



The Villager

November • 2025

FAMILY FUN DAY
– Saturday, 29 November

Highlights from the AGM

Bougainvillea Beauty

Lentil and Quinoa Salad

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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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CLIENT TESTIMONIAL

A sincere thank you to Peter for his professionalism, dedication and perseverance throughout my property sale. He went above and beyond handling challenges with patience, insight and integrity. Peter's clear communication and genuine care made the whole process smooth and stress-free. I couldn't have asked for a better agent.

- Jason Evershed

Please get in touch with me for a complimentary market evaluation.

Peter Varrie | +27 82 457 7416
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Anna-Mart Steyn

November 2025 – Sunshine, Rain, and the Season of Connection

November is here, and with it, the unmistakable energy of summer. Lawns are greener, gardens fuller, and the air carries that faint, hopeful scent of afternoon rain. It's the time of year when neighbours linger a little longer on their walks, families gather outdoors, and the rhythm of the estate seems to slow into something softer, more communal.

As we edge toward the holidays, there's a shared sense of anticipation – the promise of rest, of family, and of familiar traditions returning.

Family Fun Day – Saturday, 29 November

11:00–18:00

Primrose Park

It's almost time for one of our favourite days of the year: Family Fun Day. A full afternoon of activity, laughter, and community spirit awaits, so mark your calendar and come ready to relax and reconnect.

Expect all the classics – wall climbing, bungee jumping, swings, a slip & slide, miniature ponies for the kids, and the always-popular ice-cream truck. Adults can look forward to the Gin & Wine Bar and braai facilities, so bring your sunscreen, picnic chairs, and good humour.

Keep an eye on our channels for final updates closer to the day.



Highlights from the AGM

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Annual General Meeting on 22 October. Resident engagement continues to shape the strength of our community, and your participation ensures that decisions reflect collective values.

Several updates and rule changes were confirmed:

- 4.3.1. All members must register their gardeners, household and domestic workers, au pairs and drivers yearly at the estate office.

In accordance with the CSOS directive, the following rule is added:

4.4.22 Slaughtering

- 4.4.22.1 The slaughtering of animals for cultural or religious purposes are not prohibited in terms of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

- 4.4.22.2 The following conditions for slaughtering of animals for cultural or religious purposes shall apply:

- 4.4.22.2.1 Two (2) weeks written notice of the intended religious or cultural event requiring such ritual slaughter shall be given to the Estate Manager for approval.

- 4.4.22.2.2 The date and time of the proposed slaughtering.

- 4.4.22.2.3 The type of animal to be slaughtered.

- 4.4.22.2.4 The name and qualification of the person registered by the relevant authority to perform the religious or cultural slaughtering.

- 4.4.22.2.5 Confirmation that the animal will be brought onto the premises immediately prior to the ritual or cultural slaughtering and that all remains of the animal will be removed immediately from the premises after the act of ritual or cultural slaughtering.

- 4.4.22.2.6 A notice from the local authority must accompany the written notice to the Estate Manager, confirming that all by-



laws with regards to the ritual or cultural slaughter have been / will be complied with.

- 4.4.22.2.7 A certificate from the SPCA must accompany the above written notice to the Estate Manager, confirming that an official from the SPCA will be present at the proposed event to ensure that the animal to be slaughtered will not endure unnecessary pain and suffering during such slaughter.

- 4.4.22.2.8 The Estate Manager will provide notice to all adjacent members of the date and time of the proposed slaughter.

- 4.4.22.2.9 Failure to comply with the requirements set out above will entitle the Home Owners Association to prevent the act of ritual or cultural slaughtering from taking place on the premises or penalising the owner with a fine of R5 000-00.

- 4.6.10.2 All building sites must be screened off from public view to the satisfaction of the HOA. In addition, for safety purposes, reasonable measures must be taken to prevent inadvertent access to the site.

- 4.7.10 The RFID tags are to be issued under the following circumstances to the members of Irene Farm Villages Estate.

- 4.7.10.1 RFID tags may only be issued to members and persons in the household of the member whose permanent residence (domicilium) is the stand.

- 4.7.10.2 In case of a trust, the trust documentation to be presented to establish the trustee/s of the trust.

- 4.7.10.3 A maximum of 4 (four) RFID tags may be issued per stand.

- 4.7.10.4 The RFID tag must be physically attached to the vehicle by HOA staff at the time of issuance.

Continued over the page

- 4.7.10.5 A fee payable for each tag issued.
- 4.7.10.6 The RFID tag only works at the entrance to the estate and not on exit from the estate.
- 4.7.10.7 The RFID tag is registered to a specific vehicle.
- 4.7.10.8 It is the responsibility of the member to inform the Home Owners Association immediately when he / she sells their vehicle or vehicle is stolen.

4.4.31 Alcohol Testing in the Event of an Incident

- 4.4.31.1 In the event that any person within the Estate is involved in an accident, and there exists reasonable grounds to suspect that such person may be under the influence of alcohol, the Estate reserves the right to require immediate alcohol testing.
- 4.4.31.2 Alcohol testing shall be administered without delay by a security officer of the estate who has been duly appointed and certified for this purpose, and such testing shall be conducted using an instrument that is compliant with the applicable statutory and industry standards.
- 4.4.31.3 Should the individual refuse, obstruct, or otherwise fail to submit to the test when requested, a penalty for reckless driving shall be imposed on the member, without exception and without the need for further proof of intoxication.
- 4.4.31.4 The decision of the Estate in respect of the imposition of such penalty shall be final and binding.



Christmas Fund – A Gesture of Gratitude

As the festive season approaches, we once again invite residents to support our Security and Garden Services Christmas

Fund – a long-standing Irene

Farm Villages tradition that gives back to the 41 men and women who keep our estate secure and beautifully maintained all year round.

Your contribution is more than a donation; it's a thank-you to those who quietly make everyday life here safer and easier.

Please make your contributions by 16 December:

Account Name:

Irene Farm Villages HOA

Bank: Standard Bank

Account No: 052 586 413

Branch Code: 012 645

Reference: DONATE



Let's make this season a generous one.

Garden of the Month – Stand 2184, Cornwall Street



October's winning garden celebrates water-wise landscaping at its best. Structured around aloes, cycads, and hardy succulents, it blends sculptural plants with natural stone and subtle colour. Minimal watering is needed – just an occasional deep soak during dry spells – yet the space thrives, attracting bees, butterflies, and small birds.

It's a simple reminder that sustainability can be beautiful.



Nature Watch – The Black Mamba Encounter

In October, our security team safely captured a Black Mamba within the estate – an event that drew plenty of attention and reminded us how close we live to nature's wild edge.

Despite its reputation, the Black Mamba is not naturally aggressive. It prefers to avoid humans, striking only when cornered. These snakes are vital for ecological balance, helping to control rodent populations.



Black mamba (*Dendroaspis polylepis*)

Photo by TimVickers, wikipedia.org

Why They Appear

The lush gardens and green belts of the estate offer food and shelter, especially in warmer months. Overgrown vegetation or piles of wood and debris are particularly inviting.

Safety Tips

- Keep gardens tidy and clear of clutter.
- Control rodents – fewer mice mean fewer snakes.
- Seal gaps under decks or steps.
- Stay alert near shaded or concealed areas.
- Teach children to observe, not chase, wildlife.

If You Encounter a Snake

Stay calm, keep your distance, and call Security immediately. Never attempt to kill or capture a snake. Our handlers are trained to remove and relocate them safely.

In Case of a Bite

Keep the person still, apply firm pressure around the wound, and get them to hospital without delay. Do not cut, suck, or wash the bite area.

The presence of wildlife is part of what makes Irene Farm Villages special. With awareness and respect, we can coexist safely and sustainably with the natural world around us.

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Police Emergency	10111
Lyttelton Police Station	012 644 8600
Pierre van Ryneveld Community Policing Forum	079 528 1630

Fire Emergency	10177
Medical Emergency	082 911

Main Gate Guardroom	012 662 3505
Security Duty Manager	082 937 8391
Controller	012 662 3505 Ext 3

Irene Farm Villages:	
Estate Office	012 662 3505
Estate Manager	066 008 8523

Managing Agent: Account Ability	
• Tel: 082 780 0059 • Fax: 086 671 9798 • info@aams.co.za	

Closing Note

With exams in full swing and the holidays on the horizon, we wish every family calm focus and a strong finish to the year. Thank you for another season of kindness, cooperation, and community spirit.

Let's close 2025 on a high note – with gratitude for where we live, and for the people who make it home.

Warm regards,
Anna-Mart
Irene Farm Villages HOA

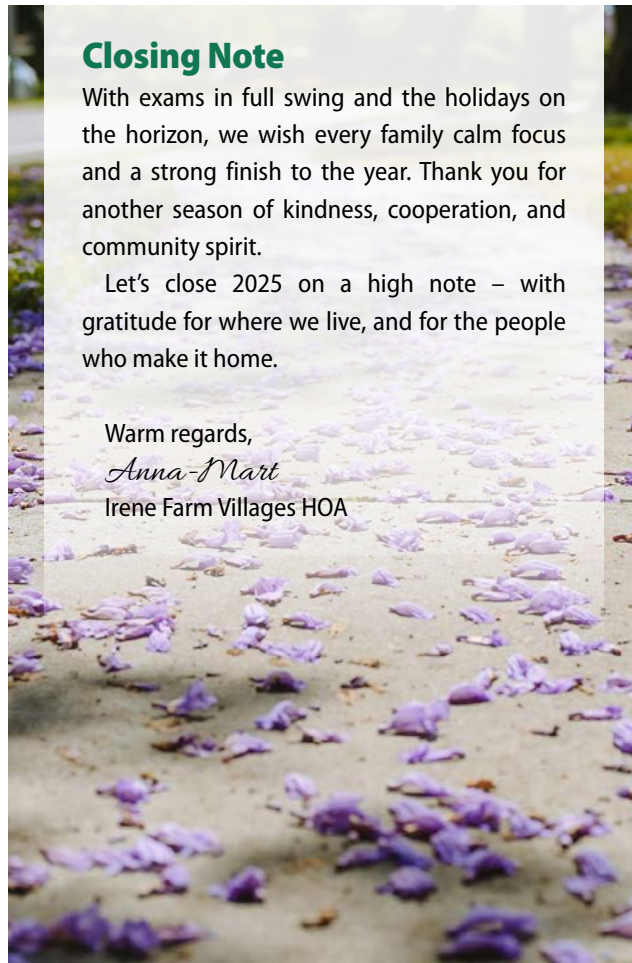


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THE ROLE OF YOUTH IN THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

The hospitality industry, a cornerstone of global economies, is undergoing rapid transformation fuelled by technological advancements, shifting consumer expectations and evolving service standards. In this dynamic landscape, the role of youth has emerged as not only crucial but transformative.





Renee Hill, CEO of the IIE School of Hospitality & Service Management (IIEHSM) says that young people, with their fresh energy, creativity and tech-savvy outlook, are driving innovation and ensuring the sector remains relevant in a fast-changing world.

One of the most significant contributions of youth to the hospitality industry is their ability to adapt quickly to new technologies. From contactless check-ins and mobile room keys to artificial intelligence-powered customer service, the modern hospitality experience increasingly depends on digital solutions. Young professionals, having grown up in a digital world,

are naturally inclined to embrace and implement such technologies. Their fluency in digital tools allows for smoother integration of innovative systems, helping businesses streamline operations and enhance guest experiences.

Creativity is another hallmark of the younger generation; they bring new perspectives to traditional hospitality models, often reimagining services and experiences in ways that appeal to a broader and more diverse audience. This is especially valuable in areas such as marketing, branding and event planning.

"The use of social media influencers, immersive virtual reality tours and sustainability-driven brand narratives are often pioneered by young minds who understand contemporary consumer behaviour, and their innovative ideas attract a younger customer base seeking personalised experiences," says Hill.

In addition, the energy and enthusiasm of youth infuse vitality into the hospitality workplace. Their passion for learning, willingness to work flexible hours and openness to cross-cultural experiences make them ideal candidates for roles that demand adaptability and interpersonal skills. Whether as front desk staff, event coordinators or digital marketing specialists, young professionals often serve as the face of the brand, delivering memorable guest interactions that drive customer loyalty.

Furthermore, the values held by younger generations, such as inclusivity, sustainability and social responsibility, are reshaping the priorities of the hospitality industry. Youth-driven initiatives often lead to more eco-conscious practices, diversity in hiring, and community engagement programmes. These values not only align with global trends but also appeal to ethically minded consumers.

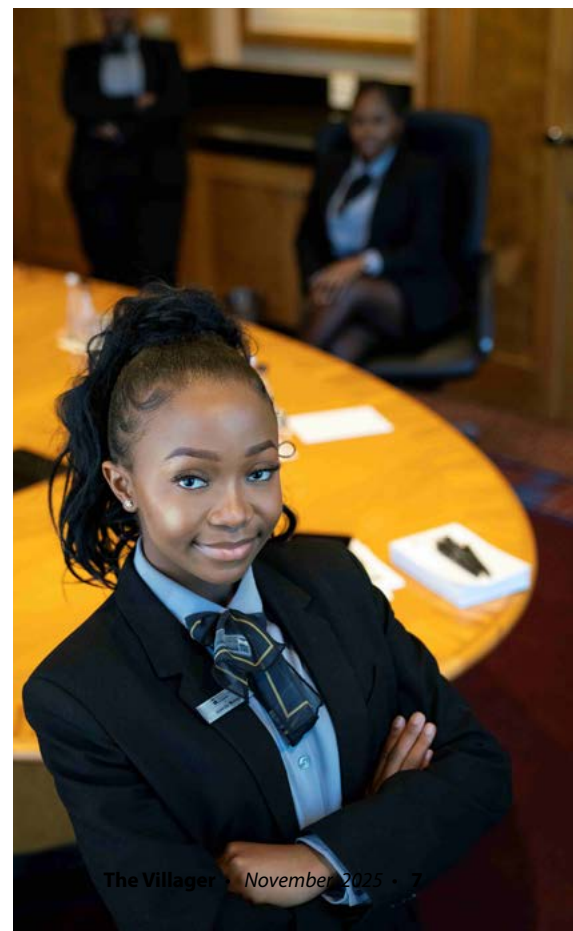
"The role of youth in the hospitality industry is both impactful and indispensable. By bringing energy, innovation, and a deep understanding

of technology, young professionals are not only enhancing guest experiences but also steering the industry toward a more sustainable and inclusive future. Investing in youth through training, mentorship and leadership opportunities will ensure the continued growth and relevance of hospitality in an increasingly interconnected world," concludes Hill.

IIEHSM currently offers the following courses: IIEHSM Bachelor of Service Management; IIEHSM Advanced Certificate in Hospitality Management; IIEHSM Bachelor of Hospitality Management; IIEHSM Higher Certificate in Hospitality Management; IIEHSM Higher Certificate in Service Management; IIEHSM Advanced Diploma in Hospitality Leadership; IIEHSM Higher Certificate in Event Management; IIEHSM Higher Certificate in Travel.

Campuses are located in Rosebank, Johannesburg and Newlands, Cape Town.

Information and photos supplied by the IIEHSM. For more information visit www.iiehsm.com





IRENE FARM VILLAGES HOME OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Summary Operational Income Statement – YTD September 2025

September 2025 Year to Date YTD Variance

Actual Budget Actual Budget Value %

Operational Income						
Levy Income	1 504 303	1 504 303	10 466 723	10 466 721	2	0,0%
Other Income	78 284	40 500	462 612	283 500	179 112	63,2%
	1 582 587	1 544 803	10 929 335	10 750 221	179 114	1,7%
Operational Expenditure						
Professional /Administration	96 409	142 436	978 036	1 012 052	34 016	3,4%
Accounting and Auditing	52 926	57 117	436 927	399 819	(37 108)	-9,3%
Insurance, Legal and Admin	43 483	85 319	541 109	612 233	71 124	11,6%
General Office	20 162	33 067	209 694	229 879	20 185	8,8%
Office Administration	20 162	33 067	209 694	229 879	20 185	8,8%
Operational Expenses	267 946	331 594	1 953 247	2 306 662	353 415	15,3%
Municipal Charges	81 311	76 123	521 135	518 365	(2 770)	-0,5%
General Operations	22 140	39 271	178 331	274 897	96 566	35,1%
Salaries & Wages	164 496	216 200	1 253 781	1 513 400	259 619	17,2%
Security	625 669	605 259	4 392 734	4 236 813	(155 921)	-3,7%
Security Operations	128 971	108 565	943 877	759 955	(183 922)	-24,2%
Guarding Services	496 698	496 694	3 446 953	3 476 858	29 905	0,9%
Insurance Claims and Excess	0	0	1 905	0	(1 905)	100,0%
Repairs & Maintenance	207 440	275 123	1 803 309	1 925 861	122 552	6,4%
Repairs & Maintenance	206 926	268 811	1 795 788	1 881 677	85 889	4,6%
Park Maintenance Contract	514	6 312	7 521	44 184	36 663	83,0%
	1 217 625	1 387 479	9 337 021	9 711 267	374 246	3,9%
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	364 962	157 324	1 592 315	1 038 954		
Non-Recurring Income	44 747	0	270 840	0	270 840	100,0%
Estate Penalties	5 450	0	156 650	0	156 650	100,0%
Speed Infringements (Net)	5 937	0	98 188	0	98 188	100,0%
Other Revenue	33 360	0	16 002	0	16 002	100,0%
Non-Recurring Expenses	44 275	0	294 099	1 570 000	1 275 901	81,3%
Net Positive/ (Negative)	472	0	(23 259)	(1 570 000)	(1 005 061)	
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	365 434	157 324	1 569 055	(531 046)		

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

*"Believe in yourself and all
 that you are. Know that there
 is something inside you that is
 greater than any obstacle."*

– Christian D. Larson

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Tile Africa delivers more than just tiles. Their extended range of floor coverings includes laminate and vinyl flooring, while the bathroom collection features exclusive brands such as NUVO Bathrooms and Vitra. The range showcases modern, trend-forward designs in taps, vanities, beautiful free-standing baths, basins and wall-hung toilets to suit every design style.

Discover a stunning range of kitchen sinks and taps – designed to deliver the perfect finishing touch to a kitchen, the true heart of your home.

Let Tile Africa help you design for your style by bringing personality home.

From discovery to design

Tile Africa has curated six distinctive style profiles to guide your design journey:

- **Luxe Living:** Think marble-look tiles, gold taps, and statement vanities that exude elegance and sophistication.
- **Modern Metro:** Embrace urban chic with concrete finishes, sleek black fittings, and bold contrasts.
- **Naturally Beautiful:** Connect with nature through stone-look tiles, timber textures, and earthy tones.
- **Mediterranean Hue:** Capture



coastal charm with terracotta, blue décor tiles, and natural stone.

- **Vintage Romance:** Create timeless interiors with patterned tiles, soft hues, and graceful fittings.
- **Eclectic Mix:** Celebrate individuality with bright mosaics, playful textures, and bold combinations.

Each style comes with thoughtfully matched products from foundational tiles to finishing touches making it easier than ever to bring your vision to life.

Curated collections for every room

Tile Africa's approach eliminates the guesswork. Instead of sifting through endless options, you're presented with a tailored selection of tiles, vanities, taps, baths, sinks and décor elements that align perfectly with your chosen style.

Whether you're revamping your kitchen, refreshing your bathroom, or preparing your patio for the festive season, the right design elements can transform everyday spaces into expressions of joy and comfort.

Your home, your story

Designing for your style means infusing every corner of your home with personality. Whether it's a bold mosaic backsplash in the kitchen, soft vintage tones in the bedroom, or nature-inspired finishes in the living room, each choice tells a story about who you are and how you live.

When your home reflects your style, it becomes a place that not only looks beautiful but also feels deeply personal. It's where memories are made, laughter is shared, and life unfolds.

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Ready to turn your style into reality? Visit Tile Africa today. With expert guidance from our design advisors and curated products, you'll find everything you need to create a home that's uniquely yours.

Because at Tile Africa, our home is your home, and your style is worth celebrating.

Visit www.tileafrica.co.za to find a store near you.

BOUGAINVILLEA BEAUTY

Available in red, purple/mauve, white, yellow, orange, magenta and many shades of pink, Bougainvillea are stunning but rather sensitive when young.

As 'adolescents', they have easily damageable, brittle root systems. When planting, wet the soil thoroughly before transplanting from the nursery bag or container. Do not loosen the soil away from the roots during this process to avoid transplant shock.

Top tip: Bougainvilleas love warm, sunny spots with well-drained, rich, loamy soil. They prefer infrequent but deep watering.

Styling and training

Bougainvillea plants are essentially creepers, but with nifty pruning, they can be trained to grow into several styles and shapes, for example, neat formal hedges using mesh or wooden trellises.

In smaller gardens, they can be controlled by frequent pruning and even styled into ball shapes called superballs or standards. Depending on the size of the ball or the height required, bold columns can also be created and are real show-stopping décor elements.

Top tip: Choose low-growing varieties and experiment with hedging styles and wall cover-ups. Remember to tie down the plants with a string while still in training school.

Pruning

Pruning should be carried out once your Bougainvillea has finished

flowering. This encourages new growth upon which the next flush of flowers will grow. A good general rule is that regular, light pruning will keep them in good shape with near-constant regrowth and blooms. Pruning also helps reduce disease and extends the life of the plant. Pruning during winter will set the tone for the new season and give the plant a great head start.

Top tip: Pinch off tender ends that are about to bloom to promote denser, brighter flowers.

Containers and indoors

Bougainvilleas will also thrive in containers if the potting mix is well-drained and nutritious and receives infrequent but deep watering. They need as much sun as possible but will tolerate some shade during the day. When growing indoors, choose a spot that receives some sun and is always well-lit. Prune indoor plants regularly and be careful not to overwater them. When selecting your container, look for pots with plenty of drainage holes (don't forget the saucer), and remember that the pot's size will also affect the size of the plant's growth.

Top tip: Try special container growing Bougainvillea varieties such as vera purple/white, flame, ruby and Rijnstar.

Feeding, frost and pests

A balanced foliar fertiliser can be applied every four weeks during the growing period. Alternatively, a slow-release 3:1:5 fertiliser every two to three months is also good. Ask your nursery for advice and recommendations on feeding solutions. Another great thing about Bougainvilleas is that they are

virtually disease-free, provided they have lots of sunlight. During winter in particularly cold regions, a frost cloth should be used for protection, but they are generally quite resistant and grow back well.

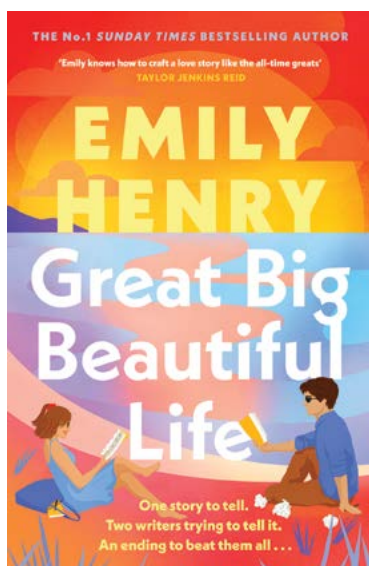
Top tip: Look out for aphids and red spider mites that may spawn during spring. Fortunately, these are easy to take care of with the variety of organic

and chemical pesticides available at nurseries.

Remember to mulch around all Bougainvillea beds and containers to retain soil moisture and reduce weed growth. Follow these tips for best results and may your growing journey be successful!

Text courtesy of Life is a Garden





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-prizewinning 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 is only giving 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: R395.00



The Advocate

BY JACKIE PHAMOTSE

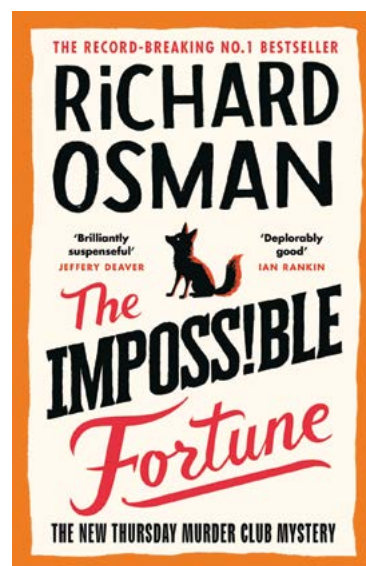
How far can you distance yourself from your enemy without losing sight of the threat they pose – or without becoming an enemy yourself?

In the shadow of a flawless facade, the Coal family's dynasty teeters on the brink of collapse. Luna Parks' marriage balances on a powder keg of secrets and lies, and results in the presence of an unwelcome guest on the Coal farm, which is the spark that sets it ablaze.

With the Fletchers' sinister grip tightening on the town of Clanwilliam, the advocate emerges as the last line of defence against the forces of destruction, and Cameron Coal is forced to confront an impossible choice: will love be the salvation or the downfall of the rooibos farm, a legacy forged in blood and sweat? And will Luna's devotion be enough to bring the family together? With every twist and turn, the stakes get higher, and the truth threatens to rip everyone apart.

Against the backdrop of South Africa's tumultuous rural landscape, this gripping tale exposes the intricate dance between power, corruption and the human condition. Can the advocate untangle the web of deceit, or will the pursuit of justice and truth be sacrificed at the altar of money and influence?

Price: R330.00



The Impossible Fortune

BY RICHARD OSMAN

Who's got time to think about murder when there's a wedding to plan?

It's been a quiet year for the Thursday Murder Club. Joyce is busy with table plans and first dances. Elizabeth is grieving. Ron is dealing with family troubles, and Ibrahim is still providing therapy to his favourite criminal.

But when Elizabeth meets a wedding guest who fears for their life, the thrill of the chase is ignited once again. A villain wants access to an uncrackable code and will stop at nothing to get it. Plunged back into their most explosive investigation yet, can the gang solve the puzzle and a murder in time?

Price: R395.00



'The dog ate my homework.'
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<https://littleeinstein.co.za>. Extra Afrikaans lessons Grade 1-10. Tutoring: Grade 1-4.

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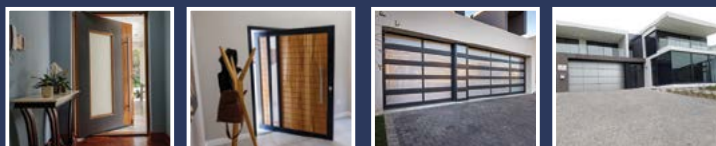
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Styles & Trends

WEDDING TRENDS
WEDDING DÉCOR TRENDS

WEDDING TRENDS

The weddings of 2025 are all about personalisation, relaxed atmospheres, and a strong sense of individual style.

Couples are moving away from convention and creating experiences that feel distinctly their own – from the guest list to the final dance.

The Look and Feel

Bold colour palettes and nature-inspired décor are defining this season's celebrations. Think immersive florals, textured tablescapes, and outdoor-inspired elegance. The trend towards smaller, more intimate gatherings continues, allowing couples to focus on meaningful connection and creativity. Personalised details abound – from live tattooing and interactive stations to multiple outfit changes and relaxed dress codes. Sustainability and smart spending are also in focus, with more couples renting

attire, repurposing décor, and choosing second-hand pieces that tell a story.

Bow Beautiful

Bows remain the undisputed statement for 2025 – big, small, structured, or soft. They appear everywhere: on dresses, shoes, hair accessories, stationery, signage, and even table settings. Their timeless romanticism gives a playful nod to both tradition and reinvention.

The Wedding Wardrobe

With pre- and post-wedding events growing in popularity, fashion has extended far beyond the dress itself. The new wedding wardrobe now includes looks for every occasion – from the engagement party and rehearsal dinner to the hen party and even the honeymoon airport outfit. The after-party has also become a highlight, with both brides and grooms opting for a “second look” – whether to move more freely on the dance floor or to make one last dramatic entrance.

Ceremony in the Round

Many couples are reimagining the traditional layout, choosing to hold ceremonies in the round or in winding, curved formats. This inclusive arrangement allows every guest a front-row view and reinforces the symbolism of unity and eternity – a perfect fit for the occasion.

Cherry Coded

Expect to see the Cherry Coded palette everywhere this year.

Rich berry tones are finding their way into wardrobes, makeup, floral designs, and even menus. From deep red candlesticks to raspberry-hued bridesmaid dresses and vibrant table



décor, this trend brings a touch of passion and drama to the modern celebration.

Berry-Tipped Cakes

The fruity flair extends to the dessert table. Cherry- and berry-adorned cakes are stealing the spotlight – but these aren't your grandmother's fruit-topped confections.

Expect layers filled and topped with strawberries, blueberries, and cherries, creating both a stunning visual and a deliciously romantic flourish.

The Rise of the Wedding Content Creator

In the age of real-time storytelling, content creators have become a must-have part of the modern wedding team. Working alongside photographers and videographers, these creators capture candid, behind-the-scenes moments on smartphones – the laughter, the quiet glances, and all the in-between magic.

The result? Social media-ready content you can post instantly, while staying fully present on your day.

Entertainment with Heart

If there's one thing that turns a lovely wedding into an unforgettable one, it's the music. In 2025, couples are curating deeply personal experiences – from intimate acoustic performances to high-energy hybrid sets combining live bands and DJs. Other emerging ideas include unplugged ceremonies, multi-sensory experiences, and even wellness-inspired elements like mini sports tournaments or local cultural performances such as gumboot dancing.

More than ever, this year's weddings are about meaning, creativity, and memory – celebrations that feel less like events and more like reflections of the people at their centre.



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WEDDING DÉCOR TRENDS

If there's one thing that transforms a wedding from lovely to unforgettable, it's the décor. Beyond flowers and fabric, décor sets the mood, defines the atmosphere, and lingers in memory long after the day itself.

This year's wedding décor trends blend luxe minimalism with creativity and heart. Think clean architectural lines, dramatic hanging florals, and bold colour palettes in jewel tones or bright citrus hues. Retro influences are also making a welcome return – 80s-inspired accents and antique pieces layered with modern curves and sculptural tablescapes. At the same time, sustainability continues to shape wedding design, with couples turning to local florals, repurposed materials, and art-inspired, eco-conscious creations.

Décor should always feel like an extension of the couple's story. Knowing what your venue includes – and what might require an extra hire – can make all the difference. Calling in a trusted décor specialist helps ensure every detail feels cohesive and elegant, without overwhelming the space or stealing focus from the couple.

Planners and designers agree: many favourites from 2024, like layered linens and sculptural lighting, are here to stay, but with an elevated twist. Expect 2025 weddings to feel innovative, immersive, and deeply individual – full of statement-making design moments that still feel warm and welcoming.

Custom-Built Structures

In the spirit of personalisation, more couples are going bespoke. Instead of standard tents or marquees, architectural structures are taking centre stage – colourful trusses, glasshouses, geometric canopies, and even pop-up pavilions that mirror each couple's aesthetic. Expect imaginative flooring, bold patterns, and creative fusions of indoor and outdoor design that redefine the traditional wedding setting.



Layered Linens

Texture is everything in 2025. Layered fabrics in complementary colours and finishes bring richness and depth to reception tables. Picture a soft blue satin base paired with a striped runner and fine neutral napkins – unified, tactile, and elegant. The look is effortless but deliberate, adding dimension without distraction.

Immersive Lighting

Lighting continues to be one of the most transformative décor elements. Candlelit walkways, pendant clusters, and cascading chandeliers create emotion and atmosphere in equal measure. The right lighting can shift a space from soft romance to dramatic splendour, especially when choreographed with dinner service and music for a true sensory experience.

DIY and Eco-Luxe Design

The trend towards *eco-luxe minimalism* is only growing. Couples are embracing greenery, wood, stone, and natural fabrics to create grounded, organic elegance. DIY décor adds another layer of meaning – handmade stationery, crafted centrepieces, and personal signage that reflect who they are. These thoughtful, tactile details infuse weddings with heart, keeping beauty aligned with authenticity and care.

In 2025, décor is about more than design – it's about storytelling. Every element, from the flowers to the flooring, becomes part of a larger narrative of love, creativity, and connection.



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LENTIL AND QUINOA SALAD

This lentil and quinoa salad bursts with fresh, summery textures and flavours.

Tossed in a zesty herbed dressing, it's packed with crunchy veggies such as zucchini, peppers, and carrots, plus hearty lentils, quinoa, and juicy orange slices. The result? A vibrant one-bowl meal that's as delicious made ahead as it is fresh from the kitchen.

PREP: 25 MINUTES

COOK: 5 MINUTES

TOTAL: 30 MINUTES

SERVINGS: 4

GLUTEN-FREE | SOY-FREE | NUT-FREE

For the dressing

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons Italian herb blend
- 2 tablespoons lime juice
- ½ – 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard (adjust to taste)
- ½ – 1 teaspoon garlic powder (adjust to taste)

For the salad

- 1 can lentils, drained (or 1½ cups cooked lentils)
- 1 cup cooked quinoa (or cook ¼ cup dry quinoa according to package instructions)
- ½ cup chopped zucchini
- 1 tomato, finely chopped
- ¾ cup chopped red and green peppers
- ½ cup shredded carrots
- ½ cup loosely packed chopped herbs (such as coriander, parsley, or your favorite mix)
- 2 tablespoons of seeds of your choice (sunflower, pumpkin, or sesame work well)
- ¼ cup non-dairy cheese (optional; adjust to taste)
- 1 orange, peeled and sliced

Instructions

1. Cook the lentils and quinoa. Drain, rinse with cold water, and set aside.
2. In a large serving bowl, whisk together all the dressing ingredients.
3. Add the remaining salad ingredients to the bowl and toss until everything is well coated.
4. Chill for 15 minutes, then serve and enjoy!

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