The Owl Club

NOTICE

Tuesday 18th November 2025: Notice of meeting #1377

Founded 1894

Visit our website at www.owls.org.za for current notice, back notices, Constitution (as amended 2021), In Memoriam 1894-2023, list of members and more.

Committee 2025/2026

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The Owl Club, Standard Bank of South Africa

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Dear Fellow Owls

The 1377th meeting of The Owl Club, preceded by dinner, will be held on Tuesday 18th October 2025, 6:00 pm for 6:45 pm start, in the Grill Room, Kelvin Grove Club.

Chairman: **President Owl Mike James**

Guest speaker: **Nicole Strauss** on the topic of: ***"Echoes of Deelfontein: War, Light, and Memory"***

"Tracing the paths between a remote Karoo field hospital and the present, where the intensities of history, disease, and empire meet the quiet power of art to see, remember, and illuminate."

"Nicole Jaekel Strauss was born and bred in Cape Town. She completed BComm and LLB degrees at Stellenbosch University in 1995 and, after some time spent overseas, qualified as an attorney and then advocate and practiced in Cape Town.

After the birth of her third child in 2008, she obtained an MA in Creative Writing (cum laude) at the University of Cape Town in 2009. Her first book, a collection of short stories, was published in 2010 and a second collection followed in 2017. Thereafter followed two novels; Deelfontein was published in 2023."

Music: **Owl Doc Caldwell with Albie van Schlakwyk (piano) and C Snyman (voice)**

"The entertainment for the evening will be led by Owl Doc Caldwell who will be singing alongside bass-baritone Christiaan Snyman and accompanied on the piano by renowned pianist Albie van Schalkwyk, in a delightfully mixed programme stretching from classical and romantic to modern musicals such as Fiddler on the Roof, Les Miserables and some Flanders and Swann ."

WPB: **Owl Roxane Mather** on the topic of**:** ***"The Myths We Still Live By: Greek Mythology in Modern Times"***

Dinner fee: R350.

Dress: Black tie (or similarly elegant attire).

RESERVATIONS & PAYMENTS:

Any Owl who does not have internet access is welcome to telephone the Secretary Bird at 082 440 8204 or 021 671 3121 to book a perch.

All other Owls are encouraged to use the Pay'n Perch procedure by paying their (and their guest's) dining fee into the Club's bank account by EFT and instructing the bank (using the option provided) to send a remittance confirmation email to secretary@owls.org.za whereupon their perches will be booked.

Besides details of your invited guests (see above), no further emails will be needed from you unless you also have special dietary needs or if you are using a dining credit.

In all cases, bookings will close at 6:00 pm on Sunday 16th November 2025.

All bookings will be acknowledged.

October 2025 Meeting

On Tuesday, 21st October, 72 Owls and 16 Guests gathered in the Grill Room, Kelvin Grove, Newlands for the 1376th Meeting of the Owl Club. The proceedings started at 18:45, with President Owl Mike James welcoming all and Owl Christopher Gregorowski delivering the Grace. This was followed by a three-course dinner (see page 13 for the menu).

Owl President Mike James then congratulated the 15 Owls celebrating birthdays in October. They include octogenarians Owls Richard Rosenthal, Mike Shand and Norman Osburn and Gavin Mcielmore. Others Owls celebrating birthdays included Owls Foster, Fourie Geoffrey Ashmead (turning 77) Sean Cleary, David Earl, Doug McClure, and Hans van Heerden. Pete Grasssow (68 earlier in October, and who was in attendance at the meeting), David Grant, Michael Baken and Viljoen van Heerden.

New Owl, Solly Moeng was then (with due ceremony) inducted, welcomed into the fellowship and invited to dwell in harmony with fellow Owls.
The President then (requesting that guests remained seated) ordered that the lights be dimmed whilst he proposed the traditional Toast to Our Guests.

Owl President Mike James invited the guest speaker, Alan Winde to address the assembled Owls and guests on his topic: Future-Fit and Fearless: Unlocking the Western Cape's Potential.

Above: Sheila Camerer, *Drawing of Alan Winde*.

Above: Tony Grogan, *Drawing of Jan Hugo (piano), Antoinette Huyssen (soprano) and Hans Huyssen (cello).*

After the address, Owl President Mike James thanked Alan Winde for his insightful talk and presented him with a bottle of port. Following this, Owl Julian Wannell introduced the first set of the music programme for the evening, presented by Antoinette Huyssen (soprano), Hans Huyssen (cello), Jan Hugo (piano).

After the musical interlude, Owl President Mike James thanked all the musicians for their performance and announced that there would be a short bar interval.

After the break, the assembly returned to enjoy the second set of the music programme. At the conclusion of the performance, Owl President Mike James thanked the performers for their contribution to the evening's entertainment.

Following this, Owl Tessa Graaff presented her WPB, on the topic of: *The Scent of an Owl.*

Having thanked Owl Tessa Graaff for her WPB, Owl President Mike James invited Owls and their guests to raise their glasses in a Toast to the Owl Club, following which the President wished all a safe flight home.

Guest Speaker: Alan Winde: "Future-Fit and Fearless: Unlocking the Western Cape's Potential"

In a wide-ranging address to the Owl Club, the Premier of the Western Cape, Mr Alan Winde, offered a compelling overview of the province's current challenges, achievements, and strategic direction. Framed around the question of "What keeps you awake at night?", the Premier's speech was both a sobering reflection on the pressures facing the Western Cape and a celebration of its resilience, innovation, and forward momentum.

Opening with a heartfelt acknowledgment of the emotional toll that crime takes on communities, the Premier made it clear that public safety remains his foremost concern. He spoke of the thousands of families affected by violent crime each year, emphasizing that the state's centralized policing model is failing to deliver the protection citizens deserve. This concern, he noted, is not just about statistics, it's about the lived experience of people who fear for their safety daily. The Premier's call for devolved policing powers was a recurring theme, underscoring his belief that local governance is better positioned to respond to local realities.

Above: Tony Grogan, *Drawing of Alan Winde*.

Following crime, the Premier identified electricity and water security as two other issues that keep him up at night. He recalled the anxiety of Cape Town's "Day Zero" water crisis and warned that recent rainfall levels are insufficient to guarantee long-term resilience. On energy, he outlined an ambitious plan to produce 5,700 MW of power across the province by 2032, with 2,000 MW already in development. This initiative, he explained, was born out of a conversation with former Eskom CEO André de Ruyter, who advised the province to pursue energy independence. The Premier's vision includes competitive municipal power markets and a shift away from reliance on NERSA's annual price hikes.

Despite these challenges, the Premier expressed pride in the Western Cape's achievements, particularly in economic development. He described job creation as his "apex priority," linking employment directly to crime prevention, dignity, and food security. "Nothing stops a bullet like a job," he said, emphasizing the transformative power of economic opportunity. He criticized the national government for failing to adequately fund growth initiatives, pointing out that South Africa's GDP growth remains below 1%, while inflation and population growth outpace it significantly.

Cape Town's population, he noted, has grown from 4 million in 2017 to 5 million today – a million new residents in just eight years. This rapid growth places immense pressure on infrastructure, services, and housing. The Premier acknowledged that while Cape Town's property values have risen by 19% over the past 15 years (adjusted for inflation), other cities have seen declines averaging -21%. However, he cautioned that this growth is unsustainable and risks pricing out residents. To address this, he called for increased housing supply and pointed to the Conradie development in Pinelands as a proof-of-concept model for affordable, integrated urban living.

One of the Premier's most compelling stories was the Western Cape's "airlift" strategy, designed to boost tourism and trade by increasing direct international flights to Cape Town. He recounted how, after SAA cut its London-Cape Town route and Lufthansa followed suit by cancelling its Frankfurt to Cape Town flight, he flew to Munich to personally lobby Lufthansa to reinstate service. The airline responded positively, launching a Munich to Cape Town route that helped restore tourism flows. This success led to the creation of a formal airlift programme, supported by both public and private sector funding. Today, Cape Town hosts over 220 direct flights per week, and the Premier hinted at future plans for a second airport and high-speed rail connectivity.

Agriculture and innovation were also central themes in the speech. The Premier proudly announced that the Western Cape now accounts for 58% of South Africa's agricultural exports, up from just under 50% at the start of his term. He attributed this growth to sectoral strength and strategic investments in education and technology. Notably, the province established the first fintech degree in the southern hemisphere in partnership with UCT, and now ranks fifth globally in fintech education between Cape Town and Stellenbosch. The Premier emphasized the importance of retaining talent, noting that graduates are increasingly choosing to stay in "Silicon Cape" rather than migrating to Silicon Valley.

Turning to the province's core mandates, education and health, the Premier offered a detailed overview of ongoing initiatives and challenges. He praised the Western Cape's public health system, claiming it can "hold its own" against international counterparts. He cited robotic surgery capabilities at the Tygerberg and Groote Schuur hospitals as evidence of cutting-edge innovation and described ongoing hospital construction projects in Klipfontein and Belhar, supported by the World Bank. The rebuilding of Tygerberg Hospital, he said, is a priority, given its aging infrastructure and critical role in regional healthcare.

In education, the Premier highlighted the Jakes Gerwel Technical School model, which aligns curriculum with regional economic demands.

These schools, developed through public-private partnerships, achieve near-universal job placement for graduates and are expanding to nine locations across the province. He also ascribed the province's low reliance on private schooling (just under 5% of school desks) to the strength of the public system. In contrast, Gauteng's private school enrolment stands at 16%.

However, the Premier acknowledged serious budgetary constraints. Despite being the third-largest province by population, the Western Cape receives the fifth-largest education budget. He described efforts to accelerate school construction, reducing timelines from five years to just 65 days in some cases. He also highlighted Saturday learning programmes and targeted interventions in underperforming schools, pointing to success stories in Khayelitsha and Mitchells Plain. Spine Road High School, for example, consistently achieves a 100% matric pass rate and now ranks among the top 20 performing schools in the province.

The Premier returned to the issue of crime, emphasizing the need for data-driven policing and violence prevention. He cited the deployment of 1,200 officers in six hotspots, which led to an 11% reduction in murder rates in those areas, compared to a 4% provincial average. He expressed cautious optimism about a new partnership with the national government, focused on firearm investigations and improved conviction rates. He also described initiatives focused on building trust in police stations, improving docket management and collaboration with international legal experts.

Violence prevention, he argued, must begin early. He described a stunting prevention programme inspired by Iceland, which targets underweight mothers and children with nutritional support via prepaid cards. The initiative, developed in partnership with universities, NGOs and retailers, aims to improve brain development and long-term educational outcomes.

The programme has already launched in George and Khayelitsha, with plans to expand to Paarl. The Premier framed this as a transformative investment, capable of breaking cycles of poverty and crime.

In social development, the Premier highlighted efforts to digitize case management and support NGOs facing financial pressure. He described a new funding and measurement system designed to build trust and improve service delivery. These initiatives, he said, are essential to supporting vulnerable citizens and maintaining the province's social safety net.

Returning to education, the Premier emphasized the importance of raising standards across all schools. He cited Cosat School (Centre for Science and Technology) in Khayelitsha, which consistently achieves a 98–100% matric pass rate and strong bachelor-level outcomes in maths and science. He also praised Mondior High School in Mitchells Plain, which is rapidly improving and attracting long waiting lists. The goal, he said, is to ensure that every school in the province performs at full capacity and contributes to the development of a skilled, productive workforce.

The Premier closed his speech with a renewed focus on water and energy. He warned that recent rainfall levels are insufficient and called for improved water management across all municipalities. He praised Cape Town's water-saving achievements, noting that the city has reduced consumption from 1.2 billion to 800 million litres per day despite population growth. This model, he said, must be replicated province-wide to ensure long-term resilience.

On energy, the Premier reiterated his goal of achieving self-sufficiency by 2032. He described a future in which municipalities source power from multiple private providers, fostering competition and reducing reliance on Eskom. This shift, he argued, will lead to more stable pricing and improved service delivery. The Premier's energy plan is already underway, with 2,000 MW in development and a clear roadmap for expansion.

Throughout his address, the Premier emphasized innovation, partnership, and data-driven governance. He described a government that is willing to act decisively, experiment with new models, and collaborate across sectors. Whether lobbying airlines, accelerating school building programmes, or piloting nutrition programmes, the Premier demonstrated a hands-on leadership style focused on outcomes and impact. Premier Alan Winde may not sleep much, but his talk to the Owl Club demonstrated that the province is wide awake and moving ahead fearlessly!

Musical Notes: Trio Performance: Antoinette Huyssen (soprano), Hans Huyssen (cello) and Jan Hugo (piano)

Those present at the meeting were treated to a wonderful trio performance, with Antoinette Huyssen (soprano), Hans Huyssen (cello) and Jan Hugo (piano) performing works by Schumann, Brahms, Mendelssohn , Viardot-Garcia and Hans Huyssen.

The full programme included:

H. Huyssen (b 1964), *Floral Miniatures* (Cello and Soprano)

R. Schumann (1810 – 1856), *Widmung* (soprano and piano)

Ich Denke Dein (cello, soprano and piano)

J. Brahms (1833 – 1897), *An die Nachtigall* (soprano and piano)

F Mendelssohn (1809 – 1847), *Song without Words Opus 109* (cello and piano)

R. Schumann (1810 – 1856) , *Liebesgarten* (cello, soprano and piano)

J. Brahms (1833 – 1897), *Mainacht* (soprano and piano)

R. Schumann (1810 – 1856), *Er und Sie* (cello, soprano and piano)

J. Brahms (1833 – 1897), *Mondnacht* (soprano and piano)

P. Viardot-Garcia (1821 – 1910), *Les Etoiles* (cello, soprano and piano)

Antoinette Huyssen is Chorus Master at Cape Town Opera and directs the Cape Town Chamber Choir. She holds a Master's degree *cum laude* in classical voice from the University of Cape Town (UCT). Her teachers included Brad Liebl and Virginia Davids. She also holds a Postgraduate Diploma from UCT and a distinction for the Trinity College London Performance Certificate. Antoinette completed her Bachelor of Music degree at UCT in piano and classical guitar in 2001.

Antoinette was student conductor at the Drakensberg Boys' Choir school in 2003 and, commencing that year, she studied choral conducting under the Norwegian conductor, Kåre Hanken. Antoinette was Director of Music of the Philharmonia Choir of Cape Town from 2006 to 2012, during which time she had the opportunity to conduct several of their concerts together with orchestra, including Handel's Messiah. She lectured in voice at Stellenbosch University from 2016-2021 and taught singing for the South African Army and at St Cyprian's Girls' High School. She was employed as a vocal coach and accompanist at the College of Music, UCT from 2010 until 2017.

As a soprano, Antoinette is a frequent oratorio soloist together with the Philharmonia Choir of Cape Town, St George's Cathedral Choir and the St Michael and all Angels' Church Choir, Observatory. Antoinette enjoys performing Art Song repertoire and has sung for the Songmakers' Guild on several occasions. Other great passions of hers are historically informed performance practice (HIPP) and ensemble singing. She is a founding member of and a regular performer with the local early music ensemble, the Cape Consort.

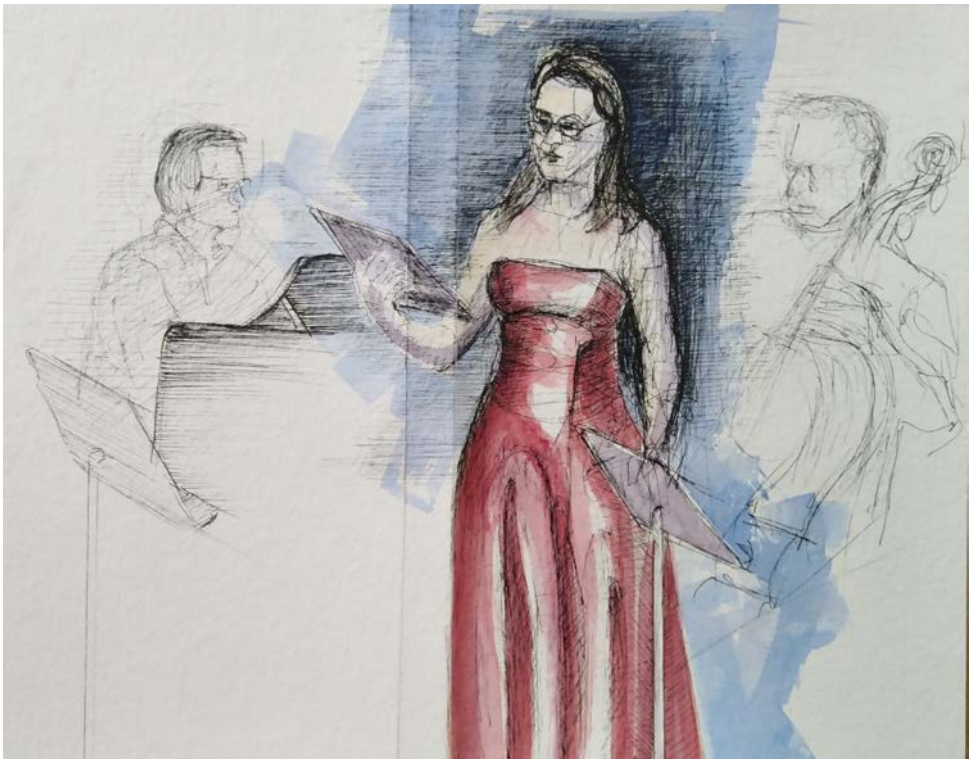
Hans Huyssen is a composer, cellist, conductor and music teacher with a special love for early European Baroque music, rare traditions of indigenous South African music, as well as contemporary music of the kind that compellingly responds to pertinent contexts. He was recipient of the Helgaard Steyn Award, South Africa's most prestigious composition prize in 2010, obtained an inter-disciplinary and practice-based PhD from the University of Stellenbosch applying complexity theory to music in 2015, is a NRF-rated researcher and a STIAS fellow. As a performing artist he is founder member and director of two Period Instrument ensembles, the Munich-based Baroque Opera group così facciamo and the Cape Consort, a Cape Town-based association of musicians that has been pioneering historically informed performances of Early Music locally.

Providing a niche for marginalized forms of musical expression in the domains of early, contemporary and indigenous South African music, Huyssen has published several recordings through his independent label Mucavi records.

South African pianist **Jan Hugo** began his musical studies in Pretoria and made his concerto debut at the age of 12. He later trained in Italy, graduating *cum laude* from the Modena Conservatory and continuing his studies at the Accademia Pianistica di Imola under Franco Scala and Boris Petrushansky. He holds Master's degrees from the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Leipzig, the Conservatorio di Musica "Giuseppe Verdi" in Milan, and a specialised Master's in fortepiano performance and research from Sorbonne University and the Paris Conservatoire.

A prize-winner in numerous competitions, Jan has received First Prizes at the UNISA National Piano Competition, the Royal Overseas League (London), and the SAMRO Bursary Competition, among others. He has performed extensively across Europe and South Africa, in venues such as Salle Gaveau (Paris), Queen Elizabeth Hall (London), Sala Mozart (Bologna), and at festivals including Liszt-en-Provence and MITO SettembreMusica (Milan/Turin). As soloist, he has appeared with the Johannesburg, KwaZulu-Natal, and Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestras.

Jan is also active as a chamber musician, fortepianist, and conductor. In 2024, he served as assistant conductor at the Académie du Palais Royal in Paris. He regularly performs in a voice/piano duo with his wife, soprano Clara Hugo, with a special focus on art song. Since November 2024, he has been Vocal Coach at Cape Town Opera.



Above: Peter Hyslop, *Drawing of Soprano Antoinette Huyssen in Performance with Hans Huyssen and Jan Hugo.*

WPB: Owl Tessa Graaff: “The Scent of an Owl”

“A wise old owl lived in an oak; The more he saw the less he spoke.” An anonymous quote, but addressing the fact that this will be a short talk! It will be about that which will not last long and is ephemeral. It will be about the nose and scent and our ability to smell.

As an Owl and speaking on my perch as it were, after the gravitas of Alan Winde and the serious issues on the ground in running the Western Cape, I decided to keep this little talk very much about light relief, a throw away Waste Paper Basket item and quite literally in and of the air. Which is the way the nose apprehends smell.

While we have five senses from which to navigate our physical outer world and translate that into our inner felt experience, the one we give the least conscious acknowledgment to is smell. This is not true of all creatures but it is true for us. Have you ever walked into a room and instantly remembered something or someone because of a smell? This direct connection between our sense of smell and emotions and memories makes smell an incredibly powerful but often subconscious trigger.

The following smells have been named the top 10 feel-good aromas.

* Freshly cut grass; coffee beans; cake baking in the oven; the seaside; freshly laundered clothes; a Sunday roast; fish and chips and fresh flowers.

What smells do humans hate? baby poo; sewers on a hot day; bad breath; wet dog; human sweat; rotten food and smoking.

Body odour also plays a crucial role in how we choose our partners. The perfume industry knows this! Research shows that how you perceive someone's body odour can determine whether or not you are attracted to them. In specific studies, women have shown a clear preference for the sweat or body odours of men who are genetically different from themselves.

So it turns out that all of us Owls are only here tonight because of the nose and our ancestors’ sense of smell and its power of attraction and repulsion. The question I had fun considering was: If I were to make a scent that I could call “the scent of an owl” and I mean as of us people owls right here, what would it smell like? What component characteristics would it have? How would it make you feel when smelling it?

How could it in a sense represent Owlishness. The Oxford English Dictionary, while hardly comprehensive, was some help. It defines what an owl is as “Any bird of prey of the order Strigformes … typically nocturnal and characterised by a large round raptors head and plumage, upright posture, and large eyes directed towards and surrounded by a cone of radiating feathers.”

This scent would have to have plumage or a feathery aspect to it. It would also be nocturnal or have the quality of night and darkness about it and suggest the ability to see in the night which we might call wisdom or insight. It would have an upright posture suggesting a strong backbone, resilience and strength of character in the wearer. It would also be a round headedness a scent that would evoke the idea of being a deep thinker, perhaps a little vain or big headed… And it would certainly have warmth and charisma. What else could a “cone of radiating feathers” be alluding to!

Then nightly sings the starting owl. Tu-whit; Tu who … a merry note, says Shakespeare in Act 5 of *Loves Labour Lost*.

Well it turns out that all good perfume makers know this too. To make a perfume is like making music and it must sing with at least 3 notes. A base note which is long lasting. Frankincense, cedarwood, musk, vanilla, buchu, iris root and ambergris (from a whale) are all base note smells.

A middle note also called the heart note, such as rose jasmine, orange blossom, neroli and a top note that should be fresh and uplifting such as lavender, bergamot and my favourite one, pink pepper to tickle the nose!

The obsession over the centuries is how to pin these notes down and make a smell that will last. In practice often putting these three notes together means modifying a bad smell to hold the good smell. Interesting in that the bad smells then become as important as the good ones. I set to work in the alchemist library of scent and notes at my disposal, to find a combination that would sing with the five directives from the Oxford Dictionary in mind.

Plumage or featheriness; nocturnal or dark; upright posture; a large round headage and charisma. How then to translate these into the essential oils of the perfume industry.

To the scent maker the essential oil of a plant is seen as its very essence. The purest part of it comes from the end part of a long process heated /broken down and evaporated to obtain its vital essence. Recognisable by the wearer who chooses it as an aspect of themselves, like peering into the window of ourselves.

I have always loved the poem by Edward Lear both so evocative and nonsensical at the same time, and its repeated reference to the nose gives me an excuse to touch on it now.

The Owl and the Pussy-Cat

The Owl and the Pussy-cat went to sea

In a beautiful pea-green boat,

They took some honey, and plenty of money,

Wrapped up in a five-pound note.

The Owl looked up to the stars above,

And sang to a small guitar,

"O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,

What a beautiful Pussy you are,

You are,

You are!

What a beautiful Pussy you are!"

Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl!

How charmingly sweet you sing!

O let us be married! too long we have tar ried:

But what shall we do for a ring?"

They sailed away, for a year and a day,

To the land where the Bong-Tree grows

And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood

With a ring at the end of his nose,

His nose,

His nose,

With a ring at the end of his nose.

Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling

Your ring? Said the Piggy, "I will."

So they took it away, and were married next day

By the Turkey who lives on the hill.

They dined on mince, and slices of quince,

Which they ate with a runcible spoon;

And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,

They danced by the light of the moon,

The moon,

The moon,

They danced by the light of the moon.

I feel sure that in the background to all this atmosphere of the beach and the night and the moon and of course the pig's nose (The ring that seals the bond between them comes from the nose of a piggy wig.) there would have to be a scent infusing the air. Undoubtedly. But what would that scent have been that Owl would have brought along? I have tried to imagine it and have in fact actually made it with several magical ingredients. I have called it *The Scent of an Owl*.

Mr Winde, please collect a very tiny bottle of it from me at the end of this talk for the first cruise you go on with your partner when you retire and have time to discover the joy of being both the wise old owl you are but also free to have adventures in far flung places! Apart from making keynotes, the practice of scent making is all about memorising smells and deciding what goes with what.

Possible candidates for *The Scent of an Owl* were beaver bum known in the perfume world as Castorium and buchu – for a sense of place rooted to the Western Cape veld and the healing properties of our fynbos. Both earth smells of manifest material presence.

Jasmine to represent the air heaven and the heavens and the realm of winged feathery creatures like owls and felt presences. A sweet floral note, but with a dead-sexy muskiness to it. Similar to lavender, jasmine can be used as a natural sedative or relaxer, and it can also help to alleviate stress and anxiety. It has been shown to make people feel happy, energetic and romantic.

Geranium for wide open spaces with breezes, veld and flora, and connection to place.

Myrrh old, wise, wood, moss, dusk, darkish, shadow, reflective, gentle, dampish.

Black frankincense for the dark night where owls fly and three wise men travel. The resin obtained from Boswellia species is known in common parlance as frankincense or libanum and often used as incense. It is known for its anti-ageing (good for owls) and calming properties, and reduces high blood pressure (good for owls) and has a serotonin effect.

Orange/ bergamot for focus and a mood lifter. It has a dopamine effect.

What I chose in the end was a very straight forward scent with buchu and black frankincense as the base note; jasmine as a middle notes and bergamot from the orange or citrus family as a top note. And then a neutral carrier oil to dilute it. I thought of you, Mr Winde, and all those oranges left in the Western Cape unable to wing their way to the USA, trumped by that new 30 percent tariff.

Gentleman and my few fellow ladies, you have on each of your tables a brown WPB bag. In it is a sample stick of *The Scent of an Owl*. Please pass it around your table if you are interested in having a whiff. Real owls interestingly do not as it turns out have much of a sense of smell so enjoy a more human moment.

Members' News

Owl Club Membership

The Committee is pleased to announce the election as an Owl of Marius Diemont (Literature: proposed by Owls Nigel Gwynne Evans & Ian Sutherland).(And, yes: he is the grandson of one time Owl President of the same name, Owl Judge Marius A Diemont.)

The Committee has received a proposal of membership for Roger Silberberg (Proposer Owl Morris and seconded by Owl James) (Science) and believing that he would make a worthy Owl has agreed to Notice him. Any Owl who may wish to comment on this proposal is invited to contact the Owl President or the Secretary Bird in confidence.

Owl Club Clothing

The The following Owl Club items will be available for sale at November meeting:

Self-tie bow ties@ R250

Ready-tied bow ties @R250

Cummerbunds @ R300

Clutch bags @R475

Owls who will not be able to come to the November meeting may reserve items by notifying the Secretary, and depositing the necessary amount in the Club's bank account with the reference: < name: clothing>

Owl Club Committee

Owls are invited to consider joining the Committee in 2026., the Committee has not yet identified an Owl able and willing to take over the role of Secretary Bird in 2026: Volunteers Please.

Owls attending the November dinner will be invited to suggest topics for colloquia to be arranged in 2026.

Owl Club Christmas Meeting: Advance notice, please note

This meeting will be, as usual on the 2nd Tuesday, 9 December 2025. And as usual this is for Owls only – i.e., no guests at this meeting.

A subcommittee led by Owl Derek Leisegang is devising a programme of entertainment for the evening.

As the Secretary Bird will be out of the country from 4 December 2025, perch booking for the December meeting should be made as early as possible; we would be pleased if these could be submitted in the usual way by 6pm on Wednesday 3 December 2025.

Special Notice

Appointment of an Honorary Auditor for 2025

At the 2025 AGM the Parliament of Owls appointed Verwey Wiese of audit firm PwC to be the Honorary Auditor of the Club for 2025.

For professional reasons Verwey Wiese is not able to accept this appointment: in line with all major firms and the world wide trend, audit rotation is now mandatory and after having served the Club as honorary auditor for ten years he is no longer able to continue in the role.

The Committee has considered this and proposes to the Club that Owl Geoff Everingham, who is not a member of – and is thus independent of – the Committee be appointed as Auditor for 2025. He is eminently qualified for the role: a former professor of accounting, a former CA(SA), and the author of standard works on generally accepted accounting practice (GAAP).

The Committee draws attention to the fact that for many years the audit role was performed by a suitably qualified Owl, and not by an audit firm In all cases the audit has been performed on an honorary basis.

The appointment is ordinarily for discussion by the Club in General Meeting. In view of the need to appoint an auditor before the end of the financial year, the Committee seeks the approval of the Parliament by way of notice, inviting any Owl who objects to do so in writing, stating the reason for the objection, such notice to be received by the Secretary by noon on Monday 24 November 2025.

Hugh Amoore

Secretary, the Owl Club

Seen & Noted at the October Meeting

Above: Drawings by Michael Beckurts. Top row, from left to right: Alan Winde, Hans Huyssen, unidentified Owl and Gavin Michelmore. Bottom row, from left to right: Owl Gabriel Clark Brown, Owl Bishop Christopher Gregorowski and pianist Jan Hugo.

Above left: Owl President Mike James looks on whilst Owl Gavin Michelmore engages in conversation with guest speaker Alan Winde.

Above right (from left to right): Guest Janel Mills, Owls Geoffrey Ashmead, Anthea Serritslev, Denis Le Jeune, Paul Mills and Andrew Wilkinson.

K.G

The Owl Club
Tuesday, 19th August 2025

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Starter
Cauliflower & broccoli soup

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Main Course
Chicken Supreme
Served with mushroom pilaf, rocket, aioli

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Dessert
Pavlova
With chocolate Chantilly cream

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Filter Coffee

Food for thought:
The "no kings" campaign gives rise to thoughts about the excesses attributed to kings, and not simply the accretion of power.

Roman Emperors – or at least many of them, such as Heliogabalus - were notorious for profligacy when it came to food and wasting food.

In contrast a current king (not the man w would be king) has a strict rule when it comes to mealtime, won't stand for wasting food and insist that any and all leftovers get served the next day or used again in another meal. It is said by one close to his family: "There is no waste, everything is recycled, everything is use from the table; if anything is left over fr the dinner, that will be made into something else or appear the next day.

Nothing's allowed to be thrown out. The king has a fascination with food at every stage, from farm to table. To talk to him about the strange varieties of plums or pears or anything else is endlessly fascinating. The king and the queen are deeply competitive when foraging for mushrooms when they're at Balmoral. They're both very keen mycologists, and both know their mushrooms very, very well."

The Grace.

May the measure of our gratitude for the gifts of good food and the freedom to meet in fellowship and in peace

be matched by the measure of our desire and determination to see all people everywhere well nourished and enjoying freedom in peace. Amen.

Grace by Owl Bishop Christopher Gregorowski.