



SAARP SOCIAL SERVICES - PINELANDS

(Reg No 2006/003084/08)

Email Address: ruthbuckland3638@gmail.com

Monthly Meetings: 3rd Thursday at Pinelands Bowling Club
St Stephen's Rd.

Doors open at 09:00, meeting closes 11:15

NEWSLETTER : FEBRUARY 2020

Hello, again

2020 is, of course, a Leap Year (also an Olympic year!), and I've browsed some interesting websites which I hope you will enjoy. *Why do we have Leap Years?* They're necessary to keep our Gregorian calendar in alignment with Earth's revolutions around the sun. It takes Earth 365 days 5 hours 48 mins & 45 seconds to circle once around the Sun - this is called *a tropical year*, which astronomers measure from the March equinox. Without adding 29 February on a regular basis, we would lose almost 6 hours off our calendar every year – after 100 years, we would be misaligned by about 24 days!

Who invented Leap Years? Julius Caesar introduced the first leap year more than 2000 years ago, but the Julian calendar had only 1 rule: *any year evenly divisible by 4 would be a leap year*. This formula caused a drastic divergence between seasons and the calendar, and the error wasn't corrected until the introduction of the Gregorian calendar more than 1500 years later: this requires 3 criteria to be taken into account to identify leap years: (1) *The year can be evenly divided by 4.* (2) *If the year can be divided by 100, it is NOT a leap year, unless* (3) *the year is also evenly divided by 400* – then it is a leap year. The year 2000 was quite unique as it was the first time the 3rd criterion was adopted almost universally since the transition from the Julian to the Georgian calendars in 1582.

REFLECTIONS:

(a) *Christmas Lunch:* 45 members & friends enjoyed a well-stocked buffet. John Kleynhans and Hilary were the lucky recipients of the vouchers under their chairs, which refunded them the cost of their lunch. Rita Scott received a lovely letter of appreciation from the Christine Revell Children's Home in Athlone, acknowledging all the donated knitted garments, food items, toiletries and cleaning materials they had received from SAARP Pinelands.

(b) *Mad Hatter's Tea Party:* What a splendid array of millinery creations we were treated to! Sheena Dunlop won for her show-stopper but was closely challenged by Hilary, Merle Dendy and Rosalie Kleynhans. Gordon Epstein kept toes tapping with a very enjoyable performance of much-loved songs.

OUTINGS:

a) *February Outing:* We will be visiting the Lawhill Naval Academy in Simonstown followed by lunch at Dixies on Tuesday 25th @ R250.00 pp.

b) March Outing: At our February committee meeting it was decided that it's time to re-visit Goedgedacht – Fay to organise for the last week of March. Previous visits have always proved inspirational – real 'good for the soul' experiences. Last time we were welcomed to a delightful performance by some of the children before being shown a video covering the amazing educational and caring work achieved by Goedgedacht. This was followed by a lovely lunch on the terrace over-looking the green and wooded valley. Hopefully, members will make use of the following Beanie pattern so that we can take plenty of beanies with us – ladies, please get your knitting needles out and do us proud yet again!

You will need: Double Knitting Yarn (Merle suggests yarn from Checkers or Shoprite). Needles: size 9 for rib and size 7 for stocking stitch

- Cast on 96 stitches with size 9 needles, & knit 20 rows 1plain, 1purl rib.
- Change to size 7 needles; knit 20 rows stocking stitch (1 row plain/1 row purl)
- K10, k2tog, all along the row.
- Alternate rows purl.

K9, k2tog, all along the row;	K4, k2tog, all along the row;
K8, k2tog, “ “ “ “	K3, k2tog, “ “ “ “
K7, k2tog, “ “ “ “	K2, k2tog, “ “ “ “
K6, k2tog, “ “ “ “	K1, k2tog, “ “ “ “
K5, k2tog, “ “ “ “	

AND, instead of just purl back, purl 2 together (4 sts remaining).

- Thread yarn through the 4 stitches, pull up tightly & sew up side seam.

- (a) ***SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE*** (as is our annual rental!): Please pay soon. Remember, our R60 a year has remained unchanged for many years despite regular increases in cost of living.
- (b) ***19 March, AGM & Meeting:*** David Biggs of *Tavern of the Seas* fame will be our guest speaker; he will hold the floor immediately after Mark's opening remarks, after which he can take his leave while we get on with our AGM.
- (c) ***16 April – General Meeting:*** There will be no speaker but we'll have a Beetle Drive instead, with a tea-break interval. Please bring a small plate of nibbles for the communal table.
- (d) ***Speaker for our May Meeting:*** Prof JP van Niekerk is to be invited to address us on the topic *Cairo to Cape Town via Two Canals and Two Yellow Fevers*: a journey with medical discoveries, geography and larger-than-life actors. Sounds interesting, don't you think?

'VERSATILE FOREST' ARCHITECTURE

Clive and I stumbled on a new TV channel, Curiosity Stream (channel 185) and have been fascinated by several programs recently, in particular one about the huge air pollution problem threatening the health of people in Chinese cities. Stefano Boeri, the architect famed for his tree-clad Bosco Verticale skyscraper complex in Milan, recently unveiled plans for a similar project in Nanjing comprising two neighbouring towers coated with 23

species of tree and more than 2 500 cascading shrubs designed to suck 25 tons of carbon dioxide from the city's air each year and produce about 60kg of oxygen every day. Boeri has a vision of a series of sustainable mini-cities of about 100 000 inhabitants each that could provide a green roadmap for the future of urban China.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if our City fathers could cover the unsightly pepper pots on Table Mountain with similar seasonal greenery!!

OBITUARY OF COMMON SENSE (ex London Times)

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as:

Knowing when to come in out of the rain Life isn't always fair
Why the early bird gets the worm and Maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (*don't spend more than you can earn*) and reliable strategies (*adults, not children, are in charge*). His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well-intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place: reports of a 6-year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch, and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they themselves had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer sun lotion or an aspirin to a student; but could not inform parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the churches became businesses; and criminals received better treatment than their victims.

Common Sense took a beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home, and the burglar could sue you for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot; she spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents, Truth and Trust; by his wife, Discretion; by his daughter, Responsibility, and by his son, Reason. He is survived by his 5 stepbrothers: I Know My Rights; I Want It Now; Someone Else Is To Blame; I'm a Victim, and Pay me for Doing Nothing. Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

INTERESTING – ORIGIN OF A PHRASE: Ladies' corsets used to lace up in the front. Dignified ladies in tightly-laced corsets were called 'straitlaced'.

THEATRE NEWS

A ARTSCAPE (021 421 7695 or any Computicket)

Opera House: Puccini's *La Bohème* – innovative production in modern dress. Fri 14, Sun 16, Tues 18, Thurs 20, Sat 22; 19:30 – 22:10 (2hrs 20 min).
Prices: R150 – R325.

- B FUGARD** (available discounts exclusively from box office 021 461 4554 or boxoffice@thefugard.com)
- (i) **Studio:** To celebrate the Theatre's 10th birthday, Athol Fugard's *Master Harold & The Boys*. Tues – Fri 20:00; Sat 15:00 & 20:00; Sun 15:00. 90 mins
Prices: R180 – R250
- (ii) **Theatre:** *Dame Kiri Te Kanana in Conversation*. Hosted by Matthew Wild, CTO Artistic Director, and Cape Talk presenter, Africa Melane. Saturday 29 Feb, 19:00 (80 mins); Price R125.
- C THEATRE ON THE BAY** (021 438 3300)
Till 14 March: *The Producers*, starring Alan Committie & Richard White; 'The funniest musical in the world', 'Extraordinarily tickling power ... it is irresistible'. Mondays 19:30, Tues – Sat 20:00. Prices R180 – R280.
- D BAXTER** (021 680 3989 or any Pick n Pay)
12 – 29 Feb: *Aunty Merle – It's a Girl!* Marc Lottering in a sequel to his highly successful *Aunty Merle The Musical* (4 Fleur du Cap nominations). 19:15. Please phone for Tier 1 and Tier 2 prices.

THINKING OF OTHERS

Our condolences to members who recently lost family or friends, especially over the Festive Season – coping with loss is so much more hurtful when everybody around you is celebrating. For those recuperating from illness or surgery, we hope you'll soon be back to good health soon; and sincere congratulations to those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries this month, especially the Big 0's!

Cheers for now.
Ruth

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS				
NAME	POSITION	LANDLINE	CELLULAR	E-MAIL
Mark Binedell	Chairman/Outings	021 4653355	082 8877488	mjbinedell@telkomsa.net
Merle Byworth	Vice-Chairperson	021 4341230	083 4543775	mbyworth@telkomsa.net
Alison Tame	Treasurer		083 3078278	alison.tame@gmail.com
Ruth Buckland	Newsletter	021 5300146	083 5118237	ruthbuckland3638@gmail.com
Mary Whitelaw	Minutes Secretary		083 4535585	whitelaw@mweb.co.za
Fay Woodhead	Outings	021 5312702	072 1110552	deswoodhead69@gmail.com
Rita Scott	Knitting		083 3920611	scottritaj@gmail.com
Jackie Pittman			072 7695015	jpittman@telkomsa.net / jpittmandsj@gmail.com