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in a pandemic

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Donald Paul's
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Foodies' guide
to top CBD eateries

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YOUR FREE CAPE TOWN CENTRAL CITY NEWSPAPER

Brought to you by the Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID)

Winter 2020

Contains Show You Care supplement

THE TOUGH TIMES

THE SLOWDOWN ON THE LOCKDOWN IN THE CAPE TOWN CBD

CCID 24-hour
control centre

082 415 7127

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SAFE, CLEAN, CARING AND OPEN FOR BUSINESS



TALK OF THE TOWN

CityViews

IS A FREE CAPE TOWN CENTRAL CITY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED BY THE CAPE TOWN CENTRAL CITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (CCID), A NON-PROFIT COMPANY. IT IS THE CCID'S VISION TO ENSURE THAT THE CENTRAL CITY IS SAFE, CLEAN, CARING AND OPEN FOR BUSINESS FOR ALL WHO USE IT, WHETHER THEY LIVE, WORK OR PLAY HERE, OR ARE PASSING THROUGH.

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The Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID)
13th floor, 1 Thibault Square,
Cnr Long St & Hans Strijdom Ave,
Cape Town, 8001
www.capetownccid.org
www.facebook.com/CapeTownCCID
021 286 0830

Produced by the CCID
Communications department

EDITORIAL (CCID)

Communications manager: Sharon Sorour-Morris
Editor: Simangele (Sims) Mzizi
Managing editor: Aziza Patandin
Online coordinator: Scott Arendse

DESIGN (INFESTATION)

Account manager: Melissa Sherwin
Creative director: Sam Bainbridge
Designer: Andries van Jaarsveld
www.infestation.co.za
021 461 8601

CONTRIBUTORS

Content: Simangele Mzizi, Sharon Sorour-Morris, Atmosphere Communications, Donald Paul
Photography: Ed Suter, Donald Paul, Sanlam Cape Town Marathon, Chandler House, WORLDART, Devon Krige, FYN Restaurant, Pat Bromilow-Downing, Ladles of Love, Youth Solutions Africa, The Service Dining Rooms

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WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER

TASSO EVANGELINOS
CEO OF THE CCID

IN the past two months, we have witnessed surreal scenes in the Cape Town CBD: the onset of the coronavirus in South Africa, and subsequently in our province and city, prompted the Government to institute a nationwide lockdown on

26 March 2020. As a result, Level 5 of the lockdown saw the usually busy CBD – the engine of the Cape Town economy – become a near ghost town.

Harsh trade restrictions forced many businesses and hotels to close temporarily while others swiftly reinvented themselves in an attempt to stay afloat. Now, as we navigate Level 3 of the lockdown, the easing of certain restrictions and the retention of others (including the ban on alcohol sales), many CBD retailers have opened their doors to business, demonstrating remarkable resilience, while many in the beleaguered food sector are finding inventive solutions to continue serving their customers in some form or other. The struggle, however, is real, as was demonstrated by the nationwide protest by the restaurant industry, which also played itself out on the streets of the city centre.

There is no doubt that this pandemic is testing our mettle as a nation, as a city and as a CBD. At the CCID, where we have been pulling out all the stops from Day 1 of the lockdown to provide an essential service to our stakeholders, we believe that we will survive it. The key is working for the common good. We're in this together.

I therefore encourage you to support one another and CBD retailers – and to collaborate with the CCID. The time is now to lend a helping hand. We welcome suggestions from the public and from our stakeholders, who are our greatest partners. We remain committed to helping you.

In this issue we report on the extent of our work during Lockdown (below and pages 3 and 6), present the fascinating Lockdown diary of media consultant and CBD resident Donald Paul (pages 4 and 5) and ask three well-known foodies which CBD eateries they recommend (page 7).

During this time, we've seen challenges facing our homeless community doubling, from shelter space to sanitation and a desperate lack of food. These challenges need a structured approach and a combined effort, and it's been heartening to see how citizens, our NGO partners and corporates have come together to help the destitute. In *The Tough Times* supplement, we explain the role of the CCID, introduce our 2020 Show You Care fundraising campaign, and highlight the work of our NGO partners. It speaks to the same wish that we all fight the ravaging effects of this pandemic together, one day at a time.

THE CCID AT WORK

BEFORE LOCKDOWN (FEB - MARCH 2020)
DURING LOCKDOWN (APRIL - MAY 2020)



SAFETY & SECURITY

Stay SAFE Crime prevention initiatives 19 417 2 937 Warnings issued 5 687 977	Arrests made together with City Law Enforcement 118 25	Illegal trading offences dealt with 7 1	Rendered public & vehicle assistance 116 3 times	Medical and rescue callouts responded to 64 3	Traffic wardens issued 820 fines to a total of R595 100	Chrysalis Academy student ambassadors working in The Company's Garden assisted the public 1 412 times, dealt with 152 bylaw offences and identified 714 incidents of suspicious activity	ATM Fraud Project ambassadors assisted the public 1 637 times, identified 569 incidents of suspicious activity and assisted 3 times with preventative action
Issued 59 fines with LE to a total of R53 500 for breach of the Disaster Management Act	Conducted 26 319 checks on 56 buildings	Addressed 6 incidents of illegal dumping	Attended to 4 unsecured premises and responded to 11 alarm activations	Issued fines to 39 people to the value of R18 000 for various offences			

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Show you CARE CCID field workers interacted with 90 1 400 people living on the streets	Clients referred to TB HIV Care, Straatwerk and Streetscapes 12 63	Mothers with babies assisted 2 10	Interventions with day strollers 5 17	Handed various donations to NGO partners received from: Clarke's Bar & Dining Room, Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel & The WC Economic Development Partnership Clarke's Bar & Dining Room, Belmond Mount Nelson Hotel, The New Tulbagh Hotel, The Service Dining Rooms, Maersk, Jackie May, Ricardo, University of Western Cape, 210 Long Street and Cape Town Together
Adults assisted: • To get back home 7 30 • To healthcare facilities 5 13 • Placed in shelters 12 30	People referred to NGOs for general services 7 26	Donated 2 190 care bags, 104 pairs of male and female shoes, 8 25L containers of hand sanitiser, 7 25L containers of liquid soap, 2 000 pairs of gloves, 270 blankets, 3 washing machines, 3 tumble dryers.		

URBAN MANAGEMENT

Keep it CLEAN Removed 298 illegal posters	Removed 232 strings & stickers	Removed 165 incidents of graffiti	Removed 380 kg of butts from cigarette bins	Cleaned 1 644 municipal drains	Maintained 447 tree wells	Undertook 186 road maintenance repairs	Painted 45 road markings	Cleaned 811 storm water drains and removed 18 158 kg of waste	Removed 226.5 tonnes of litter and waste in Feb and March and 77.7 tonnes in April and May
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COMMUNICATIONS

Making the PLACE Generated 121 184 media clips to an advertising value equivalent (AVE) of R3 264 580 R4 550 097 Reached an audience of 18 369 138 248 972 784	Wrote 156 281 Facebook posts on the CCID's 3 Facebook pages	Produced 2 2 e-Newsletters each reaching 5 240 10 480 subscribers	Distributed 4 Newsflashes to 2 852 stakeholders	Wrote and produced the Autumn 2020 edition of the CCID's quarterly newspaper, City Views
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Hope
For the homeless
Make a donation, give the gift of hope

[#ShowYouCare](https://www.facebook.com/ShowYouCare)

HELP US RAISE
R100K



THROUGH SnapScan

You can also pay via EFT
(www.showyoucare.co.za) and PayPal
(<https://paypal.me/CCIDShowYouCare>).

WE WANT
TO HEAR
FROM YOU!

Share your feedback by emailing
simangele@capetownccid.org

STAKEHOLDER NEWS

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The CCID takes a look at what Central City businesses are doing as the economy reopens.



THE BOOK LOUNGE, 71 ROELAND STREET.

For more Central City news and views, subscribe to the CCID's e-Newsletter. Go to www.capetownccid.org and enter your email address at the bottom of the homepage.

LEARN

► Clarke's Bookshop and The Book Lounge

The CBD's iconic bookstores, The Book Lounge and Clarke's Bookshop, are waiting for your much-needed patronage. While their doors are open, they are also encouraging online orders.

71 Roeland St
021 462 2425
www.booklounge.co.za

199 Long St
021 423 5739
www.clarkesbooks.co.za

PLAY

► Ignite Fitness

Ignite Fitness which describes itself as "more than a gym" is conducting live daily workouts on Instagram (@ignitefitnessglobal) and Facebook (@ignitefitnessSA). Classes range from Pilates, high-intensity training, yoga, conditioning exercises as well as talks and Q&A sessions with professional trainers.

122 St Georges Mall
021 422 1670
www.ignitefitness.com



RANDOLF JORBERG

Q&A WITH RANDOLF JORBERG, OWNER OF BEERHOUSE ON LONG

How has Beerhouse been affected by the lockdown?

Initially, we experienced an 80 % drop in turnover as we were forced to limit the number of customers in our restaurant. When the hard lockdown was instituted and alcohol sales were banned, we stopped trading and temporarily laid off all our staff.

How have you adapted to the changing regulations?

When we couldn't trade, we started a soup kitchen and have been providing meals three times a week to vulnerable communities, producing over 5 000 litres of soup and over 10 000 meals. We got staff to work in our soup kitchen so that we could

pay them and send them home with food. This project is still ongoing, and we welcome donations of money and vegetables. We have reverted back to welcoming customers to our venue, selling food and non-alcoholic beers. We trade as a pizza- and burgerhouse on Uber Eats and Mr D Food, and have an in-house delivery service.

How do you feel about the liquor ban and curfew imposed on the sector?

It has been disastrous. My business has been diminished to 10 % of what it used to be and these kinds of regulations will keep it there until tourists are back in Cape Town.

223 Long St
www.beerhouse.co.za

SERVING OUR STAKEHOLDERS THE ROLE OF THE CCID DURING A PANDEMIC

When the National State of Disaster was announced in March, the CCID moved swiftly to ensure it continued to deliver on its mandate to keep the Cape Town Central City safe, clean, open for business (as far as possible) while assisting its homeless population.

CCID CEO Tasso Evangelinos says during this time the CCID, like many other Central Improvement Districts (CIDs) across the city and country, has been providing essential services while also playing a pivotal role as a communication and solutions facilitator.

"When the lockdown was first enforced, it was a time of great uncertainty, and we stepped up our distribution of information to all stakeholders, and also facilitated between parties to foster solutions."

Swiftly adapting its "business as usual" approach to "business unusual", the CCID's operational departments (Safety & Security, Urban Management and Social Development) sprang into action, with teams joining the ranks of frontline workers from Day 1 of the lockdown. The departments have adapted their lockdown strategies

as the levels have moved from 5 to 3.

Initially, during Level 5, the CCID's security strategy was to focus on the safekeeping of property, possessions and people, with Urban Management's cleaning teams focusing on deep cleaning particular spaces as well as litter picking.

When Lockdown moved to Level 4, the Security department offered new services to stakeholders including checking on empty buildings, attending to alarm activations and assisting stakeholders when opening and closing their businesses.

Now, during Level 3, as businesses open up and footfall into the CBD increases every day, Safety & Security is once again focusing on opportunistic crime, while cleaning teams are now all on duty, and the Road Maintenance and Graffiti Squad teams are back on the job.

All through Lockdown, the field and social workers of the Social Development department have been engaging with the homeless and assisting the CCID's NGO partners to manage the crisis Covid-19 has caused in this community.

EMERGENCY

CCID 24-HOUR SAFETY & SECURITY



082 415 7127
(Cape Town CBD only)

AMBULANCE, HEALTH, NOISE & FIRE

107 / 021 480 7700
(24 hours)

107 from landlines only

SAPS CENTRAL CITY

021 467 8001/2
(24 hours)

CITY OF CAPE TOWN SERVICES

INCIDENT REPORTING & ENQUIRIES

- Refuse collection, water issues, street lights and electricity faults
0860 103 089
- Traffic signal faults
0860 001 948
- Prepaid electricity meters
0800 220 440
- Cable theft
0800 222 771
- Disaster Risk Management
080 911 4357
021 597 6000 (24 hours)

SOCIAL CONCERNS

- Alcohol & Drug Helpline
0800 435 748
- Social Development: Children
0800 220 250
- Social Development: Adults
0800 872 201
- CCID Social Department
082 563 4289

BYLAW & TRAFFIC INFRINGEMENTS

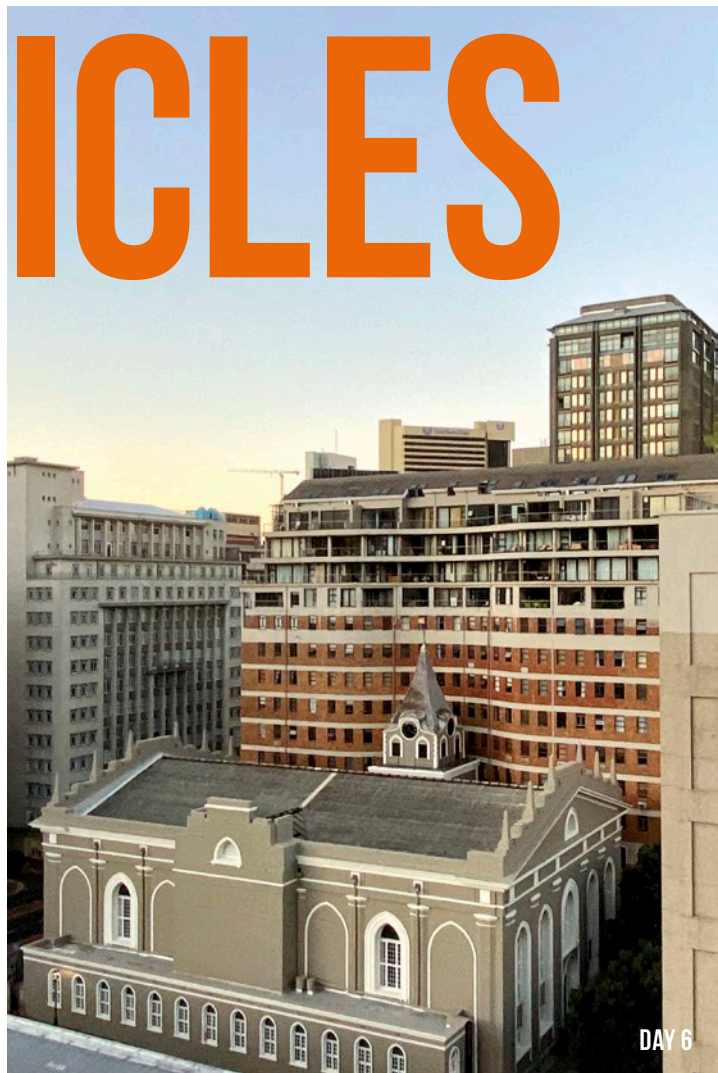
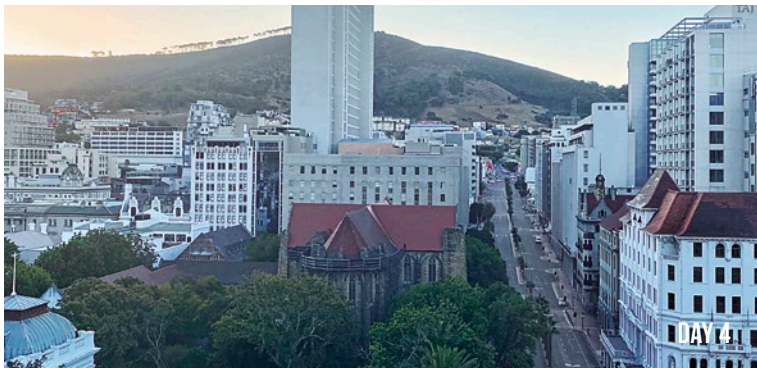
- Law Enforcement
021 596 1999 (24 hours)
- Traffic Police
0860 765 423
- Metro Police
0860 765 423

SHAPING TOMORROW TODAY

COVID CHRONICLES



Donald Paul, Cape Town media consultant, content producer and storyteller, initially made sense of the nationwide lockdown by producing poignant, perceptive blog posts from his 11th floor apartment in the Cape Town city centre. For 67 days, these Covid Chronicles helped Don to escape “the sticky grasp of gloom ... and edged me away from the easy embrace of despair”. Here we hand-pick a selection written in the first 40 days of this surreal time.



DAY 01: FRIDAY, 27 MARCH

The thin-line new moon skims the silhouetted trees striding up Signal Hill and drops off the horizon. The night is still. A raptor hangs in the sky, then dips and floats away. Cars move like Pokémon on the street grid, tail lights flashing, headlights bright, running from the midnight Covid-19 lockdown. And then it happens. The city goes silent as only silence in a working city can – a low, sustained, sub-surface bass roll urban hum. The smell lingers: sea air, piss, and *pap snoek*. The city lights glower. Traffic signals flick to an algorithm plugged in at some control centre, and the blind-sensitive traffic light beeps “walk” to empty sidewalks.

I go to bed. In the early morning, a raging voice echoes up from the street. Below me, on an alley that runs between the Iziko Slave Museum and Houses of Parliament, a large man dressed in multiple layers of disparate garments, typical of those whose home is the street, stands defiant, facing Parliament, belly thrust forward, weight resting on his hips, and shouts, angry and incomprehensible. His fury is directed at a marble statue of Queen Victoria, standing in Parliament's gardens. He pauses and walks in quick, erratic circles, before again planting himself in front of the Empress to resume his harangue. The Queen, true to life, remains unperturbed and not amused.

A police car cruises up Wale Street.

Three young men walk purposefully along the sidewalk. The birds hunker down in the Company's Garden, vocal but invisible as if holidaying from the burden of humans.

In the afternoon, two swallows swoop past my balcony, performing an air show. The moon appears and drops again. I go to bed.

DAY 04: MONDAY, 30 MARCH

This morning's morning observation from the 11th floor in Cape Town's CBD was of a police car chasing a vehicle down Wale Street.

No idea how that ended. Read that a favourite US singer-songwriter John Prine went into ICU diagnosed with Covid-19. Mentioned it to a fellow admirer and he said, “Get used to it there are going to be a lot of them.” He's right. Get used to it. (But if Covid-19 takes out Keith Richards, then we best get used to the fact the whole world's doomed.)

“CONCOCTED NUMEROUS REASONS TO GO OUT FOR SUPPLIES BUT STOPPED AT THE DOOR”

Concocted numerous reasons to go out for supplies but stopped at the door. Listened, instead, to a video of the Berlin Philharmonic Digital Concert Hall on TV, beautifully filmed, with conductor Kirill Petrenko and pianist Daniel Barenboim performing Beethoven's *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra in C minor*. Then listened to a video of Sir Michael Caine sitting on a park bench reading Kipling's poem, If. He did it some years ago.

And listened to a public service announcement by Siya Kolisi, the Springbok captain who lead the team to victory in the last Rugby World Cup. Ended the day listening to the President addressing the nation. His gravitas has won the hearts and minds of many South Africans, especially those who had been so dismissive of his capabilities as a leader. Add him to the voices you should listen to in these times.

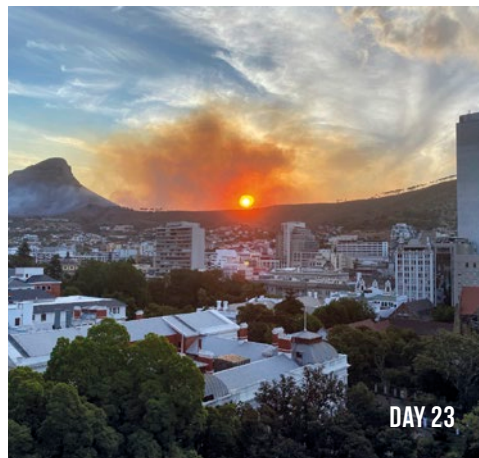
DAY 18: MONDAY, 13 APRIL

Easter Monday. Try and treat the day like any other weekday, determine to do two circuits of the stairwell. Decide after the first this is a day of rest. Make coffee, thinking about the re-opening of the Ugandan Café.

A friend in Switzerland sends me a message, asking, “What would you say is the most positive thing about lockdown and corona?”

I make a second pot of coffee and prepare breakfast. She's precious to me, so flippancy – default position – is out. Eventually, I write, “A number of things. Becoming reacquainted with the necessity of reflection, readjusting my priorities, reading more widely and hopefully more deeply, but mainly learning to laugh again, and how to live alone.” Throw the question back at her, and she has the best answer. She writes she now has “time to focus even more on the little things, I am soooo delighted by the birds whistling, the sun shining, the different shades of green and all the blooming flowers”.

She ends by saying, “We can't change the situation but we can change our minds, I guess?” My heart fills with this person.



DAY 27: WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL

Eerie silence from the Company's Garden this morning. Have all the geese been eaten? Watch a squirrel venture out of the park and make its way down Parliament Street: dart, stop, kowtow, dart, dart, stop, kowtow – takes all day. It's looking for a fix – the humans have left the park and the squirrels, deprived of fast-food scraps and Pick n Pay nuts, are going cold turkey, and looking for more, “dragging themselves through the ... streets at dawn looking for an angry fix”.

Negotiating lockdown entails ritual. Wake. Listen. Get up. Exercise. Run the stairwell. Shower. Then visit one of the cafés – Uganda – and go onto the balcony. Doves fly past. Watch people on the street. Go back inside. And drop my coffee cup. It shatters. This is not part of the ritual. I am not superstitious. Is this an omen? The barista at the Uganda Café is not amused. At midday, multiple car alarms go off somewhere nearby. The news is full of mutterings about Covid-19 having been spawned in a bioweapons factory. Reminds me of the claims in the '80s that AIDS was cooked up in a laboratory. As Gore Vidal said, such paranoia serves a useful purpose for some. Another thing about lockdown is all the renewed magazine subscriptions.

Wired publishes a great letter of hope, placing faith in science and scientists, not “because scientists are perfect, or even smarter on average than other humans, but because science is one of the best ways humans have come up with to reliably understand how the world works and how to fix it when it's broken”. The writer ends by pointing to the “single, vivid insight” of Charles Fritz, a sociologist: “People in crisis help each other. Elites panic about riots and looting, but most of us just try to help the people nearest us. And then we help the ones a little farther out, and then farther again. The centre holds; the gyre widens.” Discover that a *koesister* goes well with a chilled glass of white (sauvignon blanc/chardonnay). Stay safe and hold the line.

“WITHOUT A SHELTER, HERE ON THE CLIFFS OF THE HEART”



DAY 35: THURSDAY, 30 APRIL

The stairs are brutal this morning. On the balcony with a coffee it's still dark outside and the lights are off in the apartment block to the east, except for a solitary red glow in a small window low down in the building. It's always on, a sluggish, dim light, and from this distance it looks like one of these '70s lava lamps, except the lava has solidified. A MyCiTi bus trundles slowly down Wale passing the empty bus stop.

One of the security guards on duty in the lobby says they only allow 30 people on board in order to maintain social distancing. He has a monthly season ticket for the trains but they're not running and he had to buy a new season ticket for the bus. It's all digital – why could they not make it possible for him to use the train card on the bus? If that can't happen now, then the Fourth Industrial Revolution [4IR] is still on a bicycle some way back down the road.

Willie Nelson turned 87, and the editor of the *Texas Monthly* ran a feature rating – and reviewing – all 143 albums the man has released. The number one – according to the



magazine – is *Phases & Stages* released in 1974 after Willie broke up with his first wife. Whether it's a fair winner will be debated for as many years as there are Willie Nelson fans. It's not a song cycle to listen to in lockdown late at night, but it does contain what the reviewer termed “what may be the saddest country song ever written”.

It's possible in these matters we have only the voices in our hearts. It was Rilke who knew the geography of love and desire, that place “without a shelter, here on the cliffs of the heart”. Perhaps we have no measure for the weight of the real things in our lives; they sit within us with all the massive granite solidity of clouds burnished by a setting sun.

Around midday a group of women come strolling through the Company's Garden, taking selfies, and laughing – tourists, certainly not locals from the voices and clothing? It's weird and incongruous and yet naturally what one should do, except this is a city in lockdown. They disappear up Wale Street.



DAY 39: MONDAY, 04 MAY

Wake to a city emerging from sleep. The harsh incessant thrumming of rubber on tarmac, the smell of petrol and diesel fumes, of food being cooked on long-abandoned grills, of people shouting. Grateful for the break in routine – no more stairwell running – go and get a flask of coffee from the Uganda Café, load it into the backpack with a tracksuit top and set off for the promenade.

The former may lead into a spiral, an echo chamber where you only hear your voice, whereas reflection bounces you against another or others, and the return shot never always goes where you want it, and so you have to stay on your toes, think on your feet, prepare for the volley, baseline, net. It's a tougher game, mainly because it's voluntary. Introspection often joins the game uninvited. I finish my coffee and cycle home.

“THE CITY STRETCHES, RUBS ITS EYES, AND SITS UP”

The sun is rising. The roads are still empty of cars, but more people are running, walking, cycling, skateboarding. Dogs bark and fight and run crazy circles around their walkers. The morning is glorious. On my way back, I stop and sit on a bench to drink my coffee and watch the sun light up the container boats in the harbour.

A woman stops opposite me and I think she's about to give me a lecture about not wearing my face mask, but then it turns out I know her. I put down my cup, adjust my face mask and we chat. It's one of those circular conversations where neither wants to talk about lockdown but lockdown is all we have to talk about, even if you're side-tracked into something such as the fine difference between introspection and reflection.

I come to the top entrance of the Company's Garden. Two military men step forward smoothly and stop me. They're young, hard, steady-eyed. Their uniforms are crisp, their boots polished. We exchange greetings. They don't smile. They're not impolite. They tell me bicycles are not allowed in the Gardens. I shrug, thank them, and turn and cycle on.

At home, on the balcony, a car goes up Wale Street, the snatches of saxophone music coming from its open windows. I hear children laughing, playing on skateboards outside the park entrance. The city stretches, rubs its eyes, and sits up.

*Don Paul's other compelling blog posts, where readers can unravel the mystery about the Uganda Café, can be read at www.donpaul-story.com/experience/

URBAN PLACEMAKING

CLEANING THE URBAN JUNGLE



Cleaners from the CCID's Urban Management department.

Cleaning the streets of a deserted Cape Town city centre is still dirty work, even during the nationwide lockdown that initially saw the busy CBD stripped of its usual footfall. Tonnes of waste was still generated – and diligently collected by heroic cleaners on the frontline.

ON any given day, the CCID's cleaners, clad in their signature yellow uniforms, are a welcoming presence in the Cape Town Central City. Tasked with cleaning up after hundreds of thousands of people who work, live, visit and do business in the usually vibrant CBD, teams from the CCID Urban Management department pick and sweep up waste to ensure the CBD remains free of grime.

Enter March 2020 and the arrival in South Africa of the pernicious coronavirus. Stringent Lockdown measures instituted by the Government to stem the spread of infection ordered people to work remotely, and businesses to close their doors to adhere to Level 5 regulations (the most punishing) unless they were performing an essential service, like the CCID.

"Initially, some of the biggest concerns centred around crime and grime," says CCID CEO Tasso Evangelinos, with the CCID's operational departments, namely Safety & Security, Social Development and Urban Management, having to change their strategies during the lockdown. "Our cleaning strategy had to shift: we still covered all areas of the CBD within our footprint but we focused on deep cleaning particular spaces."

TONNES OF WASTE

Be that as it may, CCID cleaners still collected 44.5 tonnes of waste in March 2020, 35.5 tonnes of waste in April and 42.2 tonnes in May. Statistics released by the CCID's Urban Management department reveal that cleaners contracted

via J&M Services picked up, on average, 40.7 tonnes of rubbish from 1 March 2020 to 31 May 2020. While this is a drop from the average 72 tonnes per month the CCID picked up in the CBD in 2019, it is still a surprising amount of waste for a city centre shut down by measures to stem the tide of a global pandemic.

The CCID offers a top-up cleaning service in the CBD, in addition to that provided by its partner, the City of Cape Town. Its heroic cleaners, together with those from the City, have been on the frontline providing an essential service since the lockdown began on 26 March 2020, working during levels 5, 4 and 3 to clean the CBD – a relentless and expensive task.

Keeping the Central City grime-free costs the CCID millions of rands every year. In 2019, the CCID spent R30 000 per day to clean the CBD, amounting to an annual spend of R11 million. This is in addition to the standard removal of waste (which includes litter as well as organic matter such as leaves, twigs and soil) by the City of Cape Town.

What's more, cigarette-butt litter, collected from the CCID's 300 cigarette-butt bins, usually amounts

to over 1 000 kg per year. Last year, the CCID collected 1 763 kg of cigarette butts from the CBD. Cigarette-butt litter during lockdown, especially during levels 5 and 4, was minimal as the footfall of people entering and leaving the city centre was very low, with desperate smokers actually tipping over many of the nearly empty bins in search of an "entjie" or two!

THE NEW NORMAL

Kally Benito, assistant manager of CCID Urban Management, says the CCID's cleaning teams, contracted via J&M Cleaning Services and NGO Straatwerk, have had to be agile in adjusting to the new circumstances presented by Covid-19. "Initially we operated with J&M cleaning teams, with a roaming team from Straatwerk only doing 'hot-spot' cleaning and litter picking where required," says Benito. Level 5 and 4 restrictions gave the department the "rare opportunity" to focus on deep cleaning and sanitising specific zones and attending to maintenance projects.

Benito says: "We ramped up our levels of de-sanitising the streets to keep the public safe. Sanitising the CBD efficiently and effectively is important to reassure people

who are returning to work and do business here that their safety is of prime concern.

"To this end we also launched a sanitising project in July whereby four Sanitising Ambassadors deep-clean all commonly touched infrastructure in town every week day, including pedestrian buttons, railings, benches, bollard tops and the lids of green street-pole refuse bins," she says.

The safety of the CCID's cleaning teams, who are now all back on duty, is also of utmost importance, Benito emphasises. As essential workers, the street cleaning teams were given stringent re-education on hygiene and sterilisation protocols and learning new steps to be taken for additional protocols. The issuing of personal protection equipment before each shift, regular hand-washing breaks, and de-contamination steps before and after each shift are now mandatory for every employee.

"We are so fortunate to have a committed group of cleaning staff who have been active since Lockdown began, and who have worked tirelessly to keep up with our risk-reduction strategies. The economy depends on us now."

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

FOODIES' FAVOURITES

The retail industry is under siege, but so many eateries in the Cape Town CBD have managed to ride out the storm with entrepreneurial flair, hard work and sheer grit. Here three foodies – Sam Linsell, Jade de Waal and Tamsin Snyman – share their top three city centre eateries and what they're planning to order on their next visit.



JADE DE WAAL

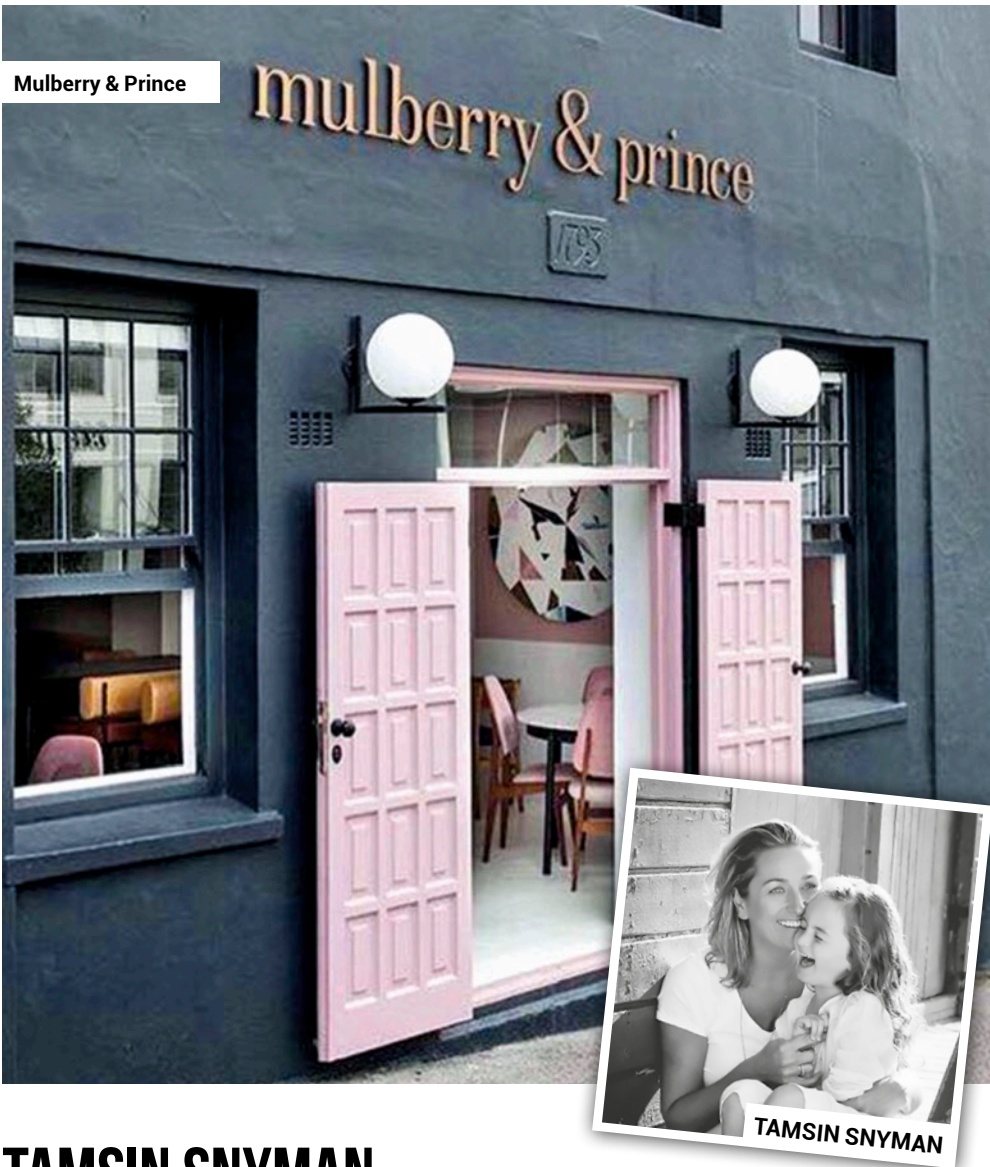
FOOD JAMS FOUNDER & FORMER MASTERCHEF SA FINALIST

- Hemelhuijs**, Waterkant St. Why? It's the imagination and visual delight of the restaurant, the comforting but beautifully presented food, oh, and, of course the fries!
Try their signature Karoo breakfast with farm eggs, mielie pap with honey, and toasted mosbolletjie bread with home-made apricot jam – and lashings of nostalgia on the side.
- Just Like Papa**, Harrington St. It's a one-stop shop for awesome coffee (made by barista Moses Leboga), epic gifts and venue hire. I'm still planning my next party at this concept store.
With the interior resembling a whale's ribcage, you walk into the belly of the beast. Born out of a spirit for adventure, you'll find specialised products but also a good cuppa Joe!
- Honest Chocolate Café**, Wale St. The name, the delicious bonbons and the banana bunny chow on the menu. And, of course, the neighbouring delight, The Gin Bar. *The Gin Bar is closed temporarily.
A hidden artisan gem that takes chocolate to unthinkable levels. Try the St Anna's lightly salted nachos, accompanied by an indulgent chocolate and finished off with a dash of chili if you crave that fiery kick.

SAM LINSELL

WRITER AND PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE BLOG, DRIZZLE & DIP

- Chefs Warehouse & Canteen**, Bree St. Why? The best food you will find in the city without a reservation. Always world-class and delicious. *The sit-down restaurant is still closed but the deli is open.
Top tip: Chefs Warehouse Beau Constantia and Chefs Warehouse at Maison are both open for business! Beau Pick Up and Go offers a selection of dreamy tapas for two. At Maison, you can pick up a basket and shop the marketplace.
- La Tête**, Bree St. I love the simple menu that celebrates the ingredients. Just really delicious, honest food presented in an unpretentious way.
You have to try: The Madeleines! Rumour has it they're the best biscuits in the Mother City ...
- Clarke's Bar & Dining Room**, Bree St. One of my favourite burger joints – it's pretty much the only thing I ever order there. I'll definitely be stopping by. *Closed temporarily.
What's a burger without a side? In this case, go all out and get yourself some four cheese Mac & Cheese for a carb-on-carb extravaganza.



TAMSIN SNYMAN

FOOD PERSONALITY, CRITIC, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & PUBLISHER

- FYN**, Parliament St. Situated near Church Square, you step into a breathtakingly beautiful restaurant room with triple-storey glass windows framing a one-of-its-kind tandem view of Table Mountain and Lion's Head. Then there's the food. It's no wonder FYN is scooping up every design and food award to be had.
Jennifer's on-point wine pairings are a standout. Her care, passion and attention to detail is enhanced with every mouthful.
- Mulberry & Prince**, Pepper St. The creation of New-American modern cuisine paired with simple South African ingredients. Step inside the small sassy space and you'll discover where the coolest food aficionados hang out.
To look out for: Their riff on cacio e pepe (a traditional Roman pasta dish) made with their house-made pasta.
- Belly of the Beast**, Harrington St. The first South African restaurant born from crowdfunding, it has a tasting menu which changes daily, allowing chefs Neil Swart and Anouschka Horn to show off the Western Cape's seasonal bounty.
Pastry-master Anouschka's ice cream is a beautiful plating that defies the pudding label.



PLAY

WHAT'S ON (LINE) IN THE CBD

Physical distancing doesn't mean you have to stop engaging with the arts or having fun. Here are some great Central City events and activities to enjoy in the comfort of your home.

For more event info, visit City Views on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CityViewsCapeTown.

AEROSOL

Will run until further notice

WORLDART says "spray paint as a medium used in the fine arts has matured and this exhibition celebrates just that". The exhibition features some of SA's finest artists who use spray paint in their paintings including Kilmany-Jo Liversage, Robyn Pretorius, iL Caso, Al Luke, George Mars aka MARS, One. and Fadiel Hermans.

Where: Online
Cost: Free
www.worldart.co.za

PUB QUIZ BY CAPE TOWN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Every Thursday

If you're confident in your music knowledge, join the pub quiz hosted by Roxane Steffen from the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra. Roxanne says, during the quiz you'll get to "pit your music knowledge against musicians and concertgoers".

Where: Zoom (meeting ID is 707 805 8999)
When: 19h00 but sign up by 18h45
Cost: Free
www.cpo.org.za

BINGO NIGHT BY THE ELECTRIC

Every second Thursday

The Electric is hosting virtual Bingo Night every second Thursday. Guests are encouraged to dress up and decorate their Zoom backgrounds as there are fantastic prizes on offer for the most creative people. Click "attending" on The Electric Facebook event page for Bingo Night or drop your email address in the comments and The Electric will send you a link to the event.

Where: Zoom
When: 20h00
Cost: Free
www.facebook.com/TheElectricSA/

SANLAM CAPE TOWN VIRTUAL MARATHON

18 October 2020

With travel restrictions in place and the need for physical distancing due to Covid-19, Sanlam Cape Town Marathon organisers have introduced a virtual version of the iconic race.

The race will be available through an App and will offer an immersive race experience complete with live tracking and messages about key landmarks.

Where: Your neighbourhood
When: 06h00
Cost: R50 – R180
www.capetownmarathon.com

THE FUGARD AT HOME

Ongoing

The Fugard Theatre has launched The Fugard at Home, a free digital platform with exciting content on its website. The platform allows you to stream some of the theatre's past productions and works streaming both locally and globally.

Where: Online
Cost: Free
www.thefugard.com

AN ODE TO THE CAPE

Will run until further notice

When Alexandra Karamallis, a Brooklyn-based designer and artist found herself stuck in Cape Town due to Covid-19 travel restrictions, she decided to use her time to make art. Her online exhibition at Chandler House is called An Ode to The Cape, and pays tribute to her second home which "has been a source of solace and creative rejuvenation throughout her years of travelling here".

Where: Online
Cost: Free
<https://sites.google.com/chandlerhouse.co.za/alexandrakaramallis2020/home>



BOOK REVIEWS BY WOMAN ZONE BOOK CLUB

Ongoing

The Woman Zone Book Club occurs on the second Saturday of every month from 14h00 to 16h00 at Artscape (next to the box office). Since we're all physically distancing right now, members of the book club are encouraging women to share what they're reading and will share these reviews online. The review must be between 200 and 500 words and must include the title, author, name of the publisher and a picture of the book cover.

Where: Woman Zone Book Club website and Instagram (@wzbookclub)
Cost: Free
www.womanzonect.com

LOOKING A HEAD: REVISITING THE LYDENBURG HEADS

Now on till 15 May 2021

With this online exhibition, Iziko Museums of South Africa is revisiting Lydenburg Heads (pieces of pottery that were found in Lydenburg, Mpumalanga between 1962 and 1964) and symbols and wants to bring about a conversation about rites of passage. As part of the online exhibition, Iziko is inviting members of the public to share stories about their rites of passage experiences. These will be shared online and later included in a physical exhibition.

Where: Online
Cost: Free
www.iziko.org.za

SINGING FREEDOM

Now on till 30 Apr 2021

Singing Freedom focuses on freedom songs and explores the role of music during the fight against apartheid. For the exhibition, Iziko Museums of South Africa "has drawn on oral histories and the memories of a number of activists as well as musicians".

Where: Online
Cost: Free
www.iziko.org.za



Show you CARE



Remember to help the NGOs that help the homeless and give where it will make a DIFFERENCE.*

YOU CAN GIVE IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

SNAPSCAN

You can download the free SnapScan app onto your smartphone and SCAN the code (right) to donate the amount of your choice via your phone.



PAYPAL

Use the link below to make a donation via PayPal: <https://paypal.me/CCIDShowYouCare>.

SMS "GIVE" TO 38088

to donate R10 towards the CCID's NGO partners.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

for more information on the campaign, our NGO partners and other ways in which you can assist. www.showyoucare.co.za

* The Cape Town Central City Improvement District works closely with the following NGO partners in the Cape Town CBD:

The Hope Exchange
Vocational training and rehabilitation services for adults

Khulisa Social Solutions
Work-based rehabilitation for the chronic homeless

Straatwerk
Job rehabilitation projects for street people

The Homestead
Residential care and family integration for boys

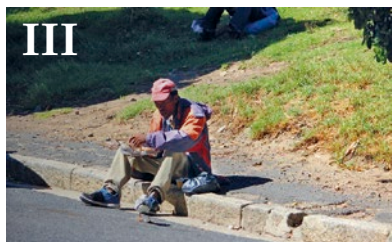
Ons Plek
Residential care and reunification processes for girls

Youth Solutions Africa
Shelter and skills training programmes for adults

THE TOUGH TIMES



Vol 1 No 5 | 2020 Winter Edition | Brought to you by the Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID) and City Views



II THE CCID'S ROLE IN HELPING THE HOMELESS

III NGOs PROVIDING RELIEF TO THOSE IN NEED

IV WITNESSING LADLES OF LOVE IN ACTION

IT'S TOUGH TIMES

Winter is usually a harsh season for the Central City's homeless population, but the Covid-19 pandemic has made it much worse.

Punishing conditions characterise Cape Town's bleak winter with gale-force winds and heavy rainfall the order of the day. It's a testing time for a lot of Capetonians, even those who are privileged to have a roof over their heads and a plate of hot food on the table. For the Central City's

homeless population, navigating this hostile season is unsettling, uncomfortable and, often, untenable.

This winter, the coronavirus pandemic has been added to the mix, rendering the situation on the streets dire for our clients, many of whom have

underlying health conditions. Usually in winter, the Cape Town Central City Improvement District's (CCID) Social Development department assists the homeless with additional winter shelter space provided by our partner NGOs, so they are protected from the harsh elements. But with Covid-19, most shelters are already full. Some are not accepting more people as they are trying to allow for physical distancing within the shelters and prevent their premises from becoming coronavirus hotspots. A lack of access to health and sanitisation facilities also means

homeless people cannot take necessary Covid-19 safety precautions. With fewer people to beg from in the CBD due to Lockdown, and additional pressures on NGOs, getting access to resources for basic needs is difficult for those living on the streets.

The challenges are many and require a collective effort. As CCID Social Development, we will continue to implement additional measures to support our partner NGOs that help the homeless. But we cannot do it alone and call on you once again to help us ease some of

these challenges. In this issue of *The Tough Times*, we outline the various ways in which you can show your generosity to the Central City's homeless population.

We also focus on our partner NGOs that are making a difference and provide ways you can assist them.



Pat Eddy, CCID Social Development manager

ON THE BEAT DURING LOCKDOWN



THE CCID SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TEAM, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: HEADMAN SIRALARALA, PAT EDDY, TATENDA MUCHARUNGA, SHANIEN RICH AND MARK WILLIAMS.

Engaging with the CBD's homeless community presents innumerable challenges during Covid-19. Yet, the CCID's field and social workers are determined to make a difference. We speak to them about the challenges of the job.

Pat Eddy: Manager

What has been Social Development's biggest challenge since Lockdown was enforced?

The fact that there were no real services available for people living on the streets. Initially most of the NGOs were closed and there was no access to ablution facilities and regular feeding programmes.

How are you meeting this challenge?

We were able to liaise with NGO partners to assist with food. Together with our partners, we also put pressure on the City to open some ablution facilities. We also established a sanitising station and supported our partners with personal protective equipment (see page 2).

Shanien Rich: Social worker

Living on the streets is harsh in winter. Is it worse this year?

Due to Covid-19, there is much more support for our clients in terms of donations compared to other years, which makes things a bit better. However, shelter space remains a challenge and a huge concern this winter.

How can the public help?

We would appreciate it if they could continue donating food and warm clothing including socks, scarves, and beanies to us or our partner NGOs.

Mark Williams: Field worker

How have you helped the homeless understand the risks of Covid-19?

I always remind them to be mindful of sharing cigarettes, to maintain a physical distance and to make this a part of their rehabilitation and daily lives.

What is the best part of your work?

When I'm in the field engaging with a client, just talking and sharing thoughts. I always get amazing stories.

I also enjoy seeing them grow.

Headman Siralarala: Field worker

Name two things you appreciate about your work ...

I appreciate the privilege of being able to work when millions of people don't have work right now. I also appreciate the collaboration between our team and our NGO partners.

What have you learnt working with the homeless community?

The importance of always treating people as human beings and with respect, realising that they could be my father, brother, mother, sister or child.

Tatenda Mucharunga: Social worker

What keeps you motivated to assist clients?

Assisting clients gives me an opportunity to bring about the change I would like to see in the world where we are all sensitive and responsive to each other's needs.

In this time of the coronavirus, what have been the heartening moments?

The swift response by the NGO sector in providing meals and other essential services for the homeless, particularly during the lockdown and the bravery of the frontline (field) workers who have worked throughout the lockdown.

GIVING HOPE TO THE HOMELESS

HUNDREDS of homeless people who live in the CBD are at the heart of the CCID's Hope for the Homeless fundraising campaign. Launched in August, it aims to raise R100 000 for the destitute as they battle a pandemic and the harsh Cape winter.

Every year, the CCID asks Capetonians to "show you care" and support the hundreds of homeless people who live on the streets of the Central City.

This homeless community of over 700 people, with whom the CCID Social Development department engages every day, is the largest in the Cape metropole.

The Hope for the Homeless campaign is part of Social Development's Show You Care initiative and the funds raised go towards supporting the work of the CCID's six NGO partners, namely The Hope Exchange, Khulisa Social Solutions, Straatwerk, Ons Plek, The Homestead and Youth Solutions Africa.

Through the generous support of members of the public, last year a total of R85 210 was raised and equally distributed among the six NGOs at the end of June. A financial donation of R14 201.80 was disbursed to Khulisa Social Solutions, The Homestead and Ons Plek, while Straatwerk, Youth Solutions Africa and The Hope Exchange have received washing machines and tumble driers as per their request.

SHOW COMPASSION

Pat Eddy, CCID Social Development manager, says the most important thing the public can do is show compassion. "We are always extremely grateful for the public's generous donations. Showing compassion at a time like this is so important, and our collective efforts, no matter how small, can make a big difference. We once again call on you to show you care and help the homeless."

This year's fundraising campaign will be driven largely on social media with poignant video footage from filmmaker Chad Nathan (@gingerwithagopro) that shares the stories of the homeless and evokes powerful moments of connectedness and humanity.

An important element of the Show You Care initiative is the Winter Readiness Programme that complements the fundraising drive. For a breakdown of some of the donations facilitated by the programme, see the box on the right. CCID CEO Tasso Evangelinos says the Hope for the Homeless campaign aims to unite all stakeholders to work together to have maximum impact. "Together, we can move the needle," he says.



THE CCID'S WINTER READINESS PROGRAMME HAS PROVIDED:

- 2 190 care bags
- 1 000 bars of soap and 300 face cloths to the City's new Safe Space
- Seven 25-litre containers of antibacterial soap and eight 25-litre containers of 70 % alcohol hand sanitiser
- 104 pairs of male and female shoes; 2 000 pairs of gloves & 270 wool blankets
- 2 500 masks
- 250 raincoats and 30 sheltersuits
- Food to the value R8 031 during Lockdown level 5 and 11 000 meals to the homeless from 26 March 2020 until 15 June 2020
- 3 200 packets of soup and noodles for clients
- 20 family food parcels (worth R500 each) for clients who have chosen to return home during this time
- Additional winter readiness bed space at YSA for 3 months for 25 people and food worth R30 000. The whole project costs R50 000. Throughout the year, the CCID subsidises 18 beds at YSA
- 2 infrared thermometers
- 8 boxes of sanitary pads (containing 48 packets of 8 pads each) valued at R3 000

SHELTERSUITS FOR THE HOMELESS

CCID Social Development has partnered with the Rotary Club of Helderberg to buy 30 Sheltersuits for the homeless this winter.

Each suit costs R450, with Rotary contributing 50 %. The recipients are people in rehabilitation programmes who want to come off the streets but cannot find shelter space.

Created by Dutch designer, Bas Timmer, the Sheltersuit is durable and waterproof and transforms into a carrier bag. In SA, it is produced by underprivileged residents from The Ark City of Refuge, giving them an opportunity to earn an income. If you would like to sponsor a suit, contact Pat Eddy, CCID Social Development manager on pat@capetownccid.org.

HOW TO DONATE TO THE CAMPAIGN

1. SMS "give" to 38088 to donate R10.*
2. Download the free **snapscan** app onto your smartphone and scan the code to the right to donate the amount of your choice.**
3. Make an **EFT payment** to the campaign. You can find bank details at www.showyoucare.co.za.

4. Use **PayPal** to donate: <https://paypal.me/CCIDShowYouCare>

* Depending on your service provider, Show You Care receives an average of R8.
** A 3 % admin fee goes to SnapScan. For detailed Ts&Cs visit www.showyoucare.co.za

5 000 homeless in Cape Town. 700 in the CBD. Look into their eyes. See them. Hear them. Give them the gift of hope.

HELP US RAISE **R100k** FOR 6 CHARITIES. HELP US CHANGE LIVES.

SNAP HERE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO SOMEONE LIVING ON THE STREETS.

CCID Hope for the Homeless Make a donation, give the gift of hope

www.showyoucare.co.za

CAPE TOWN PULLS TOGETHER

One of the most heart-warming things about Lockdown has been how communities have come together to help those less fortunate. In the Mother City, one stand-out group is Cape Town Together, which is making a huge difference through its Community Action Networks (CANs).

The Facebook group was founded towards the end of March 2020 to establish neighbourhood-level community action to provide relief for Covid-19. The idea was to inspire ordinary people to form local Community Action Networks (CANs) across the city, and connect them to each other to take action and support one another, especially vulnerable and high-risk individuals. CANs from "privileged" areas partner with CANs from those in need.

"It is a rapid community response and it is not only infusing me and many others with optimism, it is making me realise that even in cities as unequal and disparate as Cape

Town, solidarity is possible," says Cape Town Together administrator Marcela Guerrero Casas.

To date, the group has nearly 15 000 members as well as 2 300 volunteers working in 150 CANs across the city.

STAYING CONNECTED

The Cape Town CBD CAN partners with Khayelitsha CAN and is driven by a group of resourceful individuals like Jackie May. She says the crisis has "highlighted inequality and forced us to engage with all of Cape Town ... the CBD is in the heart of the city and acts as a nexus."

Since its inception, the group has been effective and responsive to people's needs. Jackie says their secret is learning, sharing, supporting, and finding the right partnerships.

THE CBD CAN HAS:

Collected almost 1 000 masks; raised about R30 000 for masks through ongoing quiz nights; received support for food, blankets, masks, hand sanitisers and prizes for quiz nights from brands; found shelter in a backpacker in town for 20 men rendered homeless by Covid-19; raised about R100 000 for food and soup kitchens.

NGOs PROVIDING RELIEF

AS the nationwide lockdown wreaks havoc on the lives of the destitute, an extraordinary lifeline has been given to the Cape Town CBD's homeless community by NGOs, businesses and residents who have joined forces to alleviate the plight of street people when it comes to food, shelter and social services. But the need is huge and your help is still welcome.

The global pandemic is exacerbating the existing challenges of the Central City's homeless population tenfold. When the lockdown was enforced, it was hard for people living on the streets to access food, a safe space to shelter, basic ablution facilities and medical care. Add to that the significant risk of the virus spreading like wildfire in a community with limited access to running water and ablution facilities. Even as the lockdown eases, and the CBD starts filling up again, the situation remains dire.

But phenomenal work is being done to alleviate the suffering of street people and provide ongoing care since the nationwide lockdown was enforced and then extended, says Pat Eddy, manager of Social Development at the Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID).

CCID'S SUPPORTIVE ROLE

Eddy says the CCID has been primarily playing a supportive role to its NGO partners, helping to provide additional food, PPE (including masks and gloves), soap, hand sanitiser, mobile hand-sanitiser stations, blankets, shoes and personal hygiene care bags with basic toiletries.

While donations stream in, Eddy says more assistance is required as the need is ongoing. "We have launched our annual Show You Care campaign which is called Hope for the Homeless this year. We are also rolling out 20 donation bins at various public venues in the CBD for the collection of food and clothing. Please help us to give hope to the homeless at this testing time."

Here's how to help:



CCID SOCIAL WORKER SHANIEN RICH ASSISTING AT THE SERVICE DINING ROOMS.



VOLUNTEERS AT YOUTH SOLUTIONS AFRICA HELPING TO SERVE MEALS.

KHULISA SOCIAL SOLUTIONS

Jesse Laitenan, Strategic Partnership manager for Khulisa Social Solutions, says that its work-based rehabilitation programme Streetscapes is working hard to help people survive in extremely challenging circumstances.

"Our teams have been providing transportation and accommodation, food and water, sanitisers and soap, and information – something which many of us with access to TVs, phones and the internet take for granted. We are committed to finding real solutions by organising smaller sites that can accommodate those left without help on the streets," she says.

Khulisa Social Solutions recently established a new home for 26 beneficiaries in Chester Road, Walmer Estate, and urgently needs bedding, non-perishable food, cleaning utensils, tech appliances. The organisation's Roeland Street

Garden needs plants, cuttings, trees and flowers. Anyone willing to donate time to share their skills, such as social media support and website development, will be very welcome. www.khulisa.org.za | 021 465 6112

THE HAVEN NIGHT SHELTER

Hassan Khan, CEO of The Haven Night Shelter, says that it has been really tough with extremely high demand and constrained food supply. "Retailers usually give us food that is close to its sell-by-date, but since Lockdown they have tightened up the stock available so there is less wastage." He says that the CCID's assistance has helped greatly, and that donations of money and bulk food items by the public will also make a massive difference.

The Haven desperately needs donations of clothing, games to keep residents entertained and bulk dry food items (like rice and porridge). But cash is best so that the NGO can purchase

the vital personal protection equipment it needs, along with other key staples.

www.haven.org.za | 021 425 4700

LADLES OF LOVE

Danny Diliberto, founder of Ladles of Love, says its Covid-19 Food & Sandwich Drive has grown in leaps and bounds since the start of the national lockdown. Diliberto says the team's food production has increased by 1000 % and the need just keeps growing.

The highly efficient operation, powered by an army of volunteers, has made such an impact and expanded at such a rate that they recently partnered with CTICC, which offered the NPO more than 1 500m2 of space to serve as Ladles of Love's temporary logistics headquarters. The organisation has now moved to Sun Exhibits at GrandWest Casino and Entertainment World and will be based there until the end of September.

Diliberto says that getting food is becoming increasingly difficult for NGOs, with supply shortages a daily reality as staples run dry and suppliers shut down. Right now, the public can help most through financial donations to help secure the food supplies that Ladles of Love urgently needs.

www.ladlesoflove.org.za | 021 201 1244

TB HIV CARE

Ruth Verster, Project Coordinator for TB HIV Care, says the organisation is currently distributing nutritious food packs and personal hygiene essentials. TB HIV Care works to prevent, find and treat TB and HIV. Verster says clients are more afraid of hunger than Covid-19, as most have been impacted by limited income-earning opportunities. Additionally, TB HIV Care has more clients on Opioid Substitution Therapy than ever before, providing critical aid while many individuals undergo substance withdrawal.

www.tbhivcare.org | 021 425 0050

THE SERVICE DINING ROOMS

Karen Cain, Operations Manager for The Service Dining Rooms, says the NGO is feeding up to

400 people a day and supplying drinking water. Approximately 200 pre-packaged meals are given to the micro groups of homeless people who are staying under bridges and in homemade shacks, from the CBD through to Muizenberg. U-Turn is helping to get the food to areas that are further afield. The rest of the meals are distributed to the homeless outside their premises in Canterbury Street.

Cain adds that there is a huge need for food for creches and primary school children, because the school feeding schemes have virtually come to a standstill.

www.facebook.com/ServiceDiningRooms/ | 021 465 2390

YOUTH SOLUTIONS AFRICA

John Philmon, director of Youth Solutions Africa, says the shelter is in lockdown and continues to offer essential services to clients in its care. In addition, it provides about 300 meals a day to those still living on the streets, along with water for drinking and sanitation. "The CCID is supporting us by sponsoring meals and providing hand sanitisers, hand wash and toiletries. The public can also make a big difference by donating funds as well as blankets and food items."

www.safyouth.org | 074 067 5747

Eddy says many CBD stakeholders are making an effort to help, including Beerhouse which opened its kitchen to feed street people by making and donating soup to Ladles of Love and the Community Chest, which has set up a Covid-19 Emergency Health Fund and is distributing supplies from its basement.

She adds that people can join Cape Town Together Community Action Network – particularly the CBD CAN (Community Action Network) for inner-city residents – to get involved through volunteering or donations. This group is playing a pivotal role in helping the homeless to get the assistance they need, and to provide care packs, including masks, soap, sanitiser and a towel cloth to NGOs that work with the homeless in the CBD. See our story on the previous page.

LADLES OF LOVE FEEDS THE MASSES

IN the space of a few short weeks, Ladles of Love transformed itself from an efficient organisation doing its bit to feed the destitute in the Cape Town Central City to a phenomenal powerhouse, feeding thousands of Cape Town's homeless and poor communities every single day. At the heart of this impressive feat is Danny Diliberto. We spent time with him and his team when they were still based at the Cape Town Convention Centre (CTICC), witnessing Ladles of Love in action. The operation has since moved to GrandWest.

When you step inside the expansive space serving as the temporary base for Ladles of Love, you cannot help but marvel at the meticulous operation. Everything here – at the Cape Town International Convention Centre 2 – runs like clockwork. There's a nerve centre inside the hall where the admin is handled and a team of accountants and auditors track everything that comes in and goes out.

In the middle, the floor is divided into squares with names of the over 110 non-profit organisations that Ladles of Love supports throughout greater Cape Town and these non-profits, in turn, help over 300 subsidiaries. Some squares are filled with more food than others: it all depends on what the organisation needs. Some have parcels with uncooked food (collected twice a week), while others have sandwiches and cooked meals (collected every day). Some have both. Then, on the far side of the hall are stacks of uncooked food waiting to be prepared, measured and sorted for the various organisations.

It's nothing short of extraordinary: Ladles of Love has gone from cooking 1 000 meals a week to cooking 30 000 meals a week. They have done this with the help of the husband-and-wife team from Janse & Co., Arno Janse van Rensburg and Liezl Odendaal, who head up their kitchen. A total of about 446 084 kgs of bulk produce and groceries has been distributed to communities. Through its remarkable sandwich drive, Ladles of Love has collected over 1 956 207 sandwiches and over 230 491 boiled eggs as well as 278 993 hot meals and breakfasts which equates to 4 219 797 meals.

A MAN IN A MILLION

The "man in a million" at the centre of all of this, former Cape Town restaurateur Danny Diliberto, says he, too, finds it all "unbelievable".

Since Lockdown, Danny's life has revolved around feeding people. He is visibly tired but says being surrounded by miracles is inspiring. Helping those in need to access the basic human right to food keeps him going.

During this time, he's learnt to "roll with the punches" and adapt in



DANNY DILIBERTO OF LADLES OF LOVE WITH A VOLUNTEER.

order for Ladles of Love to thrive. "Covid-19 has taught me the power of the present moment, and the importance of gratitude ... I see kindness like you can't imagine. Everyone is here for one purpose only and that's to help other Capetonians in need. It's beautiful."

THE ARMY OF VOLUNTEERS

It's these strangers from all walks of life who are at the heart of this extraordinary organisation's success. Without this volunteer army of 75 people on-site daily at the CTICC (and now at GrandWest) and a further 150 across the Peninsula, there would be no Ladles of Love. As one volunteer, Vusi Skhosana, puts it: "I believe in being a part of a community and helping where I can."

Co-managing directors of events company Rainbow Experiential Marketing, Alison McCutcheon and Debbie McGuire share these sentiments. They offered their time and expertise as their industry is closed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The pair, who usually assist Danny with his Mandela Day homeless event, came on board to help

co-ordinate the sandwich drive which had hit epic proportions. "They needed help. I assessed the situation and realised they needed structure, a clear campaign and a new roof over their heads. In a week, I pulled all the elements together including sponsorship," says Alison.

Volunteer Hilary Stern says the sandwich drive is the brainchild of her daughter, Samara Stern, who suggested asking close friends and relatives to make sandwiches for the destitute. Hilary and Samara then drove from house to house, collecting them. The idea grew like wildfire. Suddenly, every night, families were boiling eggs and making sandwiches instead of watching Netflix. With Alison's help, the initiative is now slick and streamlined, with designated sandwich drop-off points across Cape Town.

FACING THE FUTURE

Alison and Debbie were also instrumental in getting the CTICC to offer temporary use of the venue, and manage the operation's logistics. When the CTICC agreement came to an end in June, Ladles of Love moved

to the GrandWest Casino and Entertainment World which is accommodating their impressive operation until September. There is no turning back. The need is too big. Danny is hopeful they can sustain the pace and the output. After all, he believes in miracles. "This is humanity in action. I always say that Covid-19 is a virus to our body but medicine to humanity."

MANDELA DAY

On Mandela Day, Ladles of Love, which has shown that anything is possible, set its sights on making 125 000 sandwiches in one hour to feed poor communities.

Once again an army of volunteers all over Cape Town joined hands and made over 300 000 sandwiches in an hour, far exceeding the Mandela Day goal set by Ladles of Love. With the feat, the organisation beat the Guinness World Record (which stands at 57 000 sandwiches) and their own South African record set last year on Mandela Day of 107 000.



LADLES OF LOVE VOLUNTEERS PREPARING FOOD.



THE OPERATION WHEN IT WAS STILL AT CTICC 2.