



HARVEST

Nuus | News



NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTED



Roger Skinner, Madaleen Bronkhorst, Johan Struwig, Alet Kurz, Marcel Hoeksma, Evelyn van Heerden, and Lydia Lourens.

At the Annual General Meeting held on 23 July 2026, residents elected the Board of Directors who will serve the Golden Harvest community for the new term.

In his Chairman's Report, Johan Struwig thanked everyone who had contributed to another successful year. He paid special tribute to Louis de Vaal, Ann Cliff, and Neville Kurz, who have each served on the Board with dedication over a number of years. Their commitment and valuable contributions to Golden Harvest were acknowledged with sincere appreciation.

We would like to congratulate the newly elected Board and thank each member for their willingness to serve the Golden Harvest community.

We wish them wisdom, strength, and success as they work together in the best interest of our estate during the coming term.

GOLDEN HARVEST
INVITES YOU TO
CELEBRATE WOMEN'S DAY

*Come and enjoy a wonderful
morning of friendship, inspiration,
and celebration as we honour the
women in our community. We look
forward to sharing this special
occasion with you.*

AUGUST
08
2026

SATURDAY AT 10:30

VENUE: COMMUNITY HALL
ADMISSION: FREE

CAREVITA WELCOMES NEW UNIT MANAGER



Leandri, Johan Struwig, Chairman of the Board, Werner van Niekerk, Regional Manager of CareVita, and Andrew Wilson, CEO of CareVita.

CareVita, the company that recently assumed responsibility for the Golden Harvest Health Care Centre, was pleased to introduce its new Unit Manager at the Annual General Meeting on 23 July 2026.

Leandri Jansen van Rensburg will officially take up her position on 1 August 2026. We extend a warm welcome to Leandri and wish her success in her new role. As a community, we look forward to working with her and assure her of our support as she begins this exciting new chapter.

A FRESH NEW LOOK FOR THE LIBRARY

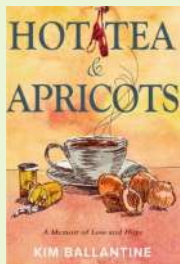
The Golden Harvest Library has a welcoming new reading corner where residents can relax with a good book. Our sincere thanks to Louis de Vaal for generously donating the comfortable couch.

The old, worn blinds have also been replaced with smart new ones, thanks to the generosity of the Fundraising Committee. The committee has once again supported the library by donating funds for several new novels, including two large-print books, which are now available on the large-print shelf.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our library.



BOOK REVIEW



HOT TEA AND APRICOTS: A Memoir of Loss and Hope. Review done by Myra Coetzer.

Kim Ballantine tells the story of her 15-year battle with voice loss and cancer. It is a vulnerable and beautifully written account of the power of family, friendship and faith in the face of unbelievable odds. Her story is heartbreaking, raw and painfully honest, but also darkly humorous. She says writing this book contributed to her healing and that of her family - "you cannot always choose what happens to you, but you can choose how you respond".

I loved this book because it resonated so strongly with me; it's pages echoing weeks after completion. For every person out there who has suffered health trauma, this one is for you. It is an honour to have read her story.

Winter brings a citrus bounty

Winter at Golden Harvest is a season of abundance, as citrus trees throughout the estate are laden with fruit. Oranges, lemons, limes and naartjies add vibrant colour to the landscape, reminding us that even in the heart of winter, nature provides a rich and beautiful harvest.



From the Editor



So much is happening at *Golden Harvest* that it's almost impossible to keep up! As I compile each edition of *Harvest News*, I often think of events, achievements, and interesting stories that could also have been included.

I'm delighted that this edition features several contributions from residents, and I would like to encourage even more of you to share your news. If you're involved in an activity, club, project, or event that I may not know about, please send me a few details and, if possible, a photograph. Your contributions help make *Harvest News* a true reflection of our vibrant community.

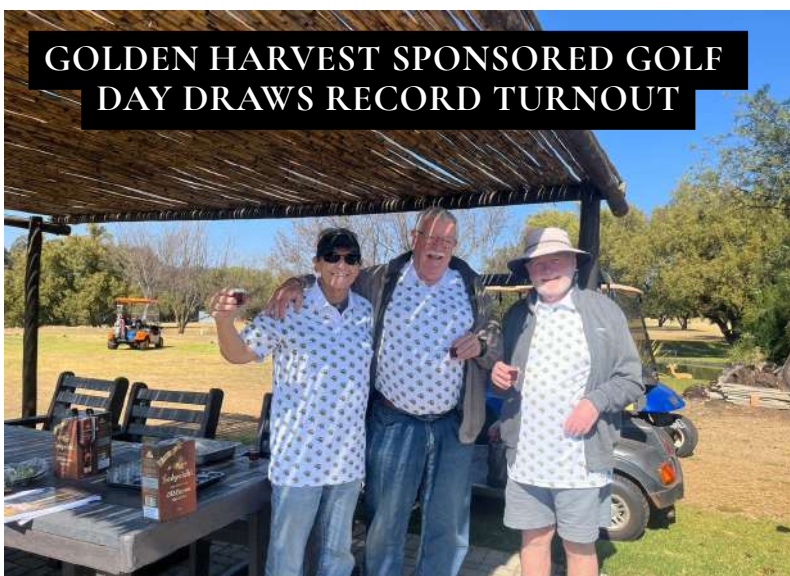
A sincere word of thanks goes to everyone who helps make *Golden Harvest* such a wonderful place to live. Every contribution, every act of kindness, and every hour of volunteer service enrich our community and make *Golden Harvest* the warm, vibrant place we are proud to call home.

Madafeen



TERROR, THE MONGREL PUPPY

Andrie van den Berg is the author of the delightful sketch on page 6 about their beloved mongrel puppy, Terror. His humorous account is sure to bring a smile to readers' faces.

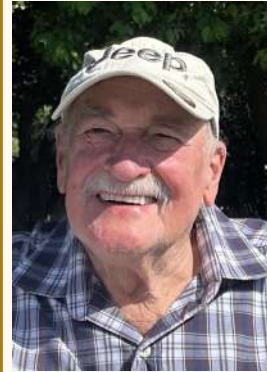


Kurt Huber, Mike Millar, and Ron McCormick, the dedicated team at Halfway House (Slangkop), carried out their duties with enthusiasm, commitment, and excellent team spirit.

In Memory of Lionel Haybittel



29 May 2026



We remember him with great fondness and extend our heartfelt condolences to Gill, his family, and friends. May they find comfort, strength, and peace in the memories they shared with him.

CAREVITA UNIFORMS



Agnes and Susan, two of our dedicated caregivers in their uniforms with the CareVita logo.

MAINTENANCE



Just a walk in the Park?

Have you ever wondered whether it's easier to play the first nine holes or the last nine at Golden Harvest?

At first glance, the answer seems obvious. Both loops consist of six par-three holes, but the remaining holes differ slightly. The first nine includes two par fours and one par five, while the last nine has one par four and two par fives. On paper, the last nine appears to be the more challenging option because of the extra par five.

But is it really?

Interestingly, the average distances on the first nine are longer across every category. So, if accuracy is your biggest challenge, you may actually find the last nine a little more forgiving, simply because there is slightly less distance to cover.

Just out for a walk?

Golf is often described as "a good walk spoiled," but at Golden Harvest it's simply a good walk in beautiful surroundings. If you play the first nine holes, you'll cover 1.62 km from tee to pin. Once you include the walks between holes, the total distance increases to approximately 2.16 km, taking around 23 minutes at an average walking speed of 5.4 km/h. The last nine are remarkably similar. The tee-to-pin distance totals 1.63 km, with an overall walking distance of 2.09 km, again taking about 23 minutes. Complete all eighteen holes and you'll have walked approximately 4.25 km, with a total tee-to-pin distance of 3.3 km—a pleasant 46-minute walk, not counting the time spent admiring your shots (or searching for the occasional wayward ball!).

The Bottom Line

So, which nine is better?

The numbers suggest there isn't much in it. One loop has more par fives, the other is slightly longer. In the end, it all comes down to personal preference.

What really matters is getting out onto the course, enjoying the fresh air, the company of friends, and the game itself. See you on the golf course—and remember, in golf, the game always wins!

Contributed by an anonymous source who has clearly walked the course more than a few times!

At 89 years young, **Jorge Fernandes** inspires us all by playing golf four times a week. Last week, he carded an outstanding net score of 58, finishing just three over par—a remarkable achievement by any standard. His advice for both golf and life is refreshingly simple: "Slow down."



**Congratulations to
Adri Vinke
who achieved every
golfer's dream by scoring
a hole-in-one on the 7th
hole on Monday, 13 July!**
**A hole-in-one is a
remarkable achievement
that requires both skill
and a touch of good
fortune, making it a
moment every golfer
hopes to experience at
least once.**



Connel Theunissen spent the first ten years of his life in Malawi, where his father served as a representative of the Commonwealth. He remembers those years as a carefree African childhood, although the two and a half day train journey to Bishop's College in Cape Town at the age of ten remains one of his most traumatic memories. After completing a B.A. in History and Religious Studies at the University of Natal in Pietermaritzburg, he began his teaching career in Empangeni.

Ann grew up on a farm near Nelspruit as the eldest of three children. After leaving school, she travelled to Bulawayo to train in child care. There she met her first husband, and together they made their home in Rhodesia until the outbreak of the independence war forced them to move to Randburg. Tragedy struck when their young daughter passed away. The family later relocated to Durban, where Ann suffered another devastating loss when her husband died, leaving her to raise her two small children, Ian and Debbie, on her own. She found both purpose and strength in working at a children's home.

Their love story began in an unexpected way. Ann's daughter, Debbie, was one of Connel's pupils at Treverton Christian School. An essay Debbie wrote about her mother's work touched Connel so deeply that he volunteered at the children's home during the school holidays. After returning to Treverton, he sent Ann a large bouquet of flowers, and soon letters were travelling regularly between them. After several visits, Connel asked if he could visit again. This time, Ann gently declined, explaining that she did not think it would be wise. Not long afterwards, the telephone rang. It was Connel—but instead of asking to visit, he simply asked her to marry him. Three months later they were married, and Ann moved to Treverton. A few years later, Connel was invited to work at the children's home in Durban.

After two years there, he accepted a teaching position at Durban High School, where he taught for fifteen years. Throughout his career he was deeply involved in church camps during school holidays, helping to establish churches across Africa. Meanwhile, Ann founded a pre-school based on the Accelerated Christian Education (A.C.E.) program. She adapted the curriculum for African learners, trained teachers throughout South Africa and Namibia, and authored a series of phonics books for first-grade learners.

The couple have two daughters, Joy and Mary, and are blessed with ten grandchildren. On the recommendation of their son Ian, they moved to Golden Harvest in 2018.

"When I drove through the gates," Connel recalls, "I knew I could live here."

Today they remain actively involved in the Golden Harvest community, with a special commitment to supporting the clinic.

After my interview with them, they invited me back with the words, "Our house is always open."

I realised it is not only their home that is open, but also their hearts.

And perhaps that is the greatest legacy of Connel and Ann — a lifetime spent opening their hearts, their home, and their lives to others.



Terror - by Andrie van den Berg #

The first time we met Terror was when a young boy arrived at our house late one afternoon with a little mongrel puppy in his arms.

"We heard you were looking for a small dog," he said.

The puppy was about two months old, black and white with a few faint black patches scattered across his body. Not exactly thrilled at the prospect of raising a mongrel, I muttered to my wife that he would be her responsibility.

Later that evening, with his little tummy full, he curled up on an old blanket on the veranda. We would just have to see how things turned out.

The next morning we got ready to drive to Brits to do some shopping. There was no sign of the little puppy. We searched the entire yard, behind every shrub and tree, and even the veld behind the house. Nothing.

We called, whistled and shouted. Our other four dogs joined in the search.

When we returned home late that afternoon, he was still nowhere to be found. We searched again without success. We assumed he had wandered off, perhaps been knocked over on the road, or become hopelessly lost in the veld. We drove up and down the dirt road looking for him. Nothing. The following morning, while we were having breakfast, I noticed something move beneath a bush in the garden. It was the puppy.

As I hurried over, he crawled towards me on his belly. When I reached him, he rolled onto his back and promptly wet himself!

Needless to say, that was the moment he began stealing our hearts.

With a full stomach, he had simply slept almost continuously through the day and the entire night.

It didn't take long before he rounded up his four female companions and made it abundantly clear that he was now the boss of the yard and would tolerate no opposition, even though they were all much older than he was.

"A typical male," my wife remarked.

I wisely kept quiet.

Everyone entering the yard was greeted with fierce growls and barking, and before long he had earned the name Terror—or, more formally, Terrorist.

With every fibre of his being he craved our love, and he certainly received it. His happiest moments were spent lying on his back at one of our feet while warning the other dogs with a low growl that they were not to come near us.

Any bird foolish enough to venture too close was chased away with determined growling and barking. Visitors quickly learned that they first had to greet Terror and rub his ears. Otherwise they could expect a firm nip on the heel or calf.

Every evening, when supper was served, each dog received a bone to chew on. Terror would pick up his bone, look at us as if asking, "What am I supposed to do with this?"

Then he would trot off across the garden in search of the perfect hiding place and carefully bury it. After that he would take a long detour through the garden, deliberately leaving misleading tracks before confidently returning to us.

Lulu, our big black dog, watched him from the corner of her eye. Once he was safely gone, she would quietly approach the hiding place from another direction, dig up the bone, and add it to her own.

Terror never listened when he was called. After about a year we discovered, to our surprise, that he was almost ninety percent deaf. He could hear only loud clapping, shrill whistles or shouting. Suddenly all of his strange behaviour made perfect sense.

One day, while we were sitting together chatting, Terror suddenly collapsed. His body jerked violently a few times before he staggered to his feet, walking aimlessly as though he was sleepwalking.

I immediately went to him and gently stroked him. After a little while he recovered, although it took the rest of the day before he was himself again.

We suspected he had suffered a mild epileptic seizure. About a year later the same thing happened again. By then we had begun to suspect that he was the product of inbreeding.

About a week later he rushed out barking furiously at a vehicle entering the yard. I followed him outside and found him lying on his side, his little body wracked by violent convulsions.

As I gently stroked him and searched for a heartbeat, I felt his body slowly relax. His breathing stopped.

Terror was gone.

Later that evening my wife and I cried together over the little dog who, in just five short years, had found such a special place in our hearts. He had asked for so much love, and he had received every bit of it.

The following day we buried him beneath a thorn tree out in the veld, beside his faithful companion, Zero, in the place where he had left so many of his little scent marks.

17 October 2007 - 14 October 2013

COMMUNITY HALL UPGRADING

As part of ongoing maintenance, the interior of the Golden Harvest Community Hall has recently been repainted.

A special word of thanks goes to Corrie Milani and Lydia Lourens, whose creativity and hard work have transformed the hall into a warm and welcoming space. The beautiful décor has been made available to Golden Harvest on consignment by Corrie and Mike Milani. We are sincerely grateful for their generosity and valued support.



GIVING THE GIFT OF TIME



A heartfelt thank you to Ann and Connel Theunissen and their dedicated team, who generously spend their time every Monday and Wednesday afternoon to enrich the lives of residents in the Health Care Centre. Through a variety of stimulating activities, they help keep residents' minds active while creating opportunities for friendship, laughter, and meaningful interaction.

We would love to see more Golden Harvest residents become involved in this rewarding initiative. These activities will continue in partnership with the CareVita team, and additional volunteers are always welcome. By giving just a little of your time, you can make a significant difference in the lives of others.

what is on in

**MAGALIES
BURG**



Looking for a delightful outing close to home? Just a short drive from Golden Harvest lies Black Horse Estate, one of the Magaliesberg's most popular country destinations. Nestled in the beautiful Zeekoeihoek Valley, the estate offers the perfect combination of spectacular scenery, good food, and a relaxed country atmosphere.

Originally established as a Friesian horse stud, Black Horse Estate is still home to these magnificent black horses that graze peacefully in the surrounding fields. Today, it is equally well known for its award-winning craft brewery and distillery, where visitors can enjoy locally brewed beers, handcrafted spirits, and tasting experiences.

The estate's restaurant is a favourite with locals and visitors alike. Whether you choose to sit under the shade of the old pecan trees or admire the sweeping views of the Magaliesberg, you'll find it an ideal place for a leisurely breakfast, lunch, or afternoon with family and friends. Live music is often featured on weekends, adding to the relaxed atmosphere.

Whether you're celebrating a special occasion, entertaining guests, or simply looking for a pleasant day out, Black Horse Estate is well worth a visit. It is another reminder of the wonderful attractions we are fortunate to have right on Golden Harvest's doorstep.



GH GOLF

A record field of 24 Golden Harvest golfers teed off on 25 June 2026 for a memorable golf day, generously sponsored exclusively for our club by Ian Lawler, son of Ann and Connel Theunissen.

Ian, a passionate golfer who regularly competes in Senior Legends Pro-Am tournaments around the world, was unfortunately unable to attend. In his absence, Connel and the Golden Harvest players were joined by Ian's nephew, Zane, Grant Hawkins of Novawear Corporate Solutions, and three additional golfing partners for a pairs IPS competition.

The day was a tremendous success, with the generous sponsorship providing an array of prizes for the players. The festivities concluded with a superb lunch prepared by our very own Cheeky Chef, Annerine, who treated everyone to succulent lamb on the spit accompanied by a delicious selection of side dishes.

The Golden Harvest Golf Club extends its sincere appreciation to Ian Lawler for his generosity and support in making this outstanding day possible.

WINNERS

PAIRS COMPETITION
JOHAN STRUWIG AND
MARCEL HOEKSMAN

**SINGLES
COMPETITION**
WADE KING

