



SILWERSTRAND

GOLF & RIVER ESTATE



SILWERSTRAND GOLF & RIVER ESTATE

NEWSLETTER

Photographer: Philip R. du Toit



HOW A COMMUNITY CAME TOGETHER

There is a wonderful place called Robertson, nestled in the Breede River Valley, surrounded by mountains, vineyards, and some of the most caring people one could ever hope to meet. It is a community built not only on beautiful landscapes and a shared love of this valley, but on the quiet, unshakeable bonds that exist between neighbours. Those bonds were never more visible than in the days and weeks following the flood of May 2026.

In the week leading up to the event, weather forecasts predicted severe rainfall across the Slanghoek Valley, Ceres, and Du Toitskloof areas — all part of the Breede River catchment. The HOA began issuing severe weather warnings on 11 May, making sandbags and sand available, and distributing regular updates as conditions worsened. On the morning of 12 May, residents received an urgent advisory that river levels were expected to exceed those seen in 2024.

The river rose with a speed that was extraordinary and unlike anything previously experienced. In earlier flood events, the Robertson Valley could anticipate the arrival of floodwaters by monitoring levels at Nekkies Bridge. This time, conditions changed within hours, leaving very little margin. Significant portions of the Village Estate were affected, with water levels reaching considerable heights in some areas. Yet amidst the disruption, there is one outcome for which we remain profoundly and permanently grateful: not a single life was lost, and no resident suffered serious injury. In a flood of this magnitude, that is nothing short of remarkable — and it speaks directly to the swift action taken by residents, the HOA, and emergency teams in the critical hours beforehand.



The Night Everything Changed

The evening of 12 May will remain etched in the memories of many residents — not only because of the floodwaters that rose around them, but because of what rose alongside it: an immediate, extraordinary, and entirely spontaneous wave of human kindness.

As evacuation notices were issued for the Village Estate, the Silwerstrand Clubhouse was opened as a place of safety and support. Residents requiring accommodation were connected almost immediately with volunteers willing to open their homes. The Silwerstrand Caravan Park was similarly evacuated, with a safe area provided inside the Estate's main entrance for caravans to be repositioned out of harm's way.

Lea and Leon of Bourbon Street Restaurant prepared pizzas for residents in need of a warm meal that evening — one of the very first gestures of generosity in what would become an extraordinary community effort.

Not a single resident struggled to find shelter, warmth, food, or support. Families opened their homes to complete strangers. Pets and their owners were welcomed together. Volunteers appeared almost instantly, offering spare rooms, blankets, hot meals, and transport. Within hours, a network of homeowners had organised both short-term and long-term accommodation for those who needed it.



A Community Mobilises

As the water began to recede, the scale of the work ahead became clear – and the community met it without hesitation.

Riverside Estate had been temporarily cut off following structural damage to the McGregor Bridge, and teams worked to restore access and support those isolated without electricity or running water. The Golf Estate sustained damage to sections of its course. Throughout the Village Estate, roads were covered in mud and debris – and the task of restoring them began almost immediately.

The HOA, staff, and contractors moved swiftly – assessing the damage while simultaneously coordinating emergency responses for sewerage systems, electrical substations, security infrastructure, and access control. Each challenge was met with a practical, determined response. The dedication shown by our security teams throughout this period deserves particular recognition. Working under difficult conditions and for extended hours, they did so without complaint and without pause.

Their commitment – especially those stationed in Riverside, was unwavering.



Silwerstrand Campsite

The Arrival of Help

Even before the full extent of the damage had been assessed, help was already on its way.

Local farmers, including Saratoga, Van Loveren and Drie Eike, arrived with tractors, equipment and staff. Roads were cleared and debris removed with impressive speed.

Ds Janlu, the local minister, walked through the affected areas offering support, and before long, he and his wife were side by side with residents, helping to clean flood-damaged homes.

The Lekker Smul team arrived with free coffee for staff, volunteers, contractors and residents. Local businesses donated food. Burgers, hot dogs, soup, baked goods and warm drinks appeared throughout the clean-up.

Contractors worked through the night to restore electricity and sewerage services. The Springfield family supplied a generator to assist Riverside residents while municipal power lines were being repaired. When replacement transformers were delivered, local business AH Marias provided a crane, free of charge, to assist with installation.

Every time a need arose, someone stepped forward to meet it.

When portable toilets were delivered, a resident immediately donated toilet paper. When a tractor was needed, one arrived within minutes, complete with a driver. Staff and security personnel were continuously supplied with meals, hot chocolate, home-baked treats and words of genuine encouragement.

It was not one grand gesture that made the difference. It was thousands of small acts of kindness, offered freely and without expectation.

Rebuilding Together

As recovery efforts continued, neighbours became friends.

A laundry network was established, allowing residents to drop off flood-damaged clothing and bedding with volunteers for washing. Residents helped one another recover personal belongings that had been carried away by floodwaters. Children's toys, furniture, family photographs and treasured possessions were found along riverbanks and returned to their owners. Each recovered item became a small but meaningful victory.

As the mud disappeared from the streets, spirits slowly began to lift. The work of rebuilding, both practically and emotionally, continued steadily and with great determination.

On 31 May 2026, Robertson Moedergemeente hosted a community braai for flood-affected families. It was a timely reminder that recovery is not only about rebuilding buildings—it is about rebuilding people and restoring hope.

A Community Worth Calling Home

The flood of May 2026 tested Silwerstrand in ways none of us had anticipated. But it also revealed something that no flood can wash away.

It revealed the strength of our residents, the dedication of our staff and security teams, the effectiveness of our emergency communication systems, and the extraordinary generosity of the wider Robertson community. The response – from the first evacuation notice to the last bag of laundry returned – was a demonstration of what this community is truly made of.

Silwerstrand has always been more than an address. It is a place where people look out for one another, where strangers become neighbours and neighbours become family. The floods tested that, and the community answered with something that cannot be built by developers or described in a brochure. It can only be lived.

As we continue to restore, repair, and rebuild, we do so with the knowledge that the foundations of this community – the human ones – have never been stronger.

To every person who cleared mud, delivered food, opened a home, operated machinery, donated supplies, repaired infrastructure, offered accommodation, made coffee, washed laundry, provided a meal, or simply gave a hug when it was needed most – thank you.

Your kindness made an immeasurable difference.

Together we will continue to rebuild. Together we will restore our beautiful estate. And together we will ensure that the story of the 2026 flood is remembered not only for what it brought down, but for the remarkable community that rose to meet it.

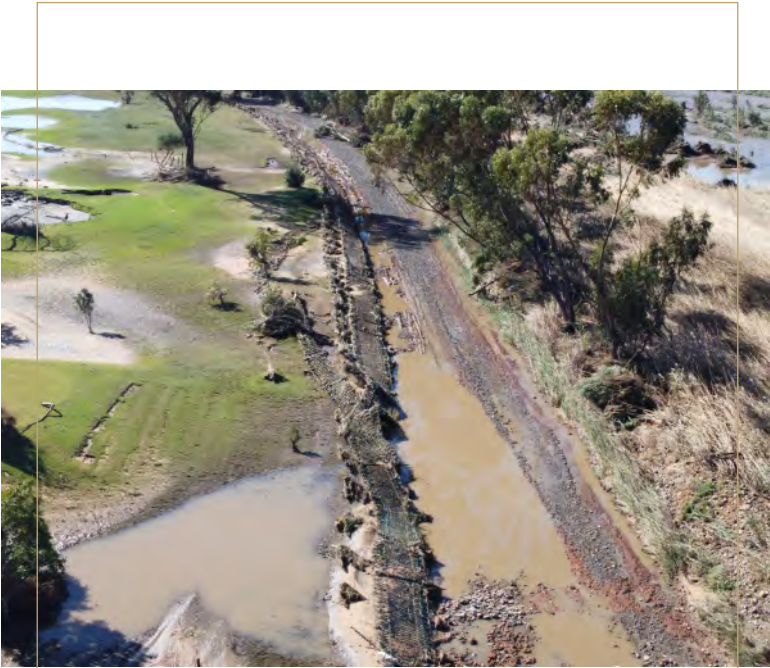


Photo Left: Golf Course 5th Hole
Photo Right: Clearing of Village Roads



Annual Rainfall Recorded and Full Moons

MONTH	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	TOTAL(mm)
JAN			☾												3																	3
FEB	☾			1	9			2	21	69		1	3											1								106
MARCH	1	1	☾															1	9						5							17
APRIL		☾	22	5								5						2		11							8					53
MAY	☾						13				10	10							1											☾	34	

Thank you Francois du Plessis

GOLF NEWS

ROBERTSON LADIES OPEN DAY



- Anneke Bezuidenhout

On the 7th of March, Robertson Golf Club hosted our annual Ladies Open Day where players competed for the Wolhuter trophy – a tradition that has been going on for 30 years. It was once again a festive affair with the theme from the hippie era: “love and peace”.

The ladies embraced the theme and dressed accordingly, which made the course very vibrant and colourful. A record number of women from the Southern Cape, Western Cape and Boland came to take part in our ladies’ golf day. Feedback from the visitors was very positive regarding the excellent condition of our course, as well as the professionalism of our staff and the warmth and hospitality of our club.

The day was extended with a Par 3 competition that kicked off on Friday afternoon helping to attract players from further afield and turning the event into more of a weekend getaway rather than just a one-day visit.

The clubhouse was lively over the two days, filled with the joy of women enjoying golf and each other’s company.

Robertson Ladies Golf Section has shown strong and positive growth in membership over the past year, and more than 80% of our members participated in the event. It was a day marked by great sportsmanship, lots of fun, laughter and healthy competition.

The excitement ran high as four of our new club members won on the day. Congratulations to Franci Conradie, Petro Bosman, Rhenda Allen and Susan Dowd – you made Robertson proud.

This day would not have been possible without all the generous sponsors, and for that, the ladies are incredibly grateful to our community who opened their hearts. Everyone agreed that they will definitely return next year and we promise to make it colourful and interesting again – watch this space.



WEEKEND NEWS



- Salome Thonnard

06th March 2026

Ocean-loving women, one epic road trip from Cape Town to Stilbaai, and a whole lot of wild swims in between.

The Salt Sistas are a tight-knit group of female swimmers who have connected over the past two years through their shared love of open water swimming. Meeting regularly as part of the Topaz Swimming group at Small Bay, Bloubergstrand, they've built not only strength and endurance in the water, but a deep sense of camaraderie. So when the Stilbaai River Rats announced their annual Tide Glide event on the Goukou River, seven of the Salt Sistas jumped at the chance to turn it into a full-on swimming road trip adventure.

The swim road trip kicked off with a truly special first stop, organised by Joyce & Rejeanne from Silwerstrand Estate in Robertson. There, we were warmly welcomed and treated to a beautiful river swim, guided by a local swimming legend, Alan Jamieson, who knows these waters intimately. With spirits high and hair still dripping, we headed onwards to Buffeljagsdam just outside Swellendam for another refreshing dip before continuing on to Stilbaai in time for the Tide Glide pre-briefing.

The 10km Stilbaai Tide Glide itself was exceptionally well organised, with superb support on the water and an incredible atmosphere among swimmers. Conditions on the day were near perfect, and the beauty of the river made every kilometre memorable. Not surprisingly, we couldn't resist another swim later that evening, making the most of the calm water and golden light.

Sunday saw us heading back toward Cape Town, but the swimming was far from over. Our first stop was Bontebok National Park, where we enjoyed a peaceful swim in the Breede River, surrounded by nature and absolute tranquillity. From there, we made our final stop at the Palmiet Rock Pools, swimming down to the lagoon and river mouth. It was the perfect way to end the weekend – floating between mountains and ocean, soaking in the wild beauty of the landscape.

Over the three days, each swimmer covered an average of 20 kilometres, with the group clocking a total of approximately 131 kilometres in the water.

True to Salt Sista spirit, whenever there's a swimming event, an adventure, or simply an irresistible body of water calling, we answer. Eight of the Salt Sistas have already completed the iconic Robben Island Crossing, and three have recently gone on to swim all the way around Robben Island. One of our group, Tracy Jannasch, a visually impaired swimmer with approximately 20% vision in one eye, recently completed the Robben Island Crossing – a phenomenal achievement. As she approached Big Bay, her Salt Sistas swam out to meet her, accompanying her through the final stretch in a powerful show of support and sisterhood.

The weekend was about salt, sisterhood, and chasing the next swim. Early mornings, cold water, big laughs, tired arms, and unforgettable memories. One thing is certain – the Salt Sistas will always find the water, wherever the adventure leads.



Photo: "The Salt Sisters" Salome Thonnard, Lourentia van Wyk, Carol Mackenzie, Melissa Rademan, Liza Johnson, Allan Jameson

Thank you!

We would like to thank
Lucian van Coller

for his time served as a
Trustee for Silwerstrand Golf
and River Estate.



Thank you for your valuable
contribution and effort to
better the estate. Your
dedication and the time and
energy you have given have
made a positive impact on
our community, and it is
sincerely appreciated.

SILWERSTRAND LOCKER FULLY OPERATIONAL

PUDO IT!!

Our Courier Guy locker is now fully operational, and we are pleased to see how popular the service has become since installation. The convenient locker system allows residents to send and collect parcels directly from the Estate with ease. Solar lighting at the locker area also ensures safe and convenient access, even after hours. Residents can now courier parcels from the Estate for as little as R50.00, making it an affordable and practical solution for everyday deliveries.

Steps to Mail a Pudo Parcel:

Register: Download the Pudo app or visit the Pudo website to create an account.

Top Up Your Wallet: Add credit to your wallet on the app or website to pay for your shipment.

Book Your Shipment:

Choose one of the following delivery options:

Locker to Locker – Cheapest option; you drop the parcel at a locker and the recipient collects it from another locker.

Locker to Door – You drop the parcel at a locker and it is delivered to the recipient's address.

Door to Locker – A courier collects the parcel from you and delivers it to a locker.

Enter Parcel Details: Add the recipient's name, address or chosen locker location, and select the parcel size.

Pack and Label Your Parcel: Pack your item securely and clearly write the booking reference number or Pudo PIN on the parcel.

Drop Off Your Parcel: Go to your selected locker, choose "Drop-Off" on the screen, and enter your code to open the locker door.

Track Your Parcel: Use the app to track your parcel in real time until delivery.





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We extend our sincere condolences on the passing of Johny Davids (29 May 1977 – 16 April 2026), respected television and radio presenter and familiar figure at the Silverstrand Golf Course.



SILWERSTRAND
GOLF & RIVER ESTATE

WELCOME
Mike & Maryke
VAN SCHOOR

FROM 1 JUNE 2026
MIKE & MARYKE WILL BE TAKING OVER THE FOOD, BEVERAGE AND RESTAURANT FACILITIES AT SILWERSTRAND GOLF CLUB.

We as Silverstrand Golf & River Estate are proud to welcome **Mike and Maryke van Schoor** to our operations.

As always, we are doing our best to elevate your experience here at the Estate and have therefore enlisted their knowledge and know how to do so.

OUR HOME. OUR COMMUNITY.
Having lived in Silverstrand for the past six years, this community already feels like home to us and we are truly excited to become even more involved in the daily life of the estate and golf club.

OUR VISION.
Our vision is to create a warm, welcoming and family friendly environment where homeowners, members, golfers and visitors can relax, enjoy good food and wine, and feel at home. While we will continue to cater for the needs of golfers, we also want to build a space where families and friends can gather and create lasting memories together.

TOGETHER MEMORIES.
We are looking forward to meeting even more members of the community and creating a space everyone can enjoy. Exciting times lie ahead and we cannot wait to welcome you all.

Warm regards
Mike & Maryke van Schoor

• GOOD FOOD. GOOD WINE. GOOD COMPANY.
SEE YOU SOON AT SILWERSTRAND GOLF CLUB!

BIRDING CORNER



ATTRACTING AND PHOTOGRAPHING SUNBIRDS AT SILWERSTRAND

- Daniel Dolpire

We are quite privileged to have a few of the Sunbird species here at Silwerstrand. I have set up a few sugar water stations (nectar feeders) around my garden and then wait for the Sunbirds to come and drink. My camera is set up on a tripod and the best light on these birds is the first 3 to 4 hours of light and the last few hours of light before sunset.



NON BREEDING MALACHITE SUNBIRD



NECTAR FEEDER

The nectar feeder shown in the photo is quite a clever design as it only really "caters" for the Sunbirds.

This is because there is a tiny hole for the slender, down-curved bill of the Sunbird. This access hole does not suit other bird species! Then I have another feeder which is actually a glass rain gauge. This one seems to attract the bulk of the sunbirds.



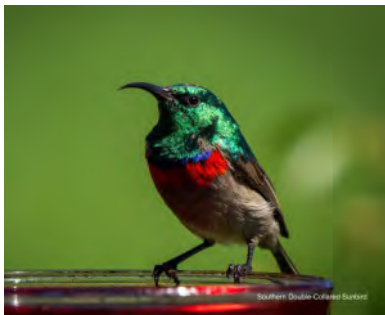
MALACHITE SUNBIRD



MALACHITE SUNBIRDS ECLIPSE STAGE

I make my own sugar water (700ml boiling water, 7 tbsp sugar and a few drops of red food colourant)

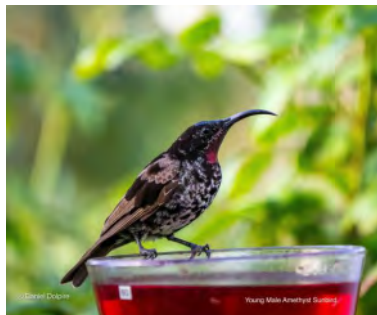
The sunbirds go through about 3 to 4 litres of sugar water per week!



SOUTHERN DOUBLE-COLLARED SUNBIRD



YOUNG MALE
CAPE SUGARBIRD



YOUNG MALE AMETHYST SUGARBIRD

Identifying the Sunbirds when they are in eclipse plumage can be a lot more difficult! Eclipse plumage refers to the dull, non breeding appearance adopted by adult males of certain species. The purpose of this phase is typically triggered after the breeding season, allowing the bird to rest and molt.

The young Cape Sugarbird featured above is closely associated with proteas! But here he was amongst my olive trees! Sugarbirds are endemic to South Africa.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank the following residents for their help and contributions over the past month in improving our estate.

Gher Rabie - Upgrade of the visitor parking area in Village and valuable assistance and contribution towards the cleaning of the estate after the flood.

Outien Rabie - Assistance towards the cleaning of the estate after the flood.

Anna-Marie De Kock & Stephan Cornelius - Donation of a three-seater park bench in Pond Close

Alan Jamieson & Marie Allen - Donation of a three-seater park bench at Breede River

Mountain Med Langeberg Family Practice - Updating of the Silwerstrand medical emergency procedure

Adriaan Lodewyk De Bruyn - Donation of a dog waste station at Breede River

Johan Muller, Elda Muller, Riaan Geldenhuys, Marnus Van Wyk - Contribution toward road safety.

Riverside Road - Special thanks to all the Riverside residents who made a financial contribution towards the Riverside Road upgrade.

Thank you!



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UPCOMING EVENTS

THINGS TO DO IN AND AROUND ROBERTSON

29 AUG	Robertson Classic
30 AUG - 4 SEPT	Hollow Tining
30 SEPT - 3 OCT	Robertson Skou
31 OCT - 1 NOV	Sip & Savour @ The River