

Erfenis-maand: Mamre en Pella se geskiedenis digitaal beskikbaar



- FOTO: TERTIUS DE WET



BLADSY 7

Gedurende Erfenismaand in September, word Suid-Afrikaners aangemoedig om hul geskiedenis te vier. Mamre en Pella se strate dra die spore van ’n ryk geskiedenis. Baie inwoners is van mening dat dit ’n is erfenis wat nie net op een dag gevier kan word nie, maar vir ’n leeftyd gekoester moet word. DVDs van albei dorpe se erfenis is reeds vanaf vroeër vanjaar by die Mamre Biblioteek beskikbaar.

Public open spaces a magnet for illegal dumping and crime

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A tribute to Atlantis' own Florence Nightingale, Olivia Pharo

ALLISON ADAMS writes a moving tribute about the life and times of one of Atlantis' true icons and heroines, Olivia Pharo, who passed away earlier this month.

Church a week later. For over three decades, Sr. Pharo dedicated her life to nursing. After 29 years of service at Wesfleur Hospital, she could have chosen rest. Instead, in 2019, she used her pension funds to open Sister Pharo's Primary Health Care in the Atlantis City Building. The second-floor

location presented challenges, especially for patients in wheelchairs who had to be carried up. Determined to create better access, she later moved the clinic to the Med24 Centre and eventually to a more practical space.

But even that wasn't the end of her journey. On 15 April 2025, She announced that the clinic would temporarily close while she transitioned to a more sustainable home-based healthcare office.

Rising costs and her own declining health made this change necessary, but her mission never wavered. When community members called for help during the transition, she turned her home into a temporary clinic, proving again that for her, healthcare was not a job, it was a calling.

By 9 September 2025, the doors of her new home-based clinic quietly opened. It was small but functional, with dedicated rooms for consultation, observation, wound care, and testing, as well as a modest waiting area. As always, her patients left with more than medical treatment, they left with dignity, respect, and love. Through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, through her own health battles, and through the loss of colleagues and friends, Sr. Pharo carried on, serving her community with resilience and faith. Beyond her clinic, she invested in the future of care. She developed a training course for home-based care workers, helping people who shared her passion to

turn it into purpose. Many of her students went on to better serve their families and communities, while others began new careers in healthcare. These opportunities allowed dreams to be realized, multiplying her impact far beyond the walls of her own practice. She also championed other community projects close to her heart, always giving, always serving, always uplifting.

She is survived by her husband, Jonathan, and daughters Lauren and Tammy, who supported her lifelong mission of service and sacrifice. Her legacy is not just in the walls of a clinic, nor in the courses she created, but in the countless lives she empowered. As Atlantis grieves, it also gives thanks for the gift of her life.

Rest in peace, Sr. Olivia Pharo. Your legacy of love will never be forgotten.

Family, friends, and many others are in mourning following the passing of Sister Olivia Pharo, affectionately known as the Florence Nightingale of Atlantis.

Born on 16 April 1969, she passed away peacefully on 13 September 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love, care, and service that transformed countless lives. She was laid to rest after a service at the St. John the Baptist Catholic

SASSA will pay out on these dates

The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) has confirmed the following dates for the payment of grants in October 2025:

- Old Age Grant, Thursday 2 October
- Disability Grant, Friday 3 October
- Child Grant, Monday 6 October

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Public open spaces attract illegal dumping, say residents

PETER LATEGAN



- On the left a child can be seen dumping dirt in broad daylight. Above is Gary Herne, a Sherwood Park resident.

When driving through Atlantis, one would see several pockets of unused land that have remained undeveloped for as long as the town has been in existence. Many residents agree that illegal dumping and unused public open spaces in Atlantis are directly connected. And nothing proactive is done to address this.

According to Gary Herne, who lives in Extension 12, Sherwood Park, local authorities don't do enough to prevent dumping. "Many people simply do not have the money to hire a vehicle to take things like tree branches, garden waste, an old mattress or something they are not allowed to discard off with the normal household garbage to official dumping sites." He says he has already reached out to local councillors in the past to help find a solution, but his suggestions have fallen on deaf ears. "One simple solution is to have big skips or enclosures in various areas, similar to what they have in City-owned flats."

The City of Cape Town's Economic

Growth Directorate believes Atlantis faces many of the same dumping challenges experienced in several other areas across the metro. "Some parts of the area are more affected than others, with illegal dumping often linked to broader social issues such as crime, unemployment, informal settlement growth, and other socio-economic pressures. These factors create an environment where waste management services are under strain and dumping becomes more common," a spokesperson said.

While improvements to waste collection systems are ongoing, the City emphasises that no solution will work unless communities take collective ownership of the problem. "Whether through education campaigns, law enforcement, small business development for recycling, or partnerships with waste pickers, these efforts can only succeed when residents commit to keeping their neighbourhoods clean and reporting illegal dumping." To strengthen waste management,

the City has introduced an accreditation process for private waste companies. Businesses must ensure that their service providers are accredited to operate legally and dispose of waste

communities and authorities should focus on prevention rather than cure

correctly. This process helps reduce unlawful dumping and ensures that waste ends up at designated sites. Education initiatives remain a priority, with awareness campaigns and the use of Bingo, the City's anti-litter mascot, to inspire young people to take action against littering. When asked how often dumping hotspots are cleared, and their typical

turnaround time, the City said they do not track service delivery data at a suburb-by-suburb level, and therefore cannot provide statistics specifically for Atlantis. "The City cannot disaggregate its budget to show a separate figure specifically for Atlantis, and we also cannot provide a breakdown of fines issued in Atlantis separate from other areas." The directorate said they acknowledge the challenge of vacant land and supports community-led clean-ups to activate these spaces. They said residents are encouraged to organise clean-ups as a way to reclaim their environment. The City assists by providing bags and removing waste that has been collected. Unfortunately questions posed by Impact News to the local sub-council chairperson and councillor, as well as the sub-council manager, went unanswered on two occasions. These included the sub-council's plans for activating or rehabilitating these open spaces, and a request to know whether any audits of unused public land in Atlantis have been done to identify problem areas.

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Rotary's health-day benefits many seniors



Atlantis residents recently benefitted from a free community health and eye care outreach, organised by the Rotary Club of Melkbos and the Rotary Club of Atlantis.

The event, held at the Saxonsea Community Hall on Wednesday 17 September, offered eye screenings for the elderly and pensioners, health checks for hypertension and diabetes, and opportunities to book hearing tests. About 30 university students training to become Dispensing Opticians assisted with the screenings, using several advanced eye-testing machines. The vital health checks were conducted by the Community Health Workers (CHW), lead by Sr. Joseph and all services were provided free of charge. "A big thank you for an outstanding Eye Test Day. Special thanks to the two Rotary Clubs, Grosvenor Primary's assistants, the Community Health Workers, and the City of Cape Town for the use of the hall. A big thank also to the CPUT students who made the day a great success with their help," said Danny Pietersen, president of the local Rotarians. The outreach highlighted the clubs' commitment to improving health and well-being in the Atlantis community, one of their many initiatives in the community.



City bursary applications now open for 2026

The City of Cape Town's Training and Development Department is offering financial support to students that reside in Cape Town and are registered at accredited academic Institutions including TVET Colleges within the borders of South Africa.

The bursaries cover registration, tuition and examination fees as well as capped allowances for study-aid, transport and meals. The application window is now open and must be submitted electronically or at any of their Walk-in Centres by 10 October 2025. "Bursary applications will be assessed on academic merit as well as against the City's scarce skills list of needs. The bursaries come with a year-for-a-year service obligation period, which will ensure graduates also gain hands-on work experience once they have graduated," explained the City's Mayoral Committee Member, Theresa Uys. Candidates are invited to download the application form from the City's website or from any of their libraries.

Requirements for eligibility includes:

- Copy of Grade 12 final / mid-year results with an average of 65% and above.
- Copy of latest tertiary academic transcript and certified copy of ID.
- Applicants should be a South

African citizen residing within the boundaries of Cape Town.

External financial support (bursaries) are offered to anyone who:

- Is not an employee of the City of Cape Town.
- Is not in possession of any other form of financial assistance like, NSFAS etc.
- Is registered for full-time study at an accredited tertiary institution within the borders of South Africa.
- Is studying towards an undergraduate or postgraduate qualification in one of the approved City of Cape Town scarce skills fields of study.
- An applicant should not be in possession of any other form of financial assistance (e.g. NSFAS etc.)
- Where a proven need exists, the City shall cover a capped residence allowance subject to the residence being registered on the City vendor database.

Late applications will not be considered, and those who do not receive a response from the City by 15 January 2026, should accept that the application has been unsuccessful. Please direct all enquiries to their HR Service Desk on 0860 103 089/ 021 400 3434 (option 6) or external. bursaries2026@capetown.gov.za.

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IKAMVAYOUTH ATLANTIS

16-year-old Anzio tackles dumping while inspiring his neighbourhood

COURTNEY ARENDSE



The 16-year-old Anzio Fagodien, better known as “Minister Fagodien”, in the area he lives, recently celebrated six months since launching his own business, AF Cleaning Services.

To mark the milestone, he hosted an event in Protea Park, with support from the Atlantis School of Skills, who donated paintings for display. “I am very excited about this journey,” Anzio said. In just half a year, he managed to build a client

base of over 20, and created jobs for five people. Beyond growing his business, Anzio is determined to uplift his community. He runs clean-up campaigns, organises fun days for children, supports the elderly and people with disabilities, and creates short-term work opportunities through community cleaning initiatives. With backing from the Africa Restoration Alliance (ARA), he has also started a community vegetable garden to help feed the elderly and those in need. In addition, he works closely



with the local neighbourhood watch and councillor Moosa Raise, who provide mentorship and donations.

This innovative young man often rubs shoulders with high profile politicians, business people and leaders, garnering support for his plans. “My vision is to keep kids off the streets and away from gangsterism and drugs. I want to keep them busy, give them purpose, and create hope,” Anzio explained. He is very grateful for his parents, grandparents, and the

educators at the Atlantis School of Skills for their constant guidance and encouragement. At only 16, Anzio has proven himself a powerful force for change, combining entrepreneurship with community leadership to build a cleaner, safer, and more hopeful Atlantis.

Not all SA households are sure what can be recycled

A new survey by the Paper Manufacturers Association of South Africa (PAMSA) has revealed that 20% of respondents don’t recycle, even though they would like to. The survey shows that 81% of South Africans now know which products can be recycled.

Almost three-quarters of respondents said they recycle paper and cardboard regularly or at least some of the time, and 69% said they recycle paper-based packaging like delivery boxes, food packaging and beverage cartons. Only five percent of respondents admitted they never recycle their paper or cardboard. The recycling industry collects an impressive 1.2 million tonnes of paper and paper packaging every year. This material is kept out of landfills and converted into new packaging and tissue products, a quiet but powerful contribution to sustainability. But not everything paper-based can be recycled. “Most paper products can go into the recycling bin, but there are exceptions,” said PAMSA spokesperson Samantha Choles. Contamination from food is one of the biggest obstacles. Dirty paper plates, waxy fast-food wrappers, wet cardboard and cement bags are

generally unsuitable for recycling. Paper that is mixed with plastics — like laminated office paper, foil-lined gift wrap or bubble-wrap envelopes — also poses a problem. Items with glitter, metallic inks or plastic windows should be avoided, unless you can remove the non-paper elements first.

Choles explains that while research is under way to handle a wider range of materials, the current re-pulping process used by recycling mills cannot process too many non-paper elements without damaging machinery. On the flip side, there is plenty that can be recycled. Office paper, magazines, newspapers, brown cardboard boxes, cereal and medicine boxes, pizza boxes, egg boxes and moulded cup holders are all welcome. Even milk and juice cartons can be recycled if they are rinsed, flattened and have their plastic lids removed.



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Online support group for educators launched in October

The need for emotional and psychological support in the education sector, where teachers often carry huge workloads and face growing demands, is steadily increasing. To help support educators, the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG) is launching a new, free online support group.



It is open to educators, learner support agents, and anyone working in the education sector across South Africa who is navigating anxiety, burnout, and emotional stress in the workplace. It is open to all educators regardless of grade level, subject, or years of experience, and aims to provide peer-led support and a safe sense of community. "Educators are

dealing with increased work stress, massive pressure, and unrealistic deadlines that leave them stressed, anxious, and burnt out – and so many are silently struggling. We're all dealing with trauma from experiences at work or from life itself, and I think this is something we need to talk about and support each other with, in a space that feels safe," said a support group leader. "When we take care of our educators' mental health, we take care of the entire school community. Teachers who feel supported and valued are better able to inspire, guide, and uplift learners. Educators' wellbeing is not a luxury; it is essential to building stronger, healthier schools," says Roshni Parbhoo-Seetha, SADAG's Project Manager in Education.

According to a study by Stellenbosch University, 50% of teachers surveyed said they were considering leaving the profession within the next 10 years, citing emotional exhaustion, administrative overload, and lack of support as the main reasons. The support group will launch on Wednesday, 1 October 2025, at 7pm. To join, contact Nirvana at 081 591 0084 for details.

Nine jailed for brutal Extension 13 murder in 2023

Nine men from Extension 13 were sentenced at the Atlantis Magistrate's Court on 15 September 2025.

According to Captain Elizabeth Munro, spokesperson for the Atlantis police, the men attacked the victim, Eric van Schalkwyk, on 17 September 2023 at 17:00 on the corner of Sacramento and Valleyfield Streets, Extension 13, Atlantis. "They stabbed him, threw a large stone at his head, and assaulted him. The suspects believed he was giving information to a rival gang. At around 21:45, the victim died at Wesfleur Hospital from the injuries he sustained," said Munro.

The investigating officer, Detective Allo Hendricks (pictured right), received information about who the suspects were and obtained witness statements. The suspects were arrested, and after bail was opposed, they remained in custody from 2023 until sentencing earlier this month. Three of the men were sentenced to 20 years' direct imprisonment each for murder. They are Marlon Philander, Miguel Snyders and Rivaldo Cloete. Ryan McDonald, Kabedi Lehloesa, Gino Windvogel, William Geduld and



Ashwin McKenzie received five years' direct imprisonment each for assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. The last of the nine, Shahied Bester, received six years' direct imprisonment for attempted murder. Munro said the Station Commander, Colonel Mario Thyse, has welcomed the sentences handed down.

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Checkmate! Atlantis High shines at WP chess tournament

Local educators recognised for their commitment at awards event

Mamre en Pella se erfenis digitaal vasgelê

COURTNEY ARENDSE

Vir die twee gemeenskappe is dit egter nie altyd maklik om hierdie herinneringe lewendig te hou en te bewaar nie. "Mamre het 'n ryke geskiedenis as 'n sendingsdorp, maar die sosio-ekonomiese toestand maak dat dit nie altyd behou kan word nie," sê dominee Christopher Gordon van die plaaslike Morawiese Kerk.

Dit is 'n werklikheid wat inwoners daagliks in die gesig staar. Tog bring die Mamre Biblioteek se mondelinge geskiedenisprojek nuwe hoop. In 2019 het die Mamre Biblioteek projek 'n aangepak om die stories te digitaliseer. Oud-inwoners van Mamre en Pella is gevra: "Wat is jou storie?" Hulle verhale is toe opgeneem. "Dit is nie net 'n storie of 'n flik nie, dit is my lewe," sê 'n 70-jarige man wat deel was van die projek. Nizaam Bray, bibliotekaris van die Mamre Biblioteek, sê dat mense ná jare se wag nou die DVD's kan uitneem soos hulle 'n boek sou leen. Daar is meer as 20 DVD's beskikbaar wat nie net die ontstaan van Pella en Mamre vertel nie, maar ook die lewensverhale en herinneringe van diegene wat dit daardie tyd beleef het.

"Hulle stories dra die emosies, die ervarings en die waarheid van daardie tyd. As ons dit nou opneem, gaan dit nie verlore nie en kan die volgende geslag dit nog hoor uit die mense se eie monde," sê Fiona Abrahams, 'n inwoner van Pella. Vir sommige is dit meer as net stories vir die argiewe. Dit is die nalatenskap en die bewaring van 'n geliefde. "Om te weet my ma se storie is opgeneem en dat ander mense dit ook kan hoor, beteken vir my die wêreld," vertel Celeste Arendse, wie se oorlede



Die uitstalling van DVDs in die Mamre Biblioteek, beskikbaar aan die publiek.

ma deel was van die projek. Die digitalisering van geskiedenis is baie belangrik in baie fasette. "Dit is maklik bekombaar vir inwoners en dit is ook toeriste-vriendelik. Mense hoef nie ver te soek vir hierdie stories nie," voeg Gordon by. Selfs al verval mure en monumente, en selfs al is diegene wat hierdie verhale vertel nie meer onder ons nie, sal die stemme van Mamre en Pella lewendig bly in hierdie kosbare versameling. Dit bly 'n lewende erfenis vir die geslagte wat nog moet kom.

Pella leerder skitter in skryf kompetisie

BENJAMIN SMITH

Die nege-jarige Jemma Philander, 'n leerder by Pella Morawiese Primêre Skool het onlangs tweede plek behaal in die junior-skryfkompetisie wat deur die Stad Kaapstad se Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdienste-departement aangebied is.

Die weners van die kompetisie is bekend gemaak by hierdie jaar se Open Book-fees wat by die Sentrale Biblioteek in Kaapstad op 6 September plaasgevind het. Jemma was een van drie kinders wat Mamre Openbare Biblioteek by die fees verteenwoordig het. Haar kortverhaal, "Die geheime boks," het tweede plek gewen uit 170 inskrywings in die ouderdomsgroep van 9 tot 13 jaar. "My ma was baie opgewonde en ek was ook baie gelukkig oor die toekenning," sê Jemma met 'n glimlag.

Die Mamre Openbare Biblioteek het skryfwerkswinkels aangebied om die kinders te help om hulle skryfwerk voor te berei, waar hulle belangrike vaardighede soos kreatiwiteit en doelgerigtheid geleer het. Dit is gefasiliteer deur Sandy Adams-Marthinus van Mamre Primêre Skool. Volgens Marthinus was Jemma baie gretig om te leer en het sy elke stukkie raad wat aan haar gegee is, goed gevolg. "Haar uithouvermoë en wil



Jemma staan hier saam met die Burgemeesterskomiteelid vir Gemeenskapsdienste en Gesondheid, Francine Higham, en LiBee, die gelukbringer vir Biblioteekdienste.

om beter te doen het vir my baie uitgestaan," sê Marthinus. Pella Morawiese Primêre Skool is ook uiters trots op Jemma se prestasie. "Ons is baie trots op haar," sê Carmen Gilmore, sê die skoolhoof. "Sy hou ons naam hoog. Ons skool se leuse is 'Doen jou beste', en dit is presies wat sy gedoen het."

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Atlantis boys show grit at Metro soccer clash



CAY-LENE COETZEE

Soccer fever swept through Atlantis as our four local high schools took part in the Metro North Top Schools Soccer Competition, held from 8 to 19 September. These young players showed their skill, determination and heart, proving once again that Atlantis has talent to match any district.

Teams qualified through their cluster leagues, with age groups of under-15, under-17 and under-19 taking part. Matches were played at Bishop Lavis, Voorbrug and Symphony Park. Proteus High made Atlantis proud by winning the under-17 division. They beat Excelsior High 3–0, then Saxonssea High 2–1 in the semifinal, and finally took home the trophy with a 2–0 win against Fisantekraal High. Soccer coordinator Clyde Brian Lucas said it was a team effort from the school, with big performances from captain Lesego Solani and top scorer Roland Simson. He added, “When one school in Atlantis wins, the whole community celebrates.”

Saxonssea High played in all three age groups and showed great spirit, even though they did not make it to the finals. For many of their players, it was the first time playing outside Atlantis, but once the nerves were gone, their talent came through. Coach Mario Avontuur praised his young stars, including Chad Kleinsmidt and Munheer Leport (under 15), Gershwin Sonneberg (under 17) and Tylo Erasmus (under 19). He said the team learned never to underestimate any opponent.

Atlantis High also had strong teams in all three age groups. Their under-15 team lost a nail-biting penalty shootout 10–9, while the under-19's were beaten 1–0 by Bellville South. Coach Anthony Ohlson said it was tough because the tournament took place during exams, but the boys gave their best. He highlighted the leadership of captain Keith Galant and vice-captain Ade Baleni, and



reminded the team that success comes from trusting each other and being well-prepared. But Robinvale High indeed had a tournament to remember, winning the under-19 division and finishing runners-up in the under-15s. For teacher and team manager Elrique Snyders, the victory was extra special: “We have lost so many finals over the years, so this win was a relief. The team stayed calm, treated the final like any other game, and in the very last play we finally pulled off a move we had been practicing all season.” He also thanked parents, teachers and local businesses for their support, saying that all Atlantis schools contribute to each other's success.

Even though only Proteus and Robinvale came home with trophies, every school showed talent, teamwork and showing the district the true spirit of Atlantis.



- From top to bottom are three of the teams from Robinvale-, Proteus- and Atlantis High schools who participated Metro North Top Schools Soccer Competition.

PART OF A TEAM? NEED TO TELL THE COMMUNITY ABOUT IT?



Email newsroom@impactunlimited.co.za and let us have your dates, photos and results.