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on behalf of **The Hills Estate**

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Disclaimer: This e-Magazine is produced especially for residents/owners of The Hills Estate to provide updates and useful information. It is produced by K-Studio on behalf of The Hills Estate HOA. Although every effort is taken to ensure accuracy of content, The Hills Estate HOA and/or the Publisher, cannot be held liable for any inaccurate information, and may not agree with all opinions expressed in this publication.

CONTENTS

ISSUE 4 | AUGUST 2025



- 05** IMPORTANT CONTACTS
- 07** LETTER FROM THE MANAGEMENT TEAM
- 12** HELLOO SUNSHINE, HELLO YOU
- 16** SOAK UP THE STYLE: FRESH STYLE FOR YOUR MOST UNDERRATED SPACE
- 22** CHAOS TO CALM
- 26** THE RIVERINE LODGE: WELGEVONDEN BIG FIVE GAME RESERVE
- 30** SECURITY UPDATE
- 34** SPRUCE UP YOUR SPRING: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE FOR A GREENER SEASON
- 37** LET'S BRUSH UP ON DENTAL CLEANING FOR PETS
- 40** A CLEAN-UP DAY TO REMEMBER
- 46** PICNIC IN STYLE
- 48** BIG DECISIONS EXPERT GUIDANCE IN ESTATE LIVING
- 51** FROM THE GYM MANAGER
- 58** UPDATE FROM SUB-COMMITTEE
- 61** TOAST TO TRADITION: BRAAI BROODJIE RECIPE





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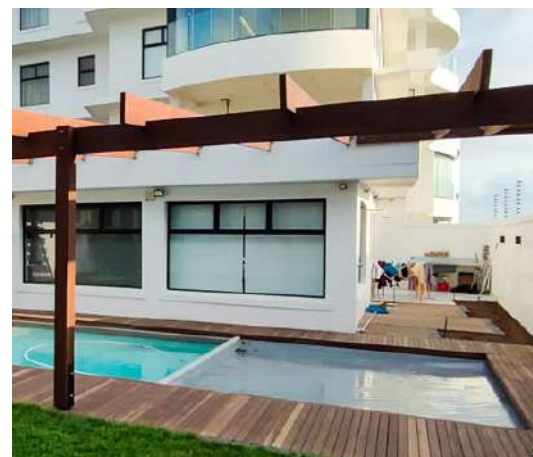
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LETTER FROM *Management*

A Bright Winter in Hills Estate: Progress, Community Spirit, and Upcoming Events

Despite the chill of winter, Hills Estate has experienced a season filled with sunshine, progress, and exciting activities.

Community Clean-Up Brings Shine to The Hills

On July 5th, the Hills HOA partnered with K-Studio to launch a community clean-up day that left residents and visitors alike proud of our estate.

Starting bright and early at 9:00 a.m. on the Saturday, enthusiastic residents gathered to tidy up both the estate grounds and nearby roads outside Garsfontein and Atterbury Gates. The effort paid off—our estate sparkled anew, and the surrounding roads also benefited from the collective effort.

After the cleanup, residents enjoyed a lively market day filled with fun activities. Children delighted in a petting zoo and face painting, while the markets provided the adults with some food and entertainment.

Adding to the day's positive impact, SANBS attended the event and successfully reached their blood donation target! We encourage even more residents to participate in future visits—your donation can help save lives.

We extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated. Your dedication helps keep The Hills Estate a beautiful and welcoming place to call home.

Looking Ahead: Family Fun Day

Planning is already underway for our annual Family Fun Day, jointly organized with Garden Group. This beloved event features a delightful walk through the nearby game reserve, an exciting outing for families and kids alike.

Keep an eye out for posters and updates as the date approaches; we promise it'll be another fantastic day of community bonding and outdoor fun.

Internal Cameras Coming Soon

Safety remains a top priority. Over the past weeks, residents may have noticed the installation of internal cameras poles throughout the estate. The professional team, Tacticom, handling these installations is committed to a smooth process, and we're confident that the new surveillance will enhance security for everyone.

Additionally, speed cameras are set to be installed in the coming months. Please remember—our estate enforces speed limits strictly, so be sure to drive no below the speed limit!

Patience Appreciated at the Gates

We sincerely thank residents for their patience as we implemented the benefits frustration measures at the gates. Your cooperation has been invaluable during this transition, helping us to ensure that our estate is managed fairly, safely, and efficiently.

Exciting New Restaurant Proposal

The Restaurant RFP process is underway, with proposals recently submitted to the HOA. We're excited to review these options and select a dining establishment that complements our eco-conscious estate. Residents' feedback—collected via the WhatsApp poll—will play a key role in choosing the perfect fit, ensuring everyone's tastes are considered.

Home Aesthetics and Winter Maintenance Reminder

As winter progresses, it's a great time for residents to consider repainting and maintaining their homes. Several homeowners have already started fresh coats of paint, and it's wonderful to see residents caring for their properties.

If your house shows cracks or signs of wear, now is the ideal time to attend to repairs. Addressing issues before the rainy season will prevent further damage and ensure your home remains in top shape.

Looking Forward: From Winter to Spring

Although winter has been cold, The Hills Estate remains a warm and welcoming place for residents to enjoy. With a few more weeks of winter remaining, we look forward to bidding farewell to the season and welcoming spring.

Let's continue working together to keep our estate shining bright, free of litter, and a peaceful haven for all. Your ongoing efforts and community spirit are what make Hills Estate truly special.

“The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.” – Phil Jackson





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Hello Sunshine, Hello You!

Why a Morning Walk Is Your Spring Superpower

As the chill of winter fades and spring begins to bloom, now is the perfect time to step outside and embrace the morning sunshine. A gentle walk in the early hours not only connects you with nature's renewal but also delivers real health perks - especially when it comes to soaking up vitamin D.

1. Wake Up with the Sun

Natural sunlight in the morning helps reset your internal clock. Exposure to morning light supports your circadian rhythm, helping you sleep better at night and feel more alert during the day. Just 15–30 minutes of light exposure in the early morning can do wonders for your energy levels and mood.

2. Top Up Your Vitamin D

After a long winter, many people have low vitamin D levels due to reduced sun exposure. Morning sunshine provides your body with the most natural way to produce this essential nutrient, which strengthens bones, supports your immune system, and even lifts your mood.

3. Boost Your Mood Naturally

A morning walk under the gentle spring sun is a powerful way to reduce stress and anxiety. Sunshine stimulates the release of serotonin, a hormone that helps you feel calm and focused. Combined with the rhythm of walking and the beauty of spring around you, it's a natural mood booster.

4. Energise Your Body

Starting your day with movement gets your blood flowing and your muscles warmed up. Walking in the morning boosts circulation, sharpens focus, and prepares you to tackle the day ahead with more enthusiasm and clarity.

5. Spring Into a Healthy Habit

With blooming flowers and crisp air, spring mornings offer the perfect setting to start a new routine. Whether it's a solo walk, a stroll with a friend, or simply sipping your coffee outside, daily morning light can become a wellness ritual that supports your body and mind.

Quick Tips for Morning Sunshine:

- Aim for 15–30 minutes of light exposure within two hours of waking up.
- Wear sunscreen if you'll be outside longer, but allow short bursts of unfiltered sunlight.
- Add gentle movement like walking or stretching to amplify the benefits.
- Don't wear sunglasses (at least for the first few minutes) – you want natural light to enter your eyes and help regulate your body's internal clock.

So, as the days grow longer and the mornings grow warmer, consider swapping that snooze button for a pair of walking shoes. Whether you're power-walking through your neighbourhood, strolling past blooming jacarandas, or simply soaking up the golden glow from your front stoep, those early rays are doing more for you than just lighting the way.

You're energising your body, resetting your internal clock, topping up on vital vitamin D, and giving your mental well-being a natural boost—all before the rest of the world has finished their coffee. Spring is nature's gentle nudge to start fresh, and a morning walk might just be the easiest (and most enjoyable) way to step into a healthier routine.

So take a deep breath, lift your face to the sun, and let your mornings set the tone for a brighter, better season ahead. Your mind, body, and mood will thank you—every step of the way.



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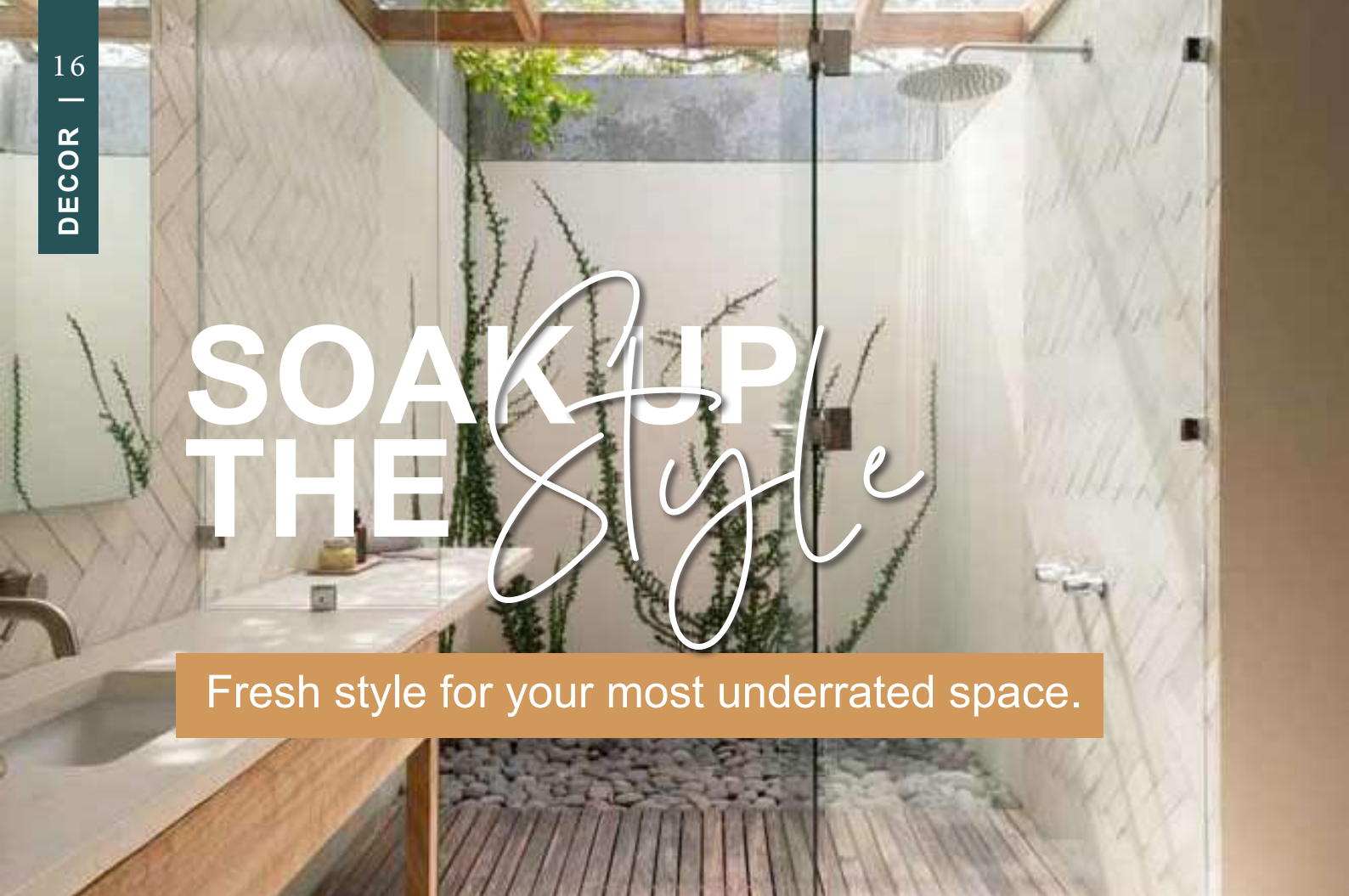
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SOAK UP THE Style

Fresh style for your most underrated space.

Your bathroom is one of the most personal spaces in your home—so why not make it feel special? Whether you lean towards soft, natural finishes or want to go bold with dramatic accents, there's a look to match every mood and home style.

Here's how to transform your bathroom into a space that's as beautiful as it is practical.

Classic, But Never Cold

1

Neutral doesn't mean boring. Creamy whites, light greys, and warm textures can create a calm, clean and welcoming atmosphere. Add depth with elements like brushed brass taps, natural stone basins, and soft textiles. The key is balance—choose a few standout textures or finishes and let them shine.

2

Elevated Elegance

Installing a platform under a freestanding bath can hide messy plumbing and add a designer touch. Soft LED lighting at the base brings a warm glow in the evenings, while textured tiles in muted tones ground the space with a handmade feel. Think spa, but at home.

3

Bold Accents: Black, Gold & Raw Beauty

For those who love contrast, pair sleek black taps or lighting with golden accents and raw timber vanities. This trio is ideal for adding character and richness to your bathroom, without overdoing it. Choose matt finishes for a softer effect, or go polished if you want full-on drama.

4

Wallpaper That Works

Yes—you can use wallpaper in bathrooms! Thanks to water-resistant options, you can now personalise your space with

anything from bold botanicals to serene landscapes. It's a great way to introduce colour, texture, or even a story to your bathroom wall—just make sure it's professionally installed to withstand moisture.

Go Back to Nature

5 Natural light, earthy tones, and organic finishes never go out of style. Open shelving, wooden vanities, stone basins, and indoor plants all contribute to a sense of calm and connection to the outdoors. Bonus: natural finishes also hide water spots and fingerprints better than shiny ones!

Design Tips to Keep in Mind

- 6**
- **Function first:** Make sure your layout works for your daily routine.
 - **Storage is key:** Built-in units and clever shelving keep clutter at bay.
 - **Go round:** Circular mirrors or curved showers soften angular bathrooms.
 - **Mix textures:** Pair smooth tiles with woven baskets, timber with stone.
 - **Make space for light:** A skylight, window, or even a well-placed mirror can flood your bathroom with natural light.

No matter your style—calming and minimal or bold and luxurious—your bathroom deserves to be both functional and fabulous. With just a few thoughtful upgrades, you can create a space you'll love to step into every day.





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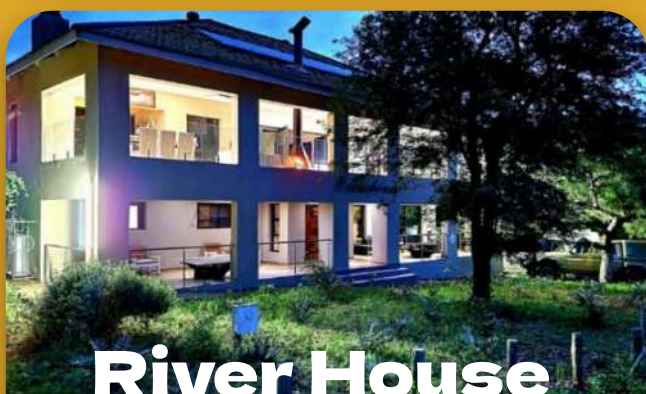
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Chaos to Calm

There's something magical about the arrival of spring — the air feels lighter, the days get longer, and there's a natural urge to refresh and reset. It's the perfect time to throw open the windows, roll up your sleeves, and embrace a good old-fashioned spring clean.

But spring cleaning is about more than just wiping down countertops or shaking out rugs. It's a ritual of renewal. A chance to declutter, organise, and breathe new life into your home — and your mind.



1. The Psychology of a Clean Space

Did you know that clutter can have a direct impact on your stress levels? Studies show that a tidy environment can reduce anxiety and boost productivity. Our brains love order. When everything is in its place, your home becomes a calming sanctuary — not a source of mental overload.

Spring cleaning is the ultimate form of self-care: it's therapeutic, rewarding, and creates a ripple effect of clarity and calm.

2. Aesthetic Organisation in the Kitchen

The kitchen is the heart of the home — and also one of the easiest spaces to transform with clever storage.

Clear, stackable containers for pantry staples like rice, pasta, lentils, and flour don't just keep ingredients fresh — they look amazing. Add sleek spice jars with uniform labels and suddenly your pantry resembles a Pinterest dream.

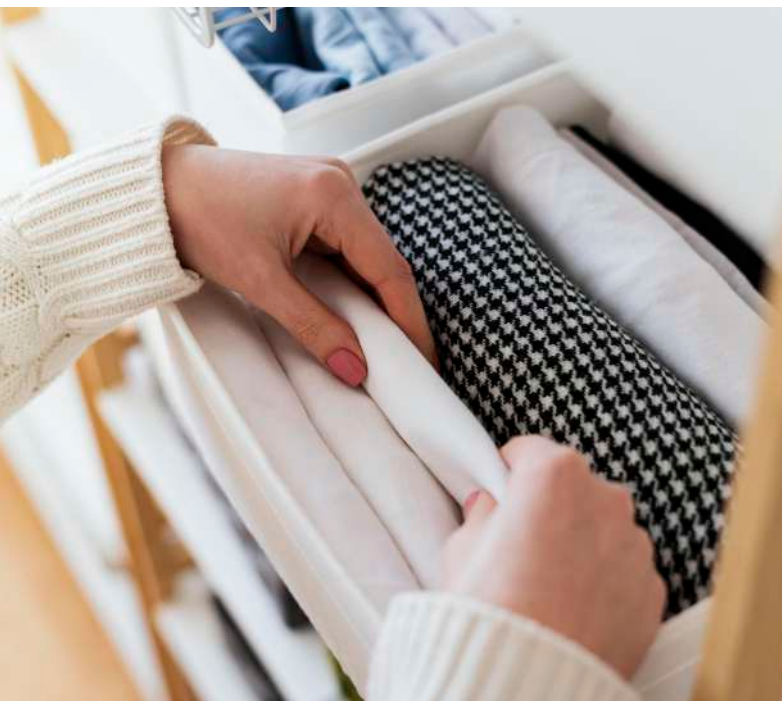
Lazy Susans, tiered shelves, and airtight storage bins help maximise space and give your cupboards a curated, boutique-grocery feel. It's not just functional; it's deeply satisfying.



3. Wardrobe Wins & Linen Love

If you've ever opened your cupboard and felt instantly overwhelmed, you're not alone. Spring is the ideal time to donate clothing you no longer wear and introduce systems that actually work.

Use drawer organisers for underwear, socks, and accessories. Invest in fabric storage cubes for out-of-season items. And when it comes to linen cupboards? The **KonMari** fold is your new best friend. Folding towels and bedding into compact rectangles not only saves space, it makes every shelf look effortlessly neat.



to keep everything smelling fresh and moth-free.

4. Health & Wellbeing Benefits of a Clean Home

Dust, mould, and unseen allergens often build up over the cooler months when we keep our windows shut. A deep spring clean can literally help you breathe easier.

Beyond the physical benefits, there's a profound sense of lightness that comes from letting go — of clutter, chaos, and the things you no longer need. It clears space not just in your home, but in your heart and head too.

You might even sleep better, feel more energised, and feel more inclined to invite people over — because a clean space is an inviting space.

5. Start Small — and Make It Fun!

Spring cleaning doesn't have to be a weekend-long slog. Break it into manageable zones: one cupboard, one shelf, one drawer at a time.

Put on your favourite playlist, light a candle, and let the process be part of your seasonal refresh. Involve the family, make it a challenge — or better yet, reward yourself with something lovely at the end (a new plant or a fresh set of labels, perhaps?).

Spring cleaning isn't just about removing dirt. It's about making space for what matters. A tidy, intentional home nurtures a peaceful, intentional life.

So, go ahead — open those windows, shake out those rugs, and give your home (and yourself) the fresh start it deserves.

THE DONKEY DAIRY

"BRAY HELLO TO YOUR BEST DAY OUT!"

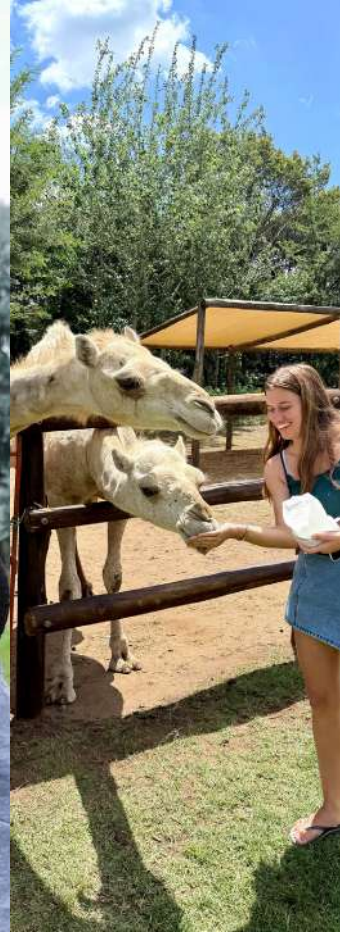


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Welgevonden Big Five Game Reserve

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Nestled in the eastern corner of the malaria-free Welgevonden Game Reserve, The Riverine Lodge is a serene sanctuary in South Africa's Waterberg region.

Situated beside the Grootfontein Stream and overlooking a dramatic sandstone cliff, this boutique safari lodge offers a perfect blend of comfort, intimacy, and wild African beauty.

Just three hours from Gauteng, it's an ideal destination for weekend getaways or longer escapes into nature.

Whether you're seeking romance, solitude, or a shared wildlife adventure, The Riverine Lodge provides a warm, welcoming environment for couples, friends, and families alike.

A Trusted Legacy in Hospitality

The Riverine Lodge is part of the same distinguished hospitality group behind the award-winning, five star, Menlyn Boutique Hotel in Pretoria and the renowned 57 Waterberg in the same reserve.

This shared ownership ensures guests enjoy consistently high standards, attentive service, and a refined, nature-inspired experience across all three properties.





Inside Welgevonden: A Premier Safari Destination

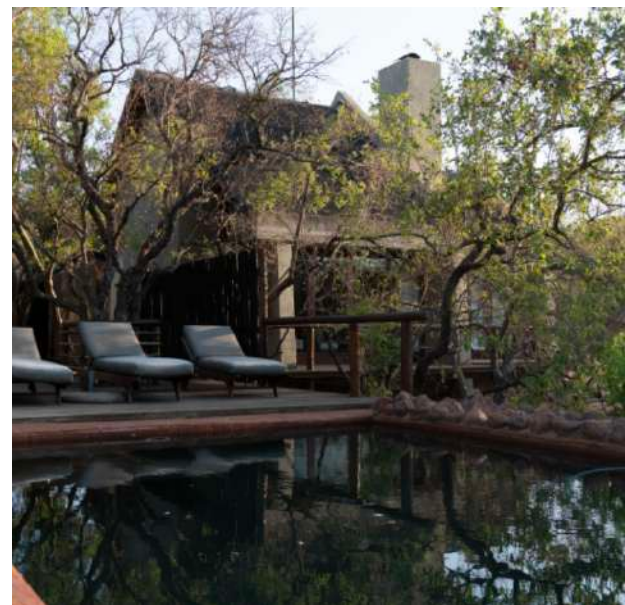
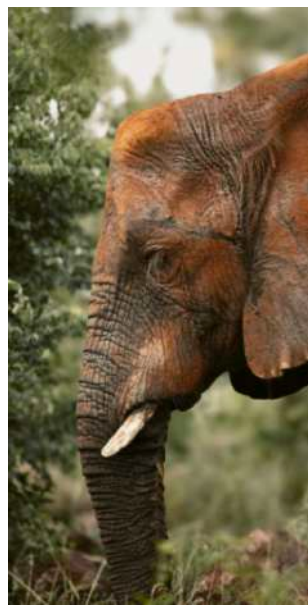
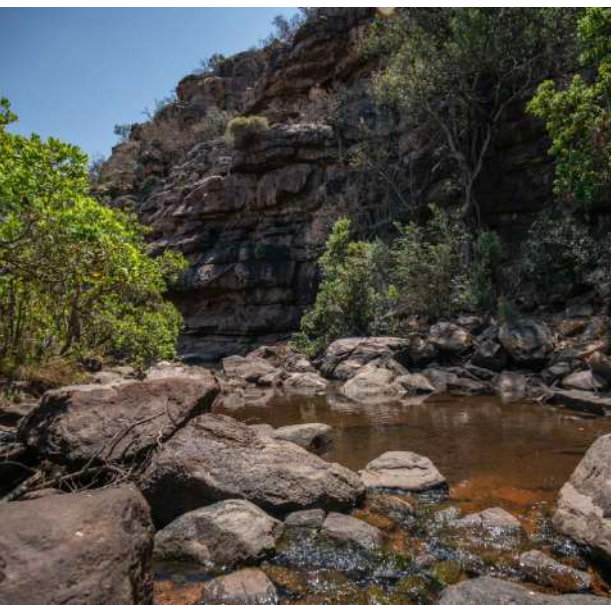
Spanning more than 36,000 hectares, Welgevonden Game Reserve is one of South Africa's leading private wildlife areas.

It's home to over 50 mammal species—including the Big Five: lion, leopard, elephant, rhino, and buffalo. With self-driving prohibited and only a few lodges allowed within the reserve, guests benefit from uncrowded, immersive game drives guided by knowledgeable rangers.

Whether tracking lions at dawn or birdwatching at sunset, every drive offers a personal and memorable encounter with the wild.

Boutique Comfort with Scenic Views

The Riverine Lodge accommodates up to eight adults in four elegantly furnished rooms, each designed for tranquillity and relaxation. All rooms feature queen-size beds, comfortable armchairs, and private balconies with sweeping views of the bush, sandstone cliffs, and the gentle stream below. En-suite bathrooms offer both a bathtub and a separate shower—inviting guests to unwind in the natural peace of the Waterberg. Sustainable, Fully Catered Safari Living Completely off-grid, The Riverine Lodge runs on sustainable energy, ensuring a low-impact stay without compromising on comfort. Guests enjoy a fully catered experience, with all meals thoughtfully prepared and served in the lodge's communal spaces.



Mornings start with hearty breakfasts, afternoons feature light, fresh lunches, and evenings conclude with starlit boma dinners. Special dietary needs are gladly accommodated with prior notice.

Highlights & Experiences

- **Twice-Daily Game Drives** – Set out at sunrise and again in the late afternoon for the best chance to see the region's abundant wildlife.
- **Cliffside and Riverine Views** – The ever-present sound of the stream and towering cliffs create a breathtaking, tranquil setting.
- **Relaxation by the Pool** – Cool off in the natural-style swimming pool, perfect for hot afternoons and quiet bushveld hours.
- **Communal Comfort** – The main lodge offers cozy lounges, viewing decks, and a traditional boma for fireside stories and stargazing.
- **Serene Atmosphere** – With only four guest rooms, the lodge maintains a peaceful, private ambiance ideal for intimate escapes or small gatherings.

A Safe, Malaria-Free Escape

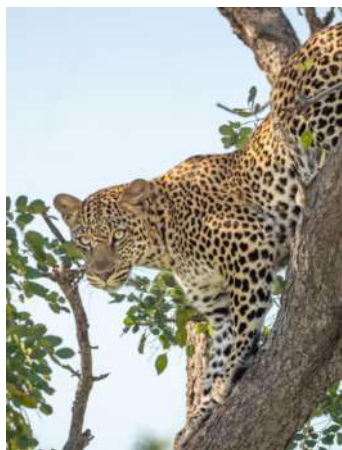
Set in a malaria-free region, The Riverine Lodge offers peace of mind alongside its abundant beauty—making it especially attractive for families with young children or travellers who prefer to avoid preventative medication.

More Than a Stay—A Home in the Wild

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Dennis Nyathi

t 071 513 3069

e thehillssecurity@omegasol.com

SECURITY UPDATE

Dear Residents,

As we embrace the final weeks of winter, we're pleased to inform you that our security team recently participated in the reserve's controlled fire burn programme. This initiative was a success and is expected to benefit the local ecosystem during the upcoming rainy season. We encourage all residents to remain alert and report any signs of fire within or near the estate. Prompt reporting will allow for immediate response and help prevent damage or danger.

In light of ongoing concerns regarding roaming dogs and the challenges faced by both Security and the HOA in identifying pet owners, we will be launching a comprehensive pet audit, which will include both dogs and cats.

To assist us, we kindly request all residents to download and complete the Pet Application Form and email it to info@thehillsgamereserve.co.za.

DOWNLOAD HERE

Please include:

- Recent photographs of each pet
- A sterilisation certificate from your veterinarian

This process is essential in helping us maintain accountability and ensure the safety and well-being of all residents — people, pets, and wildlife alike.

We'd also like to remind residents of the relevant conduct rules related to pet ownership, as outlined in the Hills Handbook for Residents & Conduct Rules – Page 14:

- 8.1.28 Domestic animals are limited to 2 dogs and 2 cats per stand or unit, and all pets must wear collars with identification tags displaying the owner's name, phone number, and address.
- Dogs must be kept in enclosures to prevent them from roaming. Stray pets will be handed to the local SPCA.
- Pets must be leashed at all times in common areas and are strictly prohibited from swimming in the dams.
- Owners are responsible for ensuring their pets do not attack or harass pedestrians, cyclists, joggers, wildlife, or other pets, and that their pets do not cause disturbances at any time.
- Pit Bull Terriers are not allowed on the estate.
- If a pet is deemed a continuous nuisance, the HOA reserves the right to demand its removal and may impose penalties or facilitate its removal at the owner's expense.
- No outside aviaries are permitted.
- Residents in The Hills Extension 6 must obtain special consent from the HOA for any domestic animals they wish to keep.

Additionally, we have seen a noticeable increase in complaints about excessive barking, roaming dogs, and incidents involving aggressive behaviour. Please take this opportunity to ensure your pets are not in breach of the estate's rules, as safety remains a top priority.

Lastly, we continue to receive reports of minors driving vehicles within the estate. Please note that this is a legal offence. The SAPS will be contacted in cases where this occurs.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to keeping The Hills a safe and harmonious community for all.

Warm regards
From the Security Team





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Spruce Up for Spring

A Step-by-Step Guide for a Greener Season

Written By Leon

After a long, dry winter, your garden is more than ready for a fresh start. Spring offers the perfect opportunity to breathe life back into your lawn and flowerbeds, setting the stage for lush, healthy growth in the months ahead.

Here's a locally tailored, easy-to-follow lawn care plan to help you make the most of the season. And if you're looking for expert advice or the right products, Leon is just around the corner and happy to assist.

1. Start with Smart Weed Control

Weeds are easier to manage before they become established, making early spring the best time for action. Apply a suitable herbicide in late August or early September, and repeat in October to suppress any new growth.

Tip: Not all herbicides are lawn-friendly—some can damage or kill your grass. To avoid costly mistakes, contact Leon for the correct product that's both effective and safe.

2. Scalp the Lawn After Herbicide Application

Roughly three days after applying herbicide, it's time to scalp the lawn. This means mowing it very short to remove the buildup of thatch and dead material. Scalping clears the path for new shoots to thrive and allows sunlight and air to reach the soil more easily.

3. Aerate to Revive the Soil

Compacted soil hinders healthy root development. Aeration—using a hollow tine or spike aerator—helps loosen the soil, promoting the movement of air, water, and nutrients down to the roots. A well-aerated lawn is far more resilient and vibrant.

4. Don't Let Pests Get Ahead

Spring is also when pests like lawn caterpillars and beetle larvae begin their assault on your lawn. Addressing them early helps prevent visible damage and reduces stress on your recovering grass.

Local insight: Contact Leon for safe, targeted pest control products that suit our area's specific challenges.

5. Top Dress for an Even, Healthy Lawn

Top dressing helps correct uneven areas and enriches the soil. A thin 5–10mm layer is usually enough. If your lawn hasn't been top-dressed in several years or you're noticing dips and low spots, now is the time.

Pro tip: Some lawn dressings are full of weed

seeds and can ruin your grass. Don't take the risk—chat to me first so I can guide you to the best, weed-free soil options. Earthworm castings that boost growth and improve soil without the mess.

6. Feed Your Lawn

Post-winter, your lawn is hungry for nutrients. Begin with a balanced fertilizer such as 13:7:10 or 2:3:2, applied over the top dressing.

If irrigation is a challenge, opt for an organic fertiliser, which is gentler and releases nutrients more gradually.

For ongoing nourishment: Reapply every six weeks with a product tailored to your goals—whether that's lush greening (18:1:5) or root strengthening (3:1:5 or 5:1:5).

7. Water Wisely

Watering is crucial in the first 2–3 weeks following treatment, as it supports new root growth and overall recovery.

Best practice:

- Water early in the morning
- Repeat on particularly warm or dry days
- Keep the top 20mm of soil moist

Avoid: Watering late in the day or at night, which increases the risk of fungal diseases.

Spring is a time of renewal—not just for nature, but for your garden too. If you need expert advice, effective products, or hands-on help, don't hesitate to reach out.

For personalised guidance and premium lawn care solutions.

Contact Leon at 083 600 5133

Paws & relax



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LET'S BRUSH UP ON DENTAL CLEANING FOR PETS.

BY DR VICKY LOUW (BVSC)

This issue focuses on dogs and cats. In our next issue, we would like to cover dental issues and care for a few of our exotic furry companions.

Here's why dental cleaning is essential for our canine and feline friends:

- Dental Disease is Common – and Often Silent

Studies show that more than 80% of dogs and 70% of cats have some form of dental disease by the age of 3. Yet, many pet owners are unaware, because animals rarely show obvious signs of pain and are more likely just to learn to live with it. Pets will often continue to eat and behave normally, even when suffering from sore gums or infected teeth.

- Prevents Plaque and Tartar Buildup

When food and bacteria collect along the gumline, they form plaque. If not removed, plaque collects more debris and hardens into tartar, which leads to gingivitis (inflamed gums) and eventually periodontal disease. This causes damage to the tissue, bone, and teeth – and is the number one cause of tooth loss in pets.

- Protects Internal Organs

Bacteria from untreated dental infections can enter the bloodstream and spread to vital organs potentially leading to for example [heart disease](#) or [kidney disease](#).

AUGUST 2025



- Improves Comfort and Quality of Life

Dental pain can make eating uncomfortable and lower your pet's enjoyment of food and play. Regular cleanings help maintain healthy teeth, so your pet can chew normally, enjoy toys, and live a more comfortable life.

What Does a Dental Cleaning Involve?

A professional dental cleaning for pets is done under [general anaesthesia](#), allowing your veterinarian to:

- Thoroughly examine the teeth and gums
- Remove plaque and tartar above and below the gumline
- Extract any severely damaged teeth
- Polish the teeth
- Your vet will discuss any concerns found during the procedure and guide you on how to care for your pet's teeth at home.

Don't Wait Until It Hurts:

Dental disease doesn't just affect the mouth – it affects your pet's entire well-being. Regular dental cleanings are a key part of responsible, loving pet care. It's time for a vet visit if you notice signs like:

- Bad breath
- Yellow or brown buildup
- Red or bleeding gums
- Difficulty eating
- Drooling or pawing at the mouth



Tips:

- [Brush](#) regularly (daily is best) with pet-safe toothpaste (never human toothpaste)
- Feed a balanced diet — ask your vet if a dental-specific food is right.
- Use vet-approved dental treats or chews.

Clearing up the confusion about your pet's teeth and what they eat:

Myth 1: “Dry food cleans my pet's teeth.”

Fact: Most dry food does not clean teeth.

- While crunchy kibble may help remove a small amount of plaque, it's not effective enough to prevent dental disease — especially if it crumbles easily. Most standard dry foods break apart quickly and don't provide enough abrasion to clean the teeth properly. Some veterinary dental diets, however, are specially designed to scrub teeth as pets chew. These can help reduce tartar — but should be used as part of a full dental care plan, not a replacement.

Myth 2: “Bones and raw meat keep teeth clean.”

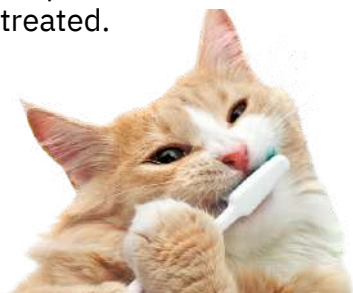
Fact: Bones can cause broken teeth and raw meat may contain harmful bacteria.

- While chewing can help reduce plaque, raw bones and meat carry risks: Bones can splinter and cause tooth fractures, intestinal blockages, or choking. Raw meat may carry [Salmonella](#), [E. coli](#), and [Cryptosporidium](#) which can be dangerous for pets and people.

Myth 3: “Pets don't get cavities, so their teeth don't need cleaning.”

Fact: Pets rarely get cavities, but they suffer from gum disease, which is more serious.

- Unlike humans, pets don't eat much sugar, so they don't get cavities often. However, periodontal disease (gum infection) is incredibly common in both cats and dogs and can lead to pain, tooth loss, and organ damage if left untreated.



Myth 4: “If my pet is eating normally, their teeth must be fine.”

Fact: Pets often hide pain — even severe dental pain.

- Dogs and cats are masters at masking discomfort. They may continue to eat even with infected or loose teeth, making it easy for owners to miss a problem.

Myth 5: “Dental chews are all I need to keep teeth clean.”

Fact: Dental chews help — but they're not a complete solution.

- Dental treats can reduce plaque, but they're not a substitute for professional cleanings. Think of them like flossing or using mouthwash — useful, but not a replacement for brushing or seeing the dentist.

Myth 6: “Cats don't need dental care like dogs do.”

Fact: Cats do get dental disease — and often suffer silently.

- Cats are prone to painful dental issues like resorptive lesions, where the tooth dissolves from the inside out. These are often only seen on X-rays. Cats can be even more subtle than dogs when in pain, so don't overlook their need for dental exams and cleanings.



Conclusion

Dental care isn't just about fresh breath — it's about protecting your pet's overall health and comfort. With dental disease affecting most pets by the age of 3, prevention and early treatment are key. Regular professional cleanings, daily home care, and separating fact from fiction can make a world of difference. Whether you have a playful pup or a quiet kitty, their teeth deserve your attention. Start building healthy dental habits today — your furry friend will thank you with every happy chew, purr, and tail wag.

A CLEAN-UP DAY TO REMEMBER

Community, Kindness & a Lot Less Trash!

What a day to remember! Our Clean-Up Day and Fun Market on 5 July was a resounding success, all thanks to our incredible community, generous sponsors, and dedicated management team.

Together, we removed a **shocking amount of garbage** from in and around the estate—proof that these efforts matter. But this day was about so much more than just picking up trash. It was about **showing up, teaching our kids the value of community involvement**, and creating a space where fun and purpose could live side by side.

Thanks to the **HOA and the funds raised from our stallholders**, we were able to offer:

- A free boerie roll for every clean-up volunteer.
- Friendly farm animals for the little ones to interact with.

- A face paint or balloon for every child attending the market.
- 25 milkshake vouchers sponsored by **The Grubhouse** for kids who got stuck in and helped clean.
-

Each and every stallholder didn't just bring their goods to sell—they helped make the day possible. Their support is what allowed us to fund these awesome extras and **we are truly grateful.**

A Shout-Out to Our Sponsors

To our incredible sponsors: Tasty Tenders, Karin Mitcham Tupperware, Mutoli Organic Honey, Aqua & Ice, Checkered Scoops, Remax Infoglobe, Era Properties, KW Realty, Marike Snyman Attorneys, Oriflame, Barkleys Groomers, Airabica Coffee, EM Beverages, Leon Plants, Unleashed Lifestyle, Garden Group, and K-Studio Estate Magazine, **thank you. You helped turn a clean-up day into a celebration.**



Behind the Scenes Heroes

Events like this don't just "happen"—they're made possible by people who go the extra mile. A massive thank you to **Funeka, Maryke, Clarice, Sydney, Karnell and Dennis** for your time, energy, and commitment. You made the magic happen.

And of course, a big thank you to Evert von Zwietering, who manned the braai and served up 150 boeries with a smile, and to our sub-committee members, who assisted wherever they could—we appreciate you!

kids ran around with painted faces and colourful balloons, and neighbours connected over a shared purpose.

And while we celebrated, the message was clear: **our estate is a treasure, and it's up to us to protect it.**

Let's keep the momentum going:



Keep sharing your photos on our Huddle WhatsApp groups.



Keep encouraging others to use the bins and not the ground.



And keep spreading the message with **#pickupyourtrash.**

The Heart of the Day

The weather was glorious, the food and drinks were delicious, and the vibe was unforgettable. Families picnicked on the grass,

Our new **bright bin signage** around the estate is a daily reminder to be mindful—because trash doesn't disappear, and neither does our responsibility.



Here's to many more days like this—where community spirit meets conservation and where our kids learn that taking care of our home can be both meaningful and fun.

Let's continue to **lead by example** and keep our beautiful eco estate clean, safe, and joyful for all who call it home.

If you would like to be a sponsor at our upcoming festive event, please get in touch with Tobia on 082 962 8255. We'd love to have you on board!





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Picnic in Style

Experience a Moment. Taste Life.



As the chill of winter fades and Pretoria bursts into bloom, there's no better time to head outdoors and soak up the sunshine. Spring invites us to slow down, reconnect with nature, and make the most of life's simple pleasures — and what better way to do that than with a perfectly styled picnic?

Dial-a-Picnic Pretoria brings you a fresh, elegant way to celebrate the season — from romantic sunset moments to festive family fun. With warm days ahead and summer on the horizon, now is the perfect time to plan your next unforgettable gathering.

Why Picnics Are the New Go-To

Whether it's a birthday, engagement, wellness day, or simply a reason to enjoy the sunshine, Dial-a-Picnic transforms your everyday outdoor experience into something magical. Think low tables, plush cushions, fresh florals, and gourmet nibbles — all set against the backdrop of Pretoria's scenic spots or the comfort of your own garden.

Curated Moments for Every Occasion

From intimate duos to vibrant group celebrations, Dial-a-Picnic Pretoria tailors each setup to your style, theme, and

budget. **Their range of picnic experiences includes:**

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- **Family Picnics:** Kid-friendly, themed setups for playful fun and bonding time.
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- **Special Occasions:** Birthdays, bridal showers, anniversaries — all effortlessly styled so you can focus on the moment.

More Than Just a Picnic

It's the little things that make the biggest impact. Dial-a-Picnic is known for its eye for detail, professionalism, and creative flair. Optional add-ons include grazing boxes, games, custom cakes, turndown evening setups, and bespoke décor themes — all carefully curated to elevate your experience.

Styled to Remember

Clients love how effortlessly their vision comes to life — whether it's a boho-inspired brunch, a romantic escape under the stars, or a full-scale celebration in a park. The team's passion for creating beauty in everyday spaces ensures that every picnic is one to remember.

Ready to Taste Life?

Let **Dial-a-Picnic Pretoria** help you Experience a Moment and Taste Life this spring and summer.

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BIG DECISIONS EXPERT GUIDANCE *in estate living*

A Guide for Buyers & Sellers



By Madeleine Marais
Millionaires Club Property Practitioner,
KW Realty

Buying or selling a home in a secure estate is more than just a transaction—it's a lifestyle shift. While the journey is filled with excitement, it can also feel overwhelming. From navigating estate rules and levies to understanding market trends and legal paperwork, there's a lot to consider.

That's why it's essential to be informed, realistic, and well-prepared. Here are some valuable insights to help both buyers and sellers make confident decisions in an

For Sellers

Presentation Is Key: First impressions matter, and as I always say, "Pretty Sells." A well-presented home can significantly impact how quickly it sells within the Estate. Declutter your spaces, ensure the garden is tidy, repair visible damage, and aim for a clean, neutral look that helps potential buyers imagine themselves in the space. Even small updates—like fresh paint or cleaned carpets—can make a big difference.

Price With Purpose: While it may be tempting to set a high asking price, overpricing often leads to a longer time on the market and fewer viewings. An overpriced home often ends up selling well below market value due to extended market exposure. A realistic, well-researched asking price is more likely to generate interest, receive offers, and lead to a successful sale without months of waiting and unnecessary price drops.

Prepare for Emotional Decisions: Selling a home is not just a financial transaction—it's also deeply emotional, especially if you've lived in the property for a long time. We have memories in our homes and know all the work we've put in, but the market, not our feelings, determines our home's value. Try to approach the process with a clear head and be open to feedback. Buyers may

not share your taste or memories, and being flexible can lead to quicker, more successful negotiations.

Be Transparent and Organized: Have all your documents ready, including the property title deed, approved building plans, and compliance certificates (such as electrical or gas). Transparency builds trust and prevents delays later in the process. The smoother the transaction, the more appealing your property becomes to buyers. ***For a property practitioner to legally market and sell a property, they must first obtain a signed mandate from the seller. This is a strict requirement outlined in the Property Practitioners Regulatory Authority (PPRA)'s Code of Conduct.*** An expert agent can guide you on all the necessary paperwork needed before listing and ensure you are compliant with all the necessary legislation and Estate rules for transfer.

Protect your Estate's Reputation: As homeowners, we should not spread false or negative information about your Estate, this can stigmatize the Estate and, in due course, make your investment less attractive. Maintaining a positive perception of the Estate benefits all residents and preserves property values.

For Buyers

Get Your Finances in Order Early Before you even begin searching for a property in an Estate, take the time to understand your financial position. Know exactly how much you can afford, considering not just monthly repayments, but also transfer costs, deposits, legal fees, and any specific Estate levies or costs. Getting pre-approved for a home loan not only helps you narrow your search within the Estate but also positions you as a serious buyer once you find the right property.

Prioritize Needs Over Wants: It's easy to get caught up in aesthetic features like quartz countertops or a swimming pool, but focus first on what truly matters: the Estate's location, your safety, the home's layout, and its long-term suitability. A home that ticks off your non-negotiables—such as proximity to work, schools, major highways, or specific Estate amenities—will serve you better in the long run than one that simply looks good.

Understand the Local Estate Market:

Take time to research the specific Estate you're interested in. What are the current property prices within the Estate? How long do homes typically stay on the market? Is the Estate showing signs of growth or stability? Understanding these dynamics will help you make a competitive and informed offer when the time comes.

Don't Skip Paperwork or Professional Checks:

It's tempting to rush into a purchase, especially in a competitive Estate market, but always review contracts carefully and conduct the necessary inspections. Structural issues, zoning problems, hidden maintenance costs, or unique Estate regulations can turn your dream home into a financial burden. A thorough inspection and legal review protect you in the long term.

Whether you're buying your first home or selling your fifth within an Estate, real estate is filled with big decisions. Taking the time to educate yourself, plan carefully, and ask the right questions can make all the difference. While every transaction is unique, the best outcomes often come from a calm, informed, and well-prepared approach.

Need advise? Let's talk

Madeleine Marais
082 925 6177



Registered with the PPRA

ESTATE photos



Anelda Slabbert



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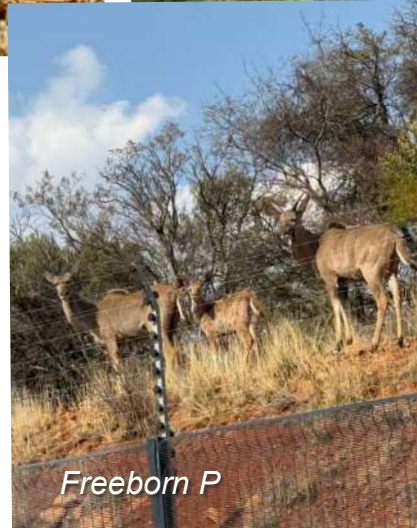
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Every day, beauty whispers to us—birdsong in the dawn, gentle creatures on velvet hooves, sunrise blushing, and sunset sighing. Let's share these moments together.



From the Gym Manager

Spring into Action Wellness with Purpose

As we shift from winter into longer, warmer days, it's the perfect time to reset your wellness goals and embrace healthy habits again. The season brings fresh energy—and here at The Hills Fitness Centre, we're excited to help you harness it with purpose and positivity.

July, also known as *The Month of Giving*, has been a powerful reminder of what our community can achieve when we come together—and we saw this in action during our recent **Charity Fun Walk & Run** held on 26 July.

We Walked, We Ran, We Gave Back!

Our **5km Fun Walk and 10km Run** was a **massive success!** Residents showed up in full force, whether walking with little ones or tackling the 10km with friends. Even more inspiring was the incredible generosity of our community—the donations exceeded all expectations.

Thanks to your support, we'll be helping many children gear up for the new school year with full uniforms, stationery, books, and food essentials. Your energy, your heart, and your steps truly made a difference.

Seasonal Wellness Tips to Keep You Moving

As we ride the momentum of this successful event, here are a few easy ways to stay active and motivated this season:

- 1 **Soak Up the Outdoors**
Make the most of mild mornings and golden afternoons with a brisk walk, jog, or outdoor stretching session.
- 2 **Hydration is Key**
With temperatures on the rise, keep your water bottle close and drink regularly—especially before and after workouts.
- 3 **Schedule Your Sweat Sessions**
Consistency matters. Add workouts to your calendar and treat them like important appointments.
- 4 **Try Something New**
Join a group class or explore a new routine to boost your motivation and avoid a fitness slump.
- 5 **Make it a Family Affair**
Get the kids moving with you—family walks, bike rides, or games in the garden all count!

As your Gym Manager, I'm proud of how we've blended fitness, fun, and community spirit. Thank you for showing up—not just for yourselves, but for those in need.

Let's keep the momentum going.

See you at the gym!

Stay Active,
Siyanda Manga
Gym Manager



CLASSIFIEDS

If you would like to advertise in the Echo's Classifieds section, please email Tobia at tobia@k-studio.co.za by the 15th of every month. The Classifieds section is exclusively available to The Hills residents, allowing you to advertise at no cost. Please include your stand number and contact details for references.

Classified advertisements are intended to connect residents with trusted services and are not typical sales promotion adverts. They serve as a platform to bring together community members who can benefit from each other's services.

As a resident, you are welcome to recommend good and reliable service providers for inclusion in the Classifieds. Please inform us if a service provider has changed their contact number or is no longer available, so we can update or remove them from the list accordingly.

Important Notice: The publishers and the HOA are not responsible for the quality of services provided by any suppliers listed. Satisfaction with service delivery is not guaranteed, and any concerns should be addressed directly with the service provider.

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- Pureglaze Window cleaning 082 775 2862 or 076 852 1229 or email tom@pureglaze.co.za

EDUCATION / LEARNING

- English and Science Tutor available in Pretoria East. Complete IEB NSC Bachelor's Degree Pass in 2020. Year-round achievements at Reddford House The Hills. Currently studying BSc Biological and Agricultural Sciences (2nd Year in 2022). Tutoring and Pick-up from school can be arranged. Tutoring at R120 per hour. Contact details 083 415 8235 / mokgadi.violinist@gmail.com for full CV.
- IKI KIDS sells STEAM educational products including Robotics and Coding Kits. 081 517 9589 or <http://www.ikikids.co.za/>
- Learn to Swim, contact Annette 072 128 2689 from Jolly Waters Swim School Situated in Grootfontein.
- Lida Cronje - I am a qualified teacher with 30 years of experience. I offer Afrikaans First Additional Language extra classes to learners from Gr.3 - 12 and would also like to be of service to learners in the Hills. Contact 082 558 3631

ELECTRICITY / SOLAR

- Basie (Electrician) 082 699 9107
- Ed's Electrical, Eddie (Electrician & Plumber) 082 576 6616

- Ikigai Engineering (Solar water heating, backup, and hybrid solar solutions) 081 517 9589
- JP Liebenberg - 082-390 9791 - Solar
- Marius (Electrician in the Estate, satisfaction guaranteed) 082 559 8859
- Olckers Projects (Albert) (Electrician & Maintenance) 071 496 0136
- Roby Mokone (Electrician) 082 314 7554
- Ruan (Electrician) 072 643 3228 / 082 616 6068
- Rudolf (Electrician) 083 218 4466
- Wian (Electrician) 084 555 5662

GARDENING/ LANDSCAPE

- R40 per 30kg bag of Manure. Delivery on Saturdays. Boost your garden, grass and veggies with our Manure. Contact 0794964525 to order.
- Top soil or compost delivered to your doorstep. 2m³ at only R1,680 delivery included. Bigger quantities are also available. Pieter 082 551 6670
- Enhance home deco with beautiful air purifying bamboo plants, easy to grow and maintain. Comes in a nursery pots or get it in a beautiful deco pot. In Nursery pot: large (R600), XXL(R950) or In Deco pot: large (R900), XXL R1400. Contact 0717233151
- Once Off Garden work & Landscaping 30 years experience. Owner on site Call / Whatsapp 082 7599 087

GAS SUPPLIERS

- Africa Multi Client Services (Karabo) 081 773 0317
- Chris Pagel 083 384 5345

- Fusion Gas (Craig Fourie) 082 770 2600
- Frank (Collects and supplies gas cylinders in the Estate) 082 557 1550
- Gas lady (Barbara) 082 305 2419
- Gerrie Marnewick 071 602 9349
- ID Gas 065 955 0115
- Kish 012 804 1003 / 072 548 0735
- Monile Gas Solutions 078 244 7667

HANDYMAN

- Calvin 076 894 4624
- Kastella Maintenance 067 415 2819
- Evert von Zwietring 081 582 4387

MEDICAL

- Dr. Kendrah da Silva, Chiropractor, is available for appointments at her Olympus practice and also offers a convenient home office in The Hills for residents. Contact her at 082 566 9831.
- GP practice with a Clinic in Tierpoort. Tierpoort Medical. Dr David Hyams Tel 060 324 2048

OTHER SERVICES

- Dawn Appliances (All repairs to appliances) 079 789 6746 / 078 812 5592 - Reference: Guido 082 323 8163
- Hennie Watkins (Aluminium Doors) 012 379 5989 / 082 857 5232
- Johannes (Hanging of paintings) 079 482 8676
- Johnathan (Aluminium Doors) 078 469 7506
- JP (Garage Doors) 074 122 2942
- Malesa (Painter) 073 559 9513

- Mike (Tiler) 063 413 6525 / 069 108 8422
- Patrick (Tiling) 078 858 1160
- Thys Oelofse (Painting) 083 321 2939
- Watertite Waterproofing (Johan) (Waterproofing Services) 083 254 1400
- Proofreading, editing, copyediting, document formatting, content creation, website designing (for small to medium-sized businesses) and social media account management services. Call Susan Nganjo in The Hills at 0828826866
- EXLNT School Transport and also available for hire. Operate within Pretoria East. Contact 066 227 7574 / 072 542 4399
- 082 954 7231
- MRL Plumbing 073 941 2480
- Ruan 072 643 3228 / 082 616 6068
- Rudolf (Plumber) 083 218 4466
- Source Leak Detection (Sydney) 076 229 6320

POOLS

- David Moraites (Pools) 072 299 9335
- Pacific Pools (Mike) (Pools & Pumps) 083 293 1349
- Weekly **pool cleaning** at a monthly cost of R600 - ALL chemicals included. Contact 083 278 8720.

PET CARE

- **Paws & Claws Pet sitting**, Providing Pet Sitting Services in the Estate. I come to your home and take care of your pets' needs. Contact Mienke on 081 553 9406
- **Housesit Bruh**: House sitting, Overnight Pet Sitting, Daily feeds and hanging out, Animal walking. 081 556 5465, email: housesitbruh@gmail.com
- The Country Pet Hotel in Pretoria East offers boutique pet boarding with 24-hour care; contact 082 056 0561 or 082 920 4990.

PLUMBERS:

- AA Plumbers (Greg) 076 923 2277
- Casper Coetzee 071 944 5689 / 078 695 4167
- Chris Skhossy 072 060 5653
- Eugene 078 110 0912
- Heino 073 294 8577
- Mishack Eugene (Plumber & Construction)

YUMMY CREATIONS & COOL TREATS

- I am selling raw honey at R80 a bottle or Honey and Rusks at R140 Contact Gladiola 0721915097 Free delivery for the hills residents and R80 courier anywhere else in Gauteng.
- Artisan Air-roasted coffee beans/ground by Airabica Roasters! Free delivery in The Hills. Priced from R110-R330. Contact Duncan 082 440 9174 or orders@airabica.co.za
- Divine Decadent Cakes - 2024 Indulge in our delicious baked goods, crafted to perfection! Our offerings include: Scones, Biscuits, Cupcakes, Cakes. To order, WhatsApp: 0786238029. Treat yourself to our delightful creations, perfect for any occasion!

Picnic GIVEAWAY

Styled, Spoiled, and Served – Right at Home!



We're giving one lucky family of 4 the chance to enjoy a beautifully styled Dial-a-Picnic experience – right in the comfort of your own home or garden!

What's included:

- A delicious selection of lunch snacks
- Soft drinks provided
- Full picnic setup (we do it all for you!)
- We'll return the next business day to collect everything – hassle-free!

Here's how to enter:

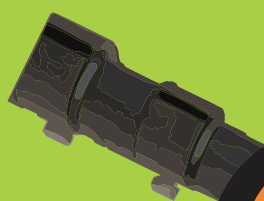
- Like & follow both Dial a Picnic Pretoria & K-studio's Facebook & Instagram pages.



- Send a WhatsApp to Tobia 082 962 8255 with the word **PICNIC** and your **stand number**

Closing Date: 15 September 2025
Ts & Cs apply. Prize cannot be exchanged for cash.

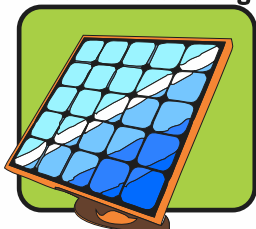
In proud collaboration between **Dial-a-Picnic Pretoria** and **K-Studio**, this is your chance to make magical spring memories, enter today!



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UPDATE FROM SUB-COMMITTEE WORKING WITH NATURE

Eco-Friendly Pest Control & Habitat Projects

The sub-committee is currently working on several exciting environmental projects. You may have already noticed the **four owl boxes** and **bat hotel** that have been installed in the reserve. These additions are part of our drive to introduce more natural and eco-friendly pest control methods to the estate.

To support this, we've also installed **educational info boards**, a great opportunity to share knowledge with the kids during your daily walk. This project is just one of many aimed at enhancing our beautiful natural surroundings while preserving ecological balance.

Given our estate's unique position next to natural grasslands and open savanna, we are ideally placed to support a wide range of native species. These animals play important ecological roles and offer real, practical benefits to both the environment and our community.

Barn Owls & Spotted Eagle-Owls: Silent, Natural Rodent Control

Barn Owls are highly effective rodent hunters. When prey is abundant, they can lay large clutches of up to 20 eggs, and each growing owlet consumes 2–3 rodents per night. Owl boxes provide safe nesting spaces, encouraging them to settle and breed within the estate.

Spotted Eagle-Owls, which are native to our area, are equally helpful. By offering them secure breeding spaces, we reduce the need for toxic rodenticides—supporting a more sustainable and natural approach to pest management that also keeps our pets, children, and local wildlife safe.

Global studies, like the 7-year owl box project in Malaysia, have shown incredible success with natural rodent control, including:

- A 62% reduction in rodent damage
- Complete elimination of poison use
- 75% owl box occupancy over time
- Full cost recovery within five years

Bats: Nature's Insect Patrol

Often misunderstood, **bats** are essential for controlling night-flying insects such as mosquitoes and moths. Just one bat can consume hundreds—sometimes thousands, of bugs in a single night!

In South Africa, 75 species of bats have been recorded, with many being natural insectivores. Installing **bat boxes** in the reserve gives these beneficial creatures a place to roost, helping us maintain insect levels naturally and effectively, no need for chemical sprays.

Encouraging bat populations also helps restore balance to our ecosystem and supports biodiversity in an unobtrusive, silent, and very effective way.

Why To Avoid Poisons - And What To Use Instead?

While poison might seem like an easy solution for controlling rodents, it poses serious risks to non-target animals like owls, pets, and even our children. That's why we're focusing on **humane, non-toxic alternatives**.

E2 Humane Rodent Trap

Exclusively distributed by **Eco Solutions**, this New Zealand-designed trap is safe for use both indoors and outdoors.



With over 300 traps currently installed nationwide and serviced monthly, this option is reliable, effective, and completely poison-free.

Rodent Flashers®

These clever devices use a variable strobe light to disturb rodents' vision, making attic or ceiling spaces uncomfortable for them. Over time, this drives them out—no chemicals, no harm, just smart deterrence.



Habitat Improvement for Game Birds & Waterbirds

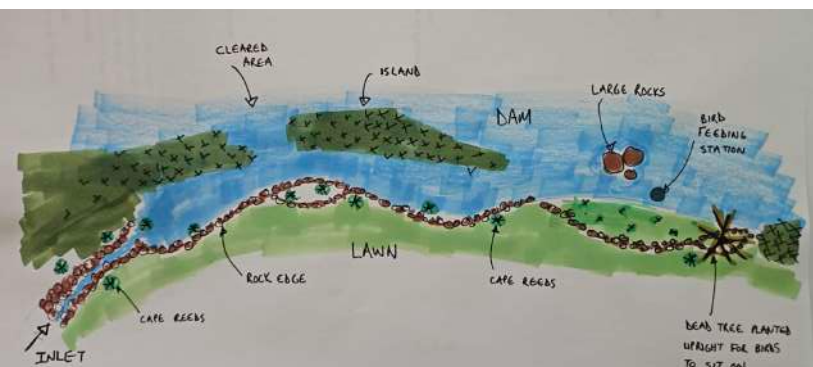
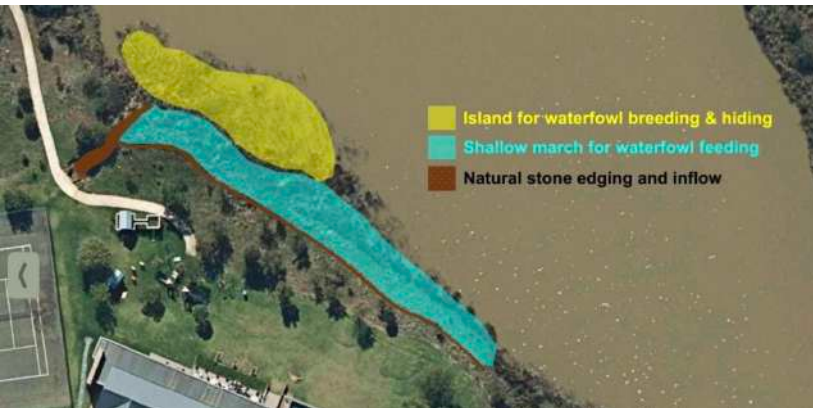
Another key project currently underway involves **enhancing the habitat around our dam** to better support game birds and waterbirds.

Some of you may have noticed reeds being cleared—this is part of a carefully considered

strategy to improve conditions for breeding, resting, and feeding. According to ecological research, the ideal habitat for waterbirds includes a combination of:

- **Deep water:** for protection from predators
- **Shallow areas:** for feeding and nesting
- **Open shorelines:** with short vegetation for visibility
- **Dense reeds:** in selected areas for breeding and shelter
- **Man-made islands** with gentle slopes and suitable plant cover

In time, we'll also consider installing **artificial nesting boxes** and **hive baskets** to further support breeding populations.



Supplementary feeding (such as scattering grain at dusk) and the introduction of aquatic plants like *Potamogeton* may also be used to naturally increase insect and plant food sources. All of these efforts will improve biodiversity and make the dam area a haven for birds and nature lovers alike.

What This Means for The Hills

These projects reflect our commitment to conservation, sustainability, and enhancing the natural beauty of our estate. By choosing

natural pest control, encouraging **habitat creation**, and avoiding harmful chemicals, we:

- Protect wildlife and pets
- Improve biodiversity
- Reduce our environmental footprint
- Create opportunities for education and family engagement
- Strengthen our identity as a leading eco-conscious estate

We will keep you posted on the progress of the dam habitat improvement project, as well as other exciting environmental initiatives currently underway.

Upcoming Projects in the Reserve:

- **Water Point for Walkers and Dogs:** A new water station is being planned in the game area for walkers and their dogs. One resident has kindly given permission to access water from their property.
- **Natural Animal Watering Holes:** Two natural-style drinking spots (like small dams) will be built in the game area for animals, replacing plastic troughs with more eco-friendly options.
- **Game Management (August):** In August, we'll be removing surplus animals from the reserve and introducing new Mountain Reedbuck to ensure a balanced population.
- **Power Line Clearance:** A major project involves clearing vegetation and cutting down trees under the power lines that run through the reserve.
- **Pine Tree Removal:** All pine trees in the reserve will be cut down as part of our ecological management plan.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us build a safer, greener, and more vibrant estate for all who call it home.

Toast to Tradition

South African Braaibroodjies



Nothing brings people together quite like a good braai—and no South African braai is truly complete without the beloved **braaibroodjie**! These classic toasted sandwiches are simple to make but bursting with flavour. Think crispy golden bread, gooey cheese, juicy tomatoes, zingy onion, and that unmistakable hint of chutney.

This recipe serves four but can easily be scaled up to feed unexpected guests (we've all had those!). So fire up the coals and get toasting—Heritage Day is the perfect excuse to enjoy this proudly local favourite.

What You'll Need:

- 8 slices of white or brown bread (thick white is best)
- Butter
- Mrs Ball's chutney (or apricot jam)
- Cheddar cheese (or Mozzarella/Emmental)
- 2 tomatoes (sliced)
- 1 onion (sliced)
- Salt & black pepper

Quick Assembly:

1. Butter one side of each bread slice (this goes on the outside).
2. Spread chutney on the inside of half the slices.
3. Add cheese, tomato, and onion.
4. Season with salt & pepper.
5. Top with the other slices, butter side up.
6. Grill in a hinged braai grid over medium coals, turning often until golden brown.

Top Tips:

- Dice tomato and onion with chutney for a saucier filling.
- Use full-fat cheese for the best melt.
- A hinged rooster makes flipping easy—open and close it now and then to stop sticking.

Gather your people, light the coals, and toast to tradition with every bite!

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IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY

Medical Assistance:

- **Primary Contact:** Immediately dial 082 911 for Netcare Pretoria East. This will connect you to emergency medical services for prompt assistance.
- **Secondary Contact:** After requesting medical help, it is crucial to contact the Gate Commander to facilitate access to your property.

Gate Access Coordination:

- Call the Gate Commander at the Garsfontein gate on 082 826 3761.
- **Information Sharing:** When you speak with the Gate Commander, be sure to provide your stand number. Security personnel will wait for the ambulance or police and escort them directly to your stand number. This step is essential to ensure that the emergency responders can locate your home quickly and avoid any delays at the gate.

Police Services:

- **Emergency Number:** Dial 10111 for immediate police assistance.
- **Local Police Stations:** Boschkop SAPS:
T: 012 802 4210 C: 071 675 7350 **Standby Officer:** 071 765 7341

By following these steps, you help ensure that emergency responders can reach you as swiftly as possible, minimizing any potential delays that could arise at the estate entrance.



Eco-conscious Estate Landscape Maintenance



From lush gardens to water-saving irrigation systems, we seamlessly integrate eco-conscious practices into every aspect of our work. Let us transform your Estate gardens into a sanctuary of natural beauty while preserving the planet for future generations.

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Rooted in Resilience

Embracing Winter at The Hills Game Reserve Estate

As the golden hues of autumn yield to the cool hush of winter, the garden group at The Hills Game Reserve Estate is pleased to share updates on our ongoing efforts to nurture this remarkable landscape. Even as the temperature dips and the pace of growth slows, our commitment to beauty, biodiversity, and sustainable care remains steadfast.

Winter Preparations and Essential Upkeep

The transition into winter presents unique opportunities for restorative work across the estate. Cooler temperatures and reduced rainfall have allowed us to shift focus from rapid growth management to structural and ecological care. Key winter tasks include thorough pruning of deciduous trees and shrubs, clearing stormwater drains of debris, and ensuring all irrigation systems are winterized and functioning optimally. Invasive species management continues as a core priority. **We remain vigilant against PomPom weed** (*Campuloclinium macrocephalum*) and other invasive flora, working within the guidelines of NEMBA to preserve the integrity of our indigenous ecosystems. This season, we've also turned attention to managing Kikuyu encroachment in sensitive areas, encouraging the resurgence of native grasses and wildflowers.

Supporting the Wildlife That Calls Us Home

Winter can be lean for the

estate's free-roaming wildlife, and our team is actively supporting their well-being. Regular feed distribution for game animals continues on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. We've also placed mineral licks at strategic points along the reserve, ensuring vital nutrients remain accessible during the cooler months. Fence line inspections and maintenance remain a constant focus to ensure both aesthetic appeal and wildlife safety. Our recent work along the perimeter, including clearing growth behind Reddford House, is part of this ongoing strategy to harmonize security with the natural rhythm of the reserve.

A Visit from the SALI President & Award Anticipation

In a notable highlight, The Hills was honoured by a visit from the President of the South African Landscaping Institute (SALI) on 15 April.. His visit left a strong impression, and we were pleased to receive positive feedback on the quality and care evident throughout our estate. This encouraging response has strengthened our optimism

as we look ahead to the SALI Awards announcement. The annual SALI Awards, which recognise excellence in landscaping and environmental management, will be unveiled in early June. We're excited to find out how our efforts will be acknowledged and remain proud of the standard we've maintained throughout the year.

A Season to Pause and Plan

While winter may appear to quiet the land, beneath the surface, preparation is underway. It is a season not of dormancy, but of potential—where careful tending now lays the groundwork for a vibrant resurgence in the months to come.

As always, we are grateful for the community's support and shared pride in this extraordinary estate. Together, we steward not just a place to live, but a living, evolving landscape that speaks to the beauty of balance between people and nature.

With Gratitude.
the garden group