



The Villager

June • 2025

WILDLIFE GARDENING IN THE ESTATE

This Father's Day, Break the Pattern

The Vital Role of Paper Books

Interior Décor Styles & Trends

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V O L V O

The Villager focuses on Irene Farm Villages. The magazine is distributed digitally to each resident on the estate. The magazine is co-ordinated and published by Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd trading as EIA Publishing, on behalf of the Home Owners Association of Irene Farm Villages. The opinions of contributors and personnel of Estates in Africa (Pty) Ltd do not necessarily reflect those of the HOA of Irene Farm Villages.

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Dear Residents,



Anna-Mart Steyn

As we move into the heart of winter, the air is crisp, the mornings are frosty, and the nights stretch long and quiet. We hope you're staying warm and finding moments of beauty in this season's stillness.

Garden of the Month – June 2025

The HOA congratulates Stand 2075 and R2209 as the recipients of the



Garden of the Month award.

Congratulations on your beautiful garden. It must be one of the most interesting gardens I've seen in a long time. By using a lot of different plants in your garden beds, like indigenous plants, succulent plants, flowering plants like roses, and many more.

You created vibrant flower beds with blooms of every colour and size. The focal point of the garden is a mixture of formal and informal gardening, with the lion statues and rockery surrounded by plants with diverse textures.

Congratulations on a well-maintained Formal Garden. A formal garden is a highly structured and symmetrical style of garden design. Characterized by geometric shapes, straight lines, and carefully maintained plants.

The big pot forms a central focal point, and the two smaller pots completes the look of the Formal Garden. The neatly trimmed hedges and flower beds also complement the garden's appearance.

Thank you for your effort to make our Estate beautiful.



Stand 2075



Stand R2209



Interesting facts regarding the Garden Acraea Larvae and the Wild Peach Tree (*Kiggelaria Africana*)



There are quite a few wild peach trees in the estate. You will notice that there are caterpillars on these trees, which will give us the impression that we need to spray these trees to get rid of the caterpillars.

The Garden Acraea (*Acraea horta*) is one of South Africa's most well-known butterflies, not only for its striking orange and black wings but also for its unique life cycle closely tied to the Wild peach tree. This native tree serves as a crucial nursery for the caterpillars of this butterfly.

The Garden Acraea butterfly lays clusters of eggs on the underside of these leaves. Once hatched, the spiny black-and-orange caterpillars begin to feed, often in large groups. This may look alarming, but the tree is well-adapted to this natural cycle and usually recovers without intervention.

This interaction is a prime example of co-evolution and ecological balance:

- The tree provides food and shelter.
- The larvae feed on the tree but do not kill it.
- Birds and other predators rely on the caterpillars for food.
- The butterflies are pollinators, playing a role in broader ecosystem health.

Many gardeners unfamiliar with this relationship worry when they see a tree being eaten by caterpillars. But spraying pesticides is unnecessary and harmful. The tree can regrow its leaves, and the presence of larvae attracts insect-eating birds.

By planting and preserving *Kiggelaria Africana*, you're not just growing a tree—you're supporting an entire miniature ecosystem. The Garden Acraea butterfly larvae are a vital part of this balance, adding beauty, diversity, and life to our gardens and wild spaces.

Notifications from Clickon



Following enquiries from residents, kindly find the explanation for the visitor access code process again, to ensure a smooth and secure entry for all guests and contractors.

The **ClickOn** visitor access system employs a two-factor authentication process to prevent unauthorized access and enhance security.

1. Pre-Cleared App Code

- Generated by the resident via the mobile app and shared with their guest.
- This code is not active on the keypads and does not grant immediate access.

2. Slip Code (Post-Cleared Panel Code)

- Upon arrival, the guest presents the Pre-Cleared App Code to security.
- Security enters the Pre-Cleared App Code on the panel, and the resident receives a push notification (with the pre-cleared app code)
- Once the code is entered by the security officer on the panel, the system generates a Slip Code, and the resident receives a second push notification (with the slip code).
- The Slip Code is used alongside a driver's license and vehicle license disc
- Scan the visitor into the estate.
- The visitor then enters the Slip Code on the numeric panel to enter the estate – the resident receives a third push notification

RESIDENT NOTIFICATIONS ON CLICKON APP

On Entry:

1. Pre-Cleared App Code used to create the slip code
2. Slip Code created by the system
3. Slip Code entered by the visitor on the keypad

On Exit:

4. Slip Code entered by the visitor on the keypad to exit the estate.

If you have any questions, please contact estate management.

Recycling

Estate Recycling Efforts Thriving!



The monthly report from MPACT indicates that recycling in the estate has decreased from 12,741 kg per stand to 12,58 kg per stand. The recycling company collects the bags on Thursdays. Please collect some green recycling bags from the estate office if you would like to contribute to creating an eco-friendlier environment.

Wildlife gardening in the estate



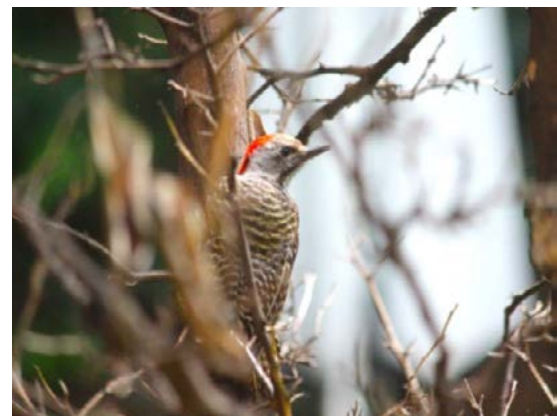
We encourage you, as residents, to incorporate wildlife gardening into your gardens.

The joys of wildlife gardening - By Bradden 'Hiking' Stevens

What is wildlife gardening?

In a nutshell, the concept aims to support local wildlife better (anything from insects to birds and small mammals) by encouraging gardening with a variety of indigenous plant species. This approach provides additional food, shelter, and water to local wildlife while retaining aesthetic beauty and reducing maintenance needs.

By creating gardens and wild spaces, more representative of the natural environment, biodiversity increases and gardens become their own self-sufficient mini ecosystems!



A cardinal woodpecker in our suburban garden. This dead tree not only provides meals for insectivorous birds, but is also an excellent perch for seedeaters, about to visit a nearby bird feeder.

What is the natural environment for our area?

Most of Pretoria falls within the Grassland biome (Rutherford and Westfall 2003), which is a large area where grass plants dominate, while trees are limited to specialized niches [for example, White stinkwoods (*Celtis Africana*) growing in rocky outcrops or riverine areas, where seedlings are sheltered from fire].

At a smaller scale, Adcocks (1988) spoke of "Veld types" and described the area in which Irene farm villages falls, as a "False grassland", with grasses being of low nutritional value in the winter months (attributed to a high frequency of frost and fire) and a wealth of herb species.

The veld type is characterized by high species diversity, due to the area's natural variability, which incorporates elements of both Savannah (bushveld) and grassland. The nearby Rietvlei Nature Reserve is a testament to this diversity, with over 350 bird species, 73 grass species, and an estimated two to three flowering plant species for each identified grass (Marais 1996).

While rich in biodiversity, it is sadly poorly conserved, with only 1.38% in conservation hands (Bredekamp & Van Rooyen 2004), and needs our help!

A few ideas for wildlife gardening on the Highveld.

The old saying, 'variety is the spice of life,' holds true. By its very nature, False grasslands are highly diverse areas, ranging from open grasslands to densely wooded thickets and everything in between.

This creates an array of opportunities for both avid and novice gardeners alike!

For areas that receive full sun consider creating a grassland garden interspersed with flowering plants.

Grasses such as Natal grass (*Melinis repens*) and Red grass (*Themeda triandra*) naturally occur here, are hardy (only require natural seasonal rainfall), produce showy displays in

the summer and attract seed eating birds. Grass material may also be collected by several bird species, to be used for nests.



Paintbrush lily (*Scadoxus puniceus*) in the Rietvlei Nature Reserve.

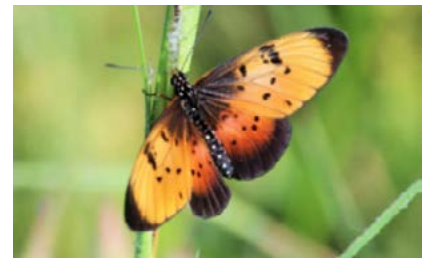
Bursts of colour can be added, utilising aloes such as the Spotted Aloe (*Aloe greatheadii*), which flowers in winter, attracting nectar-feeding birds and pairing with bulbs like the African potato (*Hypoxis hemerocallidea*) and Paintbrush lily (*Scadoxus puniceus*), which bloom in spring and summer.

By planting species of grass and flowering plants, which bloom at different times of the year, local wildlife is provided with a sustainable food source throughout the year, and there's always something eye-catching in the garden.

Large, shaded areas can also be created using trees such as White Stinkwood (*Celtis Africana*) and/or Buffalo thorn (*Ziziphus mucronate*), beautiful deciduous options. Leaf litter is an asset to any garden and provides habitat to insects and many more. Both trees also provide copious fruit favoured by birds.

In smaller spaces, evergreen trees/shrubs, such as Blue Gwarrie (*Euclea crispa*) and Common Current (*Searsia pyroides*) and other *Sersia* species are well suited to highveld conditions, being drought and frost resistant. Approximately 60 indigenous *Searsia* species produce fruit rich in carbohydrates, which is edible to animals, birds, insects, and people.

Final Tips for Creating a Healthy Environment.



Insects are vital to all wildlife gardens, and life on earth as we know it!

Among other benefits, they attract and provide a food source to birds and small mammals, as well as their young, play essential roles in the decomposition and nutrient cycling process, and are efficient pollinators.

Insects and other invertebrates should be encouraged into our gardens. Provide safe spaces (wood and large rocks make great additions to any garden) and refrain from using pesticides. Keep in mind that a healthy wildlife garden is one that is self-sufficient, requiring little to no human intervention.

I hope the above helps. Have fun and collaborate. There is a unique opportunity here, by making use of wild spaces (already present), parks, and wildlife gardens, local wildlife will thrive, to the benefit of all!

Facial readers at the turnstiles

For residents who use the turnstiles to exit or enter the estate, please visit the estate office to enroll your face in the facial readers.



Additional hours off the estate office

The estate office will be open on the last Saturday of each month from 8:00 – 12:30 to assist residents who are unable to visit during the week.

The office will be open on Saturday, the 28th of June.



May we all stay warm and healthy during the coming winter months.

Kind regards
Anna-Mart



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R995 000



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Black Leather & Race-Tex, R2 899 000



2022 – Macan PDK
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37,700 km, Gentian Blue Metallic,
Black Leather & Sport-Tex, R1 225 000



2023 – Macan T PDK
Including Maintenance Plan,
21,900 km, Carrara White Metallic,
Black Leather Package, R1 595 000



2024 – Macan S PDK
Including Maintenance Plan,
7,600 km, Gentian Blue Metallic, Black Interior,
R1 795 000



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56,000 km, Carmine Red, Black Leather /
Interior Package in Carmine Red, R995 000



2020 – Cayenne GTS Tiptronic
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99,500 km, Jet Black Metallic,
Black Leather & Alcantara, R1 525 000



2024 – Cayenne S Tiptronic
Including Maintenance Plan,
8,300 km, Carrara White Metallic,
Black Partial Leather, R2 325 000



IRENE FARM VILLAGES HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Summary Income Statement – April 2025

April 2025

Year to Date

YTD Variance

Actual

Budget

Actual

Budget

Value

%

Operational Income						
Levy Income	1 504 303	1 504 303	2 945 207	2 945 206	1	0,0%
Other Income	49 736	40 500	142 671	81 000	61 671	76,1%
	1 554 040	1 544 803	3 087 877	3 026 206	61 671	2,0%
Operational Expenditure						
Professional /Administration	12 206	142 436	187 326	284 872	97 547	34,2%
Accounting and Auditing	(28 422)	57 117	97 376	114 234	16 858	14,8%
Insurance, Legal and Admin	40 628	85 319	89 950	170 638	80 688	47,3%
General Office	24 328	32 272	56 601	64 544	7 943	12,3%
Office Administration	24 328	32 272	56 601	64 544	7 943	12,3%
Operational Expenses	262 217	327 970	516 230	655 940	139 710	21,3%
Municipal Charges	82 779	72 499	167 595	144 998	(22 597)	-15,6%
General Operations	31 541	39 271	42 684	78 542	35 858	45,7%
Salaries & Wages	147 897	216 200	305 951	432 400	126 449	29,2%
Security	130 630	605 259	739 212	1 210 518	471 306	38,9%
Security Operations	121 996	108 565	254 632	217 130	(37 502)	-17,3%
Guarding Services	6 729	496 694	482 676	993 388	510 712	51,4%
Insurance Claims and Excess	1 905	0	1 905	0	(1 905)	100,0%
Repairs & Maintenance	261 082	275 123	494 677	550 246	55 569	10,1%
Repairs & Maintenance	260 597	268 811	489 724	537 622	47 898	8,9%
Park Maintenance Contract	484	6 312	4 954	12 624	7 670	60,8%
	690 462	1 383 060	1 994 046	2 766 120	772 074	27,9%
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	863 578	161 743	1 093 831	260 086		
Non-Recurring Income	19 279	0	56 150	0	56 150	100,0%
Estate Penalties	3 900	0	6 750	0	6 750	100,0%
Speed Infringements (Net)	15 379	0	43 500	0	43 500	100,0%
Other Revenue	0	0	5 900	0	5 900	100,0%
Non-Recurring Expenses	29 578	280 000	70 156	320 000	249 844	78,1%
Net Positive/ (Negative)	(10 299)	(280 000)	(14 006)	(320 000)	(193 694)	
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	853 279	(118 257)	1 079 825	(59 914)		

"Money is only a tool. It will take you wherever you wish, but it will not replace you as the driver."

– Ayn Rand

Summary Income Statement by Account Ability

Office Address:

Sovereign Drive, Route 21 Corporate Park

Accounting Office Hours:

8:00 to 13:00 Monday to Friday

Office Tel: 082 780 0059

Accounts Email: accounts@aams.co.za

IFV Accounts: Winny Boshoff

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THIS FATHER'S DAY, BREAK THE PATTERN

(and the Rope of Soap)

It happens like clockwork. June rolls around, inboxes fill with Father's Day deals, and somewhere out there, another dad unwraps a pair of socks and says, "Just what I needed."

So this year, let's go off-script. Whether your dad is the tongs-wielding braai master, the soft-hearted snack hoarder, or the quiet thinker who gives surprisingly good life advice during rugby ad breaks, he deserves more than a mug that says "World's Okayest Dad." Here are a few gifts and experiences that say: "I see you. And this time, I've nailed it."



For the Braai Philosopher or Kitchen Commander

If your dad lights fires like it's sacred ritual or treats the kitchen like a battlefield, check out bold, flavour-packed gift kits from Yuppiefchef and spicy, funny finds on Nifty Gifts.

- The **Braai Multi-Tool** from Nifty Gifts combines tongs, fork, spatula, and bottle opener in one rugged gadget.
- A **Craft Beer Bread Kit** from Yuppiefchef turns beer into carbs with just enough effort to earn bragging rights.
- The **Smokey Braai Salt Gift Set** adds serious flavour (and swagger) to anything on the coals.
- For DIY heat, try the **Chilli Oil Infusion Kit** and let him invent his own firepower.



For the Man Cave Monarch

The kind of dad who wants to be left alone with a screwdriver, a beer, and a speaker full of classic rock will appreciate the retro signs and ridiculous gadgets at ThatBloke, and the offbeat desk toys at Nifty Gifts.

- The **Magnetic Tool Wristband** stops him juggling screws with his teeth like it's a reality show.
- A **Vintage Garage Sign** from ThatBloke adds personality to his inner sanctum.
- And for the days he's stuck behind a desk, the **Mini Desktop Punching Bag** gives him something safe to hit.



For the Dad Who Has Everything (Except These)

He might think he's seen it all – but has he unwrapped sushi socks, tactical aprons, or magnetic wristbands?

Let him loose on ThatBloke or Nifty Gifts and wait for the raised eyebrow.

- **Sushi Socks:** still technically socks, but now they're ironic.

- The **Beard Trimming Apron** with suction cups turns the bathroom into a clean-up-free zone.

- The **Tactical BBQ Apron** features pockets, loops, and a built-in bottle opener – it's the Batman utility belt of braai.

- And the **Skull Whiskey Decanter Set** lets him sip like a villain in a Bond film.



For the Dad Who'd Rather Make a Memory

Not every gift comes in a box. Sometimes, the best thing you can give him is **time**.

- Take him axe-throwing at Bearded Viking or Lumberjack Yard – nothing bonds like chucking steel together.
- Book a graffiti walking tour in Maboneng and hear the stories behind the colour.
- Head to Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens with padkos, a blanket, and no plan.
- Or explore Johannesburg's hidden gems with these guides:

o *Unusual Things to Do in Johannesburg*

o *TimeOut's Best Things to Do in Joburg*

Because years from now, he won't remember what you bought.

He'll remember that laugh. That lunch. That moment.

Final Word? Make It About Him

Forget perfect. Forget Pinterest. Just make it real.

Whether it's chilli oil, a photo of your face on his feet, or a walk through a street market in the winter sun – the best gift is the one that says:

"I know you. I see you. And you matter."

This year, skip the rope of soap. Give him something unforgettable.

For the Secret Softie

For the dad who claims he doesn't "do" Father's Day but quietly keeps the card forever, check out the hampers and custom mugs at NetFlorist or design your own gift on Nifty Gifts. The **"Father Figure" Mug** lands the dad joke and the love in one hit.

- **Photo Socks** with your face on them? Slightly weird. Surprisingly sentimental.

- A **Snack & Coffee Hamper** keeps things simple and comforting.

- And **this card from ThatBloke** says what we sometimes forget: "Thanks for the lifts – and the life advice you gave disguised as jokes."



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Green fingers turn gardening into a rewarding experience



Keep vegetable gardens thriving with good quality gardening tools

Once dismissed as an activity for retirees, gardening is now becoming a popular trend among millennials and Gen Z. The art of growing vegetables, herbs and flowers now blends sustainability, creativity and the joy of connecting with nature.

Temu is an online marketplace that has gained popularity for its affordable prices and wide variety of products. It connects consumers directly with manufacturers, reducing the middleman costs and mark-ups. The e-commerce platform is available in over 90 markets since launching in September 2022 in the U.S.

Millennials are strong advocates of this mindset. They have embraced the lifestyle of value-for-money shopping and stretching their budgets. Vegetable gardening is booming, whether it's millennials escaping the city or those with just a balcony to work with. It provides ways to live more sustainably, and even small spaces can thrive with the right plants. Cherry tomatoes, lettuce, and radishes are great starters, and herbs like basil and mint do well in containers. Marigolds, petunias and pansies add colour and attract pollinators, boosting productivity.

Choosing the right plants is key, but having the right tools is essential to success. While finding quality gardening gadgets can be expensive, the right ones can save time and prevent frustration. Without them, the process can feel overwhelming.

Innovative gadgets for vegetable gardens

Gardening tools have adapted and modern gadgets can help gardeners transform their existing vegetable gardens or start something new. Temu offers budget-friendly tools designed to make things easier for garden lovers. Specialised tools such as an irrigation system, shovels, rakes, buckets for layering or seed beds are essential for successful growing. Waterproof garden gloves with claws are an innovative tool, enabling digging and planting.



Air layering pods promote healthy root growth for plants and suitable for digging and planting, propagation making gardening easy and mess-free

Cultivating hobbies with Temu

Cultivating a vegetable garden at home is becoming increasingly popular. It can be personalised and have its own special character, at the same time taking the environment into consideration.

The urban landscape is changing, with balconies becoming the new space for growing vegetables and flowers. To make the most of these spaces, people are searching for innovative and easy-to-use tools, proving that having a vegetable garden can be both modern and fashionable.

Recently, Temu has begun inviting local sellers in markets like Spain, the US, the UK, Germany, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Mexico, Belgium, Poland and Austria to join its platform. With more local sellers, Temu will offer an even wider and more varied selection of products to cater to the preferences and needs of consumers, while supporting local businesses. The company expects as much as 80% of total sales in Europe to come from this local-to-local model, and for European-based sellers to be able to sell to global markets through Temu in the future.

Information and photos supplied by Irvine Partners Creative Communications Agency.



THE VITAL ROLE OF PAPER BOOKS

The Paper Manufacturers Association of South Africa (PAMSA) has released findings from its 2024 survey on book ownership, revealing that 31% of respondents own fewer than ten books. However, access to books remains a significant challenge for many South Africans.

The survey also found that about 67% of respondents own 50 books or less, while 17.4% reported owning more than 100 books. This represents a slight positive shift from 2022, when 80% of respondents said they owned 50 books or less, and only 8.6% owned more than 100.

Executive director of PAMSA, Jane Molony, says that while there is some improvement in book ownership, the numbers still paint a concerning picture. Access to printed books, particularly for young children, is crucial for developing

literacy skills and fostering a reading culture.

The survey results come at a critical time, as literacy rates in South Africa continue to face challenges of unequal early learning outcomes and extremely poor primary school literacy, with nearly 80% of Grade 4 learners struggling to read for meaning. Additionally, only 2% of children's books published commercially in South Africa are in local African languages, despite eight out of ten people speaking a home language other than English or Afrikaans.

PAMSA and Book Dash

To be part of the solution, PAMSA has announced its support of the Book Dash 2025 campaign, an initiative that aims to make books more accessible to young readers. Book Dash has already distributed over 4.5 million books to children across South Africa, and creates books in multiple local languages.

Dorette Louw, director of programmes and operations at Book Dash, says that according to National Reading Barometer 2023, the vast majority of South African adults agree that reading



to children before they can talk helps them learn, but unfortunately only about a third of parents actually read with children aged six and under.

Louw explains that just like other healthy lifestyle habits such as eating well and exercising, there's a gap between awareness and action. Even when parents know it's important to share books with pre-verbal children, they need a nudge to actually do it.

She adds that physical, hard copy books at home can provide that nudge in a way that that digital books cannot. This is why Book Dash is working hard to increase book ownership in homes, and why the support from organisations like PAMSA is crucial.

Paper-based books remain popular among readers, with the survey showing that 34.7 % of respondents prefer physical books for leisure reading, compared to 7.4 % who opt for tablets or e-readers. Importantly, 57.6 % of respondents strongly disagree with the statement that 'print is dead'.

Molony says that paper books play a vital role in early childhood development and literacy, and create a stronger educational foundation. Research consistently shows that paper-based materials promote better reading comprehension and information retention compared to digital formats. This is particularly important for developing brains.

Both Book Dash and PAMSA goals promote literacy and sustainable paper usage. Paper books are not only renewable and recyclable, but can easily be shared and passed along, extending their impact within communities.

Through initiatives such as the Book Dash partnership, PAMSA aims to help address the book access gap in South Africa and contribute to improving literacy rates, particularly among young readers who need exposure to books in their early developmental years.

Issued by Media Portal on behalf of the Paper Manufacturers Association of South Africa

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Zodwa is looking for a full-time live-in position. She has worked for me for 15 years, but we are moving out of the Estate towards the end of May or early June. Please contact Sally on 0828956565 should you need any further information or a reference.

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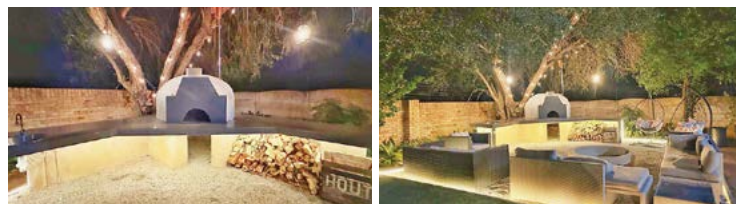
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Styles & Trends

MODERN COFFEE BARS
STORAGE TRENDS



CALLED TO THE MODERN COFFEE BAR

Modern coffee bars are more than places to grab coffee – they are destinations.

The right design doesn't just attract customers, it keeps them coming back. But standing out in 2025 means pushing past expected aesthetics:

- A cosy atmosphere isn't enough.
- A stunning layout isn't enough.
- A space that blends function, experience and branding in a way that feels effortless is needed.

A well-designed coffee bar should feel as good as it looks. That's where BIOPHILLIC design comes in: Bringing natural elements that's both visually appealing and emotionally grounding. Customers don't just notice these details, they respond to them.

Light isn't just decorative, it affects how long customers stay and how they

interact with the space. Warm, soft lighting encourages relaxation, making a coffee bar feel like a spot to linger. Bright, cooler lighting keeps energy levels high, ideal for fast-paced coffee spots with high turnover.

To create a flexible atmosphere, some coffee bars adjust their lighting throughout the day – brighter in the morning to match the rush and softer in the evening for a more relaxed vibe.

Nature has a measurable impact on mood, comfort and overall experience. Coffee bars that incorporate BIOPHILLIC elements create a refreshing contrast to urban settings and help customers feel more relaxed. The right mix of materials, textures and greenery makes the space inviting while also reinforcing sustainable design values. When integrated thoughtfully, coffee bar interior design that incorporates BIOPHILLIC elements can enhance both aesthetic and functionality, creating an immersive environment that draws in customers.

Sustainable materials that work in modern coffee bars

Eco-friendly materials don't have to compromise aesthetic. Reclaimed wood pairs beautifully with metal bar stools, balancing rustic warmth with modern industrial design. Recycled metals and glass create a sleek, contemporary contrast, while earthy materials like clay and cork add organic depth to the space. The right combination of

Décor Styles & Trends

textures enhances the atmosphere, ensuring that sustainability is an integral part of the design, rather than an afterthought.

For coffee bars looking to elevate their space further, local artist can contribute custom décor, murals or handcrafted furniture made from sustainable materials. This not only adds a unique touch, but also strengthens community ties and supports small creators. A well-designed, eco-conscious coffee bar doesn't just benefit the environment, it enhances the memorable coffee experience that keeps customer coming back.

High-end ordering solutions

Customers expect convenience. A long wait, a slow checkout, or a confusing menu can push them towards competitors. High-tech ordering solutions keep service efficient, cut down on bottlenecks, and improve client satisfaction, all without sacrificing the coffee bar experience.

Coffee bars that integrate smart, tech-driven ordering systems remove friction from the process, allowing customers to place orders quickly and get their drinks or food without unnecessary delays.

A well-designed outdoor seating area does more than add extra tables, it creates an inviting space that draws in foot traffic, enhances customer comfort and boosts overall revenue. Whether it's a sidewalk café a courtyard, or a patio, outdoor seating transforms coffee bars appeal by making it feel more open, social and flexible.

What is Café Core?

Café Core is about embracing the lifestyle of coffee bar culture as much as the aesthetic. Whether this mean fostering a sense of community and connection, but also creating solo moments to slow down and find a reprieve from the whirring repetition of life, it embodies the feeling of comfort and nostalgia.

It's all about comfort and romanticising the pleasures of life:

A good cup of Coffee.



DRAWERS, SHELVES AND STORAGE TRENDS 2025

Decorating shelves can be a tricky business. Interior designers train for years to get it right and to make it even harder, trends come and go in a blink of an eye.

Timber pieces have always been a staple in interior design. In the past, we have seen a preference for painted wooden shelves that blend in seamlessly with the wall. However, in 2025, rather than blending into walls with painted finishes, natural wood shelves are being celebrated for their raw organic look.

Opt for natural, untreated timber that follows the wood's natural shape and grain. This offers a more natural and rustic look that brings warmth and depth into a room or space. Whether lining shelves with an abundance of books or sparingly place a few décor pieces, like candles, reed diffusers or an ornament, timber shelves are guaranteed to impress.

Bedroom storage

When assessing the bedroom storage, built-in cupboards are the obvious place to start as they are typically the largest piece of storage furniture that a bedroom will have. Often, the most common cause of clutter in a bedroom is clothes. Unless dedicated walk-in wardrobes, one might struggle to keep the clothes organised and tidy.

For smaller bedrooms maximising storage is key and above-bed shelving offers a clever solution. Built-in storage surrounding the bed creates additional space without making the room smaller. To make accessing items practical, place frequently used items in the eye-level cupboards and reserve overhead storage for items that one don't reach for very often.

Bookshelf trends in 2025

Lately, designers have been thinking outside the box with their bookshelf trends. A standard bookcase won't make much of a design statement, but integrating bookshelves around alluring architectural features like curved walls or building built-in shelving around doorways or windows, is a guaranteed way to grab the eye.

Far from the traditional bookshelf, library walls are a huge favourite in 2025. From floor to ceiling, this massive installation displays a whole range of books and adds great charm to a room. By choosing a bookcase of this type, the room will appear larger and more sophisticated.

Library walls and unique bookshelf structures are trending, replacing traditional bookcases. To modernise space, stack books horizontally or arrange them by colour for depth and aesthetic appeal.





Smart kitchen storage trends

A pantry has long been one of the most desirable kitchen storage ideas to include in kitchen design. It's easier to store all the dry ingredients, but it also looks incredibly organise, a win-win.

An appliance cupboard is an elevated pantry trend-use a double-doored cupboard to store daily small appliances. It keeps them all contained in one spot, adding ease to morning routines and creating a much tidier kitchen.

A home bar in the kitchen can be simply shelved out for glassware and more professionally equipped with a built-in sink, wine fridge and ice buckets.



Integrated bathroom storage

Clutter-free bathrooms are a must in 2025. Integrated storage solutions like built-in shelves, hidden cabinets and recessed niches help keep everything organised and within reach. In addition, use drawer organisers and bins to neatly store toiletries and cosmetics. These are features we expect to see more of, especially in small bathrooms.

Create space for everyday essentials – think hair products and toiletries by mounting shelves in the window. A small space between the toilet and shower is all one need to squeeze in a three-tier storage caddy. Clear shelves (glass or acrylic) are great for small spaces, since they look clean, light and nearly invisible.

Go the extra mile in the bathroom with built-in shelves all over the wall. This will create space for everything, including towels, ornaments, baskets of toiletries and bins of cleaning products and hair tools.

Bring the space into a bathroom with a simple bath tray that can hold everything from reading material to candles and body products.





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EUROCK



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Tickets available on Webtickets

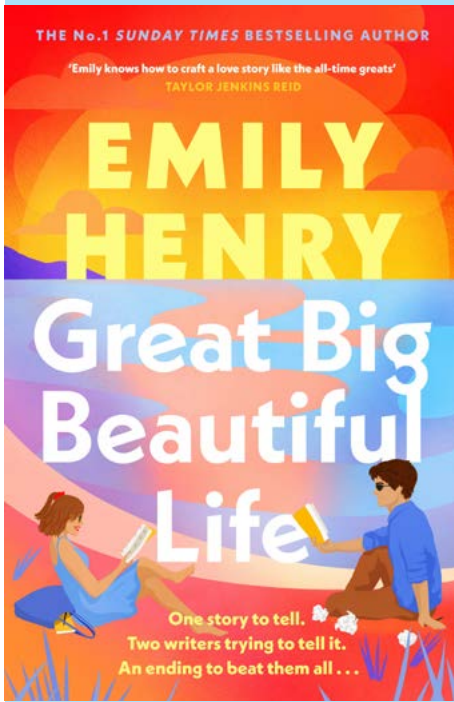
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Great Big Beautiful Life

BY EMILY HENRY

When Margaret Ives, the famously reclusive heiress, invites eternal optimist Alice Scott to the balmy Little Crescent Island, Alice knows this is it: her big break. And even more rare: a chance to impress her family with a Serious Publication.

The catch? Pulitzer-prize winning human thundercloud, Hayden Anderson, is sure of the same thing.

The proposal? A one-month trial period to unearth the truth behind one of the most scandalous families of the 20th Century, after which she'll choose who'll tell her story.

The problem? Margaret only gives each of them tantalising pieces. Pieces they can't put together because of an ironclad NDA and an inconvenient yearning pulsing between them every time they're in the same room.

And it's becoming abundantly clear that their story, just like the tale Margaret's spinning, could be a mystery, tragedy, or love ballad – depending on who's telling it.

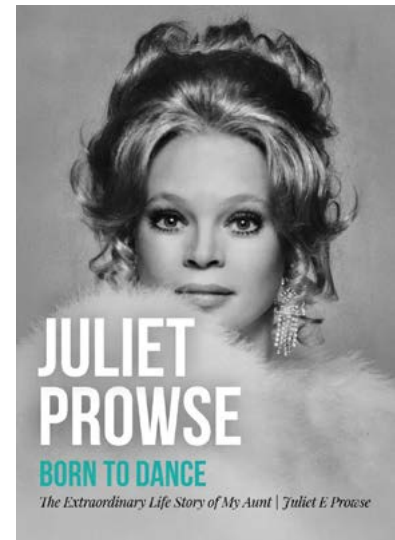
Price: R370.00

Juliet Prowse: Born to Dance

BY JULIET E PROWSE

Juliet Prowse was a young South African dancer who burst into the international spotlight in her first Hollywood movie. Considered talented and exotic, she caught the media's attention, and her engagement to Frank Sinatra fuelled their fascination further. But was it true love, and what did Sinatra make of Juliet's relationship with Elvis during G.I. Blues? Unhappy with 20th Century Fox, Juliet broke out of her contract, created her own company and became one of the highest-paid dancers of her era.

While Juliet won awards for Sweet Charity in Las Vegas and London, opening on Broadway seemed to be elusive. Juliet continued to build her world-class modern dance company, winning Female Entertainer of the Year in Las Vegas three times with competition from Liza Minnelli, Barbra Streisand and Shirley MacLaine. By the mid-1970s, she was on a \$1 million contract as a Desert Inn Million Dollar Baby. Considered a triple threat, Juliet



featured on the international stage for over four decades.

This story is personal. Told by Juliet's niece, it includes Juliet's words from letters written to her mother, family anecdotes and amusing insights from those who worked with Juliet. With her endless legs and playful charm, Juliet had many romances and married actor John McCook of The Bold and the Beautiful. But in her search for love and professional fulfilment, could she accomplish it all?

Price: R310.0

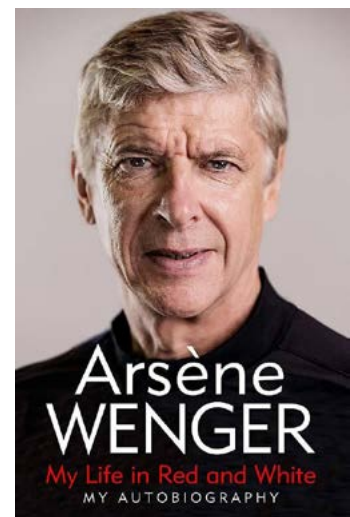
My Life in Red and White

BY ARSÈNE WENGER

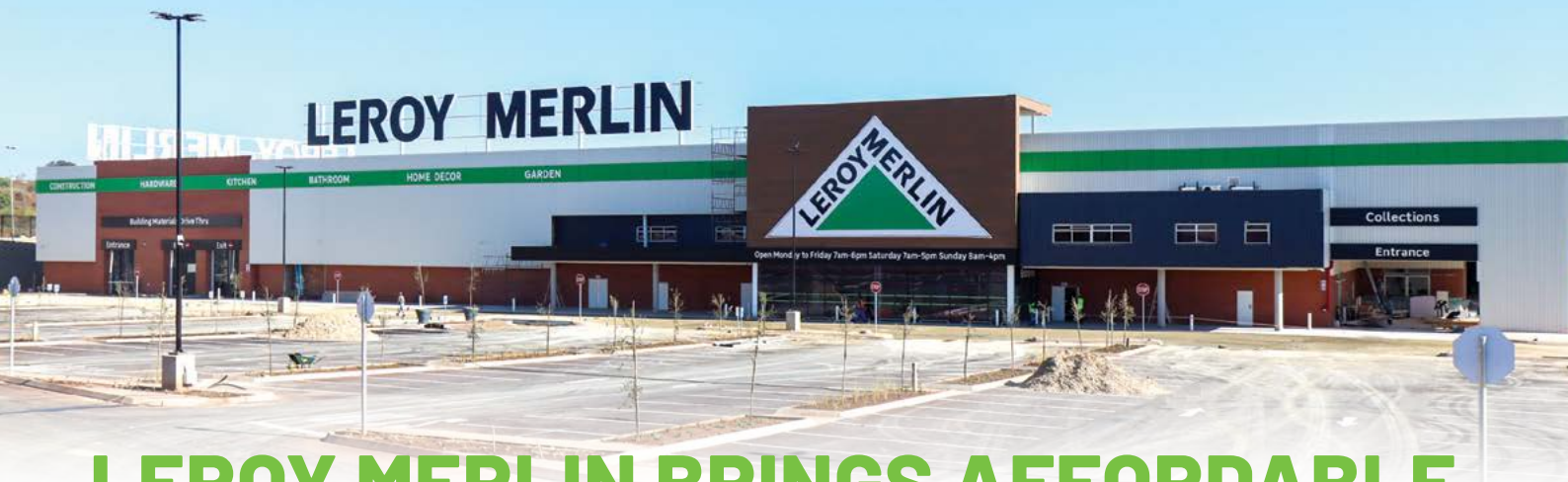
There is only one Arsène Wenger – and for the very first time, in his own words, this is his story. In this definitive autobiography, the world-renowned, revolutionary football manager discusses his life and career, sharing his leadership principles for success on and off the field.

At Arsenal, Wenger won multiple Premier League titles, a record number of FA Cups, and masterminded the historic 'Invincibles' season of 2003-2004. He changed the game in England forever, popularising an attacking approach and changing attitudes towards nutrition, fitness and coaching methods – and towards foreign managers.

The book charts his extraordinary career, from his rise in France and Japan, where he managed Nancy, Monaco and Nagoya Grampus Eight – clubs that also play in red-and-white – to his twenty-two years at the helm in north London.



Price: R315.00



LEROY MERLIN BRINGS AFFORDABLE DIY INSPIRATION TO CENTURION

LEROY MERLIN South Africa, part of the global GROUP ADEO family, is proud to open its fifth South African store in the heart of Centurion on 30 May 2025. This brand new 15 000 square metre flagship store has been specially designed to meet the needs of South African homeowners and tradespeople, combining quality products with practical solutions and real community impact.

Built from the ground up with local needs in mind, the Centurion store showcases LEROY MERLIN's commitment to making home improvement accessible to all. With 60% of products sourced from South African suppliers, the store supports local manufacturing while offering customers quality they can trust. Sustainability sits at the core of the operation, from solar power systems to rainwater harvesting and a strong focus on repair-and-reuse solutions. The Centurion store features beautifully designed kitchen and bathroom showrooms, showcasing Leroy Merlin's exclusive brands across a range of styles from contemporary to classic. These carefully curated spaces serve as

inspiration hubs, helping customers visualise transformation possibilities for their own homes while highlighting the quality and versatility of the retailer's premium offerings.

Frank Dufourq, CEO of LEROY MERLIN South Africa, explains their vision: "For us, being useful means more than just selling products. It's about sharing knowledge, supporting our communities, and helping South Africans create homes that work better for them and the environment. Our Centurion store brings this commitment to life through everything from skills workshops to our unique Neighbourhood Market." The month-end Neighbourhood Market provides a platform for local makers and traders, with LEROY MERLIN taking no commission on sales.

The store will create 150 permanent jobs while supporting 20 young South Africans through a specialised internship programme. Customers can look forward to innovative features like the convenient drive-thru building yard for contractors, professional installation services, trailer hire, key cutting, gas refill and an in-store Mugg & Bean where they can relax and plan their projects over coffee.

With existing stores in Fourways, Greenstone, Little Falls and Boksburg, LEROY MERLIN continues to grow its presence in South Africa, both through physical stores and its online marketplace that supports local sellers. "Every home improvement project starts with people – their ideas, their challenges, their dreams," says Dufourq. "In Centurion, we have built a space where neighbours can share knowledge, where first-time homeowners can gain confidence, and where everyone finds quality solutions that they can afford." This growth reflects the brand's ongoing mission to help South Africans make their home the best place to live.

Centurion Store address:

Corner Koaline, Centaurus Rd,
Centurion, 0157

Telephone:

010 493 8000

Opening Hours:

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Tuesday: 07:00 - 18:00
Wednesday: 07:00 - 18:00
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Friday: 07:00 - 18:00
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