

WHERE A VILLAGE AND A RIVER MEET

the STANFORD *News*

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For Stanford's Ward committee Education is high on the list writes Liz Clarke

Learners need a plan B

"I want to go to big school, but I can't. The schools in Hermanus and Gansbaai are full. Every day I hope that things will change."

That was the voice of a 13-year old - one of dozens of learners in Stanford who finished primary school last year but have not been able to continue their secondary school education because of a lack of facilities. New Ward Committee Member Brett Sander believes it is an issue that can't be ignored for much longer.

"We have no high school in or near the village which means many children are sitting at home not knowing what to do next. It's not a good situation." Sander's portfolio includes



youth and community based programmes in Die Kop settlement, just south of Stanford, 600 meters off the R43.

With each passing week, he says, the chances of these learners finding a high school placement is diminishing. "It's a hugely difficult situation" says Sander who is well aware that education is not a municipal function.

"That's why we need a plan B."

The plan B he believes could be a learning and resource centre that would cater for teenage learners unable to access formal high school education allowing them to continue their studies, albeit in a different way.

"When there is an eagerness to learn and no opportunities disillusionment and frustration set in. We see it all the time" he says. "We need signs that the future will be brighter for young people. They need hope." This will be one of the critical issues raised at this month's municipal committee meeting in Stanford and will be pursued during the committee's term.

Turn to page 4 to learn more about Brett Sander and the NGO work he is involved in

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Liz Clarke chats to a South African foodie whose down-to-earth journey of cooking is tingling the taste buds

In love with . . . home-style cooking

Celebrating family occasions, sitting around a table with close friends, eating food that has been made with love are the things that are close to Debbie Bailey's heart. This sassy cookery book author has decided to spread her wings and share her love of down-to-earth family-style cooking to areas far beyond her Gauteng cookery haven where her recipes are honed and developed.

This month Debbie shared her long-term vision for the second edition of her book "The Colourful Kitchen" which traces her culinary roots from her childhood home in Chatsworth, south of Durban, to her global travels exploring and experiencing flavours from such far-flung regions as Vietnam and Barcelona.

"I cook because I love it - it's as simple as that" she says. "I also love the idea of celebrating my simple

and well-loved family recipes with smaller communities like Stanford, which I have only recently discovered.

With that homespun idea in mind, Debbie has agreed to share some of her recipes with Stanford News readers over the next few editions, starting with a fish curry harkening back to her Durban heritage. Watch out for our March edition when we will launch our first competition – "Cook Up a Winner." Debbie will give readers the key ingredients they will need to use in their recipe (it needs to be their own recipe) and the winner will receive a presentation copy of her book. Debbie will test the recipes in her kitchen and decide on the winner.

If you want more information about her book and her recipes email her at deborah@hotwiremarketing.co.za



Debbie's fresh fish curry

YOU'LL NEED

6 pieces of Cape Salmon or firm fish
Glut of canola oil
1 large onion
fresh curry leaves
1/2 teaspoon of mustard seed
1 1/2
Teaspoons garlic
2 tbs hot fish masala
6 tomatoes (blended) or 400 canned tomatoes crushed
2 spoons of tamarind paste
1 tbs of lemon juice
Salt to taste
1/2 cup of water,
fresh coriander

METHOD

Heat oil in a wide based pot add onions and curry leaves once onions start to brown add mustard seed garlic and masala, stir for a minute and add blended tomatoes, tamarind and lemon juice. Cook low heat for about 15 minutes adding a little water if needed to create a nice consistency. Add fish and cook for an further 20 minutes on low heat.

Take off the heat and add a handful of fresh chopped Coriander. Serve with roti or basmati rice and raita.





They're planning the future

So let's stay in the loop

We have such a gentle, laid-back Village that it is hard to imagine that much will change . We think about our gardens, our pets, play bridge, read, exercise, do a bit of work if we have to, and enjoy the ever changing beauty of the sky, the mountains and the country scenery. The last thing I wanted to read was something entitled 'The Overstrand Municipality Draft Spatial Development Framework'. It sounded like something that could be dismissed in a heartbeat. Glad I didn't. It's a sobering document, albeit in draft form.

So here goes. The total projected population of Stanford in 2019 was 6 172 based on a 3.2 percent projected growth per annum census 2001 - 2011. Using the same projection the town will have a population of 9 000 in 2031 - eight years from now.

To accommodate the expected growth, 48 hectares of developable land will be needed in Stanford by 2031 for 1 088 additional dwelling units. Whichever way, the interest in the 'Orange Block' makes more sense (See DA Councillor Dudley Coetzee's summing up of the issue, page 7). It appears that the draft done in 2020 is the final one, which suggests that the plan is ready to go to the next stage, whatever that is.

The bottom line is we need to know!

Stanford's ward municipal representatives are making an all-out effort to keep us up-to-speed with the work of the 10 new Municipal committee members who each have a portfolio and an important agenda to follow. The first public Municipal Ward Committee meeting - under the new Ward 1 banner - will get underway at the community hall in Stanford South this week. The Stanford News will be there to report on the meeting and hear first-hand what our new committee is doing.

On the security level, we plan to do the same thing.

On that front there are those who are willing to watch, listen and react to any signs of criminal activity in an effort to keep us safe. From this month the Stanford News will be partnering with the security cluster to bring our growing number of readers up-to-date with issues that become even more important in a small village. See Page 8



DIARY DATE

The next Ward Committee meeting for Ward 1 will be held on 17 Feb in the Stanford Community Hall. This will be an advertised Public meeting, the standard committee items will be discussed from 16h00 to 18h00 and the Public part of the meeting will then start at 18h00.

Future Ward Committee dates are:

22 April

19 May

23 June

21 July

18 Aug

22 Sept

20 Oct

24 Nov

22 Dec

Advertised public meetings will always be held in the Stanford Community Hall, the rest of the meetings will be held in the meeting room at the Gansbaai Municipal offices and will also be available on the Teams virtual platform. All meetings start at 16h00 and are open to the public as observers, at the advertised public meetings the public may also comment and ask questions.

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DIRECT LINKS



BRETT SANDER: A voice for Die Kop

Wine farmer, entrepreneur, activist for poverty alleviation, Brett Sander is the Ward 1 committee member representing Die Kop informal settlement, south east of Stanford.

We met at Catherine Speedie's new Union coffee shop in Queen Victoria Street and it wasn't long before we were talking about the Food4Thought initiative - which has to be an exemplary example of how education and self- empowerment can work together in a powerful way.

The initiative was started several years ago by fellow Stanford activists, Jane Dowie Dunn and Maryanne Ward to support a small Xhosa-speaking community. The spin-off from those early years is that today Die Kop is largely self-supportive through its food gardens, egg production, food box scheme, and has a thriving nursery school, catering for more than 80 children through to Grade R.

"We can be proud of our history and what we are achieving with the help of our local work force, volunteers and the farming community" says Brett "and we believe that Die Kop should be the blueprint for other informal settlements, but there is still work to be done." Brett's focus as a ward committee member will be to lobby for more opportunities and skills training for the youth. "I think we have our foundational and primary school sector catered for, but then there is a huge gap. We have a number of skills training initiatives, we have early childhood development programmes, but what the community needs is a high school, or if not that, then a learning academy that will take learners to matric level."

Brett grew up in the Duran suburb of Sydenham, schooled in Joburg, studied economics and investment management at university.

"The NGO sector is my real love – improving lives through careful and sustained management has to be the right answer!



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FACTFINDER

Learner enrolment in the Overstrand municipal area increased by 1 082 learners from 12 211 in 2017 to 13 293 in 2019. (Source- Provincial Treasury, MERO, 2020). In their 5 year education infrastructure program for Overstrand (February 2019) the Overberg Education District of the Provincial Education Department confirms the shortage of public ordinary schools (primary and secondary) in the municipal area.

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The birth of nursery school education in SA was never going to be easy but . . .

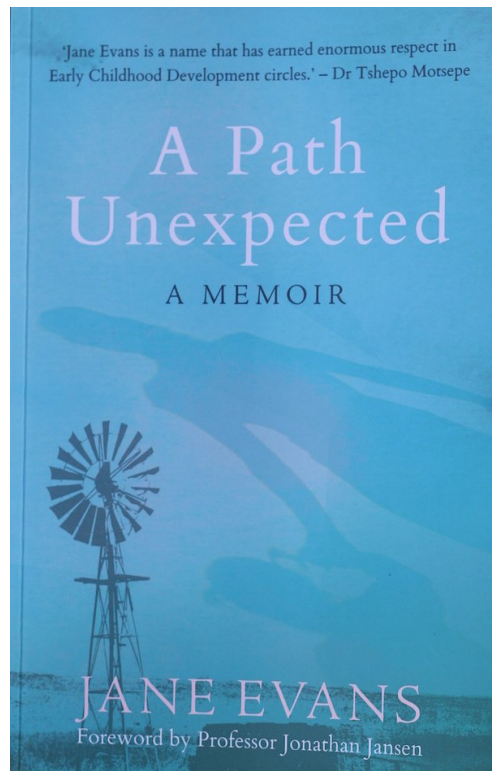
Giving up was never an option

What I really like about Jane Evans memoir "A Path Unexpected" (Published by Jonathan Ball) is its simplicity and the gentle flow of the story-telling. The subject matter is huge – the tapestry against which it is poised is as awkward and politically agitated as you can get. And yet the narrative cuts through the background turmoil to get to the nitty-gritty of what was needed to be done, albeit under extraordinary circumstances.

In essence Evans' story is about the birth of Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes for children growing up in the farmland districts of South Africa, where survival is not a given and basic resources often non-existent.

Possibly it was her journalist background that dictated how the unfolding story of Ntataise (hold my hand), proceeded. The drama is there but never to the exclusion of the daunting challenges that would inevitably accompany the introduction of Western norms into a deeply untrusting society where tradition rules and change is resisted.

The story of how she became embroiled in a quest to improve the learning potential of pre-school children is told from the personal perspective of a young white Free State farmer's wife living in the 'verkrampte' heartland of



Viljoenskroon, whose efforts to start the first nursery school on her husband's farm were met with suspicion and scepticism.

Who was this white woman to tell local families how to bring up their children? Who were these people teaching children to ask questions, draw pictures, make things and paint? How could that be learning?

Winding through this precarious evolution in child development was a group of women from impoverished backgrounds themselves, who saw the importance of what Evans was trying to do – to open up a world of

inquisitiveness, adventure, exploration and expression into the lives of three and four-year-olds in order to equip them better for formal learning. These women, as Evans relates, embraced the idea of ECD with passion and energy, even though many of them were unable to read or write themselves. They became the evangelists for change, laying a foundation and a blueprint, that while still not perfect, as Evans accepts, is now accepted, formulated and followed by a new generation of early childhood development peers.

Today more than 500 000 children have benefitted from the input of these practitioners, based mainly in farming, township and rural areas.

I was also intrigued with the way she was able to intersperse her often hectic and spontaneous reaction to the prickly road she and her fellow workers had chosen, with humorous and poignant anecdotes of family life and a somewhat rocky transition from busy Rand Daily Mail journalist to life on a mealie and cattle farm, miles from anywhere. She dedicates her book to her late farmer husband Anthony, who she says was the voice of reason in everything she and her team of women were trying to do, and her greatest supporter.



CHATting TO AUTHOR Jane Evans about her book 'A Path Unexpected', launched at the Intethe Gallery in Hermanus a few weeks ago, it's clear that her story on Early Childhood Development in South Africa, is an ongoing narrative.

"Practitioners working in this sector have done an incredible job," she says. "They have proved that introducing very young children to learning through play in a nursery school setting improves the chances of a child doing well at formal school.

Having said that, she also believes there is still more to be done.

"My early experience as an activist in early child development made me keenly aware of how non-achievement at school is often linked to a lack of input in the first 1000 days of a child's life.

"It starts at ground zero" says Evans. "It starts with families who want the best for their children. It starts with ward committee members who have a real interest in early childhood development and want to push the issue. It starts with women who want to receive training as ECD practitioners and have identified a need in their area."

"One of the many lessons I have learnt during this process is that if you want to get things done you need to let people know – loud and clear – what your mission is. It's always a struggle to get the message across, but if you persist, there will be people who will heed your call."

Those interested in understanding more about Ntataise and its ECD programmes can visit their website <https://www.ntataise.co.za>

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN

STANFORD

Events/Info contact Le-Ann
at book@stanfordinfo.co.za



FEBRUARY/MARCH

De Kromme Watergang team 2-star Michelin culinary pop-up at Springfontein until the 27th of March

OPENING DAYS

Wednesday & Thursday: Dinner (7pm to 11pm)
Friday & Saturday: Lunch (12 pm to 4 pm) and Dinner (7pm to 11pm)
Sunday: Lunch (12 pm to 4 pm)

APRIL

08 - 11 |||| FRI - MON

Ladies Whale Coast Luxury
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Mosaic Lagoon Lodge

REGULARS
WEDNESDAYS

Stanford Kitchen live music performance at 18:30

SATURDAYS

- The Saturday Morning Market on the stoep of the Stanford Hotel
- The Junktique market in tourism courtyard
- Panthera Africa Sunset Visits at 6:30 pm

FEBRUARY 2022

16-20 |||| WED - SUN

The Journey Within - Remembering You at Bodhi Khaya Retreat

18 |||| FRI

Playing with Charcoal at Egret and Owl Cafe with Tracy Algar

19 |||| SAT

Agulhus Wine Triangle Festival day - free entry - live music, cellar tour and barrel tasting with winemaker at Lomond

25 |||| FRI

Sunset Market on the Village Green

26 |||| SAT

Stanford MTB Classic at Stanford Valley Farm

28 |||| MON

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ORANGE BLOCK - the debate continues

The Orange Block, ERF 1772 Stanford, recently made the news. Peter Bruce in his article in the December edition of the Stanford News writes about the Orange Block and states that a few people, namely us, seem to know what it is all about but the general public do not.

The truth of the matter is that we are also still speculating, based on snippets of information that have been gleaned from WRAP Consulting. Following our meeting I wrote to the Mayor about the development of ERF 1772 and have spoken to her again, after the Council Meeting, on this matter. She confirmed that the Municipality has not received an application to develop ERF 1772 and thus there is little if anything that we can do until the developer submits an application to develop the ERF. I proposed that WRAP Consulting be asked to call a public meeting to discuss their intention, however WRAP is not the developer and can thus not be asked to divulge what they have been contracted to do in respect of this property.

My opinion at this stage is that we wait for Wrap to submit an application and then comment constructively. I am also of the opinion that any development on this ERF, particularly the rezoning, will require an EIA, this will give another opportunity to engage the developer.

So to summarise at present there is no application to develop the Orange Block or more specifically ERF 1772 Stanford. However we must be sure that we are well prepared to state our views on what we consider to be acceptable and what we do not, when this development sees the light of day.

DUDLEY COETZEE - DA Ward 1 Councillor



Should this be the new Tourism Centre?

'DON'T LET THE IDEA DIE' - IT'S A GOOD ONE'

I think the Stanford News' idea of turning the current library building in Queen Victoria Street into the tourism centre is a brilliant one. The current office is too out of the way and many visitors don't get there. Now that our Village is waking up after COVID, it would be the ideal time to make the move. I have heard from many people that we need to make more of a noise about what the Village has to offer tourists. particularly now as the market starts to pick up. Let's hope this great idea doesn't die - it would be such a shame!

SUE JOCELYN

I notice from recent emails that WRAP plan to hold an 'information' session in Stanford to present the Erf 1772 proposals. Apparently it is not a public participation meeting, so no formal feedback is presumably required.

I have written to the Stanford Heritage Committee about my concern regarding isolated applications such as these, without there being a coherent vision, or proper planning framework and guidelines for the overall area to the East of Stanford. In time further applications will follow from neighbouring owners who will expect similar rights - all within a planning vacuum.

I therefore suggest a more 'proactive' approach in which the Heritage Committee, together with the Stanford Ratepayers, Stanford Conservation, Tourism and other interested groups help to formulate a set of guidelines that can serve as a framework for future development of the Stanford East area.

A local framework plan would be an official municipal document helping to guide developers, who would then have a clearer understanding of the type of development that would be considered appropriate, saving time and costs for everyone.

The Overstrand Heritage document already provides many of the guidelines for areas such as this, so that would be an obvious starting point.

Typical aspects that would need to be considered include the following:

- 1) The nature and density of development, i.e. wall-to-wall suburbia, or cluster development embedded in farmland (e.g. vineyards);**
- 2) An integrated, linked open space system for recreation and stormwater management;**
- 3) Treatment of the R43 and R326 scenic routes;**
- 4) Inclusion of safe walking, cycling and horse-riding routes.**

My own opinion is that the application for Erf 1772 is premature as no guidelines have been established for the newly incorporated area within the Stanford East urban edge, which still has an agricultural zoning. It would be a grave error to consider isolated applications such as this without an overall framework / guidelines for the general area. How does one assess applications if there are no ground rules? Furthermore, according to professional opinion given to me, the inclusion of the 'Orange Block' within the urban edge failed to involve proper public participation and is therefore flawed - i.e. still has to go through a process.

BERNARD OBERHOLZER



DEREK CRABTREE - outlines the way forward

Keeping the Valley safe - that's KROW's mission

What should a unified community look like? What are the weak links that need to be identified?

These were the questions that a team of safety and security-conscious volunteers in Stanford were tasked to grapple with after a number of negative events took place in the greater Stanford area late last year.

Among those compiling an operational framework to upgrade community security was Derek Crabtree, whose knowledge of safety and security protocols, helped guide the process.

"We realized that there were a number of weak links in the way we dealt with combatting crime and general surveillance in the Stanford area and that a more pro-active and formalized approach was needed."

The result of the collaboration is the formation of the Kleinrivier Overwatch (KROW)

whose slogan is "A Community that Stands Together is Stronger Together".

In the new Ward structure that came into being this month - KROW will be a strategic part of the

Stanford Community Police Forum, which is represented at ward level.

Some of the key elements of KROW will be:-

- Aligning with other successful neighbourhood/farm watches, SAPS, Associations, Security Contractors and Service/Product providers
- Getting the community voices heard through candidate representation on the Ward 1 committee
- Pro-actively driven initiatives and awareness campaigns within the Valley to build up trust between the sectors that make up the community

The next phase includes the publishing of the first draft of the KROW Disaster Management Strategic Document for public comment and input. Also on the cards is finalizing and implementing the roll-out of technical equipment in and around the Stanford Valley.

The Stanford News will following the progress of this initiative at various stages of implementation with the aim of keeping the whole Stanford community informed. So watch this space!



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