

OUR RIVERSIDE STORY



INTRO

Our Riverside Story is a heartfelt celebration of the people, connections, and moments that make Riverside Manor a true home.

A great place to call home





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A NOTE FROM RLE



**Dear Riverside Residents, Friends,
and Families,**

Welcome to the second edition of Our Riverside Story. This magazine continues to celebrate everything that makes Riverside Manor so special, the people, the stories, the sense of community, and the moments that make it a place to truly call home.

In addition, we've recently launched the Riverside Brief, which provides frequent updates and highlights from daily life at Riverside. While the Brief keeps you informed in real time, Our Riverside Story gives us a chance to reflect, share experiences, and celebrate the milestones and memories that make our community unique.

**Warm regards,
Malcolm Lobban**



Riverside Community Highlights

The past few months at Riverside Manor Retirement Estate have been filled with meaningful gatherings, shared learning, and moments of celebration that reflect the strong sense of community among residents.

From educational talks to social events, each initiative has brought people together in a way that feels both enriching and personal.

These events continue to reinforce Riverside as more than a place to live, it is a place where curiosity, connection, and care are actively nurtured.

Guest Presentation: Rhino Conservation

Residents were privileged to attend a presentation by Major General Johan Jooste (retired), who shared his firsthand experiences in rhino conservation across South African game reserves.

His talk offered rare insight into the realities of conservation work, blending strategy, ethics, and personal reflection. The presentation was both educational and inspiring, prompting thoughtful discussion and deep appreciation for the dedication required to protect endangered wildlife.

Following the presentation, residents enjoyed a delicious lamb potjie lunch prepared by Marietjie. The meal was warmly received and created an opportunity for relaxed conversation and connection. Moments like these, where good food and good company meet, remain a cornerstone of the Riverside experience.





07 Christmas Morning Market

Riverside hosted a vibrant Christmas Morning Market with around 20 vendors offering everything from jewellery and clothing to baked goods and handmade items. Food stalls, a sunny Cake Café, and the Lifestyle second-hand shop added to the festive atmosphere.

It was a joyful, family-friendly event filled with laughter, connection, and community spirit, with all proceeds going toward future Riverside activities.



Garden Competition Celebration

A highly enjoyable garden competition morning saw 19 entries across four categories. The event was expertly organised by the Lifestyle Committee and celebrated the creativity and pride residents take in their gardens. A guest talk added further value, making the morning both celebratory and informative.





Festive Raffles and Community Craft

Several Christmas raffles added excitement to the festive season, including beautifully knitted toys and a Christmas cake raffle. These small moments brought joy and light-hearted fun to residents.

Handmade contributions once again highlighted the generosity and talent within the Riverside community.





Did You Know? A Global Perspective on Age and Gratitude

Sometimes the scale of the world's population can feel impossible to grasp. With nearly 7.8 billion people on Earth, it helps to imagine the entire world condensed into just 100 people. In that group, 60 would live in Asia, 15 in Africa, and only 16 across Europe and North America combined, according to global population data from the United Nations. Even access to modern conveniences varies widely: about 75 would have a mobile phone, yet only around 30 would have reliable access to the internet, highlighting how unevenly technology and opportunity are distributed across the globe.

Perhaps the most striking statistic relates to longevity. Out of those same 100 people, only about eight would live beyond the age of 65, based on global life expectancy data reported by the World Bank. Seen in this light, reaching later life becomes something to celebrate. For many residents at Riverside, it is a reminder that longevity is a privilege — one that invites gratitude, good health, and the chance to appreciate each day and the experiences that come with it.

A Festive St Patrick's Evening

There was a lively atmosphere at our St Patrick's Day dinner on Friday night, filled with the unmistakable sounds of Irish music that had everyone tapping their feet and soaking in the festive spirit. The evening brought people together in true celebratory fashion, with laughter, conversation, and a warm sense of community carrying through the room.

Guests were treated to a delicious Guinness pie that quickly became a highlight of the night, adding a rich and comforting touch to the festivities. Combined with the music and great company, it made for a memorable evening that perfectly captured the charm and cheer of the occasion.





Meet Jenny Williamson

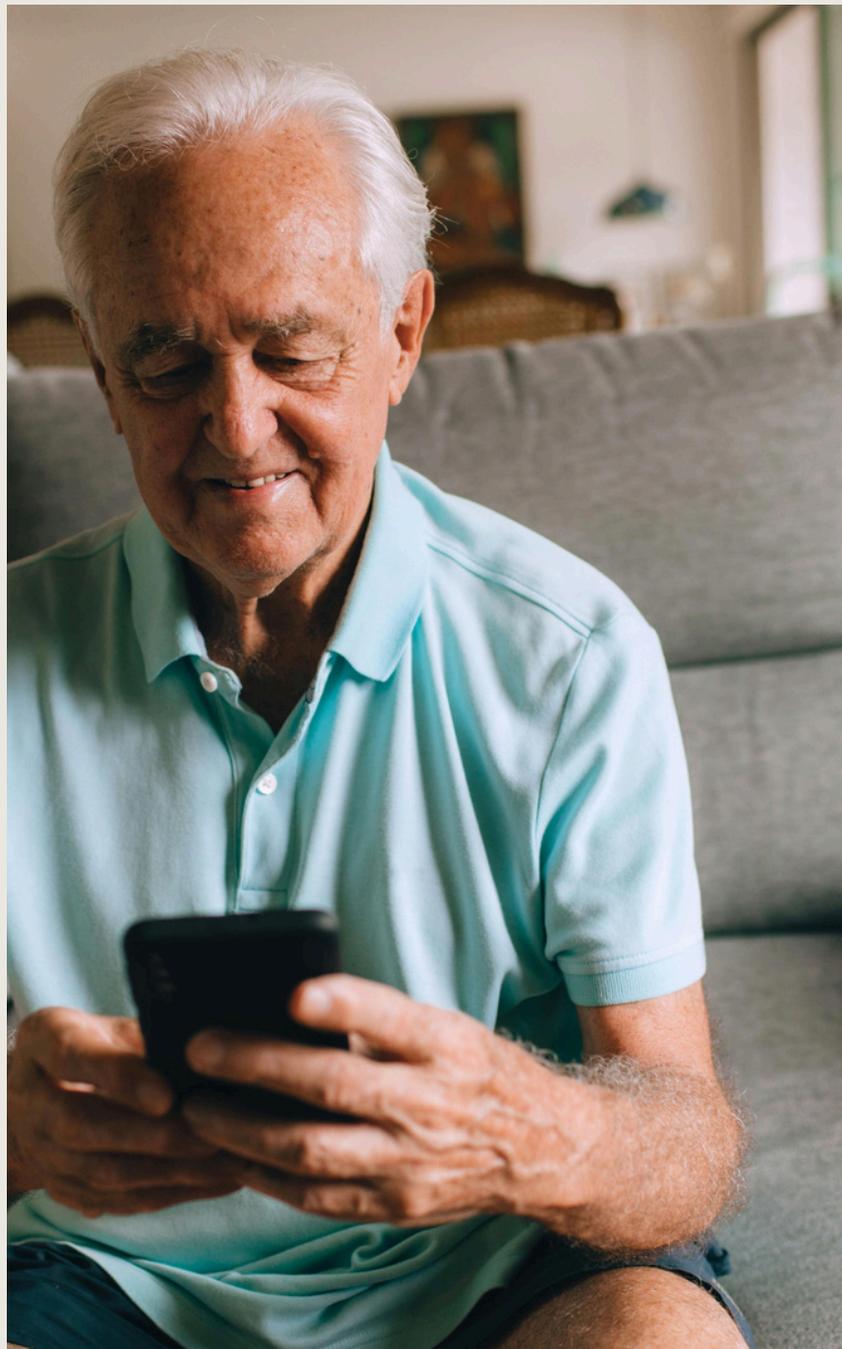
Born on 27 November 1939 at 9 Wells Avenue in Parkwood, Johannesburg, Jenny Williamson grew up in Johannesburg, where her happiest childhood memories were simply spending time with her parents and her siblings, Pat and Rob. She later married her husband Rob, and the two shared an incredible 63 years together, raising one daughter and two sons, and welcoming five grandchildren into their family.

Jenny trained as a nurse and midwife and later became a passionate quilter and teacher. Her career and interests took her around the world, including teaching with her sister Pat in the United States, as well as travelling to Canada, the United Kingdom, and Japan. Having lived at Riverside Manor Retirement Estate for the past 7 years, Jenny describes it as “the best retirement village in the world.” Today she most enjoys spending time with family and friends, not just on weekends, and her favourite simple treat remains avocados with a generous helping of Mrs Ball's Chutney.

Helpful Technology Tips for Everyday Life

Technology can sometimes feel overwhelming, but a few simple habits can make it a useful and enjoyable part of daily life. Start by keeping things simple: organise your phone or tablet so that the apps you use most, such as messages, photos, or weather, are easy to find on your home screen. Adjusting text size and brightness in your device settings can also make reading messages and emails far more comfortable for your eyes.

It's also important to stay safe online. Avoid clicking on suspicious links in emails or messages, especially those asking for personal information or money. Use strong passwords and consider writing them down in a safe place if remembering them becomes difficult. Most importantly, don't hesitate to ask for help, children, grandchildren, and friends are often happy to show you new tricks, and learning together can be part of the fun.



A Fond Farewell to a Long-Time Resident

After 18 wonderful years at Riverside Manor Retirement Estate, Maureen Gravell said goodbye to the community she had called home for nearly two decades. During her time at Riverside, Maureen was a familiar and valued member of the estate, sharing in the many friendships, events, and everyday moments that made the community so special.

Maureen relocated to Durban to be closer to her daughter and family. While she was greatly missed by fellow residents and friends, everyone at Riverside wished her happiness in this new chapter and many wonderful years ahead surrounded by loved ones.





Meet Maureen Gravell

Maureen Gravell (née Ferraris), born in 1935 in Bulawayo, spent her early years growing up in what was then Rhodesia. Her childhood is shaped by simple, meaningful moments—especially Sundays, which she remembers fondly, and her school years, which laid a strong foundation for the life she would go on to lead. She has lived a rich and full life, travelling the world and embracing each chapter with resilience and curiosity. Throughout it all, Maureen remains grounded in her faith, drawing strength from it while maintaining a deep appreciation for life and the people around her.

Known for her warmth and gentle outlook, Maureen values kindness, connection, and living with intention. She finds joy in good food, shared moments, and the company of others, always appreciating the little things that make life special. Her perspective on life is simple yet powerful: to keep the faith, continue growing, and approach each day with love and a smile.



Celebrating Ria

Last year, Riverside had the privilege of celebrating a remarkable milestone with Ria, who turned 98. Born in 1927 on a farm in the Free State near Kimberley, Ria grew up surrounded by the rhythms of farm life and a close-knit extended family of aunts and uncles. She attended a small farm school until Standard 6 before continuing her high school years in Christiana. Some of her fondest childhood memories include attending dances and travelling by horse and cart, where music, singing, and playing instruments were part of everyday life.

After the war, Ria worked in a clerical role at the Union Buildings, an experience she remembers fondly. Over the years she raised two daughters and now enjoys a large and loving family that includes seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A passionate traveller in her younger years, she explored Europe and America, with the Grand Canyon standing out as a highlight. Having lived at Riverside Manor Retirement Estate for 18 years, Ria describes it as a place where she found peace and kind people. Her philosophy remains simple and powerful: “I can still walk and talk, and God has blessed me.”

A photograph of a wooden bench in a lush garden. The bench is on the left side of the frame, and the background is filled with dense green foliage and a large tree. The scene is bright and sunny, with a path leading through the garden.

Looking Ahead

This is just the beginning. As the months go on, we'll bring you more stories, more smiles, and more glimpses into the daily joys of life at Riverside.

Have a story, memory, or photo you'd like to share?

We'd love to hear from you for our next edition.

Please email ourriversidestory@gmail.com

Until then — keep living, loving, learning, and laughing.