

ROSEBANK KILLARNEY Gazette

www.rosebankkillarneygazette.co.za

Incorporating Norwood, Lyndhurst & surrounds

Week ending: November 8, 2024

FANS ARRIVE EN-MASSE FOR PARKLIVE CONCERT

SEE MORE: 4



FREE



Braamfontein cemetery ash plaque builders, July Molapo and Abraham Malepe. INSET: Friends of Johannesburg Cemeteries' Nicola Noble.

Ash walls rise from the dust

Asanda Mathhare
asandam@caxton.co.za

To combat future vandalism at the Braamfontein Cemetery, the Johannesburg City Parks and Zoo (JCPZ) has buffed up its security personnel and measures at the burial site.

Last year, more than 4 000 ash walls were damaged by vandals at the cemetery.

JCPZ has worked tirelessly in collaboration with the Friends of Johannesburg Cemeteries including more than 40 volunteers, and contractors, to restore the ash walls, which were unveiled to the media on October 29.

JCPZ managing director Thanduxolo Mendrew said, "Six additional security personnel in the cemetery, who will do a 24-hour shift, were deployed and a dedicated security team with k9 units to patrol and deter criminal activity. We have also installed solar lights for increased visibility at night."

Friends of Johannesburg Cemeteries' Nicola Noble said the restoration process was time-consuming and required a lot of help.

"The process took a long time because each ash plaque had to be worked on individually and volunteers had to look at registers for the records of the ash plaques in physical books and online," she said.

Mendrew added cemeteries were sacred places with profound significance which served as reminders of our shared humanity, cycle of life, and the connections that bonded us across generations.

"They are not only final resting places, they are reflections of our history, values, and cultures. Each tombstone and plaque on the memorial wall tell a story, a story of love, sacrifice, and remembrance."

He added by visiting these sites, we honoured the memories of those who came before us, fostering a

sense of continuity that transcends time.

"Cemeteries provide families with an option to honour their loved ones in a personal and meaningful way. These spaces are designed to facilitate healing, reflection, and connection for the departed and those left behind as custodians of these sacred sites.

"We, as JCPZ, and the communities we serve have a shared responsibility to take care of them."

The Braamfontein Cemetery is one of Johannesburg's oldest cemeteries with its first burial taking place in 1888. There are several memorials in this cemetery including the granite memorial which dates to 1896.

This was erected in honour of 71 people who died in an explosion at the Braamfontein station in February of that year.

Another memorial is that of Enock Sontonga, the composer of the national anthem who died in 1905.

"Today we are witnessing the first step of our response to vandalism, which is the physical restoration but the aspect of vandalism remains with us as JCPZ," continued Mendrew.

"The general moral decay of our society exposes misunderstandings of cemeteries and will take all of society to ensure that cemeteries are respected and persevered," concluded Mendrew.

Ball is rolling at bowls club

Naziya Davids-Easthorpe
naziyade@caxton.co.za

Following a raid on October 22, where authorities dismantled makeshift shacks at the old Parkhurst Bowls and Soccer Club, efforts to clear and develop the area have intensified.

The Johannesburg Property Company (JPC) and Genzenix, the newly appointed developer for a mixed-use project on the site, are moving forward with systematic clearing and fencing, complying with all legal requirements to prevent future unlawful land occupations.

This process is set to continue over the coming days as the city aims to revitalise the area.

In the wake of the raid, many displaced individuals have relocated to nearby open spaces rather than formal shelters.

This choice has led to a noticeable increase in rough sleepers across the surrounding suburbs, prompting local authorities, including JMPD and SAPS, to enforce city by-laws. The community is encouraged to

report any new encampments in parks, public spaces, or private properties for the next 10 days, as law enforcement works diligently to maintain the cleared area.

The situation has polarised the Parkhurst community.

Some residents view the enforcement actions as essential for reclaiming public spaces, while others express concern for the welfare of those left homeless and without possessions. This incident highlights the growing tensions surrounding Johannesburg's approach to homelessness, informal housing, and urban development.

As the clearing progresses, residents may notice an increased presence of JMPD and Pikitup teams focused on ensuring the area remains free from unauthorised settlements.

The ongoing situation underscores the complexities of managing land use while balancing the needs of the community and those displaced by the recent actions.



The old Parkhurst Bowls and Soccer Club.



St Teresa's School
Founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1930



ROSEBUDS
LIFE IS A GARDEN

COME AND EXPERIENCE ST TERESA'S SCHOOL

EVERY DAY IS OPEN DAY

BOOK A TOUR

011 442 6235 | www.stteresas.co.za



Learn. Grow. Thrive.