

# Melville Smalls

<b>Anyone</b> know the location of a dog that barks every weekday? Let us know. Email <a href="mailto:prowrite@mweb.co.za">prowrite@mweb.co.za</a>
<b>Art Classes.</b> Natalie Fernandes Art Studio, Melville. Come get creative! Phone 083 307 5716.
<b>Cottage to let.</b> Third Avenue, Melville. Rent R3 000. Phone Angus Douglas 083 602 6756.
<b>Gardener-cum-handyman</b> seeks casual work. Phone Leo 079 653 4523. Recommended by Carola Cullum 082 969 7058.
<b>Lisa Matlhobowane</b> seeks accommodation in exchange for work. Phone 083 699 3854 Ref: Suzanne Brenner.
<b>Painter/general factotum,</b> Jabulani Mahlangu. Highly recommended by Charlene Smith 011 646 7637/ 082 495 8716.
<b>Pruning &amp; garden services.</b> Call Richard 073 281 8016. Recommended by Suzanne Brenner 011 482 1072.
<b>Sages Toastmasters Club</b> @ 19h00 on second and fourth Thursdays. Phone Dave Broom 082 442 6294.
<b>Melville News smalls are free for residents and small home businesses in the area providing submissions are 15 words or less. Referees must provide full names and contact details. Email yours to <a href="mailto:prowrite@mweb.co.za">prowrite@mweb.co.za</a> subject line <i>Melville News smalls</i>.</b>

## Letter to the editor

Dear Melville News,  
Melville is a cosmopolitan suburb with a reputation for unique art and culture. It's been a wonderful experience for me to be part of this caring community - the residents are accepting and have a phenomenal interest in the development of their suburb. As a student without a car, I love the convenience of Melville's numerous accessible and affordable restaurants - and Seventh Street's buzz and cafe culture provides me with a colourful social life.  
All the best with the newsletter,  
David Molelekoa

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# Melville News

Your free e-newsletter - Issue No. 1, August 2008

## Letter from the editor

Welcome to this first issue of the free e-newsletter aimed at sharing information and fostering goodwill among all who live, work and play in Melville. Ahead of 2010, I decided to kick-start a positive interaction in the place where I live so when I put forward the idea via the MRA mailing list, I had no idea how encouraging the response would be. You have all spurred me on despite some challenges - not to mention my day job.

Without making a song and dance of it, I'd like to thank some among you for your contributions. Jacques Clifford's enthusiasm translated into a story in the Northcliff Melville Times and an avalanche of interest. Thereafter, Dehan Liebenberg - who has sold and owned houses in the area for yonks - offered a print version of the newsletter for hand delivery. In the early days, Cavan Hill set up some basics for me. Next, William Maliepaard and PostNet Melville's Les Louw and Jenny Lymaney responded to my cry for help on the technical side. William generously shared the tricks of the e-trade and Les came to the party with an offer of assistance with layout from Theko Kali and a friendly rate for the print version. Numerous people needed only a little prodding to deliver stories for this first edition - and hopefully many more to come. Some would-be interns also came forward despite my absence of budget and with a bit of luck they will prove valuable assets in the near future.

I see the e-newsletter as an evolving project alive with possibilities. Other than crime, grime and whinges, I will consider any suggestions. Some great writers live in Melville and I'd appreciate your input. I appeal to everyone do their bit and supply stories or ideas for issues to come so that we can make Melville News a regular group community effort. Enjoy until next time!

*Suzanne Brenner*

## Yvonne Explores Global Options by Suzanne Brenner



### YVONNE MAGOPA

is going places. The 19-year-old Melville resident is assured of a bright future. Last year she achieved six distinctions in matric at Parktown High and was awarded a scholarship by Deloitte to study for her BCom in accountancy at the University of Johannesburg. Sadly her father Solly died in December but proud mother Margaret and her extended family offer much love and support.

In March, Yvonne was among five students identified as "future leaders" by the American Impact Young Lives Foundation who were invited to tour the USA for three weeks. Just back from her first trip abroad and her first encounter of air travel, Yvonne spoke to Melville News.

"It was an experience of a lifetime," she says. "We visited 9 states in three weeks so it was a bit hectic."

The students met movers and shakers from Wall Street to the White House but it was those she met at South African companies Standard Bank, Old Mutual and Dimension Data that grabbed her most. American highlights were Harvard University and Boston. And inspiration came from Dr. Chris Howard, the founder of the IYL Foundation whose only aim is to introduce these chosen few to new ideas and global thinking. Congratulations Yvonne. You've only just begun.

## A Cut Above The Rest by Richard van der Westhuizen

**FRED MOSS** has been Melville's barber for 40 years. Across the road from what used to be the old Scala Cinema, you'll find Fred and his colleague of 10 years Amed Malaka in his no-nonsense Scala barbershop. You don't book, you take your place in the queue and if you leave you lose your place. But there's space to sit, with four genuine old barber chairs - and the company is invariably good. You won't be offered an espresso or a cappuccino, but rumour has it that something stronger may not be out of the question.

Fred's been barber to many famous actors and TV personalities. He regularly cut the hair of Clr Koos Roets, erstwhile mayor of Johannesburg. His official car TJ 1 was parked outside on Fourth Avenue while inside his bodyguards protected the mayoral gold chain!

Another long-ago experience makes him smile as he recalls two party-goers who forced him to shave their heads on the pavement next to the Mugg and Bean.

Back in the present, Fred cleans the neck of a young boy whose grandfather is waiting his turn. "The old man's father also used to come here, so with this boy it's four generations now," says Fred. And that's just one family.

Fred hopes Melville will always retain the little *dorp* feel that it's had for the 40 years he's been here. And I hope his cutthroat razor will remain sharp for many years to come.



Fred gives Amed a close shave

## Those Were The Days Of The Melville Movies by Marie-Lais Emond

**JEANETTE VIVIERS** and I stand opposite the old Mixer that was still a movie house when Jeanette grew up in Melville.

"The usher used to multi-task. I remember at matinees how he used to run all the way down to the stage to open the thick red velvet curtains himself, just as the show started."

Simple but elegant, the movie theatre at number 87 Fourth Avenue was a little pretentiously originally called the Scala after the opera house in Milan. It might not have had a staircase to speak of (la scala means 'the staircase' in Italian), unlike the magnificent feature of its namesake, but there were and still are some plain stairs up to a back gallery - though the gallery has recently been removed.

Cinemas were built in 'town' and the immediate Johannesburg suburbs in the late 1930s and early 1940s but were not as independent as one might have imagined. They were part of Isidore Schlesinger's group of African Consolidated Theatres and showed the films of his circuit, depending on his import and production selection. Schlesinger had started the Killarney Film Studios in 1915 as African Film Productions - and the theatres in which to show these and international films followed.

Today, on the empty cinema side of the Melville corner, there are only photographs of people - pictures of reality TV's Biggest Losers. The real live people, like Jeanette and I, are on the other side of the road.

Have you any stories to share about the history of Melville? Please email background, ideas or completed stories of 200 words maximum to [prowrite@mweb.co.za](mailto:prowrite@mweb.co.za) Please indicate the content in the subject line.

## Comedy Is Cool by John Vlismas



John Vlismas bangs his head against the wall...

**THE COMEDY UNDERGROUND** has been described as the *enfant terrible* of local comedy. With emphasis on originality, the venue was launched seven years ago by yours truly - he said modestly. Every Sunday evening audiences pack it to the rafters when they come to watch well-known and first time comics strut their stuff.

Many international artists have performed in Cool Running's dungeon, including Pauly Shore, Mark Curry and most recently Chris Rock. If that's not your bag, look out for Chris Lynam who sets off a firecracker in his *botty*, or the mad man who juggles frozen dead mice... there's really something for everyone at the spiritual home of Joburg comedians.

With only 120 seats, I suggest you get there early. Each Sunday sees two open mike spots, two support acts and two headliners - the doors open at 7:30 and it's all over by 10:30. R30 gets you in, R20 if you have a student card.

**Art Event: Visit Tony Bico's exhibition Lines Upstairs at Bamboo until August 13.**

Growing one's own food cuts down the grocery bill and it's healthier to eat organic foods. So says **Jane Griffiths** whose book on the subject is due out soon.

## Growing a Delish Garden

There's no shorter food mile than from your own garden to your kitchen. I've been growing organic vegetables in my garden for over 10 years. We have fantastic weather for veggies and it's easier than you think.

### Getting started

- Choose an area with at least six hours of sun a day
- Interplant vegetables between your existing flowers
- Grow veggies in containers

### Bedding down

Prepare beds properly when starting a new vegetable garden as intensive, organic gardening in a small space requires rich, fertile soil. You can choose between raised or normal beds but if you opt for the former, you must contain the soil on the sides and raise the level of the soil higher than the paths. Planks, logs, breezeblocks, galvanized sheets of metal, bricks and even plastic are all suitable for constructing raised beds.

Raised beds mean one can fill the beds with good quality soil and it's easy to add compost and other organic matter to the mix. In spring, they tend to warm up earlier and the height helps bad backs and knees. However, they take up a bit more space and will cost more in the beginning. Even with normal beds, it helps to edge them with a solid border which holds the soil inside the beds.

Whether raised or normal, vegetable beds should be just wide enough to easily reach the middle without standing on them. Create pathways between the beds for easy access.

Organic gardening starts with the soil: healthy, nutrient rich soil equals healthy, strong plants which in turn equal more resistance to disease and bugs. Just as a healthy body is more resistant to infections, so a healthy soil builds up the plants' resistance to attacks.

### Here's how

- Remove top layer of grass
- Dig out 30 cm of topsoil. Loosen the layer of earth below with a fork
- Add a 5-8cm layer of compost and well rotted manure
- Add topsoil back on top.

Deep digging won't be required again. Organic gardening is all about emulating nature. In the wild, debris falls on the surface and is incorporated into the lower layers by earthworms and other natural processes. All we need to do is keep adding organic matter to the surface of the soil and then let nature do its thing.

Now get growing!

© Jane's Delicious Garden Contact Jane at [info@janesdeliciousgarden.com](mailto:info@janesdeliciousgarden.com) or via her website [janesdeliciousgarden.com](http://janesdeliciousgarden.com)

**H**ouse prices have dropped across the country making this a buyers' market. **Dehan Liebenberg** shares some tips.

### Before you buy or sell...

In this challenging market, buyers and sellers of property are advised to listen to the experts.

- Do some comparative research in your area and try and look at everything from a buyer's point of view. Pop into show-houses on Sunday afternoons and see what factors affect your impressions;
- Tart up your property. Unless it's a bargain, few buyers these days want to do extensive work on a house. When there are more sellers than buyers - as there currently are - you have to make your property stand out from the mediocre.
- Be realistic. Look at the statistics, and if you are really serious about selling your house in this market, price it attractively and competitively. Check out estate agents' websites for prices of properties sold in your area.