



Dear All

Now we are talking! I have received many comments on last month's newsletter, thank you all. I have also received two recommendations for this month's Yay or Nay section so we can all now share and benefit from each other's experiences. It is great that both articles are complimentary so not everything is doom and gloom in this economic climate and it is great that we still prefer talking about the good things in life rather than complaining.

Carte Blanche on MNet last night featured a very disturbing article on animal treatment in the personal zoo of famous South African personality, Brian Boswell. In this century there is no excuse for the mistreatment of animals and I urge everyone who cares enough to stop visiting circuses and zoos which use medieval techniques of keeping animals and forcing animals to perform tricks for the amusement of the crowd. Although I am in favour of the wild life and the nature reserves I also believe that zoos do play an important role in the education of youngsters. I also believe that there is not much point in signing petitions but rather show our dislike for such practises by boycotting any venue which treats animals only as a means to make money and support the numerous and selfless establishments which dedicate all their time and passion for the wellbeing of their animals and the education of the general public. One of these venues is The Lory Park Zoo in Midrand featured in this newsletter.

I would love to hear your opinions and recommendations of other venues you visited and found worth praising.

#### FAMOUS OCTOBER BEER FEST IN SEPTEMBER

Each year the German School of Pretoria hosts the traditional October beer fest in September. The proceeds of the festival go to the school and thus you will be performing a charitable act whilst having fun, beer and greasy German food!

It is traditional to sample some of the large number of South African and German beer brands on tap as well as drop the diet for a day and try the delicious Eisbein Kassler and variety of German sausages and cakes.

For the kids there will be jumping castles, puppet shows, go carts (favoured by adults too), climbing wall, merry-go-rounds and many more. This year there will also be a hobby fair and car exhibition too.

#### WENSLEYDALE FARM

The Jackson family, owners of Wensleydale Organic Farm, have farmed organically, and kept bees, for over 40 years. They have partnered with over 80 organic farmers countrywide and offer weekly delivery of fresh produce to your doorstep. Here is how it works: you order on line or via email from a choice of different box sizes determined by the number of veggies and fruits you want for the week. You can have a box of 6 up to 16 items. Delivery takes place on a predetermined day and you just need to ensure there is someone at your house to collect. The cost for delivery is R50.00 so if you have some friends in the area you can all order for delivery to one address and share the cost which makes it negligible.



The box is ordinarily completed with any fruit and veggies available at the time of delivery but you also have the option of customising it with your own selection of produce. The risk you take then is that often some items may not be in stock and you will receive an incomplete box, an issue which you will be expected to personally bring to the manager's attention in order to get a credit for next week's delivery. Other than that small irritation, the service is great and I find it very exciting to contribute a bit of healthy organic food to the table without going through the hassle of waking up early and rushing to a busy farmers' market on a weekend.

**Web:** [www.wensleydale.co.za](http://www.wensleydale.co.za)

**Contact:** Avril on 012 650 0064

#### LORY PARK ZOO IN MIDRAND

The Lory Park Zoo is conveniently situated 30 minutes drive from Pretoria or Joburg. The vision of the curators and owners of the zoo was to create a safe and clean environment for a variety of birds and to educate the public and mostly school children in the importance of rehabilitation and preservation of wild life. Today the Zoo hosts a large number of predators as well as birds, honey badgers and many more.



The festival is loud and busy, (some 25 000 people visit over the 2 days it runs) and great fun for the entire family. I prefer going on Saturday for lunch as the evenings get a bit unpleasant with drunken youngsters looking for a fight. If you do go in the evening make sure you go with a big group of friends so you can have uninterrupted fun.

**When:** Fri, 11<sup>th</sup> from 18h pm and Sat 12<sup>th</sup> September from 10h am

**Where:** Deutsche Schule, The Willows, Pretoria, Simon Vermooten Rd off N4

**Contact:** 012 803 4106

**Tickets:** [www.computicket.com](http://www.computicket.com), or at the entrance to the school on the day

**Fee:** R 60.00 for Friday night and R80.00 for Saturday if you buy from Computicket in advance and R20.00 extra at the gate. Kids under 12 are free

### MAGALIESBURG COUNTRY CLASSIC FESTIVAL

During Heritage Week at the Magaliesberg Country Classic Festival five star venues and restaurants provide a taste of their wares alongside top lifestyle brand companies who exhibit modern décor, furniture, and gifts. The Magaliesberg Country Classic Festival is an initiative of the members of the Magaliesberg Meander and is aimed specifically at providing opportunities and skills development to as many members of the community as possible. To this end the teams running the festival employ and train members of the local community wherever possible.



What you can expect to see and experience is: Live Classical music and Jazz, organic fruits, cheeses, home brewers beer tasting, wine tasting of organic wines, various teas, gifts, designs, furniture, kiddies rides, yoga, face painting, world class spa venues and restaurants.

**Where:** <http://www.magfest.co.za/04-information.html>

**Tickets:** [www.computicket.co.za](http://www.computicket.co.za)

**When:** 19-26 September 9 am to 5 pm



This was never meant to be a money making venture and therefore donating money or your time in the numerous chores of the zoo are always most welcome. Some charitable activities can be performed by kids too and further teach the kids in selfless acts of kindness. There is a very nice tea garden with playground but do not expect a gourmet menu. However the fries are delicious as well as the fresh cake of the day.

Many animals are being born at the zoo and petting is allowed at an extra fee, just be careful with small kids as cats are playful and boisterous and can occasionally scratch them by accident.

**Where:** 180/1 Kruger Rd, President Park, Midrand

**When:** Tuesday to Sunday 10 am until 4 pm

**Cost:** R 40.00 for adults and R 30.00 for children

**Web:** [www.lorypark.co.za](http://www.lorypark.co.za)

### CATS AT MONTE CASINO

Eight years ago Pieter Toerien produced the original South African hit production of CATS. The show was groundbreaking, sold-out every night and there were many who did not get a chance to experience the magic.



Pieter Toerien is very happy to announce that CATS will be back to grace the South African stages in Johannesburg at the Teatro Montecasino and in Cape Town at Artscape Opera House. CATS 2009 will feature a new generation of talented South African performers eager to make CATS bigger and better than ever!

Only one show brings all of the facets of musical theatre together so completely and produces an experience that stays with you forever; Andrew Lloyd Webber's CATS.

**Where:** The Teatro at Monte Casino, Witkoppen Rd, Pineslopes, Johannesburg

**Tickets:** [www.computicket.co.za](http://www.computicket.co.za) R100-R380.00

**When:** 26 September onwards

**Website:** [www.catsthemusical.co.za](http://www.catsthemusical.co.za)

**Website:** [www.magfest.co.za](http://www.magfest.co.za)

## YAY! and YAY!

### Calvary Baptist Church

Here is what one of our readers who recently relocated from the USA had to say:



*Overall my experience has been positive. Johannesburg has been much nicer and safer than what I had envisioned. My biggest surprise is how quickly and easily I found a good Church to become involved with. I have been attending Calvary Baptist Church for only a few months and already feel like family. I was somewhat concerned that I would have trouble finding a good Church but Calvary Baptist Church certainly has been the highlight of my stay here.*

**Where:** Calvary Baptist Church, 336 Pine Avenue.  
Ferndale Randburg 2194

**Contact:** Kevin Young 083 355 8729

### La Rustica

I can never resist the promise of a delicious Mediterranean meal in a child friendly restaurant so read the recommendation bellow, check it out and let me know if you liked it:



*I can really recommend La Rustica in Houghton - especially their Sunday Buffet. It's fun for the kids, the wines are great (according to my husband's uncle - who is a bit of a connoisseur) and the food and service are amazing. Give it a bash when you get a chance.*

**Where:** 103 Houghton Drive, cnr Lloyds Ellis avenue,  
Houghton

**Contact:** 011 728 2092

**Web:** [www.larustica.co.za](http://www.larustica.co.za)

## YAY! or NAY!



Please tell us about your experiences in South Africa, positive or negative, we would love to post them in the next edition and share with everyone interested. Services, products, places of interest, restaurants, companies, anything that impressed or disappointed you; tell your story and we will spread the word!

Remember we are always a phone call or an e-mail away if you need any advice from immigration and relocation advice to shopping and assistance with domestic help, etc.