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muse

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PINELANDS COMMUNITY MAGAZINE

ISSUE 177 | October 2026



Spring Veggie Skewers
Heleen Meyer



Jasper's Scout Jamboree
Journey: Poland 2027



Pinelander
Dave Hutchison





- YOU'RE INVITED -

HELEN KELLER SOCIETY

Spring Fete



SATURDAY

OCTOBER

03

2026

9AM TO 1PM

PLANTS

FOOD STALLS

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BRIC-A-BRAC

BOOKS & MORE



Jojo Moyes
Me Before You

KHALED HOSSEINI
The Kite Runner

JODI PICOULT
Small Great Things

John Grisham
The Firm

The Book Thief
MARKUS ZUSAK

Dan Brown
The Da Vinci Code

BOOKS
FOR EVERY
READER

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WELCOME



Editor Max Schutte seen in the playpark/garden at The Orchards farm stall, amongst some very interesting sculptures of wildlife.

About the cover:
As spring appears and temperatures rise, the landscape is filled with protea blooms and the birds that rely on their nectar. Seen on the cover is the beautiful malachite sunbird on a pincushion protea.



Great Egret

This is the largest Egret, as tall as a Grey Heron. In the non-breeding state, the bill is yellow, but turns black during the breeding season. It also develops long white plumes during breeding. The Great Heron is fairly uncommon and nomadic, depending on water levels. This Heron frequents open water systems and flooded grasslands, where it feeds on mainly fish, but also frogs, insects and reptiles. The Great Heron is monogamous and colonial, building its nest above the water in trees. The call is a raucous "Croak-croak" given mainly in flight.

Bird feature author: John McFarlane, enjoys the company of garden birds at his home in Pinewood Village.



THE FAIREST CAPE SHARES ITS HOSPITALITY

And so, here we are in the last quarter of the year. The days are getting brighter, warmer and longer and the local fêtes, fairs and markets are in full swing. With the test series win against the All Blacks and the summer stretching far out in front of us, it's the perfect way to launch a new season. Thoughts now turn to end of year holidays and, being in the Fairest Cape... to visitors, who will soon be sharing our sunny, coastal homes and hospitality.

The phrase "Fairest Cape" comes from Sir Francis Drake's 1580s voyage around the world on his ship, *The Golden Hind*, when he described the Cape of Good Hope thus: *"This Cape is a most stately thing, and the fairest Cape we saw in the whole circumference of the earth."*

One wonders then why he never stopped and landed here to see it in more glorious detail. Hosting is a noble endeavour. It takes a certain mix of perception, awareness, patience and organization for people to feel welcome and comfortable while lodging in your home. It can sometimes involve a measure of restraint, well expressed by the sentiment, *"She had what we call tact, which has been defined as the art of making your company feel at home, even if you wish they were."*

Mostly though, having visitors in your home is a joy. They bring fresh thoughts, laughter and recharge the soul. The most valued guests are those who are equally happy to be with you, whether being royally fêted or just sharing time and a natter with a glass in hand. So I say cheers to friendships, both old and new and bring on the summer vibes.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Max Schutte

Editor and Advertising
Max Schutte

Content Curator
Glynnis Schutte

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

NEXT EDITION

178 • November 2026

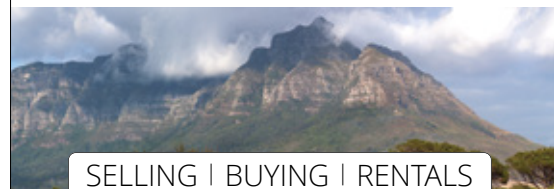
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DEADLINES

Bookings: 12 Oct

Content: 16 Oct

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Fri 2 Oct & Sat 3 Oct 2026 ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH SECOND HAND SALE

Friday, 2nd October 10:00 - 17:00.

Saturday, 3rd October 10:00 to 13:00. On Saturday there will also be breakfast rolls in the tea room.

Saturday 3 October 2026 HELEN KELLER SOCIETY SPRING FÊTE 09:00 to 13:00

"Come for the bargains and stay for the fun" from 09:00 to 13:00 at 2A Links Drive. There will be plants, food stalls, pre-loved clothing, bric-a-brac, books and more.

Call 021 531 5311

Saturday 3 October 2026 PINELANDS METHODIST CHURCH "MARKET ON UNION" 09:00 to noon

Saturday brunch: bacon and egg rolls, pancakes, tea, coffee. Plus Bric-a-Brac, plants, take home meals and snacks all to live music and with lots of warm fellowship. Browse the stalls – who knows what you may find. In the church hall at 2 Union Avenue between 09:00 and 12:00.

Call Joan on 082 810 1889.

Wed 7 Oct 2026 09:30 to 11:00 HAPPY HOUR SOCIAL GROUP

Come to the Pinelands Library committee room and enjoy Tai Chi plus Line Dancing. All welcome. Call Santa 083 235 6730.

Tues 13 Oct to Sat 24 Oct LOVE AFTER MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

Enrich your marriage through seven sessions covering spiritual, emotional and sexual oneness. Held at The Presence Centre, Unit 6, Sunrise Building, 55 Morningside. See the registration link at: www.nothinghidden.org.za. Look for <https://form.jotform.com/253344407195559>.

Wednesday 21 Oct 2026 PAGETURNERS BOOK CLUB 10:00 to 11:00

Pinelands Library committee room: Come for a book chat with Dr. André Pienaar, South African biokineticist.

Wednesday 28 Oct 2026 PINELANDS STAMP CIRCLE

Meet at 18:30 in the Activities Hall above the Pinelands Library. This will be an All Members: "Cinderella" evening.

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

Friday 30 October 2026 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 between 10:00 and noon. Call Bev Wroth on 021 531 5311.

Saturdays 2026 09:00 to 13:00 BRIC-A-BRAC SALES FOR KAPS

At the Pinelands Club. Donations welcome. Call 083 450 2782.

Saturday 31 Oct 2026 PNPS RED-A-FAIR 09:00 to 15:00

Pinelands North Primary School is hosting its much-loved Red-a-Fair from 09:00 to 15:00. Come and enjoy food, rides, games, stalls and entertainment. No entry fee. This fair is cash-free, so bring your debit/credit card to buy tickets. Visit the school's Facebook page or email red-a-fair@pnps.co.za.

Saturday 31 October 2026 CHRIST THE KING EVENING MARKET 18:00

Come and enjoy an evening of delicious food, great company, and community spirit at Christ the King Catholic Church, Pinelands from 18:00. There is something for everyone including tasty food stalls, sweet treats and refreshments, in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Bring your family, friends and neighbours for a fun night out.

Sat 28 November 2026 PINWOOD VILLAGE ANNUAL FÊTE

Join us between 09:00 and 13:00 for plant sales, book sales, bric-a-brac, eats and drinks including boerie rolls, bacon and egg buns, and pancakes in the tea lounge. There will also be crafters and much more. Call 0724418082.

Pinelands Library Call 021 814 1780

- **PLANT SWAP:** Friday 14 Oct 10:00 to 11:00.
- **CHESS:** Wednesdays 15:00 to 17:00
- **PINEES PRAM JAM:** Fridays 10:00 to 10:40
- **FAMILY BONDING:** Saturdays 10:30

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Send content for the November 2026 edition by 16 October 2026
Publication will be 27 October 2026. R187 ensures placement
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Tony's TREASURES

Cash paid for those pre-loved items that no longer serve you

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.

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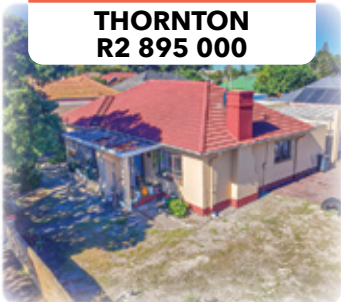
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PINELANDS
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UNDER OFFER

THORNTON
R2 895 000



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Dave Hutchison

Founder of Sexy Socks, Dave Hutchison, shares his story of developing a profitable business which has donated more than 1.3 million school socks to children in need in South Africa. For every pair sold - one pair is donated.

LAW STUDIES COMPLETED

Despite my realisation about law, I continued down the legal path to complete my qualification. In April 2014 I started my articles while looking for inspiration for a business. At the time, personalised socks were just taking off in South Africa. Happy Socks, our big international competitor, had just launched in South Africa, and there were one or two other local brands. The more I dug, the more I began to understand what a pair of school socks can mean. The obvious side is that socks bring warmth and comfort while wearing shoes, which in turn enables learners to concentrate better in class. But the bigger fact for me was what not having socks meant, and the body language of the children that I engaged with who did not have socks is what really drove this home: it makes them stick out, and it makes them different. In this way, school socks are a dignity item.

THE IDEA FOR SEXY SOCKS IS BORN

And so the idea for Sexy Socks was born: we would design, produce and sell premium bamboo design-led socks, and for every pair sold, we would donate a pair of school socks to a child in need in South Africa. *The vision was to provide a pair of school socks to every child who could not afford their own.*

With a designer we worked on a logo and launched in November 2014 with five designs. I quickly learned that running an online business was more challenging than I thought it would be, and so started working at markets over the weekends, and looking for wholesale customers who would be prepared to stock our socks. All of our wholesale customers in the early days were within walking distance of the law firm that I was working at, as I had to visit them during my lunch break, but slowly we grew. My mom was an amazing help in these early days, and she spent hours packing orders for me while I was at work. The day that I finished my articles, I left law and went full time into the life of an entrepreneur.

GROWING THE BUSINESS

A few weeks later, I hired my first employee - and he is still with me today, now as one of our most senior sales reps. Today we have a team of 46 full-time employees, have nine of our own retail spaces, and sell into wholesale partners across the country.

We also offer custom branded socks for personalised corporate gifting options. And for every pair we sell, we donate a pair of school socks to a child in need. Our belief as a business is that many small acts, repeated over time, lead to big change.

SOCK DROPS TO SCHOOLS

To date, we have donated more than 1.3 million pairs of school socks to children in need in South Africa. Our donations are done in two ways: (1) directly to schools via our in-person Sock Drops, and (2) through our NPO partners who help us to distribute the socks more widely. Our Sock Drops are special because we go into schools and engage with the learners, and talk about ways that they can assist in driving positive change in their own communities.

SEXY SOCKS EXPANDS OUTSIDE AFRICA

To achieve our goal of putting a pair of socks on the feet of every child in South Africa we needed to expand into bigger markets. In November 2024, we took our first step towards selling Sexy Socks beyond African shores, and launched in America. Today we have reps in every state in America, and recently we launched in Canada, the Netherlands, and Australia. For every pair sold anywhere in the world, a pair of school socks will be donated to a child in need in South Africa. That is our brand's promise.

ENCOURAGEMENT FOR OTHERS

My advice to anyone wanting to start their own business is simple: **Take the first step.** Fear holds us all back, and will rob you of your dreams if you let it. Don't get overwhelmed by everything that needs to be done. Find a product, choose your audience, place your first order, and sell it. Each little step takes you closer, and suddenly you will look up and see that you have a business. You don't need to quit your job right away. Start small and enjoy the journey. There are loads of great resources for inspiration such as Heavy Chef at www.heavychef.com, but the first step is taking the leap. ■



My name is Dave Hutchison, and I am a born and bred Pinelander. I grew up in Forest Drive with my two siblings, and went to the Red School for my junior school years. I was privileged to have the opportunity to attend Bishops for high school, and then went on to study at UCT, where I completed a Business Science Degree (2010) and then a law degree (2012).

THE MOUNTBATTEN PROGRAMME IN LONDON

Before diving into the world of corporate law as an attorney (which is what I had wanted to do since I was about 5 years old), I decided to take a year and explore living abroad. I joined the Mountbatten Programme, which consisted of a year in London, with about 150 students from around the world, where we completed a post graduate certificate in international business practice, and worked as an intern in various fields (mine was in banking). It proved to be one of the most formative years of my life. It was here that I was exposed to the concept of social enterprise, and I absolutely loved it. I returned to Cape Town in March 2014, and realised that law was, in fact, not what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

BUILDING A SOCIAL ENTERPRISE BUSINESS

I have always been drawn to the concept of building my own business. When I look back on my life, the signs were all there - from starting my first basic business when I was 11, to running a small karate dojo while at university. When I came across the concept of a social enterprise, the model made so much sense to me: *marrying the concepts of building a profitable business with the need to do more for society.* The essence of the model is that a for-profit business weaves a force for change in everything we do.



GET YOUR GARDEN SUMMER-READY

Four things worth doing in a Pinelands garden this month

01 Feed your lawn

Summer is coming: feed the lawn with a 7:1:3 fertiliser for lush, healthy growth.

02 Add colour

Seasonal colour brings a garden to life. Petunias and marigolds are hard to beat.

03 Prepare your beds

Add compost, check the irrigation and feed existing plants before planting.

04 Improve your soil

Pinelands soil is oily. Lift a layer and replace it with fresh soil and compost.

Gardening tips by **Habitat Garden Care & Landscaping** in Pinelands.
John Badria 083 617 3028

Garden Day is a lovely annual celebration of gardening, nature, and spending time outdoors. It's an excuse to pause, reconnect with nature and celebrate the joy that gardens bring.
Celebrating Garden Day, 18 October 2026.



**I am Giovanni Marchesini,
your Pinelands area specialist.**

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EDUCATION IN AN AI ERA

Teachers will always be relevant

Artificial intelligence is one of the most significant inventions of the modern age, seemingly rivalling the Industrial Revolution in scale and consequence. Whole industries and professions are being disrupted, and in some cases decimated, by its rapid onset. Education is no exception to this disruption. I will not attempt to predict what schooling will look like in five or ten years; others more advanced in the field have already written extensively on that question. What I am confident about, however, is that the predictions foreseeing the end of in-person schooling and the disappearance of teachers are mistaken.

What is happening to IQ scores?

Emerging evidence is revealing how today's technology is already shaping young minds. Recent research suggests that Gen Z may be the first generation in nearly a century to score lower on standardised cognitive tests than the generation before it, reversing the long-running "Flynn effect" of steadily rising IQ scores. Researchers, including neuroscientist Jared Cooney Horvath, who has testified before the U.S. Senate on this issue, point to heavy and poorly managed use of laptops, tablets, and phones in classrooms and home as a likely driver. Their argument is that these tools encourage "cognitive outsourcing" in place of the sustained mental effort that actually builds reasoning skills. This should give us real pause when considering the full-scale adoption of technology and AI into our educational strategies.

Educating the heart and mind together

This is why, when looking ahead, it is worth considering what a good education actually entails, and to ask whether that definition still holds in the world our children are entering. A good education has never been only about the transfer of information or



Article by:
Duncan Grey

Principal
Grace Primary School

skills; it should always involve educating the mind and the heart together, sharpening how a child thinks while shaping who that child becomes: their character, their values, and their capacity to relate well to other people. A vision of education that neglects either half is incomplete.

AI is not Human

AI can do a great many things, but it cannot be human. So the question worth asking is: what makes us human, and which of our uniquely human skills will remain valuable into the future? Schools will be forced to refocus on precisely those skills, because they are the ones that will never become obsolete. Curiosity, wisdom, imagination, empathy, emotional intelligence, moral discernment, creativity, courage and the ability to form meaningful relationships are timeless human attributes, which I believe will remain essential far into the age of AI. Most of these skills require the guidance of another mature person (parents, teachers and coaches) to develop. Human beings will always crave human interaction. We grow and learn as persons in relationship with other human beings. Consider a baby's growth: he/she watches its parents and siblings and attempts to mimic their actions. This same pattern continues to shape how we grow as we age. Children learn through relationship, shared experience, imitation, conversation and example.

Interaction with humans is essential

Education is fundamentally relational. This is one reason why the role of the teacher will not become less important in an age of AI, but likely more important. A good teacher helps a child learn not only what



to think about, but how to think, listen, persevere and engage meaningfully with the world and with other people.

Albert Einstein once said:

"Education is not the learning of facts, but the training of the mind to think."

Adapting to a new style of education

Educational institutions that resist change, and that focus purely on the transfer of knowledge and technical skills, will fall behind quickly. A recent article on the Daily Investor website had this to say about the changing landscape in university education due to AI: "As AI reshapes almost every profession, Wits University's Dean of Student Affairs Jerome September believes the institutions that thrive will be those that move beyond producing graduates with technical knowledge alone. Instead, the universities of the future will be judged by whether they can produce adaptable lifelong learners capable of questioning, creating and solving problems in an increasingly uncertain world."

Protecting human skills and emotions

In any educational setting, we must be very careful not to let technology and AI replace the development of a love of learning, critical and creative thinking, reasoning, communication skills, and emotional intelligence. Some skills will inevitably become obsolete as technology and AI develop. But the skills that make us human, and the human relationships through which those skills are built, must be protected and cultivated. That, I believe, is the real work ahead for us all. ■



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Meet Jasper - striving to make a dream come true!

Jasper Nye is in Grade 7 at Pinelands North Primary School and has spent the last two years raising money to sponsor a trip for himself to the World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027. The Jamboree encompasses international friendship, leadership and cultural exchange. Jasper is a member of the 1st Pinelands Scout troop.

In his own words:

"I have been a scout for two years, and I love that scouting gives an opportunity to be in nature and learn good morals and useful skills. I encourage others to do it since it takes you away from a device, makes connections, and gives a way of life.

The World Scout Jamboree is a huge competition where scouts from all around the globe meet and compete with each other. I want to go because it is literally a once in a lifetime experience since you can only go once. I know that some people in my troop have been and had a great time. The World Scout Jamboree does not have set competition but varies from place to place. If the location is near water then there will be water sports and so on. One thing that is definite is that there will be competition involving pioneering, knot tying and other adventures.

I started fundraising by making packets of trail mix and selling them through the tuck shop at school. Then I made crafts in my spare time with the help of my Nana and sold them at the market once a month, or more often depending on which market. So far I have raised about R40 000. At the markets I also sold jewellery, greeting cards, books, board games and puzzles, aromatherapy soaps, creams and scented bookmarks. I have started a back-a-buddy campaign to fundraise further because the craft market I went to is no longer running. On this adventure I will not stand alone but will have the opportunity to meet new scouts and connect further with scouts from my troop. I won't have a parent but that just makes it more fun. Being



independent and moving forward alone, without my parents, is a very exciting concept to me."

To support Jasper in his efforts go to www.backabuddy.co.za/campaign/jaspers-scout-jamboree-journey-poland-2027 or scan the QR code:



The 1st Pinelands Upton Shield Team preparing for a day of hiking and problem-solving in the dawn light.

From left to right:

Clara Lugt, Timo Geiser, Jasper Nye, Bella Welby-Solomon.

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WHO WE ARE

We're a hyperlocal radio station broadcasting from a shopfront at Mutual Park, right in the middle of the neighbourhood, not up in some tower block.

We're the station you can literally walk past and wave at.



Pinelands CID • Working Together to Improve Our Community

The past few months have been busy for Pinelands CID, with our teams working alongside residents, community organisations and the City of Cape Town to make Pinelands safer, cleaner, greener and more welcoming.

IMPROVING AND CARING FOR OUR PUBLIC SPACES

There has been significant progress in improving Pinelands' public spaces. The first phase of the Garden of Remembrance upgrade is taking shape, including a new pathway, fencing improvements, irrigation, planting and new flowerbeds. New gardens have also been developed at Forest Place and Coronation Park, ten new benches have been installed along the canal, and further pathway repairs are planned.

Our two maintenance teams conduct daily inspections and attend to cleaning and maintenance throughout the CID. Importantly, the litter trap in the Elsieskraal River canal is cleaned every Friday, helping to prevent accumulated litter from travelling further along the waterway. The CID works closely with community organisations Renew the Elsieskraal River and NETwork for Good on initiatives aimed at caring for and improving this important natural corridor.

Most recently, in collaboration with Renew the Elsieskraal River and NETwork for Good, the CID funded the removal of alien invasive vegetation along the banks of the Elsieskraal River. This forms part of a broader effort to support community-led environmental projects and



improve the condition of public and natural spaces. The team is also working with community organisations to explore opportunities for Cape Flats Sand Fynbos projects. The CID will assist with development of an indigenous garden at The Triangle open space and is facilitating relocation of palm trees to the Welwyn Avenue island project.

Our attention is also extending to smaller neighbourhood open spaces. Maintenance was recently undertaken at the Mead Way open space, while planning is underway to upgrade the Broad Walk open space.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety remains one of our key priorities. Our Public Safety team continues to conduct joint operations with Law Enforcement, Metro Police and SAPS. A recent operation resulted in five arrests for the possession of drugs and dangerous weapons. SAPS crime statistics have also shown an encouraging trend, with overall crime in Pinelands decreasing by 50% when comparing the 2024 and 2025 figures. These results coincide with the deployment of CID Public Safety Officers, CCTV cameras and 24/7 control room monitoring.

Our officers maintain a visible presence throughout the area, including daily foot patrols around Howard Centre and Central Square. A dedicated security officer has also been deployed near the Pinelands Library, further strengthening the CID's visible public safety presence in areas with high pedestrian activity.

Investment in our safety infrastructure is continuing. Additional CCTV cameras have been installed in hotspot areas and along the canal, while



further upgrades are underway to improve the coverage, reliability and monitoring capabilities of the network. Our new Pinelands CID Safety App has completed testing, with the first phase of its controlled launch scheduled for 30 September 2026.

NEW COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Another exciting collaboration is a proposed new street-name sign pilot project. Pinelands CID is working with the Pinelands Ratepayers and Residents Association and the City's Roads Department on a new street-sign design for Pinelands. The project aims to develop a distinctive design that complements the character and identity of the neighbourhood while meeting the City's requirements.

Plans for Pinelands' first dedicated dog park are also progressing, with a proposed site identified in The Crossing. Following the public participation process, the proposal is moving through the City's approval process. We hope this will be the first of several dedicated spaces for residents and their four-legged companions. The team is also planning a composting project with local community organisations.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Through our Social Development programme, Pinelands CID continues to assist vulnerable individuals through outreach, shelter placements and partnerships with community organisations. Recent initiatives include distributing food parcels for Mandela Day, working with Samaritan's Feet SA and Biovac, supporting the Pinelands Community Police Forum and engaging with neighbouring soup kitchens. The team is also developing a job-creation initiative to address waste picking and homelessness while creating pathways to greater stability and dignity.

GET INVOLVED

Community participation is an important part of the CID. Our next public information session is on 30 September 2026 at Mutualpark at 18:00, providing residents with an opportunity to learn more about current projects and engage with the CID. Our Annual General Meeting is on 23 November 2026 at the Pinelands Town Hall at 18:00.

We particularly encourage property owners within the Pinelands CID area to register as members of the CID. Membership is not automatic and property owners who wish to become members and participate formally in the affairs of the CID are required to register. Membership information and registration details are available on our website.

By working together with residents, community organisations and our City partners, Pinelands CID will continue to focus on practical and visible improvements that contribute to a safer, cleaner, greener and more connected Pinelands.

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PINELANDS AND LANGA UNITE FOR A SHARED PURPOSE

From Sue Torr

Crue Invest teams up with Just Grace

It is particularly meaningful when a community initiative takes place close to home. For Crue Invest, a financial planning business based in Pinelands, the July fundraising campaign with Just Grace was an opportunity to bring together two neighbouring communities around a very practical goal: helping young people from Langa access the skills and training they need to find meaningful employment.

Phakama! Youth Activation Programme

The idea was simple. Together with Just Grace, we set ourselves a target of raising R50 000 to fund practical skills training for four unemployed young people through the organisation's *Phakama! Youth Activation Programme*. The campaign culminated on Sunday 26 July, when members of the Crue Invest and Just Grace communities joined the Pinelands Athletic Club's 5 km fun run/walk at the Lower Oval.

Skills training for four unemployed

What made the initiative particularly special was the response from the community. Through the generosity of Crue Invest clients, colleagues, friends and supporters, we exceeded our R50 000 fundraising target, ensuring that four young people will now have the opportunity to further their training through Just Grace.

For us, the success of the campaign was about much more than the amount raised. Pinelands and Langa sit alongside one another geographically, yet the realities facing young people growing up in these communities can be very different. Just Grace has spent years working within Langa to address some of those challenges, such as the extraordinarily difficult transition many young people face between leaving school and finding their first meaningful employment opportunity.

The Phakama! Youth Activation Programme recognises that unemployment is not necessarily the result of a lack of ambition or ability. Often, what young people lack is access to practical training, workplace preparation and the kind of support that allows them to take that first step into employment. Just Grace provides both technical skills and broader work-readiness support, helping participants develop confidence, and the ability to recognise opportunities.

Just Grace successful trainees

We were introduced during the fundraising campaign to some of the young people who have already benefited from this approach. Agcobile, for example, completed Just Grace's barista training before securing employment with the Bootlegger Coffee Company, where she later went on to win the Bootlegger Western Cape Barista

Championship.

Nokutula's journey followed a different path. After matriculating in 2017, she spent six years unemployed before joining Just Grace's sewing programme in 2023. After a one-year learnership at Rowdy Bags, gaining practical experience in bag making and craftsmanship, she bought her own sewing machine and began producing cosmetic bags to sell within her community.

Looking forward to next year

A training course is not a guarantee for getting a job, but the right skills, support and opportunity can fundamentally change the options available to a young person. Importantly, this is not where the story ends. Crue Invest and Just Grace will work together to ensure that next year's race and fundraising initiative is even bigger and more successful. We will follow the journeys of the four learners whose studies will be funded from the money raised this year, and share their progress with those who helped make their training possible.

A big thank you to the community

For now, though, we simply want to say thank you. To the Pinelands community, our clients, our colleagues and everyone who supported the campaign, your generosity turned a local fundraising idea into something tangible. ■

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5 STARS FOR PINELANDS HIGH SCHOOL COMEDY PLAY "CLUE"

During August, Pinelands High School presented *Clue: High School Edition*, a fast-paced comedy mystery inspired by the classic film and popular board game. The talented cast and crew brought the hilarious *whodunnit* to life, earning five-star reviews from audience members and delivering plenty of suspense, humour and unexpected twists. ■

BLUE SCHOOL DEBATING TEAM QUALIFIES FOR THE NATIONALS!



The Pinelands Primary debating team earned their place on the national stage by qualifying for the National Debating League Nationals, taking place in Gqeberha during the September holidays. Representing the school are our Senior Team – Amarah Isaacs, Lisa Kobus and Phamna Mbolekwa – and our Junior Team – Lina Kobus, Kauthar Hoosain and Tyler Turner.

The team competed against some of the strongest young debaters in the Western Cape, demonstrating not only their impressive speaking abilities, but also their critical thinking, confidence, teamwork and ability to think on their feet. For these learners, this is more than just a competition. It is an opportunity to represent their school, their province and themselves on a national platform.

We could not be prouder of Amarah, Lisa, Phamna, Lina, Kauthar and Tyler. Their journey is a reminder that with hard work, courage, preparation and a willingness to speak up, young voices can make a very big impact.

From our classrooms to the national stage — we wish our debating stars the very best of luck at Nationals! ■

By Nuraan Hamdulay

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FOUNDERS DAY 2026 AT PINEHURST PRIMARY SCHOOL

On Friday, 7 August, the Pinehurst community celebrated their annual Founders' Day - a cherished occasion observed each year on the Friday closest to the founding principal's birthday. Seamlessly blending rich tradition with modern reflection, the morning assembly honoured the visionaries who built the school's foundation while celebrating the pride and joy that guides the school forward. They were honoured to welcome special guests, including visiting principals and the Circuit Manager, Mr. Tommy, as well as a surprise appearance from Chester! The assembly opened with musical performances, featuring pieces from both the junior and senior choirs alongside a set by the school orchestra. A highlight of the ceremony was the opening of the time vault: the Grade 1 learners added fresh handprints, while the Grade 7s penned letters to their future selves. In a touching moment the current Grade 7s received the handprints they made years ago as Grade 1s, while the letters written by the 2026 Matrics were set aside to be returned at their upcoming reunion. The celebration concluded with the symbolic lighting of the candle and the cutting of the traditional Founders' Day cake, which was enjoyed by the Grade 1s. The 2026 Founders' Day was a fitting showcase of community, excellence, and progress. Pinehurst looks forward with great enthusiasm to another vibrant year in the life of the school.



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Lawn Bowls is a game of focus, skill, quiet camaraderie, analytical thinking, strategy and etiquette - a game for all.

Opportunities for young people and schools

Young people now compete at all levels of the game, from club, provincial, national and on to international as well.

Western Province Bowls runs a Youth Bowls development programme for learners from various schools and suburbs.

Bowls is well-matched to any schoolchildren who are not attracted to, or unable to play the more physical sports.

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MONEY MATTERS



By
Sue Torr

Director
Crue Invest



When safe becomes risky: Inflation's quiet tax on your savings

Investors don't deliberately undermine their financial plans; they make conservative choices that feel sensible at the time. They hold more cash, avoid markets because volatility feels uncomfortable, and equate certainty with safety. In practice, however, one of the greatest threats to long-term financial security is not market movement, but the erosion of purchasing power when returns fail to keep pace with inflation.

Inflation may appear as a percentage on a chart, but it is reflected in school fees, medical aid contributions, grocery bills and the realisation that the same retirement income buys less each year. When clients describe themselves as low risk, the conversation usually centres on avoiding losses. The more important question is whether their money is losing its ability to fulfil its purpose. A portfolio that never falls in value can still fail if it cannot sustain the income it was designed to fund.

Volatility risk versus outcome risk

Volatility risk is the extent to which a portfolio fluctuates over shorter periods. While volatility matters, outcome risk is the possibility of not achieving the objective, whether that means retiring with dignity, funding education or sustaining an income over several decades. An overly conservative portfolio may be riskier than it appears because it prioritises short-term comfort over long-term adequacy.

Inflation compounds against you:

Inflation can be viewed as an annual charge on wealth. In the same way that costs compound against an investment, inflation compounds against purchasing power. Even where an investment earns a positive nominal return, what matters is the return after inflation, tax and fees. Cash and money market investments serve important purposes, but they are not generally designed to produce meaningful real growth over long periods. Money held indefinitely in cash may therefore feel secure while becoming less capable of funding future expenses.

Why investors move to cash at the wrong time: In our experience, moving into conservative assets is often a reaction to uncertainty rather than part of a disciplined strategy. Investors tend to seek safety after volatility has arrived, selling growth assets after markets have fallen and moving into cash just as valuations become more

attractive. Although understandable, this reduces the portfolio's opportunity to recover and generate inflation-beating growth.

Match risk to the spending horizon

Time changes the nature of risk: volatility matters more when money is needed soon, while inflation and insufficient growth become more significant as the investment period lengthens.

A practical approach is to ask when the money will be needed and what it must achieve, because not all money has the same purpose. Money required within the next one or two years should generally remain accessible and relatively stable, supporting cash flow, planned expenses and emergency reserves. Money needed over roughly two to seven years has more time to recover from market declines and can usually accept measured volatility while seeking better returns than cash. Money not required for seven years or longer needs meaningful exposure to growth assets so that it can keep pace with, and ideally exceed, inflation.

The particular challenge for retirees

Retirees face an especially sharp version of this problem because they may move too heavily into conservative assets just as their portfolios need to sustain income for decades. A retirement portfolio is not merely a bank account, but an income-producing engine that must accommodate rising living and healthcare costs. The answer is not reckless risk, but funding near-term income from stable assets while retaining sufficient long-term growth exposure. Structured according to spending horizons, retirees are less likely to sell growth investments during a downturn to meet monthly expenses.

Redefining safety

In a financial plan, safety should not mean that the portfolio balance never declines. Rather, it should mean that the plan remains resilient, the objectives remain achievable, and purchasing power is protected over time. The objective is not to invest aggressively, but appropriately, ensuring that the portfolio reflects spending needs, time horizons and inflation. Ultimately, playing it safe is not an investment strategy unless the decision has been tested against the question that matters most: will the money still fund the life for which it was intended? ■

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By **Heleen Meyer**

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

Colourful veggie kebabs

Serves 6 - 8

12-16 wooden or metal skewers (see text for a great tip for soaking wooden skewers)
3-5 baby marrows, cut into thick slices

125 g brown mushrooms, cut into chunky wedges

200 g baby tomatoes

1 white or red onion, cut into thick wedges and then halved

1 each yellow and red pepper, seeded and cut into chunks

about 20 fresh lemon, lime or bay leaves (optional)

80 ml (1/3 cup) olive oil

45 ml (3 tbsp) lemon juice

15 ml (1 tbsp) finely grated lemon rind

15 ml (1 tbsp) each chopped fresh thyme, oregano and Italian parsley

1 garlic clove, crushed

salt and pepper to taste

basil pesto or chimichurri for serving (optional)

1. Place baby marrows and mushrooms in separate bowls and cover with boiling water. Allow to blanch for 8-10 minutes – this prevents the veggies from breaking apart when skewering them. Drain well and pat dry with paper towel.
2. Alternate the veggies as you load them onto the skewers, giving a variety on each kebab. Add a fresh lemon, lime or bay leaf or two onto each stick.
3. Mix the oil, lemon juice and rind, herbs and garlic together in a bowl. Season to taste.
4. Brush the oil mixture all over the veggie kebabs and allow to marinate for 30 minutes.
5. Braai kebabs over medium hot coals until the veggies are just cooked, but still bright in colour. Brush kebabs with any remaining marinade while braaiing them.
6. Enjoy warm or at room temperature with pesto or chimichurri as a tasty low-carb side dish.



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

Spring on a stick

Don't let the simplicity of this recipe fool you! For this super flavourful side dish, simple doesn't mean ordinary. The basic combination of olive oil, fresh herbs and lemon can easily be underestimated, but it's always a winner!

Veggies cooked over the coals, are extra tasty. The smokiness of the flames brings out the natural flavours and adds that special aroma. For the best results, cut the veggies in more or less even-sized chunks – this prevents smaller or softer veggies from overcooking or burning, while the others may still be raw. See the handy tip in the first step to avoid the firmer veggies from cracking when skewered.

The combination of veggies in this recipe works really well to give a good variety of colour and texture. Feel free to use other veggies of your choice, as long

as they will be cooked in the same amount of time as the rest. Brinjal, for instance, will be delicious but will take longer to cook than mushrooms or baby marrow. Make separate skewers with the longer cooking veggies, if you prefer.

Enjoy these colourful and wholesome veggie kebabs as a side dish with any meat, fish or chicken. Adding pineapple to the skewers will be especially good with pork or chicken. You can serve the kebabs as is or with dollops of a condiment like pesto or chimichurri (a raw Argentinian-style herb sauce with garlic and chilli), if your family prefers something a bit spicier.

Another great tip is to first soak wooden skewers in water for about 15-20 minutes before skewering the veggies. This helps to prevent the sticks from burning over the coals. Enjoy this simple, yet impressive side dish this spring!

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Heleen has a passion to inspire, encourage and teach everyone about her philosophy of: 'eat good to feel good'. 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 practical, health-related blogs on meal planning to her website, on the Tips & Tools page. SCAN the QR code to find these blogs and to SUBSCRIBE to her WEBSITE. Follow her on Instagram & Facebook @heleenmeyerfood for delicious ideas and more.



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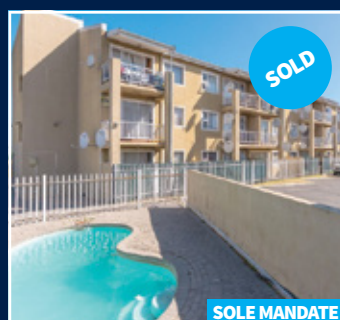
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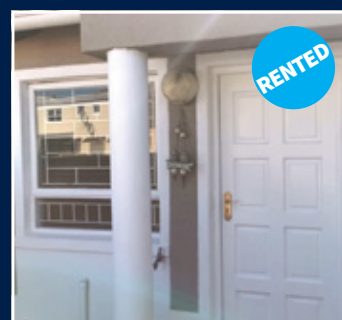
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