

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF CAPE TOWN 2025
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ON 23 OCTOBER 2025 AT KELVIN GROVE AT 10H30



President
Vice President and Speaker Chair
Group Leader Chair
Area Representative Chair
Treasurer
Secretary
Membership Chair
Philanthropy Chair
Social Media Chair

Shelley Monček
Katrine Collins
Marcela Solis
Tracy Symmonds
Robin Perros
Gisela Collins
Pat Cairns
Caroline Bagley
Linda Smorenburg

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF CAPE TOWN
2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 23 OCTOBER 2025

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome and Apologies
2. 2024 Minutes – Proposed & Seconded
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Auditor's Report
6. Questions on Financial Reports – Accounts Proposed & Seconded
7. Membership's Report
8. Group Leaders' Report
9. Area Reps' Report
10. Philanthropy's Report
11. Speaker's Report
12. Secretary's Report
13. Social Media's Report
14. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution – Proposer and Seconder
15. Questions from members
16. Margi Biggs of the Nomination Committee introduces 2026 Board
17. President – Thank you
18. Close of Meeting

PRESIDENT'S AGM REPORT 2025

As we gather here today for our AGM, I would like to take a moment to reflect on the past year and the incredible work our Board has accomplished. As President, I have had the privilege of working alongside a dedicated and passionate team of Board members.

Our Board underwent some changes this year, with only two members continuing from 2024. Despite our differences in personality, which sometimes presented challenges, we worked tirelessly to ensure that the needs of our members remained our top priority. I am proud to say that through collaboration, determination and a shared commitment to service we navigated various obstacles and achieved significant milestones.

I would like to take a moment to highlight the exceptional contributions of some of our Board members.

Tracy, our Area Leaders Chair, has been instrumental in supporting our Area Leaders and members, and has developed an excellent mentorship programme, which I hope will continue to flourish next year. Her dedication and leadership have been invaluable to our Club.

Linda, our Social Media Chair, has done outstanding work, growing our online presence and providing support to members who need help navigating technology. Her workshop on WhatsApp, Facebook and website navigation was a huge success, and I am so grateful for her patience and expertise.

Pat, our Membership Chair, has been working tirelessly behind the scenes, personally reaching out to each new member, meeting them for coffee and answering any questions they may have had about our Club. We have had 44 new members join our Club this year.

Katrine, our Speaker Chair, created an impressive line-up of speakers this year, showcasing a diverse range of topics and styles. From entertaining and fun speakers, to more serious and thought-provoking presentations, Katrine has done an excellent job in sourcing speakers who cater to our members' diverse interests.

I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of Caroline, our Philanthropy Chair, who has carefully selected charities that are truly making a difference in our community. Some of these charities will be receiving cash donations from our members today, and I am so grateful for Caroline's dedication to giving back.

I would also like to thank Marcela, our Group Leaders Chair, for her hard work in collecting information from our Group Leaders and compiling it into a calendar for the newsletter. Your organisational skills and attention to detail are greatly appreciated.

A very big thank you to Robin, our Treasurer, and Gisela, our Secretary, who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. I could not have done this without you!

Last but most certainly not least, I would like to extend a special thank you to Leen, our Newsletter Editor, who has consistently produced a vibrant and colourful newsletter every month, keeping our members up-to-date on Club news, events, and activities - your creativity and dedication are truly appreciated.

Thank you to our members for their trust and support. I would also like to thank the outgoing Board members for their service and welcome our new Board members joining us in 2026.

Shelley Monček - President 2025

TREASURER'S AGM REPORT 2025

The Club's 2025 financial year both began and ends in a healthy position.

This year we welcomed 44 new members to the Club. Apart from the joining and subscription fees, the Club earned R22,700 in visitor fees. In addition, the Club's cash reserves generated a considerable amount of interest despite the 125 basis point cut in interest rates over the past 12 months.

The preparation of the Club's reserve policy document to detail how the reserves are managed and under what circumstances they can be accessed was not actioned this year but is high on the list of items for the 2026 Board to address. These funds have continued to earn interest in the 32-day notice account. These reserves are shown as equity on this year's Statement of Financial Position (formerly known as Balance Sheet) under the Restricted Funds heading.

The Club faced increasing costs, in some cases exceeding general inflation. The largest single expense in our Functions and Meetings line item, the hiring of Kelvin Grove's ballroom for our monthly General Meetings, increased by 51.5% this year, the room rental for this AGM increased by 300%, the annual cost of licensed software used by Treasury went up by 11.5%, and the Club's Microsoft 365 plan is facing a 33% increase, to name a few.

We incurred an unexpected professional fees expense – the hiring of a firm of accountants and auditors to conduct the 2025 audit of financial statements - as Lorraine Mewett, who has kindly carried out this exercise for the past several years, was not available to do so this year. The Board contacted several audit firms, obtained quotes from two and contracted Vantage Chartered Accountants (SA) & Registered Auditors. Vantage audited the Club's Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2025 in compliance with the requirements of our Constitution and the Independent Auditor's Report, extracted from the full Annual Financial Statement pack, is included below. David Young of Vantage will be giving feedback on the outcome of our audit.

The Statement of Financial Position (formerly called the Balance Sheet) and the Income Statement presented below have also been extracted from the full Annual Financial Statement pack.

Following a discussion with the auditor it was decided to expense the remaining value of the Club's book trolley (R829) and reallocate this small piece of equipment to capital expenditure for appropriate categorisation and disclosure.

At the beginning of this year, following a request from one of our members, the Board agreed to offer the use of the Club's YOCO machine at our monthly General Meetings for Philanthropy donations and purchases of books and raffle tickets and to absorb the cost thereof. As of 30 September, these transactions totalled R6,870, 36% of which was raffle ticket purchases and 44% of which was donations to our September charity The Darling Trust. The uptake has been growing as more members become aware of this service.

The increase of subscription and joining fees to R950 in 2025 together with our welcoming of 44 new members and the Board's continued mindfulness to cut or control costs where possible allowed the Club to absorb the increases and unexpected expenses. At the September General Meeting the Board announced its decision to keep joining and subscription fees unchanged for the 2026 financial year.

I draw your attention to the fact that this year the Club financials reflect a surplus of R57,876, a considerable jump from previous years. We received clarification from our auditor regarding the source of Club income and our tax status. The Club's income from membership dues and philanthropic donations are not considered a trading activity because they are collected for mutual benefit or philanthropic intent and as such do not generate profit for the Club. Our visitor fee income is seen as temporary membership income. In future, the Club does not need to be concerned about a tax liability from a surplus from these particular sources of income.

Moving on to Philanthropy, IWC member generosity, together with the dedication and hard work of our Philanthropy Chair, Group Leaders, Red Hat and Book Stall Ladies, translated to a total philanthropy collection of R123,250, a nearly 44% increase as compared with last financial year. After paying our monthly charities R56,210, a balance of R67,040 was available for our year-end charities as voted by members to receive additional funds. A contribution of R4,960 from Club funds brought the final year-end philanthropy pot total to R72,000. Caroline will elaborate on this in her report.

While this year's audit has been a valuable exercise, the Board decided to propose a change of wording to a clause in the Club's Constitution that would allow future Boards the flexibility to contract the services of an external party to agree that the annual financial statements prepared by the Treasurer align with the underlying accounting records without necessarily going to the expense of a full audit. Shelley will present the proposed amendment which will be put to the vote.

This has been a year of many challenges but also a year of tremendous growth for me. As I leave my position as Treasurer, I would like to thank our auditor, David Young, for his patience, guidance and handholding in the days and weeks leading up to and during the audit. I thank my fellow Board members for their encouragement and support and wish my replacement Julie Shadwell every success. I must also express my deep gratitude to my predecessor Alison Formolli for her mentorship and generosity.

Robin Perros, Treasurer 2025

The International Women's Club of Cape Town

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2025

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 September 2025

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2025	2024
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	-	829
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables		-	(190)
Cash and cash equivalents	3	561,769	549,985
		561,769	549,795
Total Assets		561,769	550,624
Equity and Liabilities			
Equity			
Restricted fund		164,033	164,033
Retained earnings		67,779	9,903
		231,812	173,936
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	4	329,957	376,688
Total Equity and Liabilities		561,769	550,624

Notes:

2 **Property, plant and equipment**
Book trolley written off

3 **Cash and cash equivalents**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Petty cash	2,219	10,837
Current account	11,089	3,241
32-day notice account	166,441	154,688
Money market account	382,020	381,219

4 **Trade and other payables**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Accrued expenses	300,000	327,000
Party tickets	24,591	41,125
Trade payables	5,366	8,563

The International Women's Club of Cape Town

Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 September 2025

Income Statement

Figures in Rand	Note(s)	2025	2024
Revenue			
Membership and joining fees		406,220	334,475
Other income			
Badge fines		2,260	2,980
Collections for charity	5	123,250	85,962
Sales and other income		482	2,900
Visitor fees		22,700	19,900
		148,692	111,742
Operating expenses			
Audit fees		(19,550)	-
Badges		(5,483)	(2,799)
Bank charges		(2,292)	(1,927)
Computer expenses		(590)	(45,496)
Computer software and subscriptions		(7,105)	-
Depreciation		-	(207)
Functions and meetings		(168,488)	(137,617)
Hospitality, flowers and gifts		(4,325)	(10,084)
Merchandise and promotional items		-	(50)
Payments to charities and donations		(128,210)	(132,350)
Printing and stationery		(1,510)	(1,296)
Professional fees		(4,828)	(1,229)
Speakers fees		(27,833)	(11,950)
Speakers lunches		(3,102)	(2,940)
Thank you functions	6	(38,099)	(34,653)
Webpage		(4,844)	(5,899)
Year-end function		(120,002)	(96,031)
		(536,261)	(484,528)
Operating surplus (deficit)		18,651	(38,311)
Bank interest income		40,054	40,933
Capital expenses		(829)	-
		39,225	40,933
Surplus for the year		57,876	2,622

Notes:

5 Collections for charity

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Book sales	11,910	7,840
Group leaders' contribution	12,920	19,150
Monthly charity	56,210	24,350
Other donations	6,130	3,052
Raffle tickets	36,080	31,570

6 Thank you functions

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Board lunch	7,078	8,489
Group & Area Leaders	24,010	17,944
Past Presidents' lunch	7,011	7,220



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of The International Women's Club of Cape Town

Qualified Opinion

We have audited the annual financial statements of The International Women's Club of Cape Town (the association) set out on pages 7 to 14, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 September 2025; the income statement; the statement of changes in equity; the statement of cash flows for the year then ended; and notes to the annual financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, except for the possible effect of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the annual financial statements of The International Women's Club of Cape Town for the year ended 30 September 2025 are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the annual financial statements and the requirements of the club constitution.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with similar organisations, donations and income received have been recorded on a cash received basis, as it is not feasible for the association to institute accounting controls over funds received prior to the receipt of those funds into the bank account. We agree that, due to the nature of the donations and income, this is the correct accounting treatment. Accordingly, it was impracticable for us to extend our examination beyond the receipts actually recorded. This qualification does not extend to membership fees nor interest income.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Annual Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors (IRBA Code) and other independence requirements applicable to performing audits of financial statements in South Africa. We have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IRBA Code and in accordance with other ethical requirements applicable to performing audits in South Africa. The IRBA Code is consistent with the corresponding sections of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards). We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the annual financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with the association's own accounting policies to satisfy the financial information needs of the association's members. As a result, the annual financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other Information

The board members are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the document titled "The International Women's Club of Cape Town annual financial statements for the year ended 30 September 2025", which includes the Board Members Report, which we obtained prior to the date of this report. The other information does not include the annual financial statements and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the annual financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the annual financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the annual financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.



Independent Auditor's Report

Responsibilities of the Board Members for the Annual Financial Statements

The board members are responsible for the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the annual financial statements and the requirements of the club constitution, for determining that the basis of preparation is acceptable in the circumstance and for such internal control as the board members determine is necessary to enable the preparation of annual financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the annual financial statements, the board members are responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the board members either intend to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Annual Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the annual financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these annual financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the annual financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the board members.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the board members use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the annual financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.

David Young
Partner
Vantage Chartered Accountants (SA) & Registered Auditors

Cape Town, 23 October 2025

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR'S REPORT AGM 2025

As we draw to the close of the IWC year, and I cast my mind back to October 2024, I can honestly say that I have been on a learning curve of note. When I was approached to be the Membership Chair, I had not been in a secretarial position for many years, so I had plenty to learn, especially on the computer. If anyone had asked me at the beginning if I would be staying on for 2026, the answer would definitely have been "No". But as the year progressed and I found my feet, I realised how wonderful it has been for me to play a role in the Club.

On the whole, we have had a successful year growing the IWC membership.

The membership data base at the beginning of January 2025 recorded:

- 356 paying members
- 12 Honorary Members
- 237 International Members
- 119 South African members
- Ratio - International 67% and South African 33%
- Grand Total: 368 members

Throughout the year we have had a couple of resignations and have sadly lost three long-time members.

As at 30 September 2025 the membership database recorded the following:

- 377 paying members
- 11 Honorary members
- 251 International members
- 126 South African members
- Ratio - International 67% and South African 33%
- Grand Total: 388 members

At the handover last year, there were a considerable number of applications that had not been processed. In addition, there was a long waiting list of South African applicants who were not eligible to join due to the constitution requiring a 2:1 ratio of International to South African members. Keeping this ratio in mind, I am happy to say that I have managed to introduce 44 new members, 14 of whom are South Africans. All the awaiting applicants have been processed and are now members of the Club.

I have interacted with all these new members, who have been delighted to officially be part of the IWC. Currently the average age is 71.5, which means we should focus on trying to get the younger generation to become members.

In total the IWC of Cape Town has 388 members, representing 44 countries from around the world, with the UK and Germany having the highest representation after South Africa.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone who has helped me in whatever role you have played as well as my colleagues and fellow members. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to be the Membership Chair for 2025, and as we go forward into 2026 I trust the IWC will go from strength to strength.

Pat Cairns, Membership Chair 2025

GROUP LEADER CHAIR'S AGM REPORT 2025

This has been my third consecutive year on the Board. It has been a year of making more friends and deepening relationships with others.

I have had a busy time putting together calendars, schedules and being part of the organisation of our newsletter, which is an important part of our Club. I am also part of the Year-End-Party organisation team as well as of the Thank-You-Party for our Group Leaders & Area Reps.

As the International Women's Club of Cape Town, we are a dynamic group of women. We have 32 activities so far, which cover different areas of interest, such as:

- Music, theatre, movies and games
- Outdoor activities and fitness
- Languages and lectures
- Eating out: In restaurants or hosted by members in their homes
- Wine tasting
- Art, design, cultural and tourist events
- Deep conversations and book events
- Hotel journeys
- Crafts

Life changes, and so do the activities in our Club. These are the changes of some of our events:

- Creative Crafts – formerly Stitch in Time
- Morning Tea Mingle – formerly Elevenses
- Ageless Fitness – a new activity that was created recently and is run by Dee Desmet

I would also like to inform you that the following two activities will not have Group Leaders in 2026:

- Salad/Soup and Sweet
- Sunday Lunch

I would appreciate it if new members volunteered to take over these groups.

- “Walk & Talk” is not happening anymore since there is no interest in it.

The Board and IWC members appreciate all the Group Leaders' commitment, responsibility, contribution and passion in organising all the activities, outings, gatherings and lectures.

It has been a pleasure for me to be part of this amazing community of fantastic women. Thank you very much to all of you!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2025 Board Members for their support and friendship.

I would also like to thank Leen Verstraete, our newsletter editor, for her fantastic job in putting it all together.

Marcela Solis, Group Leader Chair 2025

AREA REPRESENTATIVE CHAIR'S AGM REPORT 2025

1. Area 5 Leadership and Restructuring

Area 5 faced a leadership vacuum following its leader's resignation. Multiple calls for volunteers yielded no successor. Following consultation and Board approval, the area was temporarily disbanded. Members were redistributed among Areas 4, 6 and 10. The Area 5 WhatsApp group remains active for communication continuity.

2. Newcomer Integration Initiatives

A Newcomers' WhatsApp group was launched in January 2025 as a temporary support and networking hub. Monthly coffee chats (from February onward) have been successful, promoting connections and engagement among new members. Multiple consultations were held with Maureen Collins and other Board members to refine newcomer engagement models. Priority booking for newcomers at Club events (a trial period of 3 months' grace) was implemented in August.

3. Onboarding and Mentorship Programme Development

Ongoing concerns about inconsistent newcomer integration were addressed, specifically the need for structured mentorship. Each (willing) newcomer is assigned a "mentor" within her area, fostering smaller social meetings and strengthening personal ties. The proposal was approved in principle by the Board. In October, the Mentorship Initiative was formally launched via the newsletter and at the General Meeting. Members were invited to volunteer as short-term mentors (a three-month commitment). The Area Rep Chair is currently coordinating the rollout, communication with area reps and mentor recruitment. By 8 October, an impressive 20 volunteers had signed up. Mentorship guidelines and processes will be developed further in 2026.

4. Communication and Structural Improvements

No existing records of members per area were available to this Chair in January. These had to be created and circulated to Area Reps and routinely updated. To enhance visibility and networking, suburb names were added to the members' directory and website listings to help coordinate lifts and social links. Updated area-suburb breakdowns were created for the newsletter.

5. Overall Assessment

2025 marked significant restructuring and innovation in area management and member integration. The disbanding of Area 5, creation of the Newcomers' Network and initiation of the Mentorship Programme were the year's defining achievements. It was a stimulating, busy year and a privilege to serve the Club. My appreciation and thanks to our stalwart Area Reps for their service, generous communication and support. I am certain they will similarly support Simi Sheikh as she assumes this portfolio in 2026. My best wishes to you all.

Tracy Symmonds, Area Representative Chair 2025

PHILANTHROPY CHAIR'S AGM REPORT 2025

This has been a very successful year for philanthropy. Members have, as always, been most generous with both donated items and cash for the causes which the Club has chosen to support. In total we have raised an incredible **R123,250**, an increase of **44 %** on 2024.

In addition to the goods we have collected, we have already distributed donations of **R56,210** to our monthly charities, which were:

February: St Michael's Home for Girls in Plumstead
March: Tiny Owls Baby Home in Durbanville
April: Nonceba in Khayelitsha
May: Vetsol Somerset West
June: Masikhule Childcare in Somerset West
July: New Hope SA in Muizenberg
August: The Carel du Toit Centre for Deaf Children in Tygerberg
September: The Darling Trust in Darling. A special thank you again, members, for your outstanding support in raising nearly R30,000 for it.
October: Masicorp in Kommetjie

All these organisations have been recommended by our members and carefully vetted by your Philanthropy Chair.

In respect of the end of year donations to the charities you have voted for, I can report that a total of **R67,040** will be available for distribution. This is made up from raffle ticket sales, book stall purchases, Group Leader contributions as well as other ad hoc donations; for instance some hosts donate their hosting fees to Philanthropy.

In addition, the Club has donated a further **R4,960**. For all of you who participated in the poll, I thank you. The voting results for the above charities are as follows. Yet again 3 and 4 were identical so we have four winners again.

The winners will share R72,000. The following will receive R18,000 each:

- St Michael's Home for Girls
- Tiny Owls Baby Home
- Carel du Toit Centre for the Deaf
- Vetsol

They will receive their proof of payments when they join your 2025 Board for lunch shortly.

Other Philanthropy projects for 2025 included:

I love Boobies: We collected hundreds of pre-loved bras for underprivileged women who sadly often only present with breast cancer in the very advanced stages.

We continued collecting swimming costumes for the **NSRI**, who provide swimming lessons and teach water safety.

After a brief pause, the collection of plastic bottle tops resumed, as we found an alternative recipient. All these items are exchanged to purchase wheelchairs.

Bread tags and empty bread bags remain ongoing projects.

The Red Hat Ladies, under the formidable leadership of Barbara Smith, have had another fabulous year, raising the grand total of **R36,080** from raffle ticket sales, nearly a 15% increase on 2024. The team has gone from strength to strength, and I thank all their volunteers. Please consider joining the

Red Hat team in 2026. It's a great way to meet the members, especially if you are relatively new to the Club.

The Book Stall Ladies, under the leadership of Antoinette Pendrea-Noye, added an amazing **R11,910 up 45% on 2024**. This would not be possible without members' kind donations. New donations in February 2026 will be very welcome.

Special thanks also go out to Lindsey Kann and Mabelle Ackert, who staff our philanthropy desk every month, collecting, sorting, and bagging up all the donations. Their efforts are really appreciated.

We also thank Geraldine Berry, who has run the bottle tops and bread tag projects for many years, putting hours into separating the two items from each other so that they go to the correct place.

Car Seat campaign for African Brain Child led by Maxine Peters

This project was brilliantly coordinated by Maxine and yielded a magnificent total of 49 car seats. It was a huge logistical challenge for her, and we thank her for her efforts and passion.

I wish my successor a wonderful year as the Philanthropy Chair for 2026. I will be available to assist.

Caroline Bagley, Philanthropy Chair 2025

SPEAKER CHAIR'S AGM REPORT 2025

Before highlighting speakers in 2025, I wish to thank most sincerely both the Board and all our members for their enthusiastic support this year. Attendance has been very gratifying indeed across all topics, even during the winter months when many were travelling.

In selecting speakers this year, my aim was twofold: to feature accomplished and engaging public speakers, and, most importantly, to present diverse topics that were motivational, inspiring, and which would elevate both spirit and mind. I trust I accomplished this mission.

We began the year in **February** with two unusual speakers from Bloemfontein — **Shéri Brynard**, a Down Syndrome survivor, and her mother, **Dr. Susette Brynard**. In her inspiring talk, '**Defying Expectations**', Shéri shared her journey of perseverance and advocacy for people with disabilities and astounded us by her own remarkable personal achievements.

In **March**, we welcomed back an IWC favourite, **Dr. Bob Baigrie**, with his captivating talk and enhanced by his signature humour, '**Antarctica from a Tall Ship: Tales from the Ship's Surgeon & Guide**'.

In **April**, **David Collins** had us both amazed, yet challenged, by his excellent presentation on **Global Warming**, one of the most urgent crises of our time.

In **May**, we were totally enchanted by a presentation from one of our own members, **Elizabeth Handley**. Her talk, aptly entitled, '**Provence – A Feast for all the Senses**', took us on a vivid multi-sensory journey through this beautiful area of Southern France.

June brought a very absorbing double feature with **Dr. Justus Apffelstaedt** and **Dr. Fatima Hoosain**, who shared their expertise on '**30 Years of Progress in Breast Cancer**'. They explored groundbreaking advances in surgery, medications, radiation and technology, while Dr. Hoosain provided a thorough overview of treatment and care.

In **July** we loved the powerful and captivating presentation, '**A Journey Through Wildfire**', by award-winning London fashion photographer, **Patrick Ryan**. Patrick shared how an unexpected encounter

with a wildfire on Devil's Peak transformed his career path, leading him to train as a firefighter and found his own fire-fighting company.

In **August**, to mark Women's Month, I invited a highly qualified health coach, **Alison Zweers**, who presented a most informative talk, entitled '**How to Live Agelessly**', in which she shared practical, science-based strategies for well-being, through mid-life and beyond.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly our traditional Spring Hat Day in **September**, featuring Pieter-Dirk Uys and his iconic alter ego, **Evita Bezuidenhout**. Her hilarious satirical performance entitled '**Evita at 90**' proved a resounding success and at her request, all proceeds (R30,000 worth) went to The Darling Trust.

In **October**, a world-renowned storyteller, **Rob Caskie**, recounted one of his many stories, entitled '**Snow Widows – Those Left Behind**.' This riveting tragic story concerned the five women devastated by the loss of their men on Scott's Antarctic expedition who all perished on return from the South Pole around 1912.

And thus concludes my round-up of speakers for 2025 and, although my stepping down is tinged with some sadness as I have so enjoyed this role, I can, with full confidence, hand over the baton to our new 2026 Speaker Chair, Kate George Weaver-Gibbs. Kate, as a (much younger!) vibrant and accomplished public speaker herself, will bring freshness to the position, and I wish her every success in the year ahead.

Katrine Collins, Speaker Chair 2025

SECRETARY'S AGM REPORT 2025

Kelvin Grove continued to provide the facilities and services required by the IWC for the monthly General Meetings and Board Meetings during 2025. We thank Shahiema and her team for their assistance throughout the year. Building a ramp for the stage in the Ball Room to help our less "stable" members during our monthly General Meetings was particularly appreciated!

There was an average attendance of 191 members and guests at the General Meetings this year.

The meeting in September, with Evita Bezuidenhout as speaker, drew the highest attendance with 254 members and guests. The number of guests attending this meeting was 79 – this is by far the most number at any meeting in 2025.

The Friendship Lunch tables at The Grove Restaurant, which were introduced two years ago for new and established members to meet other members, continued to grow in popularity this year.

The menu specifically offered to IWC members has reduced the waiting time in the restaurant. Our appreciation goes to Fabian and his hardworking restaurant team.

I wish to thank Shelley and my 2025 Board colleagues very much for their unwavering support and friendship; it has been a privilege to serve on the Board with them, and I look forward to continuing in my role as Secretary in 2026.

Gisela Collins, Secretary 2025

SOCIAL MEDIA'S AGM REPORT 2025

Being part of the Board has been an interesting journey for me. What I thought was going to be an easy portfolio, turned out to be quite challenging, mainly because of the huge complexity of the programmes and inflexibility between Android and Apple IOS phone systems. My predecessor was often out of the country, which meant I had to rely on whoever was available to assist me. It certainly has been a big learning curve for me. I believe that all out-going Social Media Chairs, should remain available for at least one month (once activity commences) to help with any technical misunderstandings or confusion.

Consent

The POPI Act (Protection of Personal Information Act) is South Africa's data protection law that safeguards individuals' personal information by establishing conditions for its lawful collection, use, storage and sharing. To comply with this law, we provide consent forms for members to complete. We have included the necessary clauses in our application form for new members to sign, and we continue to monitor consent from earlier members.

Website

I spent the first month of the year updating information on Group Leaders, Area Leaders and event photographs. Our website is easy to navigate, very informative, and the new password system is working well. Most members have managed to upgrade their computer skills and access the newsletter without an issue.

WhatsApp and the Broadcast Phone

WhatsApp has been a wonderful way to communicate with Club members and is also a way for Club members to communicate with each other. We conducted a WhatsApp training session during the year, and it was well attended and much enjoyed. Despite telling members that the Broadcast Phone is unattended, numerous phone calls and messages are sent to this phone daily.

Photo Hub WhatsApp Group

The Photo Hub is very entertaining for the members. However, due to the numerous complaints regarding the number of photos and comments posted, we have imposed certain restrictions. Only Group and Area Leaders may place photographs of their events on the Photo Hub and then, no more than 10 photographs per event. Not all members wish to be on the Photo Hub, so members must request to be added.

Facebook

Facebook is only for approved IWC members, and they must request to join if they wish to do so. Only Group and Area Leaders are permitted to post photographs, which must pertain to IWC related events. Leaders may place as many photographs as they wish, and members may comment as often as they wish. As the number of registered members has not increased significantly, we should consider ways of encouraging more participation.

Linda Smorenburg, Social Media Chair 2025

APPENDIX

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE IWC CONSTITUTION

The following amendment to the Constitution of the International Women's Club of Cape Town is proposed and will be presented at the 2025 AGM for member approval.

The proposed change is to the wording of Clause 1., Article VI - Duties, A-EXECUTIVE BOARD.

In past years the Club was fortunate to have had access to the services of accountants to review and agree the Treasurer's annual financial statements. In the absence of such a person this year and due to the vague yet restrictive wording in the Constitution, the Club needed to employ an independent firm of auditors to conduct a full audit, formalise the financials to bring them in line with current reporting standards as well as update the audit report to reflect current reporting requirements. These professional fees were not budgeted for, but the Club was thankfully able to absorb this unforeseen expense. While this year's audit has been a valuable exercise, the proposed change to the wording in this clause will allow future Boards the flexibility to contract the services of an external party to review and agree the Treasurer's financial statements, as has been conducted in the past. It should be noted that this change in wording would not preclude the possibility of a full independent audit at any time, if deemed necessary or appropriate.

Original (part) paragraph:

... She shall appoint a person to audit the Treasurer's report annually.

New (part) paragraph:

... She shall appoint an independent external individual to agree that the annual financial statements prepared by the Treasurer align with the underlying accounting records.