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PINELANDS COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

ISSUE 164 | Aug 2025

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The Stamps of Tristan da Cunha
Allan Bryant Crawford



Using QR Codes to Link
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WELCOME



Max Schutte

The Muse is improving reader experience by introducing QR codes for a better link between the print and online media, advertising and digital platforms. See more in the editorial below and on page 13 for some examples.



Ground Woodpecker

The largest woodpecker found in the country, its terrestrial habits and lack of red crown make it easy to identify. Ground Woodpeckers are often found in groups of up to six birds. They have an olive coloured back and a red rump. The eyes of the adults are yellow.

Ground Woodpeckers are fairly common on boulder strewn slopes of mountains. They nest in tunnels excavated into earth banks. Their food consists of ants and ant larvae caught using a long sticky tongue probed into ant nests.

The call is a loud two syllable ree-chick ree-chick and an alarm call, a harsh pee-arg.

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.



PRINT AND ONLINE ARE ALLIES, NOT ENEMIES

Much has been written about "the demise of print media as the world goes digital" but this is a very blunt and misleading statement which does not address important strengths and weaknesses on both sides of the equation. It would be more accurate to say that the **purpose** of both print and digital formats has changed. The most visible change, on which the earlier statement is largely based, is that up to the minute reporting (and fabrication) of breaking news has shifted online. It's a logical and inevitable move. Unlike a few decades ago, news now travels much faster and can't wait for tomorrow's edition of the newspaper when it can instantly be on a website and on everyone's phone around the world.

Nevertheless, the world is printing more material now than ever before. How can that be? Well, there is still an important place in the media universe for print. It is uncluttered, does not have the distractions of a continually morphing screen, and has more gravitas and permanence than something that was once on a screen for a few seconds. It is tangible and real, so it can be taken to people's homes and places of work where it lives with them, always available and ready to be looked at whenever the reader is ready, relaxed and receptive. For community media like the Muse, a respected physical magazine achieves a much more accurate coverage and uptake of a target market than an online page.

So, you have a great website, Instagram, Facebook page with lots of excellent marketing material – your product range, special offers, promotions, maybe some videos and more... Storage space is cheap so you can have as much on there as you want and can change it whenever you want! That's all good, as long as people know about it and keep going there. That's the hard part of digital – just because it's there, doesn't mean that people will remember to keep going there. **AND THAT'S WHERE PRINT CAN HELP WITH QR CODES...**

QR codes let print magazines bring viewers to an exact place in your online content. Potential and existing customers reading the Muse every month are gently reminded about you and can easily go there by scanning your code. To promote your latest products, share more details of exclusive offers, and direct users to your social media profiles, do it with QR codes with your advert in the Muse. Read more about it on page 13.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Max Schutte

Editor and Advertising
Max Schutte

Writer and Photographer
Glynnis Schutte

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Your news, photographs and stories can be submitted to The Muse Magazine by email at muse@pinelandsdirectory.co.za.

The Muse reserves the right to select articles for inclusion and to make alterations to submitted contributions.

NEXT EDITION

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Content: 15 Aug

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August



GOLD (even scrap gold) remember when you lost that earring and buried the other in your jewellery box?

SILVER from scrap jewellery to silver teapots

MEDALS Boer War, WW1, WW2 inc badges & buttons

COINS tickey, sixpence, shilling, 5 shilling & R1 coins

POSTCARDS up to 1945 (1900 - 1920 are best)

CUPS & SAUCERS duos and trios (plate, cup & saucer)

OLD TOYS Schuco, Dinky, Meccano etc.

FOUNTAIN PENS, PEN-KNIVES AND WATCHES

Call me... 083 775 00 55
destony@telkomsa.net

Pinelands Support Group
Wed 30 July 2025 | 10am - 12pm
Duration: 2 Hours
Pinelands Library
Howard Centre, Pinelands
We would love to see you there!
CONTACT
Abeda Steenkamp 083 645 6460
Cheryl 079 848 5794

Pinees PRAM JAM

Come and join us every Friday from 10:00 to 10:40 in the Pinelands Library Hall.



AGE GROUP: Birth - 4 years

WHO SHOULD COME: Parents/caregivers and babies / toddlers from birth to 4 years.

ACTIVITIES: A theme for each week
E.G. Stars - A song, nursery rhyme and craft aligned to the theme.

- ★ Helps develop language skills
- ★ Improves listening skills
- ★ Encourages creativity
- ★ Builds relationships



Wednesday 30 July 2025 – Saturday 2 August 2025

PINELANDS HIGH SCHOOL PLAY

Don't miss out! Book on quicket today for the Pinelands High School presentation of the musical *Legally Blonde*.

Saturday 2 Aug 2025

PINELANDS METHODIST CHURCH "MARKET ON UNION"

Come rain or shine, you'll find warm fellowship as you join us from 09.00-12.30 for Saturday brunch, and as you browse the craft stalls and take home various eats and treats. Live music. In the church hall at 2 Union Avenue. Call Joan on 082 810 1889.

Wednesday 6 Aug 2025

HAPPY HOUR SOCIAL GROUP

Come to the Pinelands Library Activities Hall from 09:30 to 11:00 for a book chat. All welcome. Call Santa 083 235 6730.

Wednesday 13 Aug 2025

PINELANDS LIBRARY PLANT SWAP

Pinelands Library Plant Swap will be hosting a "trash to treasure" decoupage pot planter workshop from 10:00 to 12:00 with Sherelle Halford. Please bring along any materials you would like to use for the craft - decorative napkins and embellishments. Call Lauren/Deborah-Jane: 021 814 1780.

Wednesday 20 Aug 2025

PAGE TURNERS BOOK CLUB

At the Pinelands Library Committee Room from 10:00 to 11:00 for a chat with local author of fantasy and romance, Shameez Patel. Her latest book *Playing Flirty*, is a charming and geeky romantic comedy where the game is on for two nerds who love to outplay each other...even when their hearts are on the line. RSVP: Verna 021 814 1780.

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: July 30; August 27; September NO sessions; October 29; November 26.

Call Abedda 083 645 6460 or Cheryl 079 848 5794.

Wednesday 27 Aug 2025

PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

Meet at 18:30 in the Pinelands Library Activities Hall above the Pinelands Library. Exhibitors: Leigh H-B will show Postcards from his collection and the Weirs will provide the voluntary exhibit.

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

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.

Fridays: 29 August; 26 September; 31 October; 28 November.

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 including dog and cat food or warm pet bedding for the chilly winter days.

For collection call Gloria 083 450 2782.

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENTS! email muse@pinelandsdirectory.co.za

Send content for the September 2025 edition by 15 August 2025.

Publication will be 26 August 2025

R180 ensures placement in the calendar.

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NEED A PRINT COPY? Ask at Pinelands Library for spare copies

CANNONS CREEK HONOURS MANDELA DAY



On Thursday 26 June 2025, Cannons Creek Independent High School held an early Mandela Day, partnering with local NPO - Lerato's Hope. The school packed sixty-seven complete hygiene boxes containing the bare essentials for a family affected by floods or fire damage; which is especially relevant during this cold winter. These boxes contained toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary pads, toilet paper, soap, and face cloths. "Thank you to the school community for the kind donations. You have been absolutely amazing in this initiative, and Interact is extremely grateful for the constant generosity and support," said Ms Candice de Villiers (Head of Interact Society).

Mr Vaughan Stannard (Lerato's Hope Director) joined the school for an assembly before the packing, to set the tone for the day. He thanked the school for their donations and explained more about Lerato's Hope. Stannard elaborated that they are part of a network of churches that

collect items for disaster relief, and that the hygiene boxes are one of the ways they can respond to people in need who might need to be relocated, and whose challenges are often not seen by those living in Pinelands. As Mandela famously said, "Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity, it is an act of justice." Stannard reminded the school that they are an important part of a big chain and that "working with the community is always better than doing it all ourselves". He encouraged pupils to see themselves as more than people from Pinelands or Cape Town, or even South Africa, but rather a community member of a city that has lots of challenges and injustices - pupils too can make a difference.

Stannard said: "We are so grateful to Cannons Creek High School. They've been such wonderful partners over the years. They've always helped with packing events and this year they've also raised so many items through the generosity of the students and the parents. I want to say

thank you very much for celebrating and remembering and honouring Mandela Day today. Thank you for being nation builders and for the way that you're raising and educating the kids. Thank you to all the children for your enthusiasm in all the packing. We really appreciate it."

Jordan Benson from Scripture Union, was also a guest at the assembly who spoke about the importance of giving. She explained that it was a cycle, that although it might cost you time, energy, comfort; when you give - others grow, you grow in terms of your character and the community. She pointed out that if Nelson Mandela had focused only on what he could get - we wouldn't have the freedom we have today. She encouraged the pupils - "Pay attention to what's happening in the world around you, see how you can make a difference." She left the assembly with the words:

"Let this not be a one-time act of kindness. This could be the beginning of a lifestyle of giving, of becoming a better person." ■

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Pinelands *R4.950m



Pinelands *R4.495m



Pinelands *R4.200m



Thornton *R2.595m



Thornton *R2.295m

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Jessica Evans
Thornton Sales
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FFC 20237142746



Robyn Meyer
Rentals
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FFC 202401033403648



Debbie Peat
Rentals
082 468 7772
FFC 20237147156

Belonging: More Than Just Showing Up



**By
Tracy Wahl**
Principal
Cannons Creek
Independent
Primary School



"Where do I belong?"

It's a question that shapes every child's sense of self — not always in words, but in the quiet spaces of their hearts. In education, we often speak of belonging as a value, a goal, and a foundation for growth. But belonging is more than a checkbox; it's a feeling, a lived experience that tells a child, "You matter. You are safe. You are part of us."

A child's ability to learn, grow, and thrive is closely linked to how safe and accepted they feel. Belonging creates a sense of safety — and safety allows children to take risks, explore their potential, and become their fullest selves.

Family:

The First Circle of Safety and Belonging

For most children, the family is the first place where belonging is formed. Whether it's a parent, caregiver, or extended family member, this space provides the emotional security every child needs.

At home, children are fed, comforted, guided, and loved. They learn their first values and encounter a framework of belief, trust, and forgiveness. It's often the place where they are introduced to the rhythms of faith, tradition, and identity.

When home is a place of stability and care, children are equipped with the inner confidence they need to face the outside world. A child who feels safe at home carries that security into every space they enter.

School:

A Second Home, A Shared Community

The decision parents make when choosing a school is significant. It's not simply about academics, but about finding a place where their child can belong, thrive, and grow. Schools are more than buildings with books and whiteboards. They are living communities where children spend most of their day, and they must be places where belonging is intentionally built and protected.

When children walk through school gates and feel welcomed, known by name, and included in the life of the school, they experience psychological safety. This is the foundation on which learning happens. When a child feels safe, they can raise their hand without fear, ask for help, take risks, and celebrate their strengths.

Belonging in school is cultivated when children participate in clubs, join in school events, collaborate with peers, and feel heard and valued by their teachers. When their culture, interests, and personality are recognised and affirmed, they begin to feel: "This is a place where I fit in — and where I can grow."

Teams and Groups:

The Power of Showing Up

Whether it's a sports team, choir, chess club, or drama group, being part of a team gives children a deeper sense of connection and collective responsibility.

Here, commitment becomes a life lesson. It's not about being the best player or performer — it's about being present, supporting others, showing up to every practice, and giving your best.

In these shared spaces, children learn:

- How to collaborate with different personalities
- What it means to lose with grace and win with humility
- The value of persistence and consistency
- The importance of community goals over individual glory

These are powerful, transferable lessons that stretch far beyond the school years.

"Belonging doesn't require us to change who we are; it requires us to be who we are" Brené Brown

The Wider Community: A Sense of Place

Outside of school and family, children also belong to neighbourhoods and local communities. When they participate in community events, faith groups, or sports clubs, they begin to understand their role as contributing citizens.

Community involvement offers a broader view of the world. It allows children to engage with others from different backgrounds, appreciate diversity, and build relationships based on shared values and goals.

When children are included in meaningful ways, given tasks, responsibilities, and opportunities to lead or help, their sense of self-worth grows.

Belonging is a Gift, and a Responsibility

As parents and educators, we become the architects of our children's belonging. It's our responsibility to create environments where children feel safe, included, and empowered, where they are not only accepted, but also expected to contribute. Belonging is not passive. It asks us, and our children, to show up, participate, and care. It's not just about being part of a group, but about helping others feel part of it too. When children understand this, they move beyond simply feeling safe, they begin to feel significant.

True belonging is built, not assumed. It happens when children feel seen, heard, and valued. It's nurtured when they are encouraged to contribute, supported when they stumble, and celebrated as they grow. Each of us, child, parent and teacher, is part of something bigger. And when we live with that awareness, we create schools, families, and communities that are not only places of learning, but places of purpose, identity, and connection.

Let's continue to build environments where belonging isn't just spoken about — it's lived and felt, shaping the whole child every single day. ■



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“ABC” - Allan Bryant Crawford (1912 – 2007)

"Local value 4 potatoes" – this was the title of the talk given by Martin Tristan Crawford at the July meeting of the Stamp Circle held at the Pinelands Library. Intrigued, we asked Marilyn Crawford to tell us more about the "Potato stamp" and its creator – her father-in-law, Allan Bryant Crawford, holder of an MBE and fondly known as ABC.

Allan's son, Martin grew up knowing all about Tristan – it was a regular topic of conversation in the home and many islanders used to visit when they came up to Cape Town for medical treatment. Naturally, Martin became interested in the island and when, at the age of about 8, he started collecting stamps, Tristan da Cunha became one of his main collecting interests - an interest which grew and became more specialised as he got older. Martin has visited the island on 5 occasions, travelling on the RSA Antarctic vessel, SA Agulhas. He will be showing his exhibit "Local Value 4 Potatoes" at this year's National Stamp Exhibition which will be held at the Paarl Golf Club, Boschenmeer Golf Estate, Paarl from Wednesday 3rd September to Saturday 6th September.

THE LEGACY OF "ABC"

Allan Crawford (Martin's father) died in 2007 in East Sussex, UK in his 95th year. Allan spent most of his working life in Cape Town and was associated with the South Atlantic island of Tristan da Cunha for over 70 years. For collectors of Tristan stamps the mention of "ABC" and Tristan philately will always conjure up the image of this amazing man who has left behind such a legacy!

FIRST EXPEDITION AS A SURVEYOR

Allan Crawford's first contact with Tristan da Cunha was in 1937 when, at the last minute, he joined the Norwegian Scientific Expedition as their surveyor. Although an engineer and not a surveyor, he did a two week crash course in surveying and the use of a theodolite and spent four months on Tristan with the expedition. The chart he produced was accepted by the Hydrographer of the Royal Navy and is still in use today.

2ND AND 3RD VISITS TO TRISTAN AND THE NEED FOR POSTAGE STAMPS

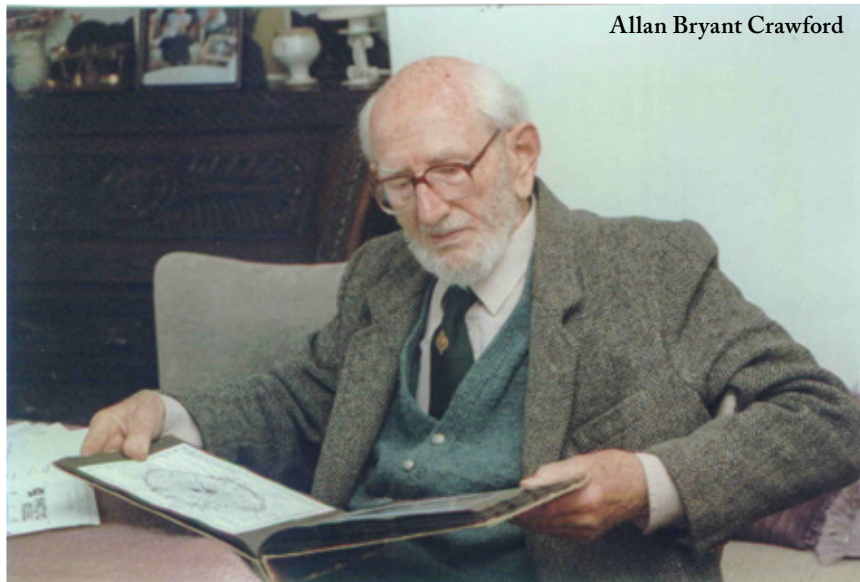
Allan's second and third visits to Tristan were during the Second World War, when he went down in a meteorological capacity. This was a secret mission when the island was referred to as "HMS Job 9" and later as "HMS Atlantic Isle". While there he formed the Tristan Defence Volunteers, probably the smallest unit of the Allied Forces, comprising sixteen men! He taught them how to use obsolete rifles and other limited military equipment in case the island was attacked. During this time he decided that the island needed a newspaper and he started producing a weekly news-sheet called *The Tristan Times*. These were printed one by one on

a Bantam copying machine. The news-sheets cost three cigarettes or four large potatoes, as money was not used on the island! The early issues of this newspaper are highly prized. While stationed on the island, Allan saw that the people of Tristan da Cunha needed postage stamps, as their letters were posted without stamps and the recipients had to pay the postage due.

DESIGN OF THE FIRST STAMP INCLUDING THE UNION JACK - VALUE: 4 POTATOES



On his return to Pretoria, Allan set about designing stamps for Tristan. He did the rough designs and his friend, Sgt. Jimmy Brown, a draughtsman, did the finer artwork. He did not have permission to use the Monarch's head, so used the Union



Allan Bryant Crawford

Jack instead. Because of the absence of money on Tristan, the values were shown in potatoes—one penny equalling 4 potatoes. At his own expense, Allan had 20 000 of the penny red stamp featuring the Rockhopper penguin printed at Hortors in Johannesburg. They were gummed and perforated and printed in sheets of 35. These are referred to as “essays”.

PERSEVERANCE WITH THE POTATO STAMP LEAD TO A “REAL” STAMP IN 1952

In May 1946, Allan and the island councillors, sent a petition to the Postmaster General of the Union of South Africa, giving valid reasons why Tristan should be given her own stamps. The petition included ten of his designs, ranging from ½d to 2/6. The request was forwarded to the Colonial Office in London, but was turned down in September 1946. However, the “Potato Stamp” essays lived on and were affixed to mail that left the island as a propaganda exercise. This exercise achieved success, as Tristan received her own postage stamps just six years later, in 1952! Today the “Potato Stamps” have become sought-after items by Tristan collectors.

LEADING AN EXPEDITION TO ESTABLISH A WEATHER STATION ON MARION ISLAND

Allan was involved in many other adventures on sub-Antarctic islands, even extending to the Antarctic. These included leading the expedition (which included leading the expedition to establish the first South African weather base on Marion Island, after its secret annexation in 1947. There he also became Marion’s first postmaster! In the 1950s, he was appointed Honorary Welfare officer for Tristan da Cunha by the Colonial Office and made further visits to Tristan in connection with his meteorological career. In 1959 he travelled with the first SANAE expedition to the Antarctic, calling at Bouvet Island en route

to see if it was suitable for a South African weather station.

ASCERTAINING THE SAFETY OF TRISTAN AFTER THE VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN 1961

After the eruption of the volcano on Tristan in 1961, Allan went down as deputy-leader on the Royal Society Expedition to ascertain whether the island was safe for the population’s return. After receiving scores of letters from islanders, he played a large part in getting them back to their beloved island. To this day, the islanders are still very grateful for his role in their repatriation.

LIFE FOR ALLAN AFTER RETIREMENT

Following his retirement from the SA Meteorological Service in 1976, Allan returned to the UK, where he continued his busy life, designing over 16 sets of postage stamps for the island, founding the “Tristan da Cunha Association” and staying involved with Tristan matters. His last visit to the island was in 1984 when he was accompanied by his son, Martin, and his oldest grandchild, Shirley.

AUTHOR OF FIVE BOOKS AND AWARDED AN MBE FOR SERVICE TO TRISTAN DA CUNHA

Over the years, Allan wrote numerous articles about Tristan and produced five books. *I went to Tristan* was published in 1940, *Tristan da Cunha and the Roaring Forties* in 1982 and *Penguins, Potatoes and Postage Stamps* in 1999. Then in 2002, after an old manuscript was discovered in the loft of his house, he produced *War-time Invasion*. He originally wrote this book when he returned from the island after the war years, but because of the shortage of paper, it could not be published. The manuscript was put away and forgotten until its rediscovery. His final book, *Memoirs – North, South, East & West* was published from his hospital bed in October

2006. Comprehensive film footage shot by Allan on visits in the 1940s and 50s which documents island customs of that time, was transferred to video and an interesting commentary done by ABC himself was added many years later. In 2002 Allan was awarded the MBE for his services to the island of Tristan da Cunha.

CELEBRATING ALLAN'S LIFE IN A STAMP SERIES (see first day cover - previous page)

Allan has even featured on Tristan’s postage stamps! Perhaps the most significant was the set issued in 2008 which celebrated Allan’s life and was issued on what would have been his 96th birthday. His contributions to the island were featured on a set of stamps issued in 2006 – his map, the Potato Stamp, the Tristan Defence Volunteers as well as a scene from the 1962 Royal Society Expedition. In 2017 another set was issued to commemorate 80 years since the Norwegian Society Expedition and ABC features on one of the stamps as the surveyor using his theodolite. In May 2022, a set of stamps (Part 2) was issued to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1961 volcano. Three stamps were based on photos taken by Allan during the Royal Society’s Expedition in 1962 and the £1.10 value shows him with his back to the camera helping to draw up the dinghy “Vulcan” on to the beach. He had acquired the dinghy in Cape Town and Martin remembers them taking it out on Zeekoevlei to test it to see if it would be suitable for use on Tristan.

A LEGACY TO BE PROUD OF

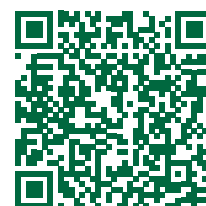
Looking back at his life, his family (which includes nine grandchildren) is understandably proud of his achievements. He led a fulfilled and exciting life and was an inspiration to all who met him. Thankfully, his story will live on through his writings and his contribution to the island of Tristan da Cunha will never be forgotten. His family continue to have contact with the island to this day. ■

Article written by Marilyn Crawford.

Shelley and Dave Hendrickse wrote a travel article about their trip to Tristan da Cunha in the December 2013 edition of the Muse (page 16). Find the pdf of this edition at:

www.pinelandsdirectory.co.za/musemag/editions/themuseonline-036-Dec2013.pdf

Or scan the QR code:



Or click this image when reading online

ALOES IN PINELANDS DYING FROM ATTACK BY THE LESSER ALOE BEETLE

Pinelands residents may have noticed the death of many aloes throughout the suburb where stems have rotted and collapsed. This began about five years ago after the heavy rainfall but has little connection with precipitation. The culprit is a cryptic snout beetle that is rarely seen. For at least the last 45 years this pest had not been recorded in Pinelands but is now present also in the Kirstenbosch Aridarium and in the northern suburbs. The beetle which is widely distributed within Southern Africa has either naturally extended its range or, more likely, is a consequence of infested aloes having been brought into the Peninsula.

There are two indigenous aloe snout beetle species in southern Africa but only the Lesser aloe snout beetle, *Rhabdinomerus illicitus*, now occurs in the Cape Peninsula. The beetles may vary in size from 5mm to more than 10mm in length, depending on the amount of resource that was available for the larvae on which to feed. Before the female beetle is able to lay eggs, it has to undergo a 'maturation feeding' to acquire protein for the development of its eggs. This is accomplished by feeding on the aloe leaves, usually close to the centre of

the leaf whorls. These circular feeding scars of 3-5mm in diameter are a sign that the beetle has laid eggs in the heart of the crown between the bases of the leaves. The eggs hatch into larvae which bore into the stem in which they feed. Secondary fungi cause the stem to rot and turn black. Even towering aloe species are killed whereas the stemless aloes are least affected.

No natural enemies of the aloe snout beetles are known. Aloe stems may be infested by dozens of larvae from eggs laid in succession over a period of time and thus represent an 'arsenal' ready to infest other aloes once the new beetles emerge. Newly emerging beetles will lay eggs on those aloes nearest to them. Destruction of infested stems by cutting them into small pieces or leaving them submerged in water serves to lower their population density. Usually by the time the presence of the beetle has been detected, the plant is beyond saving. The likely outcome will be the destruction of most aloes throughout the Peninsula resulting eventually in the collapse of the beetle population due to a lack of aloes on which to feed. GDT



Above: The mottled snout beetle and its larva on a severed aloe stem showing black-lined tunnels excavated by larvae.



Above left: The feeding pits/scars made by the snout beetle. *Above right:* An example of scouring feeding by snails. *Right:* Towering Aloe Ferox like these growing naturally in the Eastern Cape have succumbed to the lesser snout beetle found in Pinelands.



YOUNG AUTHOR SPARKS BIG DREAMS AT PNPS



On 25 June, Pinelands North Primary School had the pleasure of hosting a very special guest: 12-year-old author Willow Classen from Blackheath, Cape Town. Willow recently self-published her debut book, *The Thornston's Monster Plants*, on Amazon - an impressive feat for someone so young. Even more remarkable, she began writing this imaginative tale at just 10 years old while home-schooling. Willow's visit was nothing short of inspiring. She presented her book to our pupils, sharing the journey from idea to publication, and the many steps in between. Her story captivated the audience - not just the monsters and magical twists in her novel, but the real-life message of dedication, perseverance and the power of believing in yourself.



PNPS pupils were eager to engage, asking thoughtful questions about her writing process, where she gets her ideas from, and how she balanced being a young student with such a big project. Willow answered with poise and passion, encouraging everyone in the room to dream big, regardless of their age.

At PNPS, Willow left more than just signed books and excited readers - she left behind a spark of inspiration. Her visit reminded them all that age is no barrier to achievement, and that with imagination, hard work and belief in oneself, anything is possible. PNPS thanks Willow for sharing her story and looks forward to watching her journey as a young author unfold.

From top left:

1. Willow Classen, and her proud parents, inspired both pupils and staff at PNPS.
2. Willow Classen, sharing her book with Jarrod Jansen van Rensburg.
3. Isabelle Musungu asks author Willow about her book
4. Willow Classen, answers questions from Taariq Vally.



By
Sue Torr
Director
Crue Invest

Offshore investing: A practical guide for South Africans

While some investors pursue offshore exposure to meet specific future liabilities, others seek broader diversification across industries and jurisdictions that are not available locally. Whether driven by rational planning or a desire to mitigate domestic risks, investing offshore can be an essential component of a well-structured portfolio.

A primary reason to consider offshore investing is diversification, keeping in mind that South Africa currently accounts for less than 1% of global GDP. As such, a portfolio fully concentrated in local markets is subject to significant country-specific risk. By investing offshore, one gains access to a broader universe of global industries, more stable economies, and a better geographic spread of risk.

Investors can effectively choose to invest directly offshore by physically transferring funds out of the South African jurisdiction or to invest indirectly through a Rand-denominated fund. While direct offshore investment means investing on a platform listed abroad and investing the funds in foreign currency, indirect offshore investing allows one to invest through a local investment platform on an asset swap basis. If you intend to invest directly offshore, you will be limited to your Single Discretionary Allowance (SDA) and your Foreign Investment Allowance (FIA). The SDA is limited to R1 million per calendar year and may be used at the investor's discretion without the need for a tax clearance certificate. The Foreign Investment Allowance enables investors to transfer a further R10 million offshore over and above the SDA, but will require that the investor obtains a tax clearance certificate from SARS, which is valid for 12 months.

Where an investor is likely to incur their expenses in foreign currency, it may make sense for that investor to build an offshore portfolio in the jurisdiction in which they intend to live and spend. Where an investor is contemplating retirement abroad, a future emigration, or has children who are likely to study abroad, setting up an offshore portfolio in that region would make sound investment sense.

There are several reputable service providers and asset manager platforms that provide for the exchange and transfer of funds to offshore jurisdictions although, importantly, investors should give careful consideration to the most appropriate structure for a direct offshore investment, which may include direct shares, discretionary unit trust funds, or endowment wrappers.

Investing indirectly offshore means that an investor would effectively invest in a local unit trust portfolio that has a mandate to invest in foreign assets. The local unit trust management company will convert the investment into foreign currency through an asset swap using their foreign exchange capacity, keeping in mind that local fund managers can hold a maximum of 45% of their retail assets under management in foreign assets. As this type of investment is made using the investment platform's asset swap capacity, the investor does not need to make use of their SDA or FIA, and no tax clearance certificate is required.

There are a number of available global feeder funds offered by various local asset managers who are able to invest funds abroad on an asset swap basis in various markets determined by each fund's particular investment mandate. As the investor is making use of the asset manager's capacity to externalise funds, these investments can be implemented and allocated with relative ease. These feeder funds allow investors to build offshore exposure into their portfolios while also providing an exchange hedge against a depreciating Rand. Because an indirect offshore investment does not form part of the investor's FIA or SDA, there are no limits in terms of how much can be invested.

If you are invested directly in foreign shares, you will likely need a foreign Will to deal with those assets. Generally speaking, if you are invested indirectly offshore, your South African Will should be sufficient to deal with those assets. That said, it is always important to establish upfront whether the investment administration platform recognises your local Will for probate purposes or whether a foreign Will in that jurisdiction is required. ■

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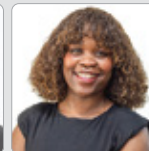
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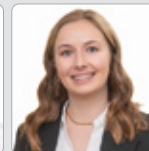
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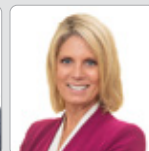
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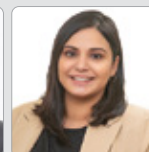
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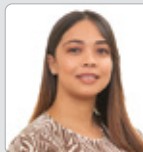
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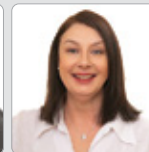
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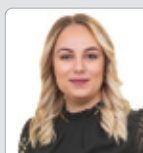
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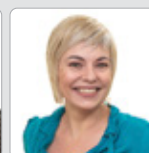
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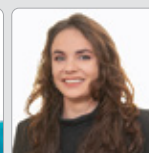
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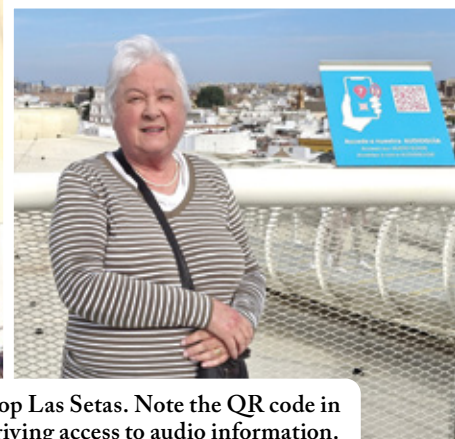


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Seville from Hercules to The Mushrooms

August 2025 | the **muse** | 12

by Judith Gordon



Judith Gordon atop Las Setas. Note the QR code in the background giving access to audio information.

Last October, I arrived at my lodgings in Seville in Spain after passing two tall Roman columns with statues of Hercules and Julius Caesar on the top. Mythology and ancient Rome right on my doorstep! The belief was that Hercules founded Seville by placing pillars there as part of his labours, and Caesar gave it importance as a centre of trade and commerce which still applies today. Throughout my fortnight in Seville, I encountered famous names such as Columbus, whose tomb is held aloft in the cathedral by four kings, and Cervantes, creator of Don Quixote, commemorated everywhere on walls and even in the name of a cinema.

The Royal Palace, or Alcazar, is one of the world's oldest palaces still in use, proved by the arrival of King Philip VI during my visit, although all I saw of him was a sleek black limousine with darkened windows. Alcazar was begun in the tenth century and developed by a succession of rulers both before and after the Castilian conquest of the city in 1248. The style is predominantly mudéjar, an Arabic word meaning allowed to remain, used for people of the Islam faith who remained after 1248. These workmen were very skilled, and used their talents to decorate buildings reconstructed by the Christians, with geometric or vegetal forms, glazed ceramic work, especially tiles, and the horseshoe, keyhole and multi-lobed arches. It is a magnificent fusion of styles with many Islamic and Christian references and also the Star of David.

The Hospital de la Caridad, founded in the fifteenth century, is dedicated to caring for the poor and needy: today it would be called a hospice. Don Miguel Mañara, a wealthy nobleman who joined the Brotherhood of the Santa Caridad after a conversion experience, renovated and decorated the buildings, completed in 1674 and having paintings by artists such as Murillo and Leal. On the walls of the courtyard is a series of biblical pictures made from blue Dutch tiles, including Jonah escaping from the big fish. The hospice still functions today, and visitors may enjoy the beauty of the many works of art.

The redoubtable and affluent Countess of Lebrija bought the house of a noble family in 1901 to house her personal collection of treasures. Almost the entire downstairs has floors of Roman mosaics taken from the Roman site of Italica, just outside the city. It is a discussion point as to whether the Countess did posterity a favour by rescuing the mosaics from a site as yet undeveloped archaeologically: did she save the mosaics from possible ruin such as the damage inflicted by the scratchings of a caretaker's pig? Or should she have

left them for trained excavators to unearth more circumspectly?

The most recent sizable creation in the city is the Metropol Parasol, known as Las Setas or The Mushrooms. In the early 2000s, Incarnation Square was derelict, so the City Fathers arranged an international competition for architects to redesign it. There were 65 entries, the winner being by Jürgen Mayer, a German architect living in Berlin. Twenty-six metres high and on four levels, it consists of six "mushrooms" made of Finnish pine, housing a market, shops, a performance area, a museum and an extensive terrace on top accessed by lift. Since it opened in 2011, it has become the third most popular landmark in the city. There is no space to describe the largest Gothic cathedral in Europe with its old minaret called La Giralda, or the Archive of the Indies housing all the records of maritime activity during the Age of Discovery, or the Plaza de España, a glittering series of mosaics illustrating the whole of Spain put together for the 1929 World Exhibition.

Seville is truly a world class city with buildings and activities for all. ■





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Ciaran Steenveld - winner of the 2025 Applications Olympiad

Congratulations to Cannons Creek Independent School Grade 12 pupil, Ciaran Steenveld, for winning the 2025 Applications Olympiad. Ciaran represented Cannons Creek at the official Awards Ceremony held in Gauteng on 2 July. Other than this prestigious title, Ciaran received a monetary amount (for him and the school), a trophy and a Ring security system.

This year's Olympiad saw participation from over 200 schools, with more than 11 000 pupils entering the first round. Of these, 638 advanced to Round 2, and only 9 exceptional pupils qualified for the Final Round.

"We are incredibly proud of Ciaran's outstanding performance and this remarkable achievement," said Mrs Sharon Ferreira, CAT Teacher.

Right: Ciaran with Mr John Singh, Vice Chairman of the IITPSA (Institute of Information Technology Professionals South Africa).

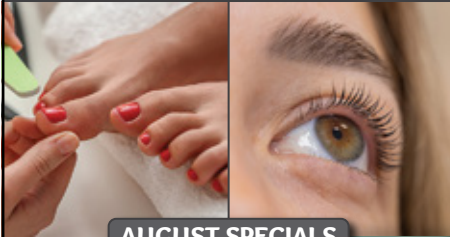


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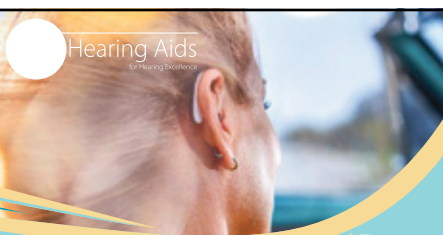
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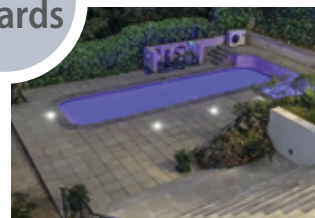
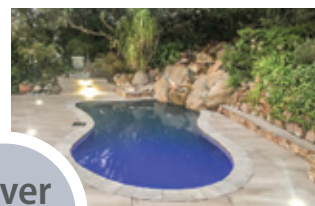
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By Nina Timm

Cook, teacher, blogger and author of *Easy Cooking from Nina's Kitchen* and *Maklike Etes uit Nina se Kombuis!*

Midweek Seafood Paella

Serves 4 to 6 people

Ingredients

1 cup dry rice
2 cups chicken stock
1 large onion - finely chopped
2 cloves garlic - grated
3 T olive oil
1 T smoked paprika
2 bay leaves
2 saffron threads, it is quite expensive, so replace with ½ t turmeric 2 T tomato paste - (dissolve it in the chicken stock)
salt and pepper
400 g seafood mix
2 trout bangers - cut in thin slices - optional
2 fillets white fish - optional
chopped parsley
lemon wedges

Method

1. Before you start, prep all the ingredients and have them at hand.
2. Heat a big shallow pan on the stove or fire and add the olive oil.
3. Fry the two sausages (if using) until golden brown and keep them warm.
4. In the same pan, add the chopped onion and sauté until light brown, add the garlic and cook for one more minute.
5. Now add the rice and stock with tomato paste. Cook the rice until ¾ cooked, then add all the seafood, season with salt and pepper and cover with a lid.
6. Cook on low heat for about 4 minutes.
7. Check if it needs extra water and add if needed.
8. Once the rice and seafood is cooked, cut the sausages in diagonal slices and add to the paella.
9. Add chopped parsley and lemon wedges and enjoy.



Portrait: The Photographic Journey
Food shot: Nina Timm

A great midweek meal

Sometimes we over-think a Paella and often it becomes a very expensive option. It can be a great option for a midweek meal for several reasons:

One-Pan Meal

Paella is traditionally made in one pan, which means less clean-up and fewer dishes — perfect for busy week-nights.

Flexible Ingredients

You can use what you have on hand:

- Seafood (prawns, mussels, fish)
- Chicken, chorizo, or even vegetarian options (peas, beans, bell peppers)
- Great for using up leftover proteins and vegetables.

Balanced and Nutritious

A good paella includes:

- Protein (meat, seafood, legumes)
- Carbohydrates (rice)
- Vegetables

It's a complete, satisfying meal in one dish.

Quick Prep (30–40 minutes)

While traditional paella can take time, many week-night-friendly recipes take just 30–40 minutes. You can even prep some ingredients in advance.

Great for Sharing

It's a family-style dish that brings everyone to the table — no need for plating individual portions.



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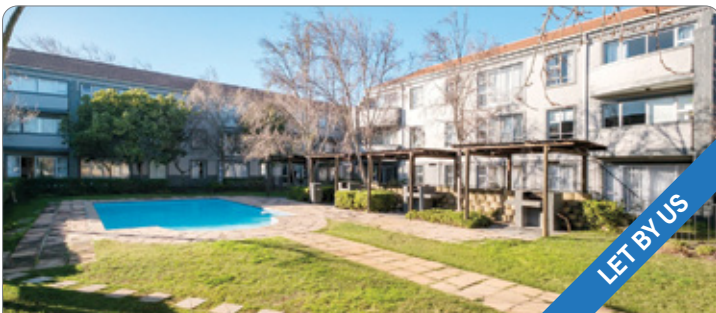
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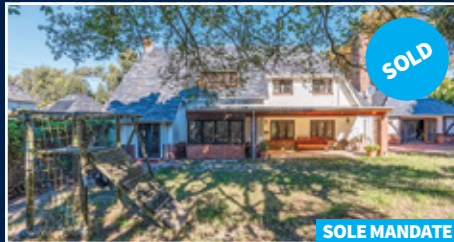
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Pinelands | RL44647 | R3,300,000



Pinelands | RL45533 | R4,200,000



Pinelands | RL43087 | R6,500,000



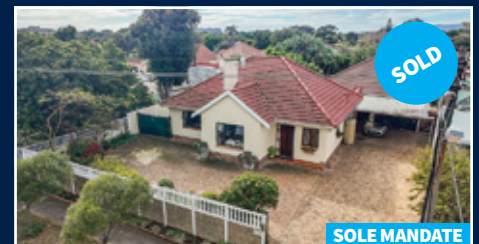
Pinelands | RL46343 | R5,200,000



Pinelands | RL42744 | R4,750,000



Pinelands | RL42835 | R4,500,000



Pinelands | RL44332 | R3,900,000



Pinelands | RL43757 | R2,600,000



Pinelands | RL45940 | R1,699,999



Thornton | RL45950 | R1,595,000



Thornton | RL35095 | R1,695,000

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