be launched soon, giving residents direct access to emergency assistance and real-time incident reporting.



DOG PARK

Progress continues with the proposed Dog Park project. The City of Cape Town is currently driving the public participation process, and residents will be given an opportunity to provide input. Once approved, the space will provide a safe and accessible recreational area for residents and their pets. A public meeting was held on Tuesday 19 May 2026 at the open field near The Crossing and North Way.

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

Work is also progressing on the Garden of Remembrance upgrade project. The RFQ process for a consultant and project manager has officially been published as the CID moves toward the next phase of development. The project entails resurfacing the pathways, installing irrigation systems, enhancing the heritage and memorial assets, creating new flower beds and installing new play equipment. Engagement with the City's Parks Department is ongoing to finalise irrigation and water solutions for the site.



MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING

The CID recently appointed new service providers for cleaning and maintenance to strengthen the environmental operations within Pinelands. CK Services has officially commenced operations, with teams already deployed across the area to assist with cleaning, maintenance and rapid-response environmental issues.



PRASA REPAIRS

The CID team met with representatives from PRASA to discuss crime and infrastructure concerns. Residents in The Bend and Sunset Crescent have reported several incidents. PRASA's contractor has committed to replace the fencing and boundary walls through a new project launching in June 2026.

CID MEMBERSHIP: CID membership is open and free to all eligible property owners within the Pinelands CID boundary. However, membership is not automatic simply because you own a Pinelands property and/or pay the Additional City Improvement Rates. To become a member, you must "opt in" by submitting a membership application form. Please visit our website and complete the membership form.

**CONTACT
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MONEY MATTERS



By
Sue Torr
Director
Crue Invest

The quiet strength of a diversified portfolio

"Diversification is protection against ignorance," Warren Buffett famously said. At first glance, it can sound slightly sharp, but the quote captures something important: none of us, not even the most experienced investors, can predict the future with certainty. Markets are influenced by politics, interest rates, innovation, consumer behaviour and sentiment, and they often move in ways that catch even professionals off guard. Diversification is therefore not a weakness in an investment strategy, but a sensible acknowledgement that uncertainty is part of investing.

It is often explained as not putting all your eggs in one basket, but true diversification goes further than that. A properly diversified portfolio is built so that your financial future does not depend on a single company, market, currency or economic outcome. Its purpose is to reduce the risk that one wrong assumption or one concentrated bet can do lasting damage to a long-term plan.

A common misunderstanding is that diversification exists to maximise returns. In reality, it is first and foremost a risk-management tool. In many cases, it will even soften the impact of the best-performing investment in your portfolio, and that is precisely the point. The objective is not to win every year, but to make steady progress towards meaningful goals such as retirement, children's education or financial independence over time.

Investing is also not only about numbers; it is about behaviour. A portfolio that delivers strong returns but leaves you anxious whenever markets fall is unlikely to be sustainable. Diversification helps reduce the emotional strain of investing by smoothing the journey and making it easier to stay the course when markets become volatile.

One of the main risks diversification addresses is concentration risk, which arises when too much of your wealth depends on a single investment, sector or country. Familiar investments can feel reassuring, especially if they have performed well in the past, but markets have no obligation to reward what feels comfortable. Concentrated portfolios can do exceptionally well for a time, but they can also unravel quickly when conditions change.

Another risk is economic regime risk, bearing in mind that different economic

environments favour different assets. Rising or falling interest rates, inflation, recessions, commodity cycles and currency shocks all affect investments differently. A portfolio built for only one economic storyline may perform well for a period, but can become exposed when the backdrop changes.

There is also behavioural risk: the danger that your own emotions interfere with your plan. Extreme gains and losses tend to provoke extreme reactions, and highly concentrated portfolios are more likely to produce those swings. Diversification helps moderate these outcomes, making it easier to remain calm and avoid poor decisions at the wrong time.

A diversified portfolio works across several layers, with the most obvious being asset class. Shares provide long-term growth, but they can be volatile; whereas bonds and cash offer liquidity and stability, although they may not keep pace with inflation over time. Property can add income and some inflation protection, although it can be sensitive to interest rates and economic conditions. The aim is not to own everything, but to hold the right combination for your objectives, time horizon and cash-flow needs.

Geography matters too. A portfolio invested only in South Africa is tied to the fortunes of a relatively small and concentrated market, as well as local political and currency risks. Global diversification gives investors access to a much broader range of companies, industries and economic drivers, helping to reduce dependence on any single country. Time is another important part of diversification. Money needed in the next year or two should not depend on the market performing well in the short term, while money intended for long-term goals should not sit in low-growth assets simply because they feel safer. Good portfolio construction, therefore, involves matching your investments to when the money will be needed.

In practice, diversification is not about trying to predict the next winning sector or the next crisis. It is about building a portfolio that accepts uncertainty and is designed to cope with a range of possible outcomes. When anchored to a clear financial plan, diversification remains one of the most reliable ways to turn uncertainty into something manageable rather than destructive. ■

THE VALUE OF STAYING THE COURSE

Successful financial planning is rarely about dramatic decisions or perfect timing.

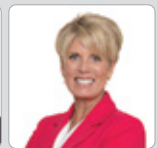
It's about disciplined thinking, thoughtful structure, and a clear understanding of why your money is invested the way it is.

Periods of market movement can create uncertainty, but a properly constructed financial plan is designed precisely for these moments. Through diversification, tax-efficient investing, and by carefully structured portfolios, long-term investors can remain focused on their goals rather than reacting to short-term noise.

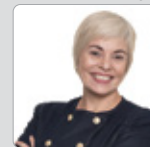
At Crue Invest, we believe that clarity and consistency are the foundations of lasting financial confidence.



Craig Torr CFP®



Sue Torr



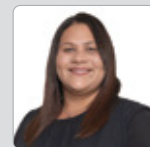
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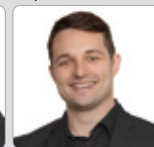
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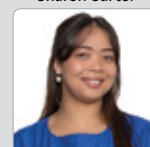
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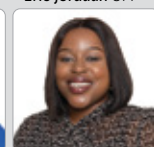
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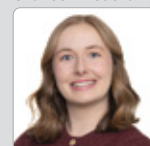
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Outside The Beatles Story Museum

By Brian Watkyns



Re-creation of the original Cavern Club

LIVERPOOL A MUSICAL JOURNEY

My lifelong love for music

In my mid-teens I taught myself to play guitar by playing songs performed by Liverpool groups and other English bands. I started amassing a record collection and in the early 1970s formed a band. Another Pinelander, Elizabeth Barrett joined the group as singer.

Liverpool resonates with music lovers

In the early 1960s the Beatles from Liverpool emerged on the music scene managed by Brian Epstein. UK singers Dusty Springfield and Adam Faith had been deported from South Africa for performing to multiracial audiences including those at the Luxarama, Wynberg. This added to the British Equity Union's ban on artists performing in South Africa. At the time there was no television (or internet) and in 1966 South Africa banned the Beatles from being broadcast on radio. There was no chance of seeing any Liverpool or British artist perform, resulting in Liverpool becoming a place to visit for many South African music lovers. Fifty years later I made the train journey from London to Liverpool to join the annual pilgrimage of 520 000 music lovers from all over the world. On arrival I made my way, in pouring rain, to The Beatles Story Museum in the Royal Albert Docks.

The Beatles Story Museum

The Beatles Story Museum recreated iconic scenes from their history and displayed

memorabilia such as George Harrison's first guitar and Ringo's drum-kit. There was a re-creation of the front of the Hamburg Star-Club where the Beatles played in their formative days. There was also a full re-creation of The Cavern Club capturing the environment complete with a statue of Cilla Black as an employee prior to finding fame as a singer. However, I had to imagine the electric atmosphere of the dance floor with loud music blasting from the stage. The Beatles played at the Cavern Club 300 times during which Brian Epstein offered to become their manager. The original Cavern Club was demolished in 1973.

In the museum there were many other re-creations including the interior of the Yellow Submarine, part of the interior of the plane that took the Beatles to America and the fictitious grave of Eleanor Rigby. A centrepiece is a replica of John Lennon's white room where he composed his song, *Imagine*, and includes a white piano, Lennon's guitar and his famous round glasses. I declined to have a costly photograph taken with a Beatles background despite repeated invitations.

Treasure hunt for music-related statues

In Liverpool I created my own treasure hunt in trying to find the seven official music-related statues dotted around the city centre in public places. I did not include the lesser statues in hotels, pubs, malls and the

John Lennon statue at the airport. Easiest to find was the statue of the four Beatles unveiled in 2015 in the Pier Head area. This is slightly larger than life-size, with the Beatles in a walking position. I then walked along the edge of the Mersey River and found the statue of the singer Billy Fury.

The statue of Brian Epstein is also depicted in a walking stance in Button Street. He managed many Liverpool artists besides The Beatles including Gerry and the Pacemakers and Cilla Black.

The most difficult statue to find was that of Eleanor Rigby. I had walked near it twice until a policeman kindly took me to the lonely figure in a darkish area. This bronze statue was created by Tommy Steele one of England's early rock 'n roll singers and contains a plaque "All the lonely people", referring to the Beatles song *Eleanor Rigby*.

Everything Beatles in Mathew Street

Around the corner from Eleanor Rigby was Mathew Street, famous as a magnet for everything Beatles. All the walls and shop fronts in Mathew Street are adorned with murals of the Beatles. I quickly found the statue of Cilla Black outside a new Cavern Club built on a different site to the original Cavern Club. Further up the road was a statue of John Lennon in front of The Wall of Fame. The 1 800 bricks in the Wall of Fame each contains a name of an artist or band who performed at the Cavern.



Eleanor Rigby Statue



The Beatles larger than life size statues



John Lennon Statue, Mathew Street



Ringo's drum kit



Sgt Peppers pub, Mathew Street



Wall mural,
Mathew Street



Gerry Marsden's guitar

The street also boasts two Beatles museums, one of which is owned by the brother of the original Beatles drummer, Pete Best. I felt the Beatles Story had provided me with all I wanted to see regarding the Beatles history so I gave these two museums a miss. I entered Grapes, which had been the Beatles favourite pub. In the entrance to the pub, I saw three unofficial statues of the Beatles not on my list. There is another unofficial statue of the four in the nearby small shopping mall. In the fading light, the neon lights outside the shops lit up the road and it was time for some supper.

The Liverpool Museum

The next morning, it was back to the docklands area to visit the Liverpool Museum at Pier Head. On my way I passed a statue to honour the 20 000 work horses, known as carter's horses, of times gone by. Next to the statue is a propeller from the Liverpool registered Cunard passenger liner RMS Lusitania, sunk by a German U-boat in 1915 killing 788 of the 1 264 passengers.

The Liverpool Museum depicted the history of Liverpool and displays include footprints dating back some 6 000 years. As to be expected, there is a large entertainment section to the museum. On display were guitars played by Gerry Marsden, Billy Fury and Mary Dostal of the Liverbirds, an all-female group. Also featured was another Epstein-managed group, Billy J Kramer and the Dakotas. Billy J Kramer ignored the Equity ban on performing in South Africa and I saw him perform in the 48-hour Hartleyvale Music Festival in Cape Town in 1971.

The British Music Experience Museum

My final museum was the nearby British Music Experience in the Cunard Building. This museum timelines British music from 1945 to the present. Many of the showcases displayed instruments owned by famous artists such as Chris Barber's Trombone (1950s), guitars played by Lonnie Donegan, Cold Play, Jethro Tull, Stone Roses, Joy Division, Def Leppard, etc. along with Ian Anderson's flute. There are bass drums owned by The Shadows and The Small Faces, and the full drumkits owned by Queen and Viola Beach. I found it interesting to see on display the various pages on which Adele, Freddie Mercury, Cold Play, Oasis and others, wrote

song and performance notes. Also on display are many stage outfits including those worn by Mick Jagger, David Bowie (Ziggy Stardust), Adam Ant and the dress worn by a barefooted Sandie Shaw when she won the Eurovision Song Contest.

My experiences in the interactive area

Towards the exit there is an interactive area where I spent a sizeable amount of time. A highlight for me was being able to record myself singing "I want to hold your hand" with a recorded instrumental backing. Unfortunately, my priceless recording has been lost to posterity! I note you can interpret priceless as meaning either valuable or hilarious. I was also able play various iconic guitars such as the Fender Telecaster and Stratocaster and Gibson Les Paul. I tried my rusty drumming skills on the electric drum kits. Thankfully no one could hear my playing! There were various Epiphone acoustic guitars but I was disappointed that there were no 12-string guitars which is my main instrument.

You'll Never Walk Alone

Before leaving, I headed to the Gerry Marsden Ferry Terminal, named after the leader of Gerry and the Pacemakers who were my favourite Liverpool group. Their one hit song, *You'll never walk alone*, became the anthem for Liverpool FC. Gerry was memorialised at their stadium after his death last year. I had been lucky see him perform in around 2000 in New Zealand and again in England some years later. Finally, it was back to the station where I could tick off my final statue being the 1960s singer and comedian Ken Dodd, before boarding the train back to London. Mission accomplished! ■



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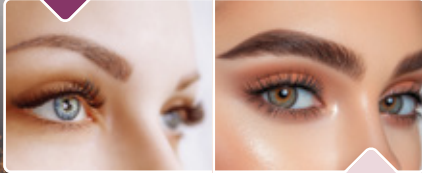
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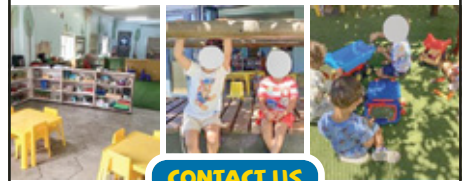
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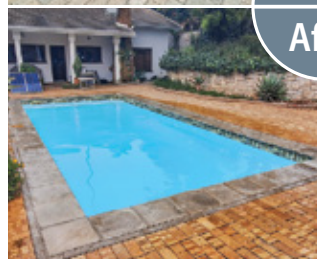
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By **Heleen Meyer**

Pinelands resident, foodie and author of *Food from the Heart*, and *Make five/Maak vyf*.

Butternut fritters with sage butter

Serves 4 - 6 (about 24 fritters)

Fritters

800 g butternut, peeled and cubed
1 cinnamon stick, whole
2 extra-large eggs, lightly beaten
250 ml (1 cup) cake flour
7,5 ml (½ tbsp) baking powder
1,25 ml (¼ tsp) ground all spice or nutmeg
5 ml (1 tsp) ground cinnamon
salt and pepper to taste
oil for frying

Sage butter

45 ml (3 tbsp) butter (NOT margarine!)
45 ml (3 tbsp) olive oil
20-25 whole fresh sage leaves, rinsed and patted dry

- Fritters:** Place butternut and cinnamon stick in a pot with about 250 ml water. Bring to the boil, reduce heat and simmer with the lid on for 25 minutes or until cooked. Drain well and allow to cool completely. Remove cinnamon stick.
- Place cooked butternut in a large mixing bowl and mash with a fork or a potato masher for a finer consistency. Add the eggs and mix until well combined.
- Sieve dry ingredients over the butternut mixture, season to taste and gently mix with a whisk or silicone spatula until no more dry flour is visible – do not overmix.
- Heat a thin layer of oil over medium temperature in a large frying pan. Fry spoonfuls of the batter (about 30 ml each) for a few minutes until golden brown and the tops just start to set.
- Turn over, and fry on the other side, until golden brown and cooked. Keep fritters warm and repeat with remaining batter and more oil as needed.
- Sage butter:** Prepare the sauce just before serving the fritters. Place butter and oil in a small frying pan and melt over a medium to low temperature.
- Once the oil mixture starts to 'move' in the pan, stir in the fresh sage leaves and allow them to fry just until almost crispy, but still green. Take care as the crispier they get, the more brittle they become. Allow the butter to become a golden, nutty colour, but without burning.
- Serve the warm fritters immediately with the warm sage oil and the crispy leaves.



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

Super flavourful!

Pumpkin fritters, known in Afrikaans as 'pampoenkoekies', is a well-loved recipe in most SA households. While many people know it as small balls of deep-fried batter, I grew up with this version, more like a shallow-fried fritter. Pampoenkoekies are typically served with cinnamon sugar, and some even enjoy it with a caramel sauce, but that almost becomes a dessert in my opinion. I've put two spins on this traditional recipe. Firstly, I often make it with butternut and cook it with a cinnamon stick to add extra flavour. Then, to spruce it up even more, I serve it with a mouthwatering, nutty sage butter instead of sugar.

The French refer to a burnt butter as 'beurre noisette', which is butter that is gently heated until the milk solids separate and the butter turns a nutty, golden-brown colour.

In Northern Italy, they do the same thing, but fry fresh sage leaves in the butter until crispy, resulting in the most aromatic 'sauce'. In my version, I add olive oil to make sure the butter doesn't burn too quickly, and then fry the fresh sage like the Italians do.

This is a combo you will want to make again and again ... and by the way, it's a delicious sauce to serve over fresh pasta, on mash or chicken or pork fillet.

Mmmm ...!!!

Winter recipe e-book now available!

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. She recently added an e-book called *What's on Heleen's table – Winter Edition* with meal plans, to her website. Purchase your copy today for only R99!



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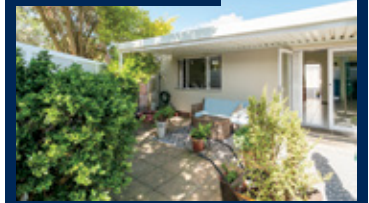
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