

Time with our neighbours

As part of our ongoing drive to build and nurture relationships, we recently hosted a friendly get-together in our boardroom with some very special people; our neighbours! Through much of our work we have learned the value of knowing the people you share a street with. And since we're passionate about people, it all made sense to get to say more than just 'good day' to others who work in Brodie Road.



We've done it again!

Pincus Matz has once again been listed as ABSA's top performers, scoring 100% in January.

Our excellent performance contributes to ensuring that the Western Cape remains on top of the national performance chart!



Wishing you love, joy and peace this Easter holiday season.



The Greatest Little Birthday Club in Town

Judging by the emails we receive after our monthly Birthday Club breakfasts, we certainly aren't the only ones who thoroughly enjoy the time spent celebrating with our friends and clients. February saw us feasting at Bistro Sixteen82, while the Vineyard Hotel was the venue in March.



Friendly neighbours?

One of the most ticklish problems we have to deal with arises when neighbours fall out. Thinking back I can recall a variety of problems which have caused great animosity, concern and anxiety to the parties on both sides of the fence. Examples of these are as follows:

A family, in their innocence, developed an affectionate relationship with a pigeon. They would accordingly put seed and water out for this pigeon but unfortunately overlooked the fact that the pigeon had friends and soon the congregation of pigeons had increased considerably all in the hopes of receiving some food. Because there was not sufficient space on our client's feeding tray, the rest of the pigeons would take up occupation on the neighbour's roof and, in eager anticipation of the meal to come, would empty their guts. The result was an unwelcome and unfortunate soiling of the neighbour's roof and surrounding premises.

After visiting the scene and assessing the problem, we were able to broker an accommodation between the parties to their mutual satisfaction.

A gutter along the side of a client's garage which was built on the border of his property was only accessible via the neighbour's garden. From time to time leaves and twigs accumulated in the drain thereby causing a blockage and a pooling of water in an inconvenient area on our client's property. The neighbour however was unwilling to allow our client onto his property to clean the gutter and a difficult standoff ensued.

Often there are problems associated with walls between properties such as the wall being too high, too low or the neighbour working on a wall. The law relating to walls is that if it is on your property it belongs to you and you can do with it what you wish. Similarly if the wall is on your neighbour's property he can do likewise. If however the wall is built exactly on the boundary it belongs to both owners and they have to treat it as a common asset and negotiate anything to do with its development.

No ideal solution was found and the lesson to be learned is to always have easy access to the buildings on your property because you cannot automatically assume that your neighbour will give you the access that you will require.

In cases of extreme animosity the best solution is often to simply move. Not many clients are agreeable to this drastic solution but sometimes, in the end, they find it inevitable. Our advice is to establish good relations with your neighbours from day one.

Similarly trees or shrubs planted along the border belong to the person on whose ground they are standing. If however the branches protrude onto the neighbouring property those branches can be trimmed by the neighbour and can even be thrown back onto the property upon which they have been grown.

In cases of walls and trees and shrubs it is best to discuss any changes with your neighbour to avoid the possibility of a neighbourhood dispute.

Contact Pincus Matz for legal advice about neighbourly matters. Serious about law, passionate about people, we'd love to find the best solution for you.

Celebrating with the Pincus Matz family

Every month we enjoy a themed celebration with the Pincus Matz staff. This is an opportunity for us to connect with each other in a relaxed environment, to share personal stories and of course, to congratulate those who have birthdays. Very best wishes go to Yvonne Khumalo who had a birthday in January, to Yasmin Jadwat who celebrated in March, and Alison Tooley and Melanie Wilson who look forward to celebrating their birthdays this month.



Snippets

A very big thank you for the delicious Birthday Club breakfast enjoyed last Thursday. The venue was stunning, the food great and the company friendly. What a lovely morning! Louela Honey

Thank you for the photo. We certainly all look happy and relaxed after a delicious and sophisticated breakfast! Many thanks for including me in your birthday club celebrations. As always it was great to be in your company. Lisel Blake

Thank you so much for a most enjoyable breakfast at the most stunning venue. Robyn Middleton (Nedbank)

