

LETTERS

Letters to the Editor on topics of general interest printed free. Writer must give name and address; and also pseudonym if real name is not to appear. Anonymous letters will be filed in the waste-paper basket!



Letters should not exceed 250 words

LADY GREY HOSPITAL

I would like to share with you and the readers a horrendous experience I had on Friday, 15 July 2011. I was taken ill with pleurisy and sent to Lady Grey Provincial Hospital by my doctor. On orders from the doctor I was given an injection for pain. Doctor then decided to have me admitted and put on a drip and antibiotics for three days.

I was taken to an empty ward at a quarter to nine, shown to a bed and a commode was plomped down in front of the bed and left alone. I waited and waited but no-one came near me. There

was no bell, no carafe of water. I received no tea apart from the fact that I had had no breakfast.

When my family arrived at quarter past eleven I still waited for some-one to come and do my admittance and for a sister to put on the drip. After enquiries my husband was told that there were no sisters on duty. He contacted the doctor and after a visit to the kitchen I was given some food and tea.

The doctor came at half past twelve after surgery. He was absolutely disgusted with the treatment I had received and promptly sent me home where I am now well on my way to recovery.

When Lady Grey Hospital was a State Aided Hospital it was the best hospital in the area and attracted patients from all the neighboring areas. This however is now the treatment we get from a Provincial Hospital at Lady Grey.

ELSIE JOOSTE
Lady Grey

Rhodes Trail Run supports LOCAL SPORT

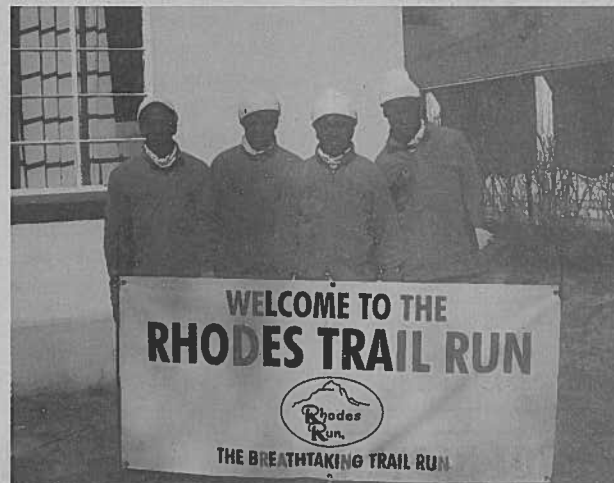
The organisers of the Rhodes Trail Run are well known for their support of the local community, as the event benefits a wide range in the district such as the Rhodes Christian School, the Rhodes Public School, tourism establishments all the way up the valley to Barkly East and in the Wartrail. Elizma den Heyer's new deli in Rhodes also had a major boost thanks to the trail run.

The Rhodes Youth Forum is encouraging the local community to avoid drugs and alcohol and is arranging

various sports tournaments to this end.

The Chairman of the Forum, Mininikhaya Ninzi, was thrilled to receive a trophy specially created by the Rhodes Trail Run for the Youth Forum's tournaments. "The trophy is beautiful and modern. Evie knew exactly what would look good for us" said Khaya on receiving the trophy from Rhodes Trail Run's Evie Raubenheimer.

The Rhodes Youth Forum also assisted at the Rhodes Trail Run, with the team receiving praise for their helpfulness.



Evie's 'crew' for the weekend (they really do love those fleece First Ascent tops we give them each year)



Presentation of Rhodes Youth Forum trophy

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Polar Bears Support Vultures



Our district is the proud host of numerous specie of vulture and we are often privileged to catch sight of these magnificent creatures

catching thermals and gliding with apparent ease above us.

For the past number of years the organisers of the Liberty Medical Scheme Rhodes Trail Run have facilitated donations to the Rhodes Vulture Restaurant, administered by Dave Walker, through the sale of Rhodes Trail Run Polar Bear Club certificates.

The trail run donated the certificates thus enabling all the proceeds from the sale to go to the Vulture Restaurant.

One of the long standing traditions at the Rhodes Trail

Run is that runners, sometimes their family as well, take a birthday suit plunge in the Bell River after completing the run. Every year many join this exclusive club and proudly display their certificate.

This year the Rhodes Trail Run made available Polar

Bear Club shirts with a portion of the proceeds from the sale of these shirts going to the Rhodes Vulture Restaurant.

Evie Raubenheimer, Race Director of the Rhodes Trail Run, presented the donation to Dave Walker after the event.



Vulture Restaurant donation

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Walkerbouts walks Chairman's Shield

To compete in any extreme event requires dedication, preparation and focus. These attributes are required at a much higher level when people compete at our local Rhodes Trail Run. The level of focus and preparation moves up a further level when the competition goes from the runners to the feeding stations.

The Liberty Medical Scheme Rhodes Trail Run has an inter-feeding station competition with the runners voting for their 'best' feeding station when they finish this gruelling event.

Previous winners have been Barkly East's Fred's Café, the Johannesburg based attor-

neys from DM Kisch, the children from the St Dominic's Priory Port Elizabeth outdoor club and Janbert Reeders. Last year the Robinson family and friends at the Mavis Bank Farm Check Point received the runners' vote.

This year the Rhodes Trail Run Chairman's Shield, as voted by the runners, was won by the "Walkerbouts" Check Point at the Hoogenoeg Hikers Hut which was manned by Dave Walker and Tracey & Trevor Hartwig. Dave was speechless on being told he had won the award saying "Just shows you how lekker the Karoo oysters were this year. Thankshjalot."



Dave Walker receiving his award from Evie Raubenheimer



Lamb Testicle Stew ("Berg Oysters")



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ADVERTER. DIS. WOMEN



Rev. Gordon Johnson

THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

Text: Gospel of Matthew 13: 44-52

Focus verses: Verses 45 and 46; "Also the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has and buys the pearl".

We continue with the parables of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew.

The parables of the treasure and of the pearl belong closely together, and illustrates the whole hearted response which the kingdom of God requires; no sacrifice is too great. When the man found the pearl, which represents the Kingdom of God, he sold everything he had and bought the pearl. This pearl was so precious and valuable to him that no sacrifice to buy it was too great.

Likewise with the treasure in the field. The treasure represents the Kingdom of God. Here the man also sold everything he had and bought the field which contained the treasure. Note the word "happy" in verse 44. This tells us that it is not about a negative "giving up" but of joy and fulfilment. Jesus is telling us that there is something about the kingdom of God which

makes extravagant action the only proper response.

Around the 3rd and the 4th of each month (pension and grant days) the pavements of Barkly East are filled with hawkers selling a wide variety of goods, and they usually remain there for a week or so.

Imagine if one of the hawkers had a stand which contained just one parcel marked "Contents: The Kingdom of God", what would our response be? Of course, we will first have to be convinced by the hawker that the parcel did in fact contain the Kingdom of God.

And while we are standing there, the police arrive and they arrest the man because the Church laid a complaint against him. The Church charged him with interfering with their work and that he was not qualified to dispense the Kingdom of God.

For the next two days we

don't see the man but on the third day he is there and there is something different about him. He is surrounded by a radiance which draws us closer to him. He once again pleads with us to buy the parcel and he also explains the benefits of owning the parcel. The hawker tells that the parcel contains an abundance of love, joy, peace, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

There is something about the hawker that compels us to believe him. But the

problem we have is the price of the parcel. Some of us find it too expensive and we walk away, while some of us walk away after promising the hawker that we will think about it.

How much do we value the contents of that parcel? Are we prepared to pay the price for a parcel which contains the Kingdom of God? How do we express our gratitude towards the man who was arrested and crucified for us and today offers us the opportunity to be part of the Kingdom of God?



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