



Independent Verified Community News, Business, Events, Wellness, Gardens, and People

# Henley Herald

FREE

[www.henley-herald.co.za](http://www.henley-herald.co.za)

April/May 2025



## Riverstone Mall Opened 10 April 2025 *Artistic Render, courtesy of Alley Roads*

**By Nadia Wolmarans**  
By the time this edition of the Herald is on stands and you are reading it, the grand opening for Riverstone Mall will have taken place.

Following a few technical setbacks, according to a post shared by the Midvaal Mayor, Ald. Peter Texeira, "the mall's internal drainage and piping system may have been among the contributing factors to the flooding". The post was shared after a bout of videos from inside the mall went 'viral' on local platforms, showing flooding inside the building. On more recent updates, both from Riverstone Mall itself and the mayor, everything looks great and dry. Despite the heavy rains and the opening of a fifth sluice on the Vaal River, there

appears to be no more flooding.

Currently there is a 'list' of shops circulating online, one the Herald shared to our Facebook page from a reputable source, though a confirmation from the Mall itself has not been made. Here are the shops confirmed by news articles from Alley Roads, their Facebook page, and Google Maps.

- Refinery
- Studio 88
- JAM Clothing
- Mattress Outlet
- Multiserv
- Checkers FreshX
- Woolworths Food
- Dischem
- Clicks
- Truworths
- Mr Price

**The Pepkor Group – (fingers crossed for their brand new Ayana)**

- Ackermans
  - Adidas
  - Big Joe's Pies
  - Checkers Liquor
  - Checkers Outdoor
  - Crazy Store
  - Crazy Plastics
  - Capitec Bank
  - Car Service City
  - Cash Crusaders
  - First National Bank
- And then, of course, our very own Midvaal Community Radio will be opening their brand new studio. They have so many excitements lined up; be sure to pop over to their Facebook to stay up to date on all the excitement. Even though I am printing literally a few days ahead of the

big opening bash, you can find updates on the Herald Facebook page, which has now passed the 500 followers count. I will be at the opening, taking photos and videos. I will be missing Midvaal's own Ayrton, our own hyped artist doing his live show on Saturday, 12 April, but I am sure MCR will be updating you on what is happening there, including a talent show. In addition to MCR, 90.6 FM Radio will also be at the grand opening.

**Hope to see you attend as well.** I know from speaking with Henley folks that Woolworths Food was a particular wish for local convenience. I will probably share more about the Mall in upcoming issues, but for now, let's get ready to shop, eat, snoop, and shop.

**OFFICE**

WHY ARE YOU DRIVING TO WORK?

**COME AND WORK AT 'THE OFFICE'**  
FLEXIBLE, OFF THE GRID, SERVICED  
OFFICE AND MEETING SPACE  
JUST OFF HENLEY DRIVE

[www.theoffice.za.com](http://www.theoffice.za.com)

**store ease**  
self-storage made easy

**MAY MADNESS GIVEAWAY**

**LUCKY DIP PRIZES**

NEWLY LAUNCHED 6 X 2 UNITS  
THE UNIT YOU CHOOSE COULD HOLD AN AWESOME PRIZE

**BOOK YOUR UNIT NOW!!!**

CONTACT US NOW :  
016 013 8491 [WWW.STORE-EASE.CO.ZA](http://WWW.STORE-EASE.CO.ZA)

T&CS APPLY

## Councillor's Corner by Tony Dickinson

**The public meeting held early last month was well attended by residents, and I am of the opinion that it was a resounding success.** The reason being that people stuck to the topic of security, and the meeting therefore did not develop into a general gripe session. Furthermore, the mayoral committee left with an excellent idea of the concerns of the community, and the community left with an understanding of the limitations of the municipality. **There have been two joint raids by MLM officials since the meeting, resulting in the removal of some shacks and the closing down of a spaza shop.** Notices have been issued to others, and the law must take its course. Another public meeting will be held on Saturday, 5th April, in New Kentucky so that the plot residents get the opportunity to share their experiences.

**The MLM tractors have been busy in the ward for the past two weeks cutting pavements, parks and river reserves.** This will be the last cut before winter. Dependent on budget, the parks department will return to cut open overgrown private stands. **The Walkerville dump site has been given the green light subject to certain requirements being met. It is hoped that it will be open to Midvaal residents in June.** This will result in big savings for MLM, who are paying private dump sites to take our waste. The savings will be utilised to bring the Henley dump up to the requisite provincial standards. Unfortunately, the Henley dump will definitely not open anytime this year. **Midvaal is going to install solar lighting in all wards over time so as to limit cables being stolen from street lights.** The first lights in Henley will be put

up at the intersection of Iffley Road and The Avenue to cover the station area and secondly on the Oval to cover the highest amount of area. Each of these lights costs in excess of R500000, so we will have to wait for future budgets to cover other areas. **On Saturday morning (29th March) a group of people got together to support Henley @Heart by planting trees at Fraser Park followed by breakfast.** It was a lot of fun and a good way for newbies to the village to meet the locals. I had to leave early to attend a meeting of Eskom-affected residents in Midvaal. **Henley has had its fair share of power outages this rainy season, mainly due to ageing infrastructure and fallen trees,** but spare a thought for some of the plot areas, such as Walkerville, De Deur, Homelands and Mooilande, who have been without electricity for up to three months, mainly due to

stolen cables and transformers. The GM of Eskom Gauteng was contacted by the mayor from the meeting, and the call was placed on audio so that he could hear how upset these residents are. The result of this is that a WhatsApp group of the attendees was formed where they are forwarding all reference numbers for complaints that were not dealt with in the required three days. The GM and his second in command will monitor and handle these. It must be noted that the Eskom technicians on the ground were lauded for the amount of time and effort they put in to trying to solve the problems with no support from their superiors. **All property owners should have received notification of the new municipal valuation of their property.** Your rates account is calculated as a percentage of this valuation. If you feel that it is too high, you have until the end of April to object.

## HENLEY@HEART

**What a beautiful morning spent with the community planting more trees and adding to the Circle of life.** Thank you so much to all who showed up

and got their hands dirty, building a beautiful Legacy to be left behind for the future generations. **If you want to know more and get involved please send Irma a WhatsApp and she will add you to the Henley Heart community WhatsApp group** where she always shares the info

as to when these community events take place. 082 413 6184 *(Image below, group photo, courtesy of Ruth Du Toit Photography)*

**"Kerry Palmer seen here erecting this year's Easter construction,** corner of Nuneham and Cleeve. She has lots of competition this year (not

that it's a competition!) Check out Easter chicks all around the village such as Jakobus Fourie's, corner Winchester and Hearn, and many more creative works of art. Best take a drive around our lovely village to streets you don't usually visit and realise again that we live in a special place." *(Image courtesy, Sal*



### HENLEY HERALD

Editor: Nadia Wolmarans  
Henley on Klip, 1961  
www.henley-herald.co.za  
editor@henley-herald.co.za  
cell/whatsapp: 079 502 5111

#### DISCLAIMER

The Henley Herald disclaims all liability for the articles and advertisements published.

Views and opinions expressed are those of the authors alone

#### CONTRIBUTIONS

Editorial submissions are welcome, but contributions are subject to editing. Anonymous articles will not be considered.

Contributions (500 words max, plain text) can be e-mailed to editor@henley-herald.co.za  
Pictures, JPG only, 300 dpi

#### ADVERTISING

Sizes and cost on request or see www.henley-herald.co.za. Payment in advance on or before publication deadline

#### DEADLINE

Last day of the month prior to publication

Editing, design and layout:

Nadia Wolmarans

Printing: PCN Printers,

tel: 016 366 9901

Midvaal - 24hr Call Centre - 087 106 2471  
complaints@midvaal.gov.za  
Download and report on the MyMidvaal App  
**Emergency Services -**  
016 360 7500 - 016 360 5911  
**SAPS Meyerton**  
Switchboard – 016 360 4700  
Charge Office – 016 362 1737 /  
016 362 0903 / 016 360 4724 /  
016 360 4745  
**Randvaal Clinic -** 84 Rooibok Street - 016 360 5836  
**Meyerton Clinic –** Mitchell Street – 016 360 5880  
**Eskom -** 086 003 7566

**HENLEY ON KLIP**  
  
**Community Police Forum**

**EMERGENCY NUMBER**  
**081 813 3912**

**hokcpf@gmail.com**  
**www.hcpf.co.za**

**Partners In Policing**

# PUBLIC NOTICE

28 March 2025



General enquiries - **087 106 8471**  
 Emergency line - **016 360 7500**  
 Complaints@midvaal.gov.za

## PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: 2025/2026 DRAFT Integrated Plan (IDP) BUDGET & TARIFFS

Dear Midvaal Residents

Notice is hereby given in terms of Chapter 4 of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act, Act 32 of 2000 read with Section 22 of the Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003, that the Midvaal Local Municipality has tabled the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Budget, and Tariffs for the year 2025/2026 on 27 March 2025.

Any person who wishes to view the tabled IDP, and amended tariffs, may use the QR codes below:

### 2025/2026 DRAFT BUDGET BREAKDOWN OF OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET

OPERATING REVENUE BUDGET PER SOURCE	R	%
Property Rates	423 566 389	20%
Electricity	705 878 637	33%
Waste Management	70 940 785	3%
WasteWater Management	74 628 015	4%
Water	322 105 650	15%
Operational Transfers Monetary	221 548 046	10%
Capital Transfers Monetary	101 377 000	5%
Fines, Penalties & Forfeits	88 471 335	4%
Interest	99 762 676	5%
Operational Revenue	16 008 317	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 124 286 850</b>	<b>100%</b>

OPERATING EXPENDITURE BY CATEGORY	R	%
Salaries and Allowances	476 508 060	22%
Councillor Allowances	15 431 083	1%
Contracted Services	223 735 077	11%
Operational Cost	138 002 005	7%
Inventory	36 561 148	2%
Bulk Purchases	852 854 308	40%
Debt Impairment	216 320 672	10%
Depreciation	126 860 756	6%
Interest, transfers & subsidies	28 379 976	1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2 114 653 085</b>	<b>100%</b>

CAPITAL BUDGET BY FUNDING SOURCE	R	%
Capital Annuity Loans	42 500 000	20%
Capital Leases	27 740 000	13%
Capital Operational Revenue	45 930 000	22%
Capital Monetary INEP	30 483 983	15%
Capital Monetary MIG	26 354 979	13%
Capital Monetary WSIG	21 886 000	11%
Capital Monetary NDPG	865 801	0%
Capital Monetary Developers Contributions	4 000 000	2%
Capital Monetary DAC	4 842 000	2%
Energy Efficiency Grant	3 463 203	2%
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>	<b>208 065 966</b>	<b>100%</b>

RATES AND SERVICE	PROPOSED INCREASE / DECREASE
Refuse	7.00%
Sanitation	6.00%
Water	9.50%
Electricity	12.70%
Property Rates	(12.00%)



Scan here to view the Draft budget & Tariffs



Scan here to view the Draft IDP

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

#### PENSIONERS REBATE

Residential property owners who are over 60 years of age, who are both permanent occupiers and the owners of the property. The aggregate household income should not exceed the maximum of 4 times old age SASSA grant per month (approximately R9 260 will receive a rebate of 100% of their property rates for the first R1 300 000 of their property value).

Residential property owners who are over 60 years of age, who are both permanent occupiers and the owners of the property. The aggregate household income does not exceed the maximum of 5 times old age SASSA grant per month (approximately R11 575) will receive a rebate of 50% of their property rates for the first R1 300 000 of their property value (i.e., maximum of R1 000 000 after the first R300 000 residential reduction has been applied).

Property owners with more than one property will not qualify for the rebate.

#### INDIGENT SUBSIDY

- Any household earning less than three times maximum of old age SASSA grant (approximately R7 000) qualifies to be registered as an indigent.
- Must be the registered owner and reside there permanently.
- May not own more than one property.

- Once indigent application is approved, the applicant will receive 6kL free water as well as 50kWH free electricity on prepaid meters.
- Free sanitation and refuse removal is applicable to registered indigents.
- Approved indigents with a property value not exceeding R1,5m will be exempted from property rates.
- Approved indigents with a property value exceeding R1,5m will only be exempted from property rates for a period not exceeding 12 months, only one application will be allowed.

#### POOR HOUSEHOLDS

The aggregate household income does not exceed the maximum of 4 times old age SASSA grant per month (approximately R9 260) will receive a rebate of 50% of their property rates with a property value not exceeding R1,5m. Customers with a property value exceeding R1,5m whose aggregate household income does not exceed the maximum of 5 times old age pension per month (approximately R11 575) will receive a rebate of 25% of their property rates.

Once poor household application is approved, the outstanding balance including handovers as at date of approval will be written off only once off. May not own more than one property.

Comments and input can be submitted to budget@midvaal.gov.za, or My Midvaal App under survey tab. Physical submissions can be submitted to the office of the speaker, no later than 06 May 2025 at midday.

Yours in service excellence.

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Mr. P Magodi  
 Municipal Manager

MN3898/25



Executive Mayor  
 Ald. Peter Teixeira



MY MIDVAAL APP

Available on Google Play and the App Store





# JAAP VAN REENEN

apteek / pharmacy

## Free Deliveries!

"That little bit extra,  
makes all the  
difference"

Call: 016 362 0050 / 016 362 0051  
Lochstraat 30 Meyerton  
Posbus/PO Box 304 Meyerton 1960  
Epos/Email: [jaapvanreenen@ringpharm.co.za](mailto:jaapvanreenen@ringpharm.co.za)

Monday to Friday  
08:30 – 18:00

Saturday  
08:30 – 13:00

Sunday  
09:00 - 13:00

Public Holidays  
Closed



Scan this code using your whatsapp camera to get my number



## OUR SERVICES

### Removal of:

- Garden refuse
- Rubble

### General Refuse:

- Site clean ups

### Delivery of:

- Tiles, Cement & Bricks
- Top Soil / Compost
- Sand & Stone



082 769 2425



[Kevin@oryxskiphire.co.za](mailto:Kevin@oryxskiphire.co.za)

# Smart Real Estate Decisions: Tips for Buyers and Sellers

**Buying or selling a home is one of the biggest financial decisions you'll ever make.**

Whether you're searching for your dream home or trying to get the best price for your property, making informed choices is key.

**Here are some essential tips to help both buyers and sellers** navigate the real estate market with confidence.

## Tips for Sellers

### 1. Choose a Reputable Real Estate Agent

Before working with any real estate company, check their Google reviews and Facebook page. A strong online presence with positive client feedback is a good sign. Look for reviews about communication, professionalism, and successful transactions.

### 2. Price Your Property Right

Overpricing can scare off buyers, while underpricing may lead to financial loss. Work with an

experienced agent to determine a fair market value based on recent sales in your area.

### 3. Prepare Your Home for Sale

First impressions matter. Ensure your home is clean, decluttered, and well-maintained. Small upgrades, like a fresh coat of paint or fixing minor repairs, can increase your home's appeal.

### 4. Be Flexible with Viewings

The more people see your home, the faster it will sell. Be open to evening or weekend viewings to accommodate potential buyers.

### 5. Understand the Costs

Selling a property involves costs like agent commissions, compliance certificates, and potential repairs. Your agent should provide a breakdown of these expenses upfront.

## Tips for Buyers

### 1. Research the Market Before starting your search, get an idea of property prices

**in the area you're interested in. This helps you identify a good deal when you see one.**

### 2. Work with a Trustworthy Agent

A good agent will not only show you available homes but also help you negotiate the best price and guide you through the buying process. Just like sellers, buyers should check an agent's online reviews before committing.

### 3. Get Pre-Approved for a Home Loan

Knowing how much you can afford will save you time and prevent disappointment. Speak to a bank or bond originator to get pre-approved before house hunting.

### 4. Inspect the Property Thoroughly

Look beyond appearances—check for structural issues, dampness, and roof leaks. If unsure, consider getting a professional inspection.

### 5. Ask About Additional Costs

Remember that buying a home includes more than just the purchase price. Budget for

transfer duties, legal fees, and potential renovations.

## Final Thought

Whether buying or selling, having the right knowledge and guidance makes the process smoother and more rewarding. If you need expert assistance, All About Homes is here to help you make smart property decisions.

**For professional real estate advice, feel free to contact me: Office Address: 11 Suikerbos Street, Golf Park, Meyerton 072 326 5589**

**Jacolien@aahomes.co.za Facebook: Jacolien De Bruyn Vaal Realtor**

Let's find your perfect home or the right buyer for your property!



# Cybersecurity incidents on the rise in SA

by Geekster IT Solutions  
Cybersecurity incidents have been on the rise in South Africa recently, affecting various sectors.

Here are some notable cases and

tips to protect yourself:

## Recent Incidents:

**1. Astral Foods Cyber Attack:** South Africa's largest chicken producer suffered a ransomware

attack, disrupting operations and causing financial losses.

**2. Pam Golding Data Breach:** A real estate agency experienced unauthorized access to its CRM system, exposing sensitive client information.

### 3. Banking App Fraud:

Scammers have been targeting banking apps through phishing, vishing, and malware attacks.

**4. Parliament Hacked:** Social media accounts of South Africa's Parliament were compromised, used to promote fraudulent cryptocurrency schemes.

## Tips to Stay Safe:

### - Be Cautious with Emails:

Avoid clicking on links or downloading attachments from unknown sources.

**- Use Strong Passwords:** Create unique passwords for each account and consider using a password manager.

**- Enable Two-Factor Authentication (2FA):** Add an extra layer of security to your accounts.

**- Update Software Regularly:** Ensure your devices and apps have the latest security updates.

**- Avoid Public Wi-Fi for**

**Sensitive Transactions\*\*:** Use a secure network or a VPN.

**- Verify Requests:** Be skeptical of unsolicited requests for personal or financial information, even if they appear to come from trusted sources.

## Adopting these practices creates a multi-layered defense

that is best suited to counter the diverse and evolving threats we see in places like South Africa. Cybersecurity is a continuous process—you must remain vigilant and adaptive as new threats emerge.

**We are registered ESET Resellers, and we recommend ESET ALL-IN-ONE PROTECTION**

The optimum combination of ESET capabilities, including managed detection and response, please explore products and options available and **contact us for a quotation**

**info@geeksters.co.za / WhatsApp 066-105-5699 or for more information.** We also sell computers and accessories and everything AI, contact us to find out more.

# Innovator Builds Groundbreaking App for South Africa's Events Industry



## EventBookr



ever for event planners to coordinate everything from weddings to corporate functions, all in one place.

**Henley on Klip, Gauteng** — A local software developer is making waves across the country with a bold new platform set to transform how South Africans plan events and discover service providers. Meet Ryno van Eeden, the mind behind EventBookr — a web and mobile app designed to revolutionise the events and entertainment industry from right here in the heart of the Vaal.

Over the past two years, Ryno has poured his energy into building EventBookr — a centralised platform where function venues, event vendors, service providers, and entertainers can list their services, making it easier than

“The vision is simple,” says Ryno. “Why should planning an event take dozens of calls, emails, and tabs open on your browser? With EventBookr, you input your event idea, and the app does the heavy lifting — recommending venues, caterers, decorators, DJs, and more, based on your needs and location.”

The platform, now live at [www.eventbookr.com](http://www.eventbookr.com), is already gaining traction nationwide — despite launching its beta version quietly without a full-scale marketing campaign. Built using advanced technology stacks similar to those powering

global giants like Facebook and Airbnb, EventBookr aspires to become “the Airbnb of the events industry.”

Once a user selects potential vendors, EventBookr sends out automated notifications to those providers. From there, event planners receive a structured plan to finalise, book, and manage their event — all from their device.

The web version is live, and a mobile app launch is planned for 1 June 2025. With this, Ryno hopes to begin onboarding thousands of venues and service providers from across South Africa into what he calls the “heartbeat” of the platform — the vendor database.

“We’re building the largest dedicated database of event professionals in the country,” Ryno explains. “It’s going to change how people plan everything from birthday parties to major concerts.”

To support its growth, EventBookr offers an accessible R49/month subscription for service providers, covering server, development, and marketing costs. Early adopters are locked into this rate for life,

as a thank-you for joining the journey early on.

**But Ryno’s vision doesn’t stop at South Africa.** Talks are already underway with an investor from New Zealand, with future rollouts planned for New Zealand, Nigeria, Botswana, and the United States.

“The dream is big — but it’s being built right here, from Henley on Klip,” he says proudly. “This is proof that global ideas can come from small towns.”

EventBookr is currently inviting venues, entertainers, and service providers to join the platform during its early stages. Those interested can sign up at [www.eventbookr.com](http://www.eventbookr.com), or connect with the community via:

**Facebook Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/eventbookr>  
**Facebook Group:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/eventbookr>  
 Got an idea, suggestion, or want to get involved? Reach out to Ryno directly at [support@eventbookr.com](mailto:support@eventbookr.com). And don’t forget to download the app on your smartphone starting 1 June 2025.

*Photo courtesy EventBookr.*

# AUTO MAN SERVICES REPAIR

**Get Back on the Road Quickly!**  
**Minor and Major Services**  
**Brakes**  
**Batteries**  
**All makes of vehicles**

**CALL ANDRÉ TO MAKE YOUR BOOKING**  
 071 291 4254  
 42 CLEEVE RD, HENLEY ON KLIP.

Can Help You

PPRA REG NO: F147193

WHEN YOU NEED A HOME I WILL KEEP IT

WHEN YOU WANT TO SELL I'M YOUR

## real estate agent

IS MY BUSINESS

Need To Buy Or Sell?

Use A Real Estate Agency That Works For You.

Need A Renter?

Trust A Real Estate Agency That Can Manage Your Property For You

Yvette Smith

083 686 4909

PPRA REG NO: 1260502



# New Dance Studio

My First Steps Modern AIDT ages 2-6  
 Baby Ballet RAD age 3  
 Modern AIDT syllabus work,  
 Jazz-ed syllabus,  
 Contemporary,  
 Lyrical,  
 Horton technique,  
 Ballet RAD

☎ 082 521 1380 - Madison Kristen  
 ✉ madisonkri1234@gmail.com  
 📍 308 Bosbok Rd, Henley On Klip, Meyerton

**NEW!** Heel classes - 18 and over



## Welcome to Soul Ties Dance Academy – Your New Home for Dance!

At Soul Ties Dance Academy, we believe that dance is more than just movement—it's a way to express yourself, grow in confidence and connect with others. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced dancer, we offer a variety of classes designed to inspire, challenge and help you reach your full potential.

Our founder and instructor, Madison Kristen, is passionate about sharing her love of dance

and is thrilled to be your teacher on this journey. With years of experience and a deep dedication to her students, she creates a supportive and uplifting environment where dancers of all levels can thrive.

**We offer a diverse range of classes, including:**  
**Ballet** – Learn grace, technique and strength.  
**Modern & Contemporary** – Express yourself through fluid and dynamic movement.

**Jazz** – Bring energy, style and fun to your dance routine.  
**Heel Classes (18+)** – Build confidence and empowerment through dance.  
**Private Lessons** – Get personalised instruction tailored to your goals.  
**Wedding Dance Choreography** – Make your first dance unforgettable.

**For busy working moms, we also provide Saturday classes to fit your schedule.** Plus, at the

end of the year, all dancers will have the opportunity to showcase their hard work and talent in an exciting year-end performance!  
 We can't wait to dance with you!

**For more information or to sign up, contact Madison Kristen at 082 521 1380**

Join us as we move, grow and celebrate the art of dance together!



## PiShop Soaring High in 2025!

At PiShop, we are passionate about bringing the power of Raspberry Pi and open-source technology to enthusiasts, educators, and professionals. Whether you're a hobbyist, a student, or a seasoned engineer, PiShop offers a wide range of Raspberry Pi boards, accessories, kits, and learning resources to fuel creativity and innovation.

We met up with Brian Bothelezi to celebrate Pi Day on the 14th March at Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls situated in the idyllic little town Henley on Klip. Pi Day is an annual celebration of the mathematical constant  $\pi$ . Since 3, 1, and 4 are the first three significant figures

of  $\pi$  it provided us the perfect opportunity to showcase our latest products, engage with the students, and demonstrate the potential of Raspberry Pi & micro:bit in various applications. We showcased amazing products and sent our best salesmen, Christopher Viviers and Mthetheleli Maduma to interact with the students and the tutors.

**What we did on the day:**  
**1. Live Demonstrations**  
 We set up interactive displays that highlight the capabilities of Raspberry Pi. From smart home automation setups to AI and IoT projects, our demos illustrate how Raspberry Pi can be used in real-world applications.

**2. Exclusive Product**

**Showcases**  
 We bring the latest and most innovative Raspberry Pi products to expos, giving attendees a first-hand look at new kits, HATs, and accessories designed for makers, educators, and developers.

**3. Expert Advice & Support**  
 Our team of Raspberry Pi experts is available to answer questions, provide troubleshooting assistance, and offer guidance on how to start or improve projects.  
 We love sharing our passion for technology and inspiring the next generation of makers and

innovators.  
**Join PiShop at Hobby X 2025!**  
 We're bringing the best of Raspberry Pi & micro:bit to the venue at Kyalami Grand Prix Circuit from May 1st to May 4th. Stop by our booth for live demos, hands-on demo's on projects, and exclusive deals—see you there!  
**Stay connected with us for updates on our upcoming events, product releases, and educational resources by subscribing to our newsletter at [www.pishop.co.za](http://www.pishop.co.za). Happy making!**

**healthXfitness GYM**  
 016 362 1335 | 30 Mitchell Street  
 After Hours Contact  
 084 564 2081  
[gymmidvaal@gmail.com](mailto:gymmidvaal@gmail.com)  
 Be fit Enjoy life

# Naturally Debbie

## Why We Crave Barefoot Connection

By Debbie Firbank

Reading the wise words of Nick Polizzi I was inspired to research something close to my heart.

Why do so many people equate relaxation and pleasure with walking barefoot along the beach as the waves roll in? Why is my first instinct to kick off my shoes the moment I spot a patch of green grass?

**Is this quirky behavior hardwired into our biology, or is there something deeper at play?**

Historically, it turns out we're following in ancient footsteps—literally. Long before sneakers and hiking boots, our ancestors navigated rocky terrain, muddy

paths, and forest floors barefoot. Their feet were strong, responsive, and connected to the earth. Even in more recent indigenous cultures, going shoeless through nature was often preferred over footwear.

**This common thread of “barefootedness” across time and culture raises an intriguing question: why did so many choose to walk unshod, even when simple footwear existed?**

Modern science may be catching up to ancient wisdom. Walking barefoot, sometimes called grounding or earthing, is now being studied for its remarkable health benefits. It turns out that the simple act of touching your

bare feet to the earth can:

- Reduce inflammation
- Boost antioxidants
- Improve sleep
- Promote healthy blood flow

One of the more compelling findings appeared in the *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine* (2013), showing that walking barefoot lowers blood viscosity—essentially making the blood flow more freely. Since thick, sticky blood is a risk factor for cardiovascular disease, this has significant implications for heart health.

Another study suggested that grounding may help regulate both the endocrine and nervous systems, bringing the body into greater balance. In today's world, filled with electromagnetic pollution from phones, Wi-Fi, and screens, the earth's surface may serve as a natural reset. Rich

in electrons, the ground can neutralize free radicals and offset some of the “dirty electricity” we absorb.

**It's no wonder barefoot walking can boost energy, calm the mind, and elevate mood. It literally brings us back to earth.**

**A Sacred Science Barefoot Challenge:**

**Next time you find yourself near a welcoming patch of grass, sand, or dirt:**

1. Remove your shoes and socks.
2. Step onto the earth.
3. Pause. Breathe. Feel your body recalibrate.

That's it. Try it a few times a week—for your heart, your mind, and your soul. So go ahead—step off the beaten path, and back onto the bare earth.



## Trattoria Ponte Vecchio Now Open

The pre-opening for 1904 Trattoria Ponte Vecchio was held on April 14th, and I want to extend a big thank you to Debbie Firbank for inviting me.

The inside of the restaurant now features a brand new mural, Breathe Natural Health shop is ‘next door’, and now features a deli.

There are cold meats and incredible-looking cheeses, just to name a few: gorgonzola, ricotta, provolone, and pecorino. There is a shelf full of preserves and a special spot of Italian bakes on top (these specifically

were calling to me). I asked Walter Mech if you say break a leg or good luck for a restaurant on our way out, and he said in Italian it is said "in bocca al lupo", meaning into the wolf's mouth, an equivalent to "break a leg". For this article I went searching for the phrase to make sure it is spelt correctly, and I found the traditional response to this is “il crepi il lupo”, meaning may the wolf die.

**Before writing this, we ordered a few pizzas to go:** vegetarian, margherita and Mexicana. Highly recommend the

Vegetarian for the combination of artichoke and olives, the Margherita because there is never a bad time for a Margherita, and the Mexicana for the garlic lovers.

**The Deli introduced a lunch menu, featuring four panino flavours: Verona, Milano Vegetarian, and Firenze.** All the best wishes and good

luck to the new team at 1904, Trattoria Ponte Vecchio. Breathe is continuing its much-loved Fresh Fridays, with Debbie Firbank supporting and bringing attention to local farmers and vegetable growers. Hurry on this one; most Fridays **Enjoy authentic Italian Restaurant at Corner of Ewelme and Iffley.**

**LAWNMOWERS & GENERATORS**

- MAINTENANCE
- REPAIRS

"A LITTLE REPAIR GOES A LONG WAY IN MAINTENANCE."

CONTACT

PETER WATSON  
078 484 0688

SUZANNE VAN NIEKERK

B.A. (Log) Pret.

Registered Audiologist and Speech Therapist

HEARING TESTS  
HEARING AIDS SUPPLIED  
SPEECH THERAPY

For Professional Service at all Times

016 366 0615 or 083 324 1336





## Heavenly Herbs and Honey: Part Four

By Kate Touche

**This month our article will deal with the more serious aspects of beekeeping, the risks and the dangers, how to avoid being stung and what to do if that happens to you.**

**As mentioned before in a previous article, there are certain things that bees dislike intensely.**

**Bees really hate loud noises and vibrations near the hive, especially in the heat of the day.** Do not mow the lawn next to a beehive when the temperatures are soaring. The bees will do anything to protect their queen and will sacrifice themselves by the hundreds to get rid of the threat. Unfortunately, if someone is stung by so many bees, it can lead to hospitalisation or even death. Please take the following precautions if this does happen to you.

**Bees do warn you;** if they feel threatened, they will show you. The first one bee will buzz around your face; she will quickly inform a couple more, and this is the time to move away. If you do not leave the area, other bees will soon be attracted; they will also buzz around you, and within less than a minute, they will start stinging, and the whole swarm will join

them. Don't wait until it gets to this stage; move when the first bees start buzzing around your head. Don't swat; run!

**You should run away as fast as you can in a straight line;** don't zigzag, just get as far from them as you can. Get into a car; close all the windows. Or run for a shed or a building and shut all the doors and windows. If you are in a large open area, get under some bushes but get away as fast as you can. Do not roll on the ground; it makes the bees even angrier. Do not jump into water, like the swimming pool. The bees will wait for you to pop up for air and sting you.

**Cover your face while running away.** Even if you just pull your T-shirt over your head, it can offer you some protection. Also keep your mouth closed because the bees follow your breath. They go by smell, not sight.

**If you are stung, get emergency treatment as soon as possible!**

**I myself have been the target of some angry bees.** The first time it happened, I arrived home in the middle of the day, hot and sweaty from manning a water station for a cycle race. Ben had rescued a hive of bees the day before, and he unfortunately left

them next to the gate of our property. All I wanted to do was get into the property and have a nice cold shower. As I opened the car door to unlock the gate, I was immediately greeted by several very irritated bees buzzing around my head. I left the car outside, unlocked the gate and ran to the house immediately. Unfortunately I didn't have the key for the front door, so I ended up hiding in the back garden, where we have some very calm bees under the trees. Bees won't cross paths with another hive. It was a very long wait until Ben arrived to rescue me.

**But that grumpy hive was not done with me yet.** I was very honoured to be part of the latest production by the Henley Performing Arts group, and I was on my way to join them for their final performance that Sunday. Well, I should have known better. It was another very hot day. I left at noon, wearing a bright red tee teashirt and my best perfume. I got out of the gate and was just about to enter the car when, wham, bam, a very angry little bee stung me on my left eyelid. Well, I shouted a few choice words in my best French and ran for some ice and vinegar to relieve the awful pain. And that was just one sting. I have added a picture of my lovely eye

that I had for two weeks. I had all the rainbow hues before my eye eventually healed. To crown it all, Ben was stung on his left eye a few days later when he was changing the gas for the geyser. He didn't see the wasp's nest above the geyser. Now we both had swollen black eyes. It looked like we had punched each other in a few rounds. I promise we were really stung by insects; we always resolve our differences in a calm manner, I swear.

**If you are stung by a bee, remove the sting and take an antihistamine straight away.** Dab the sting with white vinegar or a paste made with baking soda, then put ice on the sting to relieve the swelling.

**If you need bees to be removed from your property, call a professional beekeeper to do the job.** Don't try it yourself; rather be safe than sorry.

**Ben will gladly help you remove the bees safely. Contact him on 0843820978 for help.** Please note there are fees involved because bee removal is a risky business.

Well, after all of that information, it's time to relax and have a glass of iced tea. **Here is a delicious recipe to cool you down and help you relax on a hot day.**

**Iced tea with honey**

Use 2 or 3 teabags to make a jug of tea, either black tea, green tea or rooibos.

Add 2 or 3 teaspoons of raw honey and cool down the tea. Add a few slices of lemon or orange, some fresh berries like blueberries or strawberries, a handful of mint leaves and lots of ice.

**Find a comfy chair in the shade and enjoy a glass of heaven.**

**DUNGBEETLES**  
SEPTIC PUMPING

- Blocked Drains
- Plumbing
- Septic Pumping
- Leak Detection

**We offer the following services**

**081 740 7094 / 083 444 0803**



Photo Courtesy Pexels

## Avian Influenza Overview 2025

Following a few reports and articles popping up recently, I reached out to Living Seeds and local experts for some perspective and insight into avian influenza. A big thank you to Joshua from Living Seeds and Hendre for answering my questions.

### Is it a given that the Avian Flu



By Hendre Tieleman  
Avian influenza HPAI or better known as bird flu has had a big impact on the economy, not just for poultry farmers but also for every South African. In 2023 almost 90% of all commercial layer/breeder chickens were culled in Gauteng due to the bird flu outbreak. This had a major impact on the prices of eggs and poultry meat. If a farm tested positive for the virus, the whole farm needed to be culled by a state vet, there after the farm is under quarantine for 3 months where no farming can take place. No fertile broiler breeder eggs nor table eggs were being produced and the demand for those items increased and so do the prices.

Currently there is no farms that has tested positive for bird flu in South Africa but there is some wild birds that tested positive during wild bird monitoring practices. Migrating birds is one of the biggest carriers of the virus, as the seasons change, wild infected

is in fact happening in South Africa, which bird breeds will it affect?

Living Seeds Joshua Daley: Avian flu affects humans, whereas Avian Influenza is the infectious poultry disease which affects all avian species. AI affects all bird species with ducks being the only species which can be asymptomatic .

birds migrate from other northern European countries that are positive for bird flue and enter South Africa, and our domesticated birds get infected. That it is something that we need to be aware of.

For back yard breeders and people that keep hens for eggs must try to follow basic bio security.

Here is a few guidelines to adhere to:

1. Limit the contact your flock has with wild birds,
2. Keep your poultry in closed off pens where no bird can enter to contaminate your flock,
3. Use designated boots when you enter your enclosures, as your normal shoes may be contaminated by walking outside and picking up some faecal matter from a wild bird that may have bird flu.

There is no evidence that any strain of the virus in SA can infect humans at this stage.

Photo Courtesy Pexels.

What will be the impact of the flu on the shoppers market for poultry and eggs?

Daley: The last time there was a major sweep of avian influenza over the winter and spring of 2023, the consumer felt the punch of inflated prices of meat and eggs as well as supply shortages of eggs in many parts of the country. If this outbreak spreads, consumers may be in for a tough time again.

How should people keeping birds prepare?

Daley: Wild birds are major disease vectors and are the main mechanism of the spread of AI. In order to keep backyard birds safe from AI, it would be advisable to feed and house them where wild birds cannot access them. Keeping wild birds from sharing the drinking water and feed dishes (or space in general) with poultry can minimize the likelihood of transmission of AI. Ensuring that the backyard flock has as much sunlight exposure as possible (the birds and the environment) goes a long way in helping to prevent bacterial and viral infections. The reason for

this is that sunlight is an excellent disinfectant. Free ranging poultry in the back garden is not likely to be a major risk, as in most cases the likelihood of them encountering contamination is low due to the large free ranging area. The UV light further regularly neutralizes the risk of contamination. A practical approach that we take is to enclose our breeding birds in spacious runs with galvanized weldmesh that keeps the wild birds out. We further cover the runs with shade netting that catches any incidental dropping of wild birds (preventing it entering the chickens' environment) where the sun can sterilize it. This has a further benefit of scaring off the wild birds as the net blows in the wind.

It is rumoured that this time it can infect humans, is this true?

Daley: So far as we know it is just a rumour that Avian Influenza can be transmitted to humans. We would advise further research on this point by possibly speaking to the state vet or a medical expert who can confirm or deny this.

# BREAKING NEWS!!!

CASH PAID FOR : OLD COINS , BANK NOTES , WAR MEDALS , MILITARY ITEMS , JEWELRY (GOLD & SILVER) AND SILVER CUTLERY



Christo : 083 892 7949



YOUR LOCAL TRUSTE BUYER

# Liewe Katrien

Die pous is toe huis toe, hy voel beter en wil glo aangaan met sy daaglikse dinge. Volgens wat ek kon uitvind het hy toe van die poorte oopgemaak, maar ek weet nie of dit toe nou al vyf was nie.

Nou oom Donald het uitgevind die groot ou skip waarvoor hy ingestem is vol groot gate en skeure is en daar is nie 'n manier wat die storie uit die ou dokke gaan kom nie. Ongelukkig is die groter probleem sy spaarvarkie is nie leeg nie, dit is vol IOU's. Nou is hy op 'n missie om almal se spaarvarkies te skud wat hom skuld. En wêreldwyd is die varkies leeg, dolleeg, en ons

hoor die geraas oral. Nou is hy besig om almal se varkies dood te trap en rond te gooi soos 'n kind wat heeltemal buite beheer is.

Die man in Rusland laat niemand aan sy varkie vat nie en oom Donald verstaan dit vir die oomblik nog so. Hy het baie voorwaardes en die "Z" skree en raas want niemand mag weet wat met sy varkie aangaan nie. In Europa hou Ursula 'n geleende varkie vas en oom Donald wil nou daai varkie ook hê.

Ursula dink dit gaan beter wees as haar groot verbeeldingsboot 'n paar groot kanonne kan aankoop maar oom Donald dink dit gaan beter wees as hulle die kanonne

by hom aankoop want die heel beste kanonne in die wêreld is daar by hom beskikbaar. Die manne van Europa verskil van mekaar want die groot boot waarvan sy droom bestaan nie regtig nie. Net soos oom Donald het sy ook net haar oog op almal se varkies.

Nou hier in Suid Afrika weet ons almal die varkie is weg. Niemand weet waar hy op die oomblik wei nie maar almal wat hom kan sien verkoop dele van hom aan wie bereid is om daarvoor te betaal. Oom Donald ruk en pluk die manne rond en net soos oral is die geraas oorverdowend.

Reëls wat Amerika self opgestel

het om 'n globale wêreldmark te vestig word nou deur oom Donald self oortree en die man hou nie terug nie. Hy pos die ANC kaders terug en natuurlik is dit Jan van Riebeeck se skuld, want wie anders moet nou die skuld dra.

Hier in ons mooie dorpie word die uitnodigings wat jou na die dimensie van narre en paljasse nooi nou baie openlik gedoen en ek moet waarsku, niemand daar is jou maatjie nie, nie die narre en paljasse nie, ook nie die manne wat die uitnodigings maak nie. Almal het ook net 'n oog op jou spaarvarkie.

Al my liefde uit 'n baie nat en met tye baie donker Henley.

# Letters to the Herald: Goodbye to Henley Watch

Dear Henleyites,

I read with a heavy heart about the demise of the Henley Watch on the site of the Henley Herald.

When we purchased our house at 1711 Oxford Road in the mid 90s, we were told in no

uncertain terms that being part of the Henley Community meant that one had a duty to participate in the Henley Watch. So we duly trotted off to be briefed and inducted by Wing-Commander Peter Tunstall (retired) and, for the next 15 years, we happily participated in this wonderful institution.

Through the Watch, we came to know many members of the Henley community and it was always fun to attend one of the many community events in the village and have that I-know-you-from-the-radio conversation.

We had occasion over the years to need the services of the Watch and it was a great comfort to know that concerned neighbours were on-hand and

cared about our welfare.

So, I would just like to say, thank you to all those dedicated, community-minded people who made living in Henley such a secure, enjoyable experience during those 15 wonderful years.

Don Lindsay and Arthur Begley  
Curitiba, Brazil

## April/May

Dates and times subject to change.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
13 Esoteric, Spiritual Wellness Day @About Time Corner	14	15	16	17 MAC Time Trails @The Bowler Shakes Dance Club Dance Lesson @O'Connor Hall	18	19 MAC Parkrun Kidz Easter Dash @Taste Budz
20 Celebrate 420 @The Realm	21	22	23	24 MAC Time Trails @The Bowler Shakes Dance Club Dance Lesson @O'Connor Hall	25	26 MAC Parkrun Lions' Book Sale @O'Connor Hall
27 Farm to Fork Hosted by the Farmhouse Deli Co in Collaboration with Embo Farmstead Bookings Essential +27 72 804 8615	28	29	30 Ayrton Live @Meyerton Sports Club	1 MAC Time Trails @The Bowler Shakes Dance Club Dance Lesson @O'Connor Hall	2	3 MAC Parkrun Lions Eye Clinic @O'Connor Hall
4	5	6	7	8 MAC Time Trails @The Bowler Shakes Dance Club Dance Lesson @O'Connor Hall	9	10 MAC Parkrun
11	12	13	14	15 MAC Time Trails @The Bowler Shakes Dance Club Dance Lesson @O'Connor Hall	16	17 MAC Parkrun



Above left, Henley's Scouts out on the water at Bass Lake Adventures, above right, team work at it's finest, photo courtesy 1st Henley Scouts

## Successful Kontiki Preparation Camp at Bass Lake Adventures

**By Kirschner de Villiers**  
**This past weekend, the Henley Scouts gathered at Bass Lake for an exciting and productive Kontiki preparation camp.**

With the generous support of Bass Lake, the scouts had the opportunity to refine their skills, strengthen teamwork, and prepare for the upcoming

**Kontiki competition**—one of the most challenging and rewarding events in scouting. Kontiki is a unique annual scouting competition that

challenges teams to build and live on a raft for 24 hours while completing various activities on both land and water. It tests scouts' resilience, problem-solving abilities, teamwork, and leadership under real-world conditions. Preparing for Kontiki is just as crucial as the competition itself, ensuring that scouts are well-equipped to handle the challenges ahead.

**Throughout the weekend, scouts rotated between raft-building exercises, land-based**

challenges, and teamwork development sessions. They practiced essential water skills, tested their raft designs, and refined their ability to work under pressure—key components of a successful Kontiki campaign. The picturesque setting of Bass Lake provided the perfect training ground, allowing the scouts to work in a real-water environment similar to what they will face during the competition.

**A massive thank you to Bass Lake Adventures for their incredible support, providing a safe and dynamic space for our scouts to train. Their hospitality,**

resources, and encouragement were invaluable in making this preparation camp a success. With this solid foundation in place, our scouts are now more prepared than ever to take on Kontiki. The excitement and determination shown over the weekend prove that they are ready to face the challenges ahead—and have a fantastic time doing so!

**We look forward to the upcoming competition and can't wait to put our training to the test. See you on the water!**




**By Anton de Bruin**  
**Lions Club of Henley on Klip is constantly looking for opportunities to improve the lives of people in our Community.** We were approached by Coach Nathi Nthuli, who was looking for some soccer kit for a young team that he coaches. He sourced the kit, gave us the quote which we accepted, and once the kit arrived, the boys looked really professional in the photos.

Lion President Anton, Councilor Tony Dickinson, Coach Nathi, and Lion Debbie. The team is Sibusiso, David, Kabelo, Nigal, Shaun, Mhlali, Junior, Bokamoso, Fana, Lethanbo, Monya, Reitumeste, faces have been blanked due to the POPI Act. Playing their first match in their new kit, they won 6 - 0. We wish them well in all their future matches.

"As someone who's passionate about empowering young minds and nurturing their love for sports, it's heartwarming to see these talented kids take to the field with no confidence and pride. I'd like to extend my gratitude to Mr De Bruin and the whole team of The Lions Club and our ward councillor Mr Dickinson." **Coach Nkosinathi Ntuli**

*photo courtesy Nkosinathi Ntuli*

**Thank you to Midvaal Municipality for supporting our initiatives to improve lives.** Adults from L to R, Lion Sandy,



**THE PERFECT BALANCE**


WE ARE THE OFFICIAL DISTRIBUTORS OF EPOL PRODUCTS AT WHOLESALE PRICES

**YOU'VE KNOWN THE BRAND SINCE 1913 NOW AVAILABLE ON YOUR DOORSTEP**

**WE SPECIALISE IN DAY OLD CHICKS**

**WE STOCK:**  
**EPOL AND ROSSGRO PRODUCTS**  
**MIXED FOWL FEED, CRUSHED MAIZE etc.**  
**GRASS BALES / LUCERNE**  
**OPTIMIZOR DOG FOOD**  
**MOLATEK PRODUCTS**

WE ARE SITUATED AT R551 HENLEY ON KLIP



**Econo FEEDS**  
*Maximum growth, performance and profit*

**PO BOX 1533**  
**HENLEY ON KLIP**  
**1962**  
**TEL:082 390 5477 / 084 587 7772**