



Golden Pond CHRONICLE

JANUARY 2021

FROM THE POND BENCH

Here we are in January 2021 and we find ourselves still locked in the COVID 19 Pandemic. On 11 January, Level Three Alert was still in place, but some adjustments were made to the regulations implemented in December 2020. These will be reviewed in February, but there is no doubt that the Second Wave has given cause for alarm in our country and on the World stage. The acquisition of vaccines and their distribution in South Africa will follow shortly but we have observed how difficult this is proving in almost every country. Hopefully these vaccines will be the start of bringing the virus to its knees!

JANUARY AT GOLDEN POND

Get to know OUR STAFF:

Our Office manager, ROCHELLE KLOKA returned after her Annual Leave on 11 January and we were delighted to see her at the desk again. She lives in Ashburton and has a son Caleb who is 8 years old.

Our Estate Manager GRAHAM ROBINSON and his work force have been busy. Working on some of those gruelling hot January days has not been easy. Graham lives not far from our Village. His team of four full time Assistants:

BONGI NDAWONDE: Maintenance: deals with most of the technical problems. He lives in Sweetwaters with his Mother and partner. He has 1 daughter.

MLU MBAMBO: Maintenance: Helps out with most of the construction side of our problems. He has a house in Sweetwaters and lives there with his wife and has 3 daughters and a son.

NELSON MSOMI: Gardens: Everyone knows him in their gardens and he sorts out all sorts of problems to make your garden look good. He is a homeowner in Sweetwaters and lives with his wife and daughter.

DERICK DLAMINI: Gardens: The new guy on the block with everyone loving his personality. He sorts out garden issues as well. A homeowner in Sweetwaters he lives with his partner, 2 sons and a daughter.



MARIA TURNBULL and the Catering Staff have carried on keeping the Dining Room and supply of meals on target. This is really valued. Maria has been at Golden Pond since March 2020. She lives in Hiltara Park . The Assistants are:



PORTIA MTHLANE , who has been at Golden Pond since 2013. She is a single Mom of a 12 year old girl, She lives in Sweetwaters and supports her 3 siblings who live with her .

PURITY KHOZA, another of our cooks , has been at Golden Pond since 2019 . She is also a single parent of 2 girls – a 6 year old and 3 month old baby. She lives in Sweetwaters with her parents and siblings.

NOMFUNDO NCGOBO is the newest to our staff. She joined Golden Pond in 2020. She trained at 1000 Hills Cook School. She is mom to 2 girls. She lives in Hilton Gardens is married .

SR. JANE MITCHELL is an integral part of the health and care of all Residents at Golden Pond and together with SR. ANNE COWELL and SR. JUDI JOUBERT, they co-ordinate and are responsible for our wellbeing! They work out of the Clinic in the Care Centre. They are naturally responsible for the full time care of our residents who live in the Care Centre. This nursing experience is a constant guide to our team of Carers, who not only work in the Centre but also nurse and care for some Residents in the Cottages . They work long and hard hours, report for duty - night and day, rain, hail or shine – and of course on week end shifts.

We have asked each one of them to tell us something about their families - and their homes and intend using these insights later on in the year. But for the purposes of an introduction to our 2021 year, here they are :

FLORENCE NOPHIWA. She is married, has 2 daughters (15 and 9 years old) and looks after her sister's children, (12 and 16 year old boy and girl). She lives in Edendale. She is the breadwinner. She has worked at Golden Pond for 17 years.

FRANCISCA SHABALALA . Is a single mother of 3 . Her eldest daughter is married. Her 2nd son is studying through UNISA to be a teacher and her last born son is still at school and lives at Home in Imbali with her. Her Aunt lives with them. She has worked as a Care Giver for many years in other Retirement Villages and has a passion for looking after and working with the elderly. She is the breadwinner.

GOODNESS KEFU, lives as a tenant in Pietermaritzburg, with her daughter who is unemployed and her grandson. Her Mother lives in Mount Ayliff, with her two grandchildren ,who are the offspring of Goodness' late sister and she is responsible for them as well.

ISABEL MABONGI SHEZI is a tenant in Sweetwaters. She would like to be a nurse. She enjoys her job at Golden Pond. Her daughter of 7 years old and 2 grandchildren (9 and 1 year old) live with her. She is responsible for her sister and her children. She sister has problems with her eyes.

LINDIWE CYNTHIA MNIKATHI is married. She has 2 sons of 27 and 10 years old. Her daughter passed away and her 5 year old daughter lives with them. Her youngest granddaughter of 1, who belongs to her son, is also in the household . Her husband is currently unemployed. Her niece who is number 7 in the family. She looks after the younger children . Their home is in Tumbleweed.

PURITY MCHUNU lives in Mpophomeni , with her 3 children, , two girls in their 20's and a son of 11 who is still at school. Purity has been a Carer for several years, and has been working at Golden Pond for 2 years. She assists with cleaning duties where needed in the Village and is very happy to work with us . She spends much of her spare time with the church.

THEMBEKA NTSHANGASI, lives in Tumbleweed near Howick West. She has a daughter who is 22 and a son aged 14. She is a Granny of two 3 year old boys and is an Auntie to her sister's daughter, who is 10.



These ladies work in shifts and over weekends and their hours are often hard to manage, especially for those who are reliant on the lack of a transport system serving Cedara Road, Hilton and its suburbs.

PLEASE CAN WE REMEMBER MILDRED MTHALANE who has just retired because of her fight with breast cancer. She has been with us for many years and is a very much loved carer, she lives with her Mother Clare and her daughter and grandchild . Her Mother worked for many years at Golden Pond and retired when Willem and Anne passed away . We would like to start a collection for Mildred and ask for your input and support please. It will be gratefully received

MORE JANUARY 2021.....SNIPPETS.

Sadly we are losing one of our Residents, Helen Puler, who has rented the flat above the kitchen for the last few years. She is going to live in a garden cottage in Merrivale Heights, but we look forward to her continued assistance with many of our residents with their chores, so it is not a goodbye. We will miss your help and support.

BIRTHDATES TO NOTE FOR FEBRUARY:

Irene Morris 6th ; Debbie Budke 7th ; Mark Baillie 17th; Pat Emmerton 21st ;
Brenda Franklin 24th



RECORDED RAINFALL in January at Golden Pond - 183.00 mms.

OUR BIRDS

THICK BILLED WEAVER – JANUARY BIRD OF THE MONTH

This could well be the Bird of the Year at Golden Pond for our Birders and those who walk daily at the Pond! Over the last month we have watched a Male THICK BILLED WEAVER building a nest in the reeds directly opposite the Bench ready for his mate.

These weavers do not occur in drier regions as they are dependent on Bulrush reeds for breeding. We have the perfect habitat at the Pond. Nest building starts when the reed stems are fully grown. The building material used are the leaves of these Typhus Bulrushes. The male constructs a bridge between two or more reed stems and then standing on the bridge he builds a compactly woven cap, Then he builds the back wall and finally a roof. We have counted 4 of half constructed nests which were apparently unacceptable and were destroyed by the female.

However, nest number 5 seems to have passed the test and the half built structure was completed over night on Friday 29 and on Saturday 30 the early risers were so excited to see that the nest had been completed. We believe that he closes the nest when she finally moves in. The female usually lays a clutch of 3 eggs in number and the incubation period is 14 days This whole procedure has been amazing and exciting to watch. The male Thick Billed Weaver has dark plumage except for a white forehead and white wing bars which are evident during the breeding season. The female is brown and non-descript.

Our Pond is one of the most valuable wetland areas in the Hilton Village River System and as such it is our responsibility to support conservation bodies so that it remains a water course in the Eco Environment which we have inherited.



Our nest at GP
(photo taken by Shelagh
Bowness)



Taken from "The Complete
Book of South Africa Birds"
Publisher: Struik



Taken from "The Complete
Book of South Africa Birds"
Publisher: Struik

Golden Pond Retirement Village, Hilton



Please contact Sister Jane on 033 343 3003 or email goldenpondhilton@gmail.com for details.
www.goldenpondvillage.co.za

There is a vacant room in our Care Centre at present. We offer:

- 24 hour care
- Single rooms and en-suite toilet
- Loving, “homey” atmosphere
- Gated secure complex
- Home-cooked meals
- 3 meals a day & teas
- All housekeeping and laundry included.
- Lovely gardens
- Post-operative care
- Close to shopping and medical services
- Community Centre with library, hairdressing, church services.



DID YOU KNOW...

It was during the 1960's and early 1970's that Hilton went through a rapid period of growth. Roads were improved and two car families became the norm. Consequently, with the population growth the existing library premises became too small. The Provincial Administration, having taken the library services over in 1975, decided to build a new library where in 1078, Maureen Alker and her many voluntary helpers; Joan Rea, Audrey Shepherd, Moira Hay, Mary Clarke, Shirley Forsyth and Maureen Needham assisted her.

As the library membership grew, Maureen Alker was joined by a permanent staff member, Jill Rosatto and then Rachel (Lucy) Wagner. It is to them that we owe a debt of gratitude for the cheerful and efficient library service that we have today.

This edition of the Golden Pond Chronicles was compiled by Shelagh Bowness – with thanks to the valued input of Management, particular thank to Maria and Rochelle for their expertise in designing the leaflet.