



# HARVEST

*News | News*



DONATED IN GOOD FAITH:

## THE STORY BEHIND THE KOI LOSS

Residents were shocked and saddened during the December holidays by the total loss of the beautiful Japanese Koi in the Slangkop pond. Considerable speculation followed, with many opinions expressed — often by individuals with little or no knowledge of fish, particularly rare species such as Japanese Koi.

In response to comments and allegations concerning both himself and the incident, Mike Milani, a resident of Golden Harvest, addressed a letter to the Board to clarify the circumstances surrounding the loss of the fish. He strongly objected to certain statements made about him and wishes to place the following facts on record.

### BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Mr Milani has been involved in fish farming in Magaliesburg for 50 years, beginning with trout and carp before specialising in Japanese Koi. He was the first Koi breeder in the country, and his farm was the first dedicated Koi farm in South Africa. The Koi Society of South Africa was established at his home on Corriloch Koi Farm. His farm received a five-star rating for excellence in service, visual appeal, and layout.

### MISCONCEPTIONS

#### ***1. He was looking for a place to house his fish.***

The value of the Koi ranged between R100 000 and R150 000. Mr Milani could have sold the fish before relocating. Instead, he donated them to Golden Harvest, and the donation was accepted with gratitude. From that point onward, the fish belonged to the residents of Golden Harvest, for their enjoyment and that of their families and grandchildren.

#### ***2. Overfeeding caused a build-up of waste, leading to the fish's death.***

According to Mr Milani, overfeeding typically results in abdominal dropsy (bloating), with mortality occurring gradually over time — not suddenly, as happened in this case. In addition, fresh water was added daily to maintain acceptable ammonium levels to ensure the fish's wellbeing.

### THE CAUSE OF THE LOSS

When a major loss of this nature occurs, it is generally due to one of two causes: oxygen depletion or toxins. The survival of 48 smaller fish, while the larger fish perished, strongly indicates a lack of oxygen. Furthermore, the oxygen pipe had been removed and was not replaced, supporting the conclusion that oxygen depletion was the primary cause.

### CARE OF THE FISH

Several years ago, while still residing on his farm, Mr Milani donated 25 Koi to Golden Harvest. When he moved to the estate last year, he was asked to assist in removing the fish to allow the pond to be cleaned before introducing the newly donated Koi. At that time, only five of the original fish remained. They were severely emaciated and malnourished.

It became evident to him that there was insufficient knowledge regarding proper fish care. As a result, he offered to supply the food and personally oversee the feeding of the Koi.

### CONCLUSION

Mr Milani expressed disappointment that, nearly a month after the incident, neither the Chairman nor the Board had conveyed any word of regret, appreciation, or acknowledgement for the year during which he personally cared for the fish at his own expense — a responsibility he willingly undertook to ensure their proper care. He believes that such a response does little to foster goodwill among residents. He challenged the Board to publish his letter in full, unedited, so that residents could form their own conclusions regarding the loss of the fish.

As editor, I have read the original letter and, with the permission of Mr Milani and the Chairman of the Board, Mr Johan Struwig, have edited it to present the facts as outlined above. After the letter came to the attention of Mr Struwig, he met with Mr Milani to discuss the matter. His response is published elsewhere in this newsletter.

## WATERING TIMES

All residents are once again requested to strictly adhere to the approved garden watering times.

At a Board Meeting held on 16 February 2026, it was resolved that fines will be imposed on residents who fail to comply with the set watering schedule.

The fines will be applied as follows:

- 1st Offence: R100.00
- 2nd Offence: R200.00
- 3rd and Subsequent Offences: R300.00

Please note that these rules also apply to residents who make use of storage tanks.



## FRAIL CARE



At the recent budget meeting, it became clear that the clinic currently has an insufficient number of residents, resulting in a financial shortfall.

It was therefore decided to explore the possibility of privatisation as a potential solution to address these financial challenges. This matter is being treated with urgency, and residents will be kept regularly informed of any developments.

The Board would like to thank **Charles van Rensburg** for his selfless work in keeping the resort's swimming pool in excellent condition.



# snippets

FROM THE BOARD ROOM

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

To All Residents

We wish to extend our sincerest apologies to Mr Mike Milani for the unfortunate incident concerning the koi at Slangkop.



It is concerning that certain residents made uncalled-for comments and regarded themselves as experts based solely on information found on Google.

I kindly request that, if you are unable to make a positive or constructive contribution, you refrain from sharing negative remarks.

Johan Struwig



## HOUSE SALES

There are currently nine houses on the market. The marketing team is working tirelessly to promote GH and anticipates an upturn in the market in 2026 with regard to sales and rentals. Please contact Lydia or Alet if you are interested.



## SECURITY

The biometric system for facial and palm recognition is now fully operational. All day workers, including clinic staff, gardeners, domestic workers and office personnel, have been registered on the system. Thank you to Cornel for his good work in this regard.

## SECURITY GUARDS



The security guards recently received a certificate of appreciation for their excellent cooperation during the past quarter. In the photo, they are pictured with Egmont Coetzee, the Resort Manager.

## ORIENT EXPRESS



This photo from the archives shows the original security gate and entrance from years ago, offering a glimpse into the early days of Golden Harvest. It also reflects how transport arrangements from Golden Harvest to the 'malls' have evolved over time. It's wonderful to see how far we've come!

## LEVY INCREASE

At the recent Budget Meeting, a 7.5% increase in levies was approved.

## MINIMUM WAGES

As from 1 March 2026 the minimum wage is R 30.28 per hour for farm labourers, casual workers and domestics.



# Happy Birthday 103

On 20 February 2026, a group of family and friends gathered in the dining hall to celebrate the 103rd birthday of the remarkable **Joey Miles**. The special event was organised by her daughter, Paddy Johnson.

Joey had not been well during the December holidays, but she recuperated wonderfully and attended the celebration in good spirits. Charles van Rensburg opened the ceremony with a prayer, her son-in-law, Terry, spoke a few words on her behalf, and Egmont Coetzee presented her with a beautiful orchid on behalf of the Board and residents of Golden Harvest.

Afterwards, the guests enjoyed lovely treats together with her.



We wish Joey many blessings and continued good health in the year ahead.

## World Prayer day for Women

More than 40 women (and two men!) gathered in a packed chapel on Friday, 27 February 2026. This year's focus was on Nigeria, bringing meaningful insight and inspiration to all who attended.

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to make this special event possible. Your support and involvement are truly appreciated.



## Bible study

Bible Study takes place in the tea room every Thursday at 9h00. We are currently studying the Gospel according to Luke and everyone is welcome to join.

The atmosphere is relaxed and friendly, while our knowledge is enriched and our faith strengthened through the guidance of the Holy Spirit within our community.

Contact **Ina Rautenbach** at 0832254841 for more details



## Valentine's Day

Two of our beautiful couples from Golden Harvest were among the residents celebrating Valentine's Day at Harvest Café — a lovely celebration of love and companionship.

# From the Editor



When I started with Harvest News, I was determined to focus on the positive. However, we all know that sometimes difficult things do happen. It is how we respond to them that truly makes the difference. We must also remember that our words can hurt others, especially when we do not have all the facts.

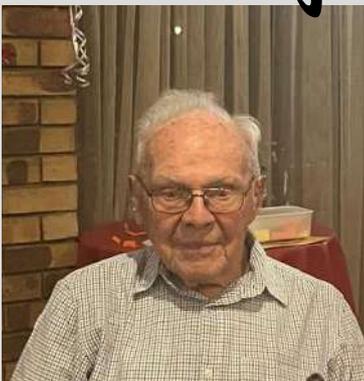
I was very impressed by the transparency shown by the Board in being willing to publish the facts of the incident at Slangkop, even though it may not have reflected favourably on them. Their openness and willingness to engage in conversation speak highly of their commitment to our community.

On a lighter note, it is wonderful to be back from Australia after two months away. After seven years at Golden Harvest, I am living here for the first time as a retiree — and I am amazed at the wide variety of activities available for us to enjoy.

Come on — join in! It's great fun and a wonderful way to be part of our community.

*Madalene*

## In loving Memory



It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing of **Erich Kennet** from Unit 29 on 26 February 2026, at the remarkable age of 101. We extend our deepest condolences to Glynnis and his family during this difficult time.

## NEW RESIDENTS

A big and heartfelt welcome to all our new residents! We are so delighted to have you join the Golden Harvest community and hope you will be extremely happy here. May you quickly feel at home, make wonderful new friends, and enjoy everything our special community has to offer.



Santjie  
Combrink  
Unit 12



Frank and Carol Hunt  
Unit 74



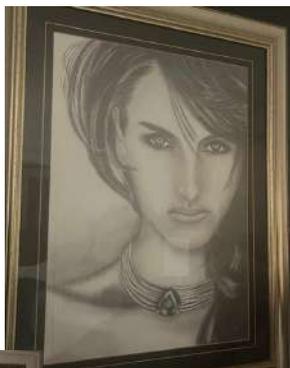
Evelyn and Eugene van Heerden  
Unit 108

**madaleen visits**  
*André en Deléne Hanekom #125*

André and Deléne Hanekom live right at the entrance of Golden Harvest. André is an broker who, at the age of 82, still enjoys his work. will soon turn eighty. Their spacious four-bedroom unit was originally built for one of the developers and differs from the other houses in the resort. I was highly impressed last year when I heard him playing his keyboard and decided to pay them a visit.

André grew up in a musical pastor's family and completed his schooling in Middelburg. Although he has no formal music training, he plays with great passion. During his military service in Bloemfontein, he became involved at a well-known music store, where he also met his first wife. She tragically passed away at the age of 24 due to a brain hemorrhage.

Deléne grew up in Johannesburg and was also widowed at a young age when her husband — ironically just two weeks before André's wife — died in a motor accident. She had two young daughters and later moved to Randfontein to be closer to her mother.



Although they had known of each other as children, being distantly related, they only truly met later in life. One day, while André was watching rugby at his cousin's home in Randfontein, a beautiful woman walked into the house — Deléne. Their first date was at the drive-in theatre (although neither of them can remember the name of the film today). They began spending time together, married two years later, and this year celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary. They have four children — two daughters, Elize and Noelene, and two sons, Michael and André-Johan — as well as ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Deléne is an exceptionally gifted artist who only began pursuing art later in life. She paints, does pencil sketches, and also creates pewter and mosaic works. Despite permanently using oxygen following a serious Covid infection, she remains actively involved in her art.

They decided to move to Golden Harvest after André visited his clients, Jannie and Marge van Niekerk, here and fell in love with the surroundings.





# Spotlight

## THE STORY OF NISHIKIGOI

More than 2,500 years ago, koi were humble food fish in China. All of today's vibrant Nishikigoï trace their origins to a black carp known as the Magoi. Over time, nature revealed flashes of red, white, and gold — and where some saw only an ordinary pond fish, dedicated breeders saw the beginning of something extraordinary.

According to legend, the great Chinese philosopher Confucius named his first son after the koi, as the fish symbolised strength and virtue. It was said that koi could swim upstream against the powerful currents of the Yellow River. Because of this courage and determination, the koi became a lasting symbol of perseverance and success.

When koi were introduced to Japan, farmers began carefully selecting and breeding the most striking colours and patterns. By the 1800s, the first true ornamental varieties had emerged. What began in quiet rural ponds gradually grew into a worldwide passion.

SOURCE: THE PRACTICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA OF KOI

During the 1980s, koi keeping expanded rapidly beyond Japan, and many countries now breed koi for their own markets. Although Japanese varieties are still widely regarded as the finest, it is possible that entirely new varieties may one day emerge outside Japan.

## TANCHO SANKE

One of the most admired varieties is the Tancho Sanke. Named after Japan's Tancho crane, it is recognised by a single red circle on its head — reminiscent of the rising sun on the Japanese flag. Simple, elegant, and striking, the Tancho Sanke beautifully reflects the spirit and symbolism of the koi itself.



## TREE OF THE MONTH

***Vachellia sieberiana***

***Senegalia galpinii***

South African acacias have recently been divided into two genera and renamed:

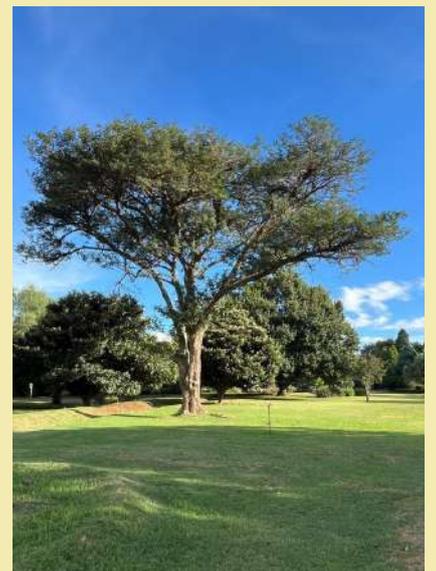
**a) *Vachellia sieberiana* – Paperbark Thorn**

All *Vachellia* species have long white thorns and round, pompom-shaped flowers. A specimen can be found in the north-eastern park area near Unit 37.

**b) *Senegalia galpinii* – Monkey Thorn**

All *Senegalia* species bear flowers in elongated, cream-coloured spikes or tassels and have short, black, hooked thorns. This very tall tree can be seen opposite Unit 21.

**THE NAME ACCACIA NOW BELONG TO AUSTRALIA ONLY.**



CONTRIBUTED BY LENA VROOM

## DO YOU KNOW ME?



I am a **UTILITY MARKER** and indicate the position of underground joint boxes for electric cables and other services. I am extremely helpful for repair work as well as in emergencies.

**PLEASE DO NOT MOVE ME!** If you find one that you know is out of place, please return it to the original position.



Fifteen golfers turned up for a game on 16 February 2026. Swings were swung, putts were missed, and a few balls may still be hiding in the rough...

***LIFE IS GREAT!*** 🏌️

## RAINFALL FOR FEBRUARY



2025: 201 mm

2026: 57 mm

Recorded by Flip van der Merwe (unit 130)

# Library

A very sincere thank you to the following people who generously donated books to the library. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

Theresa and Lydia are currently sorting through the donations. Any books that are not suitable or are duplicates will be donated to ensure they can still be enjoyed elsewhere.

Merle Reynolds, Jenny Motto, Hannie Tillett, Lydia Lourens, Anette van der Merwe and Evelyn van Heerden.



## New Gardens

The gardens, which were designed and planted in November in the office courtyard and at the chapel, are looking absolutely beautiful. This is all thanks to the wonderful efforts of everyone who contributed.

A very special thank you to Anette Groenewald, Cornel, and Egmont, as well as all the dedicated workers who continue to maintain the gardens. Your hard work and care are truly appreciated.



# BOWLS @ GOLDEN HARVEST

The Golden Harvest Bowls Club warmly invites you to join our club.

Annual membership subscriptions are R120 per season. We also run a fun competition called the 100's Club. Tickets cost R60 per number per year, with monthly cash prizes of R100, R75, R50 and R25.

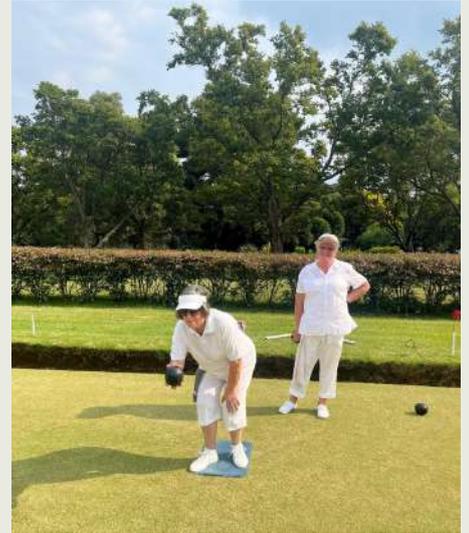
We play on Tuesdays and Saturdays at 15:00 ("tabs in" at 14:45). Each session includes two sets of 8 ends with a short tea break in between.

The ladies of the club take turns with tea duty, which includes setting out cups, serving tea, and cleaning up afterwards. On Tuesdays, biscuits are served, and on Saturdays the lady on duty brings a treat of her choice to enjoy with the tea.

The men take turns preparing the rinks for play. This includes setting out the mats, scoreboards, pens, jacks (kitties), and ensuring cold water and glasses are available to keep players hydrated. After play, we enjoy a short optional social get-together. Our clubhouse bar offers both alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages at a reasonable price.

If you have never played bowls before and do not own bowls, we gladly offer free coaching and will provide club bowls for you to use. These may be purchased later at a nominal fee should you wish to continue playing.

**We would love to welcome you to our club. Bowls is a fun, relaxing sport with wonderful camaraderie — and many of us started as complete beginners!**



On 3 February 2026, the yoga group enjoyed an outing to Melody Hill Retreat, situated next to Black Horse Brewery. The retreat is owned by Terry Tejbir, a seasoned yoga instructor who teaches a chair yoga class at Golden Harvest on Tuesdays.

The ladies were warmly welcomed by Terry and her adorable dogs before being treated to a picnic-style feast beside the tranquil pool, surrounded by serene trees. They eagerly tucked into Terry's signature dish — a scrumptious pasta salad — while others quenched their thirst with homemade rock shandies and refreshing, healthy kombucha.

After lunch, some of the ladies relaxed and enjoyed the peaceful setting, while a more energetic group explored the beautiful surroundings. Time passed quickly, and after an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon, the ladies reluctantly made their way home.