

Finding depth

Almost overnight, roots shot out and our sapling bulked up! We've had a wild and wonderful month, with more and more people throwing their weight behind us to help this little tree grow into one that can hold swings and treehouses for generations to come.

We raised the full property purchase price of R2.75m, our team is growing, our financial model to ensure stability during our first few years is in place, we hosted a beautiful information event at Île de Pain, with another coming up at Simola, and we're welcoming more monthly contributors. The dream is no longer just a dream—it is real.



Eden House

Why is Eden House necessary?

When a little girl is repeatedly raped by her own father or brother, while the rest of the family looks the other way, where in Knysna can she hide when darkness settles in? When a little boy is violently assaulted over and over by the very parent who is meant to protect him, where can he run to? Nowhere.

In Knysna, there are hardly any alternatives for social workers to place children whose homes are unsafe. The waiting list for children's homes, last we checked, included more than 800 children—far too many to help a child who needs immediate protection.

We need a registered, stable, well-run children's home where these children can find safety, healing, and a genuine second chance at life—and where the cycle of abuse and neglect can begin to be broken.

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." (Mandela)

Our children matter.
What they do matters.
How they turn out matters.

We'll do this, because Knysna is not only beautiful;
Knysna has soul.

Our very first event

With the support of the formidable Île de Pain team Pauli and Willem Botha, we hosted a lovely evening to introduce Eden House. This was not a fundraising event, but our public debut—our first step into the community. We shared the what, why, where and how of Eden House.

"What a privilege it was to be there. It was a really special evening. but what touched me most was seeing the love, care and commitment behind Eden House. You're making a real difference in people's lives. You touched our hearts. and we'll support you however we can."

Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening possible. We loved sharing our story and vision.



Introducing Eden House at Île de Pain

Meet the team



Chairperson

Our Chairperson, Lucia Huyser, is a SAICA-registered Chartered Accountant with an MCom in Tax. She has served as the Financial Manager of a business she helped establish for more than 25 years. In addition, she has almost a decade of experience in NPO governance as a board member.



Governance and Strategy

Ensuring good governance and strategic direction is Director Philip Wessels, a retired Chartered Accountant and highly respected banking executive with decades of senior leadership experience at Nedbank, where he served in executive roles including Managing Executive: Retail & Business Banking and Chief Risk Officer. He brings extensive expertise in governance, risk management and organisational leadership to help guide Eden House's long-term sustainability.



MD

Our Managing Director, Hilde Hay, is a research psychologist specialising in career development, programme design and facilitation. She has dedicated her career to strengthening individuals and organisations and now leads the establishment of Eden House, overseeing the development of its vision, partnerships, fundraising and organisational foundations.



finance

Finance Director Pierre Gouws is a CA and owner of Southern Right Financial Services in Knysna, which provides bookkeeping services to Eden House.



Events

Vicky du Toit has a background in hospitality and real estate and is focused on building community partnerships. As a mother herself, she is passionate about helping children without good beginnings have the opportunity for a good life. Eden House has become a cause to which she is 100% committed.



Kim has deep roots in Knysna. Qualified in Early Childhood Education, she has spent the past seven years in the hospitality industry designing children's programmes at resorts. She is deeply committed to the Eden House vision and gives tirelessly of her time to help make it a reality.



Project Manager

Pia Mitchell is a business consultant who generously volunteers her expertise to Eden House, helping build the organisational scaffolding needed to align its many moving parts and support sustainable growth, alongside her other professional and personal commitments.

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- All of our directors and team members serve entirely on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration or reimbursement for their time or expenses.
 - Director positions are filled deliberately and carefully with individuals who bring the expertise, passion and capacity required to establish Eden House.
 - We currently have two vacancies, which will be filled once we identify the right people to complement the existing board and better reflect the community of Knysna.



Astonishing property news

Last month, we told you that we had until 14 August to raise the remaining R480 000 of the R2.75m property purchase price. This morning, we received a donation of R65 000 from the Round Table of Knysna, taking us across this first finish line.

We have achieved our first huge goal!

Our hearts are overflowing with gratitude for the trust that friends, family and community members have placed in this project. We are committed to honouring that trust by being exceptional custodians, giving our children the care we promise.

Every end is a new beginning. For us, this means preparing our home. In Bernie Naser from the Round Table's words:

"Dis nou net die begin. Die maklike deel is verby, nou moet ons hierdie baba grootmaak!"

(I don't know about easy, Bernie...🤔)

Securing and preparing the property

Reconfiguration is estimated at R1.9m. Work will begin once transfer is complete and funding becomes available. Please get in touch if you're in the building industry and want to help prepare our home!

Upcoming event

This is one for the girls. Find a few friends, book a table, and let's welcome spring in Knysna with Saturday afternoon sisterhood!

Invite your partners and friends to join us at Simola for the rugby test that starts at 5 pm, after the tea party.

There'll be raffles and great prizes to win.

If you can't book a complete table, get in touch with Kim or Vickey to share a table with others.

Thank you to **Avril Kaschula and the Simola team**, who are sponsoring this event in full, so that every cent goes directly towards Eden House.



Hats of Hope

Eden House

A LADIES' HIGH TEA

100% OF THE PROCEEDS TO GO TO EDEN HOUSE, KNYSNA

Grab your hats, gather your girls, and let's have a fabulous afternoon for a great cause!



GREAT PRIZES TO BE WON!

 PRICE R5,000 per table of 10	 VENUE Simola Hotel Knysna	 DATE Saturday, 5 September	 TIME 2:00 - 5:00pm
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YOUR BOOKING INCLUDES

- ✓ Savoury delicacies
- ✓ Decadent Desserts
- ✓ Premium teas & coffee



CASH BAR available



RUGBY FAN?
Join us in the bar afterwards for the rugby that starts at 5 pm!



RSVP by 31 August

	Vickey	079 071 6963
	Kim	081 868 0429

PROUDLY SPONSORED BY:



Simola
GOLF & COUNTRY ESTATE

www.edenhouse.org.za





Section 18A

Eden House is PBO / Section 18A approved. That means government helps make your donation go further—now that's worth taking up! For example, if you or your business are in the higher tax brackets, a R4 000 donation could be only R2 400 out of pocket.

Cyril picks up the tab for the rest!

Our Financial Model

We're deliberately focusing on deep roots and long-term stability, so that Eden House will grow strong and provide safety for children for a hundred years and beyond.

Many of us would love to foster a child whose home has become too unsafe, but the responsibility of taking a child into our own home can feel overwhelming. Through Eden House, you can help provide that same safety and care by enabling trained, loving and fairly paid staff to do what they do best.

Our financial model and budget have been built around monthly, long-term support. Rather than relying on once-off, unpredictable donations, we invite our Eden House family to become part of each child's journey by committing to monthly contributions for a three-year period. That gives us the stability and peace of mind to focus on what matters most: the children.



Banking details

Bank name: Capitec Bank
Account Name: Eden House Knysna NPC
Account Type: Current
Account Number: 7055118462
Branch Code: 450105
SWIFT Code: CABLZAJJ

Please let us know when you've set up a recurring EFT or made a once-off donation to the Eden House bank account. When you help build, we want you to be part of the journey. We'd love to keep in touch and send you updates about what you're helping to bring about.

For your **protection:**

Please note that our bank details, as listed on our website, will never change, and all communication will come from info@edenhouse.org.za.

We love hearing from you—send us an email on info@edenhouse.org.za. We will keep you informed as we move forward.

As a community, we're creating something deeply needed—together.

Visit our website: www.edenhouse.org.za



Eden House