New Principal for Edgemead Primary
- See page 3

Globetrotting Edgemead resident
- See page 6

Old Baddie” - Port Jackson Willow
- See page 11

Cell Mast Final Feedback
- See page 12 & 13

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EDITORIAL

Another month, another issue! This Spring edition marks the second issue of my second year with the Edgemead News - and what a ride it has been! I had hardly noticed that an entire year had slipped by! I was appointed Editor at a time when the News was somewhat in limbo, but I hope I have managed to whip it into some kind of shape again.

I’m very pleased with the feedback the News has been getting though – many people have been sending in articles and photographs and all sorts of interesting things. If you have something you’d like to see in the News, just drop the ERA a line at editor@edgemeadnews.co.za or a letter in P.O. Box 1, Edgemead 7407. We do enjoy hearing back from our readers!

On the topic of the ERA, we have had a very trying year. My colleagues on the Committee have worked very hard to represent the residents of Edgemead with important matters like the cell mast, informal trading plan and the airport runway realignment. They say that many hands make light work and I think it would be excellent to get more people on board the Committee to help where needed. If you have one evening a month free (usually the second Monday), please email us at edgemead.ra@gmail.com or snail mail P.O. Box 1, Edgemead, 7407 to let us know. We can definitely find a use for your talents! It’s really only through your support that the Committee can function to represent you, the residents.

We are truly blessed to live in a place like Edgemead. I took a ride around the Cape in the past week and noticed that there are precious few quiet, well-run and well-equipped suburbs like Edgemead. As a proud Edgemead resident, I count myself very lucky that I live where I do. I think that is why I took up the helm here at the News last year – I felt I needed to give back to the community that has done so much for me. I just hope that you who are reading this are just as thankful.

In this issue, Dr Jason Liepner shares some information on the importance of caring for your spine in “Your Spine at Work”, and our International Correspondent Kirsty Huth gives us a glimpse of life at sea in “Working on a Cruise Ship”. We have a short profile on the new Principal for Edgemead Primary School, Greg Stokell, who will take up the reigns in 2016 from the outgoing Principal, Fred van Vuuren. In “Cell Mast Final Feedback”, we take a retrospective look at the ever-nagging issue of the cell mast erected near the Village Centre, and the City’s justification for allowing it regardless of code violations. Please read it for yourself!

Happy spring!

Peter Bates

EDGEMEAD PRE-PRIMARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION TURNS 38

Last issue we accidentally mislabelled the pictures of the staff at Edgemead Pre Primary. Here are the correct captions.

IT’S SPRING FEVER

That is what the name of it is.
And when you’ve got it, you want - oh,
you don’t quite know what it is you do want,
but it just fairly makes your heart ache,
you want it so!

Mark Twain

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Cover photo by Dean Bannatyne. The ‘green room’: so named because of the appearance of being inside a dome of water, as photographed from inside a wave while surfing.

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**CHAIRMAN’S CORNER**

I’m going to forgo the usual pleasantries in this issue because I’m a little disillusioned with community matters right now. I’ve even sent editor Peter my angry “mug shot” to show I mean business.

In the previous issue both Peter and I made a plea for residents to assist by joining our committee. Want to take a guess how many people responded? Zero, zilch, none, not one. While I realise we are all “busy” we’re honestly not asking for much of your time. The time I have to put in as chairman is a different matter, but leads on to questions like: “Why am I offering up MY time to deal with: the airport runway realignment, informal trading plan, cell mast, acacia power station emissions, not to mention all the other day-to-day items that pop-up throughout the year? The answer seems to sit somewhere between: “If I don’t do it myself, who will?” and “Keeping in touch with matters in one’s community, ultimately results in the betterment of the neighbourhood for everyone who lives in it”. Of course we all want to live in a functioning well kept neighbourhood so please give consideration to giving just a little bit of time to matters that affect us all.

Feedback from SPELUM (effectively the Planning appeal committee) is also contributing to my dour mood. After a comprehensive presentation by the ERA, which highlighted that the illegally-built cellphone mast contravened the relevant Policy in terms of visual impact, as well as that the height of the mast far exceeded what was stipulated on the plan, it was still approved. The message from council in this case is clear: “Public participation and building regulations are of no consequence so build whatever you like”. Is this really how the DA is going to run the City?

It boggles my mind that I even have to raise this issue, but of late there is not a single visit to the shopping centre where I don’t encounter able-bodied, selfish people parking in the disabled bays. There is no justifiable excuse for parking there, the most frequently used reason being “I’m just quickly going to Spar/Woolies/ATM/ Whatever”. For the disabled people to whom those bays are dedicated there is no “quickly” in their daily routine. Rather than grumbling about not getting prime parking, be thankful that you can WALK across the car park.

Interesting news from our neighbours in Monte Vista is that their Licence Plate Recognition (LPR) system is starting to gain traction. As a matter of interest, this technology was presented at our Primary School last December when a meeting was called to address crime in Edgemead and, in my opinion, it can only bring a positive impact on fighting crime. I’m also going to say this clearly: the knock-on effect of this system is that it will push crime into neighbouring areas without LPR. So, if Edgemead doesn’t get on board shortly, we shouldn’t be surprised when the criminals start shifting their sights onto us.

The informal trading plan has finally been approved by council. I recently attended their first development group meeting and, with assistance from their ward councillor, Sakkie Pretorius, a very generous allocation of his councillor’s ward funding is being made available to kick-start the project. However, additional funds will need to be obtained for expansion and ongoing maintenance, which will most likely have to come from residents.

As a matter of interest, this technology was presented at our Primary School last December when a meeting was called to address crime in Edgemead and, in my opinion, it can only bring with it a positive impact on fighting crime. I’m also going to say this clearly: the knock-on effect of this system is that it will push crime into neighbouring areas without LPR. So, if Edgemead doesn’t get on board shortly, we shouldn’t be surprised when the criminals start shifting their sights onto us.

The informal trading plan has finally been approved by council. I am currently waiting for Business Areas Management to process the new trading bays and get their “ducks in a row”.

If you made it this far through my report, then I thank you for bearing with me. A positive bit of news to sign off with is that building plans for the Acacia air quality monitoring station are almost ready to be approved so that installation work can commence.

*Emile Coetzee*

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**EDGEMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL APPOINTS NEW PRINCIPAL**

After teaching at Edgemead primary for 32 years, 18 as principal, Mr Fred van Vuuren retires at the end of this year.

Mr Greg Stokell has been appointed the new principal.

After matriculating from Rondebosch Boys High School, Greg graduated from the Cape Town College of Education with distinction in 1989. His first teaching post was at Edgemead Primary School where he was employed by former Principal, Mr Mike King. A Grade 7 class teacher, Greg also taught mathematics alongside then Deputy Principal, Mr van Vuuren, and was very involved in extra-murals.

Greg left Edgemead at the end of 1996 to go into full-time mission’s work in the Ukraine. After returning to South Africa, the family settled in Port Elizabeth and Greg returned to teaching in 2001 at Harvest Christian School where he subsequently became principal.

During this time, he completed his B.Ed.(Hons)(cum laude) at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, and served as E. Cape Area Co-ordinator for the Association of Christian Schools International, through which he presented curriculum development workshops in South Africa and several African countries.

In 2013, Greg was appointed Headmaster at St Dominic’s Priory School in Port Elizabeth, an independent school which recently received an award for being the Top Independent School in the E Cape for the second consecutive year (2014 & 2015).

Greg’s wife Denise is a registered dietician; their daughter Julia is currently in Grade 10, and their son Matthew is studying at NMMU.

Greg is excited about his appointment at Edgemead, and the family is looking forward to returning to Cape Town where they will again be close to their extended family after 17 years.

“Education is a partnership in which we try to equip children with keys to help them unlock their potential and open doors for their future. I look forward to exploring and developing this partnership with the Edgemead Community.”

*Incoming Principal Greg Stokell*

---

**CALLING FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS!**

If you are talented at photography and have some impactful or interesting images that you would like to share with us send them to: editor@edgemeadnews.co.za.

The best images will be published in the next issue!
HOW IT ALL BEGAN
EDGEMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL
by Lee Engeler

Shortly after the first residents moved to Edgemead in 1972, a group met to discuss the need for a school. It took six long years of planning and meetings by the then newly-formed Edgemead Residents’ Association in support of this parent group, before the Dept. of Education rented six houses in Lombard Way from Garden Cities, and 93 pupils enrolled at Edgemed Preparatory School in January 1979. The following year the teaching staff doubled from four to eight, the pupils to 185, and additional houses were made available, as well as pre-fabricated classrooms and a caravan.

A tender offer of R2,2 million was accepted, and the newly-constructed school building was officially opened at the beginning of 1983. There were soon 660 pupils, 29 staff and, by 1987, EPS was the largest English medium primary school in the Peninsula, with 850 pupils and 37 staff.

Because of its continued rapid growth, a further R1million was allocated and 10 additional classrooms built in 1991. There was a devastating fire in 1997, arson was suspected, but the SAPS never found the culprits. However, turning a tragedy into a triumph, a modern computer centre was incorporated into the rebuilding.

Principal Fred van Vuuren reports that this year the school has a total enrolment of 1216 pupils and a staff complement (teaching and support) of 70, and Edgemead Primary continues to be one of the leading Primary Schools in Cape Town. Since there is no further residential building in Edgemead, the school is slowly being able to accommodate more children from outside the area, which has resulted in EPS becoming a truly cosmopolitan primary school.

As part of Garden Cities’ 1987 celebrations for the 2000th completed house, a competition was held and the following were some of the EPS entries on the theme “Why I like living in Edgemead”:

*We have a very nice school. It is the biggest school in the Cape Province. In the morning all the birds are singing all the shrubs are covered in dew. The grass is bright green in the morning. I think the people who have the privilege to live in the little town Edgemead are very lucky indeed.*

*There are lots of places where kids can have races, there are benches for old folks where they can sit and tell jokes. Edgemead the edge of the meadow Not like a city with dead cold streets but lots of houses, all in a row And pretty flowers and trees, wherever you go.*

First published in Edgemead News July 2005
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WORKING ON A CRUISE SHIP
by Kirsty Huth

How does someone travel to beautiful destinations, experience many different cultures and have the chance to befriend people from all over the world? One way is to work on a cruise liner.

I have lived in Edgemead for 20 years, matriculating from Edgemead High School in 2010, and it was always my dream to work on a ship. That dream came true two years ago, and I am a photographer for Princess Cruises and work on board a cruise ship that travels all over the world, visiting many different countries. I have spent months cruising the coastline of North and South America, and have just returned from a contract in both the Caribbean and the Mediterranean Sea. I certainly recommend that every young person, who doesn’t have anything to tie them down at home, takes the opportunity and applies. You need to be over 21 years old, presentable, an excellent team player and must realise that you will work very hard. You need to speak fluent English and be able to get along with people and make friends easily. You work on a contract basis, 6 months sailing and 3 months leave, and earn US dollars. During my off months I live in Edgemead and carry on with my business, Kirsty Huth Photography (www.facebook.com/kirstyhuthphotography)

Last year I visited Alaska during their summer. This has to be one of the most beautiful regions of the world, and I got to visit it every week for four months. We docked in Juneau, Skagway and Ketchikan in Alaska and also in Victoria, on Canada’s Vancouver Island. Skagway has a magnificent hiking trail that is only a 10 minute walk from the cruise ship dock, so naturally I would go for a hike every time. One particular day I just went hiking by myself (after learning from a local ranger what to do if I encountered any brown bears), and after a few minutes of starting to climb the mountain I paused at a sign showing which paths go where. There were two young guys that I bumped into and we started to chat. I found out that they both worked on the Holland-America ship that was docked alongside my own ship the Golden Princess. I recognised one of their accents and realised he was South African. He was from Bothasig! I couldn’t believe it - in the middle of nowhere to find someone from literally the next suburb to mine. After we bade our farewells I continued up the slope of the mountain, and came across a British friend who I had worked with a few months prior on another ship. Her ship was also docked with mine that day. This was sure a day that had coincidences around every corner - and thank goodness no brown bears in sight!

It took me a whole hour to reach Upper Reid Falls and Icy Lake, but the journey there was just as good as the goal at the end. The light seemed to fall on and caress my surroundings in such a way that I never wanted to leave. At that moment I knew that travelling would be a part of me forever.

On another perfectly fresh and sunny day in Juneau, the capital of Alaska, several ship friends and I embarked on one of the most joyous and adventurous hikes I have ever done. We took a pretty casual walk at first for 15 minutes, passed some noisy streams and high trees, enjoying our steady pace. Then it started to get interesting. First we had to jump from tree branch to tree branch that were lying a few centimetres off the ground to avoid getting sucked into the mud. From there we climbed up a huge boulder with the aid of a strong rope. One of the other crazy things we had to do was hop over a mini-stream that was running across the gigantic rock that we were walking on. From there we crossed a strongly gushing stream that fell far down the rock face, walking on a narrow board (only a metre long but it felt like 10 metres!) to reach the next huge rock. But all our efforts ended in the most spectacular sight of all: the Mendenhall Glacier. It is a huge glacier that streams through the mountains, a remnant from the Little Ice Age some 3 000 years ago. We even got to explore the ice caves beneath it, and what an awesome experience that was.

I will try and submit more stories to future issues of the Edgemead News, so that my fellow Edgemeadians can see what we sailors get up to.

Kirsty Huth on the Golden Princess

Inkwell Print

Tony’s Fences and Gates
YOUR BACK AT WORK
Dr Jason Liepner
World Spine Day is celebrated on 16 October to create awareness about the importance of our backs (see www.worldspineday.org) because effective management of spinal conditions is becoming increasingly important.

In 2010, the Global Burden of Disease report found that lower-back pain is the single leading cause of disability worldwide, and identified neck pain as the fourth leading cause of disability. Dr Scott Haldeman, chiropractor and CEO of World Spine Care, explains that “Musculoskeletal conditions such as low back pain, neck pain and arthritis affect more than 1.7 billion people worldwide, and have a greater impact on the health of the world population than HIV/AIDS, tropical diseases, the forces of war and nature, and all neurological conditions combined.”

This year’s World Spine Day theme “Your back at work” focuses on the importance of having a healthy spinal posture and using correct movement to ensure your continued spinal health. We are sitting at desks for longer periods of time, spend more time driving (sitting) in cars and often do sports like running and cycling that use repetitive movements. These activities all have one thing in common: a forward-backward motion only. When did you last twist, reach, turn or shake your body as it was designed to do?

Think about this … If for 10 years you drove your car only in a straight line and then one day decided to turn left, don’t you think that all its joints and bearings would creak and grind until the lubrication worked its way through? It’s the same with our body. If you don’t use a muscle, it shortens, becomes weak and fails to fulfil its proper function.

As a chiropractor, a profession that specialises in spinal health, one of my main focuses is on creating awareness of how important posture is, the benefit of stretching and moving our body, and the importance of a properly aligned spine and pelvis. Headaches, back pain, neck pain, muscle weakness, limited range of motion in the back, neck or shoulder, and even pins and needles in the hands and feet can potentially be traced back to spinal misalignment. With the pressures of modern living, it pays to look after our spines no matter what our age. Proper spinal care from an early age can help correct and prevent long term problems such as scoliosis (abnormal curvature of the spine) and a host of other developmental issues. When one is older, spinal care helps us to live life proactively and prevent injury.

Dr Jason Liepner is a holistic and family chiropractor at Edgemead Chiropractic. If you have any questions or concerns about your spinal health, you can contact him on 021 559 8417.
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I love spring anywhere, but if I could choose I would always greet it in a garden.  - Ruth Stout

No matter how long the winter, spring is sure to follow.  - Proverb

Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day.  - W. Earl Hall

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COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Some good news for Edgemead is that the Informal Trading Plan for Edgemead has finally served before Council and has been adopted. This plan allows for 3 dedicated bays at the shopping complex and no other trading. One of the conditions imposed was that Law Enforcement monitor that this plan is strictly adhered to. There is a special law enforcement unit that deals directly with informal trading and with this plan in place, any trading other than in the dedicated bays will be prohibited. The trading plan on this site also does not allow for the sale of wood or for any food preparations.

Recycling is something that is very close to my heart and although we are not part of the pilot project that the City of Cape Town is running, there is a way that we can all recycle. I have chatted to a lady in Edgemead who is very passionate about recycling and even drives around at a fee to households to collect recycling. Now this has been opened to everyone. Everyone can drop off their recycling at 17 Robinson Way, Edgemead. The beauty of this is that you do not have to sort your recycling at all. Just collect everything that is recyclable, put it in a bag (or two or three) and drop it off on a Tuesday between 8am and 7pm in Robinson Way. There is NO cost involved. It will be sorted and distributed accordingly. How easy is that? I would like to encourage everyone to take part in this initiative and believe me, there will be less and less reason for anyone to scratch in bins. If you require any further information regarding this initiative, please feel free to contact me.

I would like to assure those residents who use the Clinic in Bothasig to know that I have listened to all the concerns; to know that I have not let this issue rest and that I have been speaking and meeting with whoever it takes to provide an acceptable solution for the services rendered at the Clinic. I have just recently met with the MEC for Health and do believe we are on track to provide a viable solution that will be acceptable to one and all.

Helen Carstens
Ward 5 Councillor

Email: Helen.carstens@capetown.gov.za
0860 103 089 for municipal complaints or SMS 31373.
EDGEMEAD HIGH SCHOOL 1ST TEAM HOCKEY BOYS
by Richard Paine

The boys’ 1st hockey team from Edgemead High School have had an excellent season this year. After winning the 1st division last year, they were promoted to the Western Province Premier league and have shown their skill and passion by ending 5th in the league. This result places them as the highest ranked team in Cape Town from a co-ed school and from the Northern Zone. In addition the team made the top four in the Western Province knockout competition, bowing out to Bishops in the semi-final. Once again they were the only team representing a co-ed or northern school at this level. At the Cape Town International Hockey Festival they achieved the ranking of 7th after facing fierce competition from a variety of opponents from across the country. A final achievement is having six members of the team chosen to represent Western Province in various competitions this year, showcasing their talents at a higher level. Overall this was a season to be proud of and one to build on for the future.

EDGEMEAD LIBRARY
by Lorraine Mathewson

The Library recently held a Women’s Day breakfast with two very interesting guest speakers.

One was Dr Sindiwe Magona, who has written a number of books, including the book “Mother to mother” based on the Amy Biehl story.

The other was Lesley Carr Potgieter, who was born with cerebral palsy and suffered various setbacks in her life, including a stroke about seven years ago. This affected her speech to a large extent, so her husband did the talking, but this is one busy lady, who even had tea with Premier Helen Zille last year. With her husband and two beautiful sons she reaches out to communities less fortunate than ours.

For the senior citizens who don’t know yet (60+ers) you can now borrow 12 items at a time from the library. For books you can also get an extended period should you want, but unfortunately the lending time of DVD’s will stay at two days. This can really be of help if you rely on others for transport to the library.

Pictured are Principal Librarian Lorraine Mathewson with Lesley Carr Potgieter.

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THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES ON CONTROLLING AN OLD BADDIE – PORT JACKSON WILLOW

Described as one of the worst invasive species in South Africa, the Port Jackson willow (Acacia saligna) is no “new kid on the block” in terms of invasives. This Western-Australian native was introduced to South Africa in the late 18th century with the aim of stabilizing disturbed land, and as a source of animal fodder and firewood. Unfortunately, the introduction has caused one of the greatest biological invasions by any plant species - displacing indigenous plants in the unique and already threatened lowland fynbos ecosystem.

Port Jackson willow is difficult to manage owing to its ecology. It is able to resprout from its roots has a large, persistent seed bank, and a single tree can produce thousands of seeds which can stay viable for 100 years. The trees are full of resin and therefore highly combustible, burning much hotter than the indigenous fynbos – evident by the Peninsula fires earlier this year. Various methods, or a combination of methods, are used to control the species i.e. mechanical, chemical and biological control, and fire – all of which require follow-up operations.

The most common method used for removing invasive acacias is by manual clearing, by manually pulling up Port Jackson seedlings by the roots and by cutting down the larger trees. Chemical control involves the application of poison (herbicide) to the stumps after manual clearing, and seedlings are sprayed after clearing or burning of stands.

The biocontrol agent currently used for controlling Port Jackson willow is the host-specific, gall-forming fungus, Uromycladium tepperianum, which attacks healthy tissue, reduces plant vigour, and predisposes the tree to succumb to other stress factors such as drought stress. However, like most biocontrol agents, it takes a while to establish and spread.
CELL MAST FINAL FEEDBACK
by ERA Chairman, Emile Coetzee

After a two year long battle the cell mast debacle has finally come to an end with council approving the mast despite contraventions by the contractor, discrepancies in council paperwork, and an overwhelming number of objections to the fact that laid down policies have been ignored. I am incredibly disappointed, as much with the entire process as with the final outcome, and feel that the City of Cape Town has failed in its duty to its citizens.

In August 2013, without any prior notice, Warren Petterson Planning (WPP) acting on behalf of Vodacom erected the mast at the shopping centre. The ERA became involved from the outset when residents’ complaints started pouring in. Our then ward councillor James Vos engaged with WPP, who pointed out that Vos had not commented until after the mast was already up, and Vos informed us that the mast would not be removed. When the subcouncil refused to supply us with information regarding the approval of the mast, we made an official application for Access to Information.

On receipt of this file we discovered a number of discrepancies. Council documents had not been signed off, it appeared that no site inspection had taken place but, worst of all, the building plans had lapsed by the time construction started.

After we brought this to the attention of council, months passed with no apparent action on the part of the officials concerned. At last, WPP was given 60 days to resubmit their application but, due to zoning changes in the interim period, public participation was now required and notices were sent out to immediate neighbours for comment. As many of the affected residents are elderly, the ERA assisted them with their submissions.

The ERA also submitted a detailed objection, highlighting not only that the mast was built illegally, but that key points of the Telecommunications Infrastructure Policy (TI) had been ignored. This TI policy stresses that visual impact of masts must be taken into consideration, both from an aesthetic point of view and in relation to property devaluation. It also stipulates that no mast may be built within a 1km radius of an existing mast.

For some reason there was another prolonged delay before WPP’s response was circulated to the relevant internal departments, then the file was sent for report readiness check, and the documentation was allocated for report writing only on 17 February 2015. In reply to our regular follow ups, Mr. Newman from Planning (when he chose to reply to emails) cited various excuses but indicated that at worst it would be presented at the May 2015 subcouncil meeting. However, in May it was ‘suddenly’ discovered that, because the application deviated from the TI policy (which we had highlighted from the outset more than a year before) it had to be referred to a meeting of Spatial Planning Environment and Land Use Management (SPELUM), which was finally scheduled for 22 July. We were invited to attend and present our case, so we prepared yet another report, and delivered this with appropriate photographs which showed just how misleading were the photographs which WPP had supplied in an attempt to downplay the visual impact. It was perhaps indicative that the report submitted by Planning completely ignored both the visual impact and the public objections.

At various stages, ERA had asked whether the height of the mast had ever been confirmed because the relevant legislature limited it to maximum 15m. After repeated assurances from council that it was not necessary to measure the mast, the ERA enlisted the services of two professional land surveyors who both confirmed that the mast far exceeded the permitted 15m. This revelation elicited quite a response at SPELUM because the height discrepancy meant that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was required.

During the meeting Councillor Watkyns stated that he had been ready to approve...
CELL MAST FINAL FEEDBACK continued

the mast but, after hearing our case, he would have to reconsider. We also received positive support from Councillor McCarthy, who pointed out to the applicant that the mast was of an older style and rather unsightly. However, when we asked Chairperson Councillor Kannenberg how an experienced contractor such as WPP could mistakenly build on expired plans, why no building inspectors had visited the site, and why we ourselves had to verify the height of the tower, he responded by saying that he would take those questions as statements, and he did not give us an answer at all.

The meeting was rather an overwhelming experience, but I left feeling positive overall that at least there was some acknowledgement from councillors agreeing with some of the points we had put forward.

At the following SPELUM meeting on 12 August 2015 Mr Newman confirmed that the National Act had been amended eight months ago, and that an EIA was now no longer required for a mast over 15m. However, he went on to say that the 400mm plinth accounted for the height discrepancy and, although there were lights and a lightning conductor installed, the mast itself was still 15m. Incredibly, based on this, Chairperson Cllr Kannenberg indicated the committee’s acceptance that the application for a 15m mast was correct. If the plinth doesn’t count towards the height (which it does - ask any land surveyor) then you could apply for a 15m tower, build a 10m plinth, and still claim that the tower is only 15m. Nevertheless, the SPELUM Minutes state that it was resolved the deviation from the TI policy was “noted” and the plan was “approved”.

And so, in one fell swoop the contraventions of WPP and Vodacom are nullified, the discrepancies in council paperwork swept under the carpet, city policy ignored, the visual impact and residents who objected simply forgotten. A sterling job from the City that claims to work for you.

Let us also not forget that the only reason it was possible to build this mast in the first place is that shopping centre owner Daleglen (Tamric Trust) agreed to rent the space to Vodacom, with no apparent thought for the surrounding residents and earning a tidy monthly fee into the bargain.

You may ask where our current ward councillor was in all of this, and the answer may come as surprise: Nowhere! When the application was scheduled to go to Subcouncil, Cllr Carstens recused herself citing conflict of interest because the subcouncil would be asked to vote on the matter. Yet when it went to SPELUM instead, and I indicated to her that the presentation on 22 July was the final opportunity to stop the application, and asked her to please make every effort to attend and support our case, which as a councillor she would be allowed to do, she was unable to “reprioritise her other commitments” and we were left to fend for ourselves.

In retrospect I’d like to retract my opening statement that I am incredibly disappointed. In actual fact I’m utterly disgusted at this farce of a process which is completely biased in favour of the applicant and simply pays lip service to the rate paying public. Perhaps the reason can be found in a recent Cape Argus report that Vodacom has invested R180million in the Western Cape to expand coverage and increase network capacity and speed.
Wesley Adams has joined the team at Jacks Paint and Hardware. An expert paint mixer, Wesley has the special talent, honed by fifteen years of experience and training, to take a sample of paint and recreate it from scratch. I visited Wesley a few weeks ago, and was interested to hear about his work. Wesley explained how, using a sample of paint and starting from a coloured base, he adds a variety of tints that he has available. In this way he can recreate a colour that matches as closely as possible to the sample. He has to take into account lighting, type of paint and more, and the act of mixing seems to be part art and part science! Visit Wesley at Jacks Paint and Hardware to see what he can do.

CRICKET CLUB
by Jackie Strauss

… Cricket chirps … Yes … Whether you are trying to get a good night’s rest, or walking around at 2am with a flashlight in an attempt to silence this elusive specimen… either way one could say it’s synonymous with summer. For most people cricket chirps are the summer sounds of a pestilence which can keep you awake for hours. For others, like me, it’s the dreaded comments from the slip cordon – or quite simply the only way of friendly intimidation – “friendly” being the operative word here of course. No, I am not some kind of entomologist who will bore you with the sound production mechanics of a little insect.

Spring is here…..and so is Cricket season! Every year it feels like the season arrived way before it should have. Every year the season flies and starts again before you realise it’s quite done. Its an infinite loop which just seems to accelerate as the years go by. This year its feels no different as Edgemead Cricket Club started proceedings early! All in preparation for another season of this wonderful game!

Situated behind the Community Centre and Edgemead Library is a building which, if it could speak, would tell a remarkable story. Edgemead Cricket Club is again back to fight the amateur cricket fight it’s been part of for the past 31 years – and we have every intention of continuing the promising steps taken over the past couple of years. With 5 Senior sides, 5 Junior sides and a Golden Oldies team (only available for exhibition matches it has to be said - a fair group of legends! *wink wink*) Edgemead Cricket Club presents a great cricket atmosphere for the entire family. Fires are lit, umbrellas are opened and everyone is always welcome to pop down for a game or a beverage with Paddy.

Games are played mainly on Saturdays. There will be the odd Sunday game. Seniors’ training happens on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 17h30. Juniors on a Wednesday from 17h00. Actually, now that I think of it, you could just make a turn every other day of the week.

Under the coaching wings of two local stalwarts, Gareth Knott (Head Coach) and Lightie Coetzee (Technical Consultant), we are aiming to continue to develop Junior and Senior players whilst driving Edgemead Cricket Club to the highest level.

All relevant information will soon be available on the club’s website www.edges.co.za and the Edgemead Cricket Club facebook page. We welcome any support, playing interest and sponsorship interest. Without the community an establishment like this would cease to exist, and we thank you for the continued support over the years. We already appreciate the support we will get in this and future seasons. Hope to see you all down.

Yours in Cricket,
Jackie Strauss, Club Captain
ecccricket@hotmail.com

On August 9th we hosted our annual Woman’s Day Challenge, this year at Century City, where the race started and finished at the oval. We could not have asked for a better event host for the Woman’s Day Challenge and we look forward to hosting this race at Century City for many years to come. The race is open to everyone, but we try to make the ladies feel extra special on the day. Numerous prizes were given out, from vouchers and hampers to a fantastic night stay away at luxury hotel.

The next big event for ERC will be our Edgemead Classic which takes place on Saturday 28 November. The race starts and finishes at Edgemead Primary School which offers not only fantastic facilities with ample parking, but also a great secure surrounding to host not only the race, but the families which come down to participate. A 10km & 5km race are on offer, which are run in and around our great suburb. Everyone is welcome to participate, registration is on offer in the morning, and it makes for a great morning out with family and friends.

We are also privileged that this race has been selected both as the November league race and as the Western Province 10km championships race for 2015. So, if for no other reason, come down and watch the highest level.

Consultant), we are aiming to continue to develop Junior and Senior players and try to be part art and part science! Visit Wesley at Jacks Paint and Hardware to see what he can do.

Wesley Adams has joined the team at Jacks Paint and Hardware. An expert paint mixer, Wesley has the special talent, honed by fifteen years of experience and training, to take a sample of paint and recreate it from scratch. I visited Wesley a few weeks ago, and was interested to hear about his work. Wesley explained how, using a sample of paint and starting from a coloured base, he adds a variety of tints that he has available. In this way he can recreate a colour that matches as closely as possible to the sample. He has to take into account lighting, type of paint and more, and the act of mixing seems to be part art and part science! Visit Wesley at Jacks Paint and Hardware to see what he can do.
EDGEMEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH
by Troy Gerber

“It’s about being part of the solution and giving back.”

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Mandela was iconic. He is many things to many people, but the one thing that he was to every South African was a symbol of forgiveness and nation building. He believed in the power of the individual to make a difference, and the effect a community can have on making South Africa a better place.

In honour of Madiba’s legacy, and in the spirit of community, the Edgemead Neighbourhood Watch celebrated Madiba Day by giving back a MINIMUM of 67 minutes to the community, by allowing you, the residents, to interact with us.

Together with our partners SAPS, Law Enforcement and our local armed response companies, we conducted a ‘blue light’ drive through our suburb, showing our presence in terms of visibility and numbers. Your support from your front lawns was appreciated. The route included all major roads.

Non-active patrollers joined us to get a firsthand experience of what it is to be a patroller. A few of them definitely brought their inner “James Bond”, almost enjoying the radio communications and blue lights a little too much. Thank you for supporting us from the sidelines, but don’t be complacent… please join the Neighbourhood Watch!

Membership forms are always available from Ronnie at Jack’s Hardware in the Village Shopping Centre, which is also the drop-off point for completed forms.

Anyone wanting to obtain more information should contact the Chairman, Conrad, on 082 554 2726 or 021 558 6106. There you go, Madiba, we gladly give you 67 minutes but we are more than happy to add more time, which we will be doing.

Being part of the solution

How do you become part of the solution? How do you positively affect your community? I guess the other aspect of my question is how do I become part of the solution with the least amount of effort? As many readers will know, unless you hit the lotto, you need to put effort into anything that you expect a return on. Same applies to keeping Edgemead the way it has been for the past four decades. We cannot assume that our leafy suburb will just stay awesome, without putting in effort to keep it that way.

Some changes you can make to your day to day life, with minimum additional effort are:

- Adhere to local bylaws and traffic regulations. Crime prevention starts with residents not breaking the law themselves.
- Talk to your neighbour, face to face, not on Facebook. Edgemead is a community, communities talk and work together to solve problems.
- Attend community events, like Neighbourhood watch and Edgemead Residents Association meetings. They are great places to meet local organizations, air opinions and meet your local councillors.
- Report potholes, litter, illegal dumping, graffiti, broken street lights. It’s your neighbourhood, -you have the right to report issues.

Coming up

As part of our annual awareness and fund fundraising, we will be having various fundraising events up and until December this year. We are planning a huge family day/night for the end of the year, so keep your eyes open for details of the event on our Facebook page.

Keep in contact with us via Facebook or on our website. http://www.edgemeadwatch.co.za https://www.facebook.com/EdgemeadNeighbourhoodWatch

EDGEMEAD BOWLS CLUB
by Colin Gray

The 2015/16 Bowling season is almost upon us.
We begin the season with our usual Opening Day Celebrations starting at the Club on the 3rd October 2015 @14.00. We will have a fun tabs-in game initially, followed by our star studded “Club Follies” show and ending up with a light meal.

Although the season is still young, the club has had two honours bestowed on it, namely:

Our present President Graeme Kemp has been elected as Vice President of WP Bowling Association.

One of our star members Sylvia Burns has been selected to play for the Proteas in the Atlantic Championships in Cyprus.

We congratulate both of them for keeping the Edgemead flag flying high.

Dates to remember: 21st November 2015. We will be hosting our very first “Hobo Dance”. Please dress for the part or bring your very own hobo!! Music will be supplied by popular local band “Four can Play”.

New Years Eve dance on 31st December. James Marais (our famous local Elvis impersonator) will be entertaining us that night. Tickets for both dances can be obtained from the Club.

If you are interested in playing this wonderful game of bowls – please join us at our clinic which is run every Saturday morning from 9.00. For more information please contact Graeme Kemp at 078 792 8438.
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