



Chairman's Newsletter – January 2026

Dear Villagers,

Happy New Year to you all!

We wrapped up 2025 on a tremendous high, once again bringing home the **Mini Bus Trophy** at the **Westville Christmas Run**. It has become something of a Villagers tradition, and it's always fantastic to see the club so strongly represented. A huge thank you to **Joss and Fran**, who built another phenomenal and exciting float. Our members had an absolute blast running together and bringing the festive spirit to Westville. Although we didn't reclaim the **Friendliest Bus Award** this year, the energy and camaraderie on the day were second to none.

January has started with real momentum. We've already seen some strong performances at the opening races of the year — **Hilton, Kearsney Striders, and PDAC** — setting a positive tone for the months ahead.

Once again, our club showed its true strength in hosting another extremely successful **Rolando Hillcrest Marathon**. With a packed field and challenging heat on the day, it could easily have been a difficult event to manage; but thanks to the dedication and teamwork of our members, we delivered a race to be proud of. From planning and logistics to marshalling and water tables, every contribution mattered. Well done to you all for your commitment and professionalism.

As we move deeper into the season, the focus now shifts toward **Comrades qualifier marathons**. Training is ramping up, and the road ahead is getting serious. We'll once again have our **club gazebo at Best of the Best**, creating that familiar Villagers hub of support. In

March, we will also be providing a **bus and refreshments at the Balwin Marathon**. Make sure you mark it in your calendar, it promises to be a key event for our club.

Lastly, for those who may not have been at the club recently, you will notice a new addition, a **water fountain** installed to provide refreshing hydration after your morning runs. This fountain has been dedicated to **Julyette Lewis** in recognition of her **15 years of dedicated service** on the committee. Julyette, thank you for everything you have done for Hillcrest Villagers. Your contribution has left a lasting impact on our club.

Here's to a strong, united, and successful 2026.

See you on the road,

Steve Bure

Chairman – Hillcrest Villagers Athletics Club