

**UNDERBERG ATTRACTIONS**

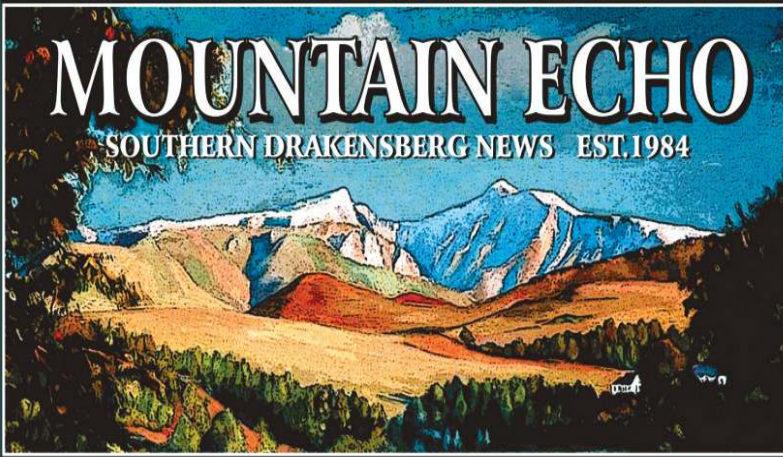


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**FREE NEWSPAPER**

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**KENMO - You've been there.**

By [doncuy59@gmail.com](mailto:doncuy59@gmail.com)

KEN-MO, it's a name that's well known in our district. What many newcomers to the district might not know is that the names represent two people who through their energy contributed unbounded happiness in the community. **Kenneth** and **Mona Lund's** ashes are scattered overlooking the colourful arboretum of their creation.

In 1937 **Kenneth Lund** trekked to Himeville from his farm near Spioen Kop on the Tugela river in response to favourable rainfall figures in our Southern Drakensberg. He travelled down in his car accompanied by his parents who came down by ox wagon, his righthand man **Elias Mapalala** accompanied him sleeping under the car en-route. From early on Ken had been challenged. As a 5yr. old while running beside an articulated ox drawn mower with his 'umfaan' companions, his leg caught in the apparatus. A cart trip to Escourt and onto Pietermaritzburg saved him, but not his leg, it was amputated. 'Hazeledene' is still known by the locals as *Umlenze* (Leg), Ken's Zulu name.

Says Jack, Ken's son, "It was tough to start with, then Dad being friends with **Charles Eustace** who lived close by, introduced him to his cousin **Mona Richardson**, they married in 1939. Her mother is an Acutt so names haven't changed much in this 'neck of the woods'. 80 years ago, today's **Kenmo** was an eroded piece of veld with a stream. Ken fenced it off to keep cattle out. At first, they planted pine trees, then there was a big fire, that's when they started planting today's beautiful trees.

continued on page 3



Jack and Di Lund recalling the memorable times at KENMO lake

Photo: Don Guy



**KENMO LAKE - Come to the Museum Picnic on 5 May.** Photo taken by Jack Lund

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- APR 24 - 27
- APR 26 - 28
- MAY 2
- MAY 2
- MAY 4
- MAY 5
- MAY 8
- MAY 15
- MAY 31 - JUNE 1
- JUNE 3 - 5
- JULY 28
- AUG 14
- AUG 31
- SEPT 20
- SEPT 28 -29
- OCT 25
- NOV 9
- NOV 9
- DEC 7

- KAP sani2c adventure & race** check [sani2c.co.za](http://sani2c.co.za) for info **page 3**
- Ultra Trail Drakensberg** – [www.ultratraildrakensberg.com](http://www.ultratraildrakensberg.com) **page 7**
- BINGO** see **page 10**
- ROTARY Treasure Hunt & auction** see **page 7**
- Country Market** @ Underberg Country Club **First Saturday of every Month**
- Kenmo Autumn Picnic** @ Kenmo lake, Hazeldene Farm **page 1 & 3**
- Berg Musicians Club** @ Underberg Country Club 6pm supper 7pm music starts. Creedence group and local talent **booking essential 033 7011130**
- Garden Club Meeting** in the garden of June and Marlene Richardson. **Contact 078 306 1758"**
- Giant's Cup Trail** - [www.thegiantscuptrail.com](http://www.thegiantscuptrail.com)
- Sterilization & vaccination campaign** see **page 7**
- Underberg Gran Fondo** 2 routes 140km and 90km [www.underberggranfondo.co.za](http://www.underberggranfondo.co.za) and [www.granfondoworldtour.com](http://www.granfondoworldtour.com)
- ROYAL HIGH TEA** @ The Himeville Museum
- PEVENSEY FETE**
- Shebeen, ShisaNyama & Sophiatown Chic party** @ The Himeville Museum
- UFA AGRI & LIFESTYLE Show** contact 033 7011007
- NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM**
- Sani Stagger** - [www.sanistagger.co.za](http://www.sanistagger.co.za)
- UNDERBERG SUPERSPAR Food & Wine show** @ Glencairn
- Touch Rugby Tournament for Sani Round Table** @ Underberg Country Club

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**ISAZISO SOMPHAKATHI ISICELO NGOKWEMIBANDELA YOHLELO LWEZINDAWO KANYE NOMTHETHO WOKUPHATHWA KOMHLABA NO. 16 KA 2013 KANYE NOMTHETHO KAMASIPALA WOKUHLELA KANYE NOKUPHATHWA KOMHLABA KAMASIPALA WASE-DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI**

Isaziso siyakhishwa sokuthi uMasipala we-Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality uthole application ye:  
 (1) **-BOTTLE STORE (I-LIQUOR OUTLET) NOKUQINISWA KWEZINDLU EZINGAPHAKATHI ENGXYENYENI YEPULAZI EZINDWENI INDAWO NO. 16415 (AMAKHUZE TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY) IKANWE UMHLABA WASEMAYELANA NGOKUHLELA KOHLELO LOKUSETSHENZISWA KOMHLABA KADR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI.**

Imininingwane yesicelo izohlolwa ngezikhathi ezijwayelekile zokusebenza, phakathi kuka-08h00 no-15h00, eReception, kuMasipala uDkt Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Main Street, Creighton, 3263, isikhathi esiyizinsuku ezingama-30, kusukela (27 April 2024) kuya 27 May 2024 (Idethi yokuvala).

Imibono noma izethulo mayelana nesicelo kumele zifakwe, noma zibhalwe phansi kuMenenja kaMasipala kuleli kheli elingenhla, noma kwa-P.O. Ibhokisi 62 Creighton 3263, noma lingathunyelwa nge-imeyili kuMhleli Wedolobha, uMnu S. Gwala ku-gwalas@ndz.gov.za ngaphambi kokuphela kosuku 27 May 2024.

Sicela uqaphele ukuthi uMasipala iDr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma ungenqaba ukwamukela imibono ethunyelwe ngemuva kosuku lokuvula futhi abantu abangazange baphawule ngesicelo, ngeke babe lungelo lokudlulisa isinqumo ngesinqumo sikaMasipala.

Mr N.C. Vezi  
 Municipal Manager

**BE YOUR OWN HERO – SA BURSARIES AND FUNDING FOR TERTIARY AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION**

**SECOND SEMESTER 2024 (KWA-SANI REGION)**

Candidates are invited to apply for scholarships or funding for tertiary or vocational education (Tuition Fees only). Applicants can apply themselves or can be suggested by third parties (e.g. schools, institutions or private individuals).

Applications are for **BE YOUR OWN HERO-SA** to judge, check, conduct interviews, assessments and select candidates. The final decision and acceptance of scholarships is made by decision of the Board of BYOH-SA.

Applications should include:


1. Copy of ID
2. Matric or University results
3. Letter of application
4. Certificates of Internships
5. Letter of recommendation from teachers, lecturers or other institution
6. Details of studies requested
7. Estimated Costs of studies and expenses.

Please send applications to **BE YOUR OWN HERO-SA** at these e mails:  
 Closing date for applications is 31 May 2024

- eireneflamand@hotmail.com
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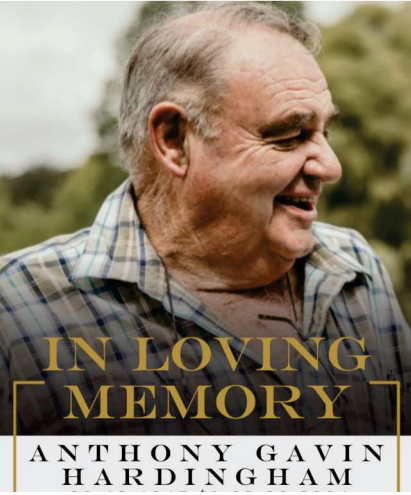


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**ARTHUR MAJOR**  
**3 DECEMBER 1928 - 5 APRIL 2024**  
**PIONEER OF THE SANI PASS. ARTHUR'S LEGACY CONINUES THROUGH MAJOR ADVENTURES**



Mokhotlong Mountain Transport Company. The Sani Pass was originally developed as a bridal path in 1913 which was primarily used as a trade route between South Africa and Mokhotlong. All goods were carried by pack mule. The aim of the business was to move freight into Lesotho more efficiently than the slow, long suffering pack donkeys. **In the late 1950's one of the founders of the company, Arthur Major, drove the first tour up the Sani Pass.** Over Seventy years later, his son, Charles Major who still operates these tours and owns Major Adventures. "I grew up in this area and spent much of my youth on the Sani Pass when my father Arthur Major was a partner in Mokhotlong Mountain Transport (MMT). My father was involved with the building of the Sani Top Chalet while with MMT. I began driving tourists up the Pass when I was only 19 years old



**29/10/1947- 30/3/2024**  
 Ant Hardingham inherited Goxhill and Northend farms from his bachelor uncle Ralph Hardingham. Ant introduced corriedale sheep to the area from Australia. When he went to see the corriedales in Australia the farmer asked him how many sheep he had, Ant replied 1000 head the ozzie wanted to know "what are their names?" Ant always had time to chat with me. Go well Ant. From Paul Welch

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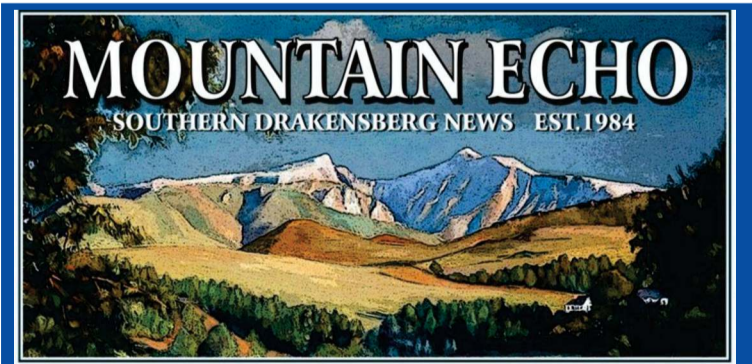
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**KENMO PICNIC HISTORY** continued from page 1**5 MAY**

Using a 'Vaaljaapie' (part- Parrafin driven tractor) and a dam scoop Ken constructed the bottom dam. The first Oaks came from 'Inch Garth' farm next door, these had originally been planted by the monks from Reichenau. Then Mona, who had a library of books on trees started importing seeds from Europe and the USA - the rest is history. When Jack and Di took over the farm in the 1970's they constructed the top dam and continued planting trees from their nursery that largely supplied the district with trees, shaping the landscape into what it is today. Di's parent's ashes are also scattered at the top end of 'Kenmo', a grandson calls it the memorial section of the park.

Says Jack, " 'Kenmo Lake' had a good ring to it, it's really a memorial to his parents. It was a family decision to share what they had created with the community and it remains so to this day. Generally, people respect it and we've maintained it. We used to have a visitor's book, some interesting things in there, *wink, wink, nudge, nudge*, a person once wrote; 'We're from Jo'burg, we were really shocked! .....they didn't even steal the pen!'"

**A personal connection;** Not long before my

Oldman, **Robin Guy** passed on about 20 years ago, I took a stroll with him around 'Kenmo'. He recalled to me how he scoured the vlei and stream that is now Kenmo, for birds eggs with his childhood mentor, **Ken Blackie** a bachelor neighbour from 'Inch Garth' the farm next door. Those were the war years, fatherless children latched on to the likes of **Blackie** an 'uncle of the veld' far away from North Africa's troubles. This year the 5<sup>th</sup> of May marks the **Himeville & Underberg Historical society picnic** now firmly an event on the calendar. It was started by **Maureen Smith, Paul Welch** and **Hon Taylor** with the first picnic held on 26 April 1998 which showcases Kenmo at its best. "The first two years of the museum picnic we catered for 100 people with a buffet in the old Lapa and then someone thought of a more low maintenance way to host the event." Paul said. "The picnic replaced the winter night parties in August in the museum courtyard that hosted the "Hairy Legged Lentil Eaters" to distract us from the winter cold, the Gluhwein also helped."

The picnic is an affordable fund-raising event which facilitates the spirit and social life of the community by bringing great grand parents and their four generations of family together in this beautifully colourful treed private park.



## KAP sani2c 20th Edition - more than a mountain bike ride

From 23 April, KAP sani2c Trail riders will start their three days of riding from Glencairn Farm down to Scottburgh. There are three versions of the KAP sani2c again this year, with the Trail re-introduced as the e-bike race. The Adventure starts on Wednesday 24th April at Glencairn and finishes on Friday 26th in Scottburgh. The Race starts on Thursday 25th April but will now have a Prologue happening at Glencairn Farm the day before, where only UCI registered riders will take part in this curtain-raiser to the Race.

**Michael Foster** 'grew up with sani2c', and later this month the 22-year-old from Ixopo heads to the 20th edition of KAP sani2c as a professional mountain biker with the PYGA Euro Steel team. "I just want to ride my bike fast," he says.

This motivation to be fast hit him at an early age, where, as a schoolboy sani2c volunteer standing on the finish line of day 1 at Mackenzie Club handing out Super Ms, he heard the announcer say that the record had just been broken for the first stage: "I think it was 2 hours 40 something, and I remember so clearly thinking that I would break that record one day."

Foster's family are neighbours of the Haw family in Ixopo, and living next door to sani2c founder 'Farmer Glen' Haw and attending Lynford school, he was bound to be exposed to the excitement of the event from an early age. Lynford school is the original beneficiary of sani2c, started in 2005 to raise funds for the school that Haw's children attended at the time. Now the KAP sani2c supports 23 different schools along its 265km route from the Sani Pass area down to Scottburgh.

Foster remembers delivering drinks to the water stations with his dad as a boy: "Once I fell asleep and fell off the tailgate of his bakkie, into the icy trough filled with Super Ms and water! From when I was in Grade R to now, the school has changed so much because of sani2c. Classrooms were built, and then a pool, and now there is a big hall, it's a different place."

Glen Haw says: "He lives next door to us so I see him often - every day I see him training and working very hard. My first memory of him showing an interest in riding was when he was still at Lynford, and he was lubing chains at the seconding tables at sani2c. His mom said to me that he just loves it, and that he wants to be a professional mountain biker one day." **By Maryann Shaw.** Photos supplied



Participants in "Traditional games". Socialize with friends, but mostly just have FUN enjoying Kenmo at it's best!

Dress up "hysterically" to win a prize

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## UNDERBERG SWIMMER REPRESENTED SOUTH AFRICA

Down Syndrome swimmer Savanna Haselau (18) has recently returned home from representing South Africa at the 2024 Trisome Games in Antalya, Türkiye. These games are held every 4 years and for athletes with Down Syndrome and include disciplines such as Gymnastics; Athletics; Tennis; Futsal; swimming and Judo.

This year there were over 1300 swimmers, and we had five swimmers representing South Africa. Savanna swam in seven individual events and managed to improve her personal best (PB) in all but one event. The improvements were remarkable, with her dropping 15 seconds off her 100m Freestyle and 10 seconds off her 100m Backstroke.

On her return to South Africa on 3 April, Savanna attended the SASA II Gala held at Kings Park Pool in Durban. She bagged numerous medals and was also awarded the most Improved Down Syndrome swimmer at this event. On her return to George on 8 April, she was greeted at the airport by her school friends from Up With Downs as well as her Gran Elsa Davids.

Savanna and her teammate Minke Janse van Rensburg train with Franna Vorster at Garden Route Swim

School in George. Although Minke is a seasoned international swimmer, this was Savanna's first International Gala after only 18 months of competitive swimming. This achievement is remarkable.

Once again, our children have shown that they are just like any other child. They have hopes and dreams and the ability to achieve them. Many hours of hard training in the pool and the gym have led to a remarkably successful swimming season and we are all extremely excited about what the future holds for Savanna. We would like to acknowledge the support of Coach Franna and his team; as well Minke's family, who are Savanna's second family and were very instrumental in introducing Savanna to the competitive swimming world. We would also like to thank Savanna's gran, Elsa, who started her swimming in George purely for fitness. Finally, we would like to thank the Underberg community for their support in getting Savanna to Türkiye. Her journey has just begun. Watch this space. Savanna with her most improved swimmer trophy



Thandeka Dlamini (left) lives down Saligna avenue in Underberg and saw that the Underberg Forge Build Warehouse was on fire when she was walking up to the main road and immediately contacted Malusi Shezi who works as a sales rep for Underberg Forge Build. To thank them for their quick thinking and saving the warehouse they were each given a R500 Underberg Meat Supply voucher.

### DIGNITY UNDERWEAR – IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CUNINA N.G.O. (BELGIUM)

CUNINA has generously donated 4 x pairs of Dignity Underwear, to the girls at Reichenau Primary School, Enhlanhleni Combined School & Clouds of Hope, to assist with their monthly menstruation.

The Dignity Underwear, or "period panties" contribute to saving the planet. On average, a woman uses around 15 000 pads and tampons, along with their packaging, during her lifetime. The products end up in landfills, streams and oceans, exacerbating the global pollution crisis. By using period panties, girls can significantly reduce the environmental footprint.

Wearing Dignity Panties feels just like wearing regular underwear, but with an added 5-layer design, including an outer fabric, providing superior absorbency for heavy-to-light flow days. (The built-in liners have the capacity i.e. for every 1 gram of fabric to absorb 5 x times its weight in liquid). These panties are designed for re-usability – simply wash them after use. These panties can last anywhere from two to five years.

Dignity Panties come in 2 per box, with information leaflets and size curves included.

300 million women + are on their period at any given time, but 7 in 10 say they avoid being active. Periods are the No. 1 barrier to girls taking part in more physical activity at School. Our mission is to get more girls moving, by removing many barriers. Too often we hear how periods hold girls back from taking part in physical activity, but this shouldn't be the case.

We firmly believe that no woman or young girl should have to stay home during their periods due to a lack of basic essentials. It's unacceptable that some of these ladies and young girls are facing such challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With Dignity Panties unique product, the living standards of rural girls and women of all ages will experience a significant improvement. They will spend fewer days at home and vital school days will not be missed.

We would also like to thank Wim Van Herzele for assisting with this innovative project, with Proactive Alchemy (Pty) Ltd.



## SANI HIKING CLUB

**April 28** 21 km hike Garden Castle, Rhino Peak. Meet 05h00 at Country Club or 05h45 at Garden Castle. **Note:** Hikers can stay at Pillar Cave or Annex on the Saturday and/or Sunday. They must book the cave at KZN Wildlife. Garden Castle **Note:** This hike is increasingly steep over 8 km's Contact Mo McCann 082-931 1523

**May 12** 9 km hike to Hobbit Wood and Social braai after walk. Meet 08h00 at Himeville Arms or at 08h30 at Cobham EKZN Office Cobham. Contact Jelle Meintsma 083-404 3521

## HIMEVILLE UNDERBERG GARDEN CLUB 15 May

The garden club meets again on Wednesday 15 May at 10H00 in the village garden of June and Marlene Richardson in Thomas Street Himeville.

We live in an area that at times experiences harsh and extreme weather conditions, and we are very fortunate to be able to draw on the practical knowledge of our Chairlady, Chup Taylor who will be focusing on the work we need to be doing in our gardens this winter.

So please save the date. We look forward to welcoming you to our May meeting and sharing our love of gardening.

Please remember to bring your own chairs and hats. There will be a R30 entrance fee for visitors.

## Pevensey Easter Treats!

The craft workers enjoyed making Easter egg treats for all the residents. They created daffodils using cupcake wrappers, wool and card. After that they filled them with small eggs and tiny marshmallows. The treats were handed out at tea time. Yummy ....

**Would you like to join our craft groups on a Monday afternoon? Contact Nadine at Pevensey 082 514 0733**

## Join us for worship and a peaceful retreat in the heart of Underberg.

Sunday Mass Schedule and Accommodation Options in Underberg  
Local residents and visitors to Underberg have the opportunity to attend Sunday Mass services at two Catholic churches in the area. The Rosa Mystica Catholic Church, located in Underberg, hosts services at 8am. The service is conducted in both isiZulu and English, catering to the diverse congregation.

For those seeking a later service, St Andrew's Catholic Church at Reichenau Mission offers Mass at 10:30am. This service is conducted exclusively in isiZulu.

Additionally, self-catering accommodation is available at the Reichenau Mission for those interested in an extended stay. For bookings and inquiries, visit [www.reichenau.net](http://www.reichenau.net). It's important to note that tours must be prearranged and prepaid. For further assistance, contact Michelle via WhatsApp at 0629492046.

Join us for worship and a peaceful retreat in the heart of Underberg.



## Witty Knitters!

Do you need company, a good laugh and awesome eats? Join our "knitting group" on a Tuesday at Cedar Gardens from 9-12.

All welcome, especially if you can knit, crochet and bake. Contact Jenny 0733539797



## UNDERBERG EMS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

Underberg EMS is a **Non-Profit organisation** that was founded in 2019 with the passion and vision of Steve Roberts, Dr Grant Lindsay and Sandy Bodmann. Starting up a service such as this requires tremendous dedication, money and time and we are thankful to all who were involved in the early days.

Underberg EMS remains a community based NPO, with Dr Grant Lindsay as our chief medical officer, Kevin Webster from Com-Watch, Murray Turner from the UFA on the **board of directors** along with Cathy Knox and Kate Quin.

Our EMS team consists of seven **highly qualified** and professional Paramedics.

Kate Quin is our advanced life support paramedic, Ryall, Zah and Jim are our Intermediate Life Support paramedics, Thola, Phindile and Smah are our Basic Life Support Paramedics and we thank them all for their unwavering dedication and service to our community and visitors alike.

Robyn Reynolds joined the team in December in an **administration role**, and will be handling the bookkeeping, all account related queries, customer subscriptions and all of the company's administration. Please don't hesitate to contact Robyn on [underberg.ems911@gmail.com](mailto:underberg.ems911@gmail.com) should you need any assistance.

Underberg EMS has designed a **subscriber programme** to benefit everyone living in or visiting the greater Underberg community. The subscriber chooses a package, whether individual, family, business (big or small) or hotel. Each package offers a number of free services at a nominal monthly fee.

The **advantage of being a subscriber** is that you receive immediate response and pre hospital stabilisation and transportation, home visits, telephonic advice and assistance, emergency consultations and minor procedures are offered after hours at our clinic.

For more information, please either email Robyn or pop into our office between 9 and 11 on weekdays and she will happily assist you.

With the change of season fast approaching and the usual Winter illnesses starting to affect our community, the Underberg EMS are offering **Vitamin B injections for just R50 per injection and R180 per Flu shot**. Our paramedics will be available Monday to Friday at our clinic to administer these injections.

To all our loyal subscribers, please note that as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2024, we have been forced to **increase fees** by 10% due to the increase in fuel costs as well as other expenses. The increase will reflect on your monthly invoice.

We are Currently **updating our subscriber's records**, please could you inform us if there have been any changes regarding your medical health, address, contact details etc. by sending an email to Robyn or alternatively dropping by our offices.

Lastly, Underberg EMS plays such an important and **vital role in our community** and offers a service that we cannot live comfortably without. We rely heavily on the support of the community and are most grateful for your ongoing support.

Warm Regards  
The UEMS Team

# BIRDING IN THE SOUTHERN KZN DRAKENSBERG

By Stuart Mc Lean

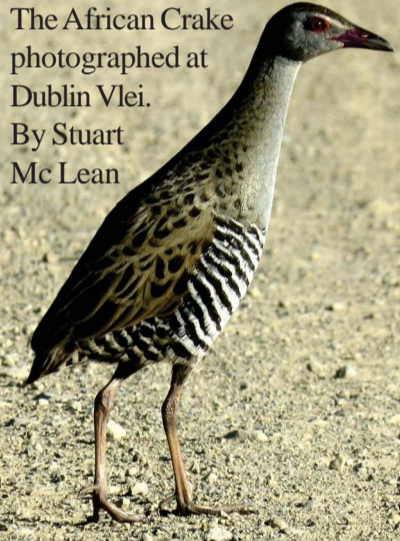
The Amur Falcons spent very little time locally in big numbers. Only right at the end of their season here, did Bart Fokkens and Heather Wilson see big numbers in the Wilson's Dam area, a big gathering of possibly in excess of 5000 birds. The flock gathered for a day or two and then left. This behaviour is very different to the earlier years when they would be visible for weeks in big numbers at the Himeville roost.

Some out of range sightings were those of the Grey-backed Sparrowlarks seen by Aldo Berruti at Sani Valley Lodge on 17 March, a group seen by Hugo Voights and Bart Fokkens at Penwarn on the same day and a group of them were seen at Dartford Farm by Kevin Fraser and Decklan Jordaan on 22 March. Chris Kelly saw a European Honey Buzzard at Goshen on 1 April.

Other good observations were of an adult Pale Chanting Goshawk on 17 March near the Polela River outside Himeville by Aldo, amazingly the same day as the Grey-backed Sparrowlarks were seen. Kevin Fraser spotted an African Crake on Dartford on the 21 March. This bird is seldom reported from here. I have seen birds near the Eustace farm Abingdon on three occasions in thatch grass along the roadside. Glen McLean photographed a pair mating there some time ago and I saw a bird with three chicks on a different date.

A Brown Snake Eagle was first seen near Mkomazana on 4 March and I have had several sightings of it since. Aldo Berruti last reported it there on the 27 March. I have since seen it over Sani Valley Lodge area on 30 March. Bart saw Verreaux's Eagle over Splashy Fen on the 29 March. I saw a Lesser Moorhen at Dieu Donne on 28 March, White-winged Tern at Reichenau Dam on the 29 March and a single Baillon's Crake in Himeville Nature Reserve on 4 April.

Margie Schleyer saw a pair of White-backed Ducks with at least four ducklings on 4 March.



The African Crake photographed at Dublin Vlei.  
By Stuart Mc Lean

Dylan Weyer had a Brimstone Canary in the garden, a first for his garden. Kim Fraser saw a pair of Half-collared Kingfisher at their dam. Pam Ellenberger had a Green Woodhoopoe in her Underberg garden and Aldo Berruti had a Willow Warbler and Violet-backed Starling in the garden. Some late departures were a Fan-tailed Grassbird I saw at Sani Valley on the 30 March. Our Buff-spotted Flufftail has remained till the 17 April, this is the

longest stay of this species in our garden, a few days shy of four months. Only the male remains at the moment, true to form the female departed first, but most years the chicks would remain long after the male departs. The reverse has happened this year. I have never seen Buff-spotted after the 28 March.

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Chris Green caught this trout in the Sani river, Lesotho

## ABOUT TROUT

So glad to say the fishing in the rivers has greatly improved. The cooler weather dropping river water temperatures into comfortable ranges for the fish. The recent rains also helped allot getting the water levels up. The fish were more active and many of the bigger fish moved from the deeper pools into shallower runs and pockets where they are easily targeted on dries, wets and dry/droppers. Some very good reports have come back from private and Emzemvelo waters, where fish over 50cm (19 inch) have been caught. Many fish caught in the 30cm to 40cm (12 to 16 inch) range also reported. UHTFC had 30 fish come of 28 rods. Flies being productive was various dries, Adams, Klinkhamers in black and olive as well as various parachute emerger flies and old school Royal wulffs got fish to the net. Hoping that this cooler weather and almost perfect water conditions bring the bigger fish to show themselves for the Rivers in May festival held by UHTFC. I can not wait to hear reports of fish this last bit of the season will produce. Happy to say that the stillwaters aslo had a drop in temperature and that had a good

effect on the fishing. Water temperature readings of 16 degrees celsius have been recorded on some dams, and that is good enough to fish without having to much stress put on the fish. Many good fish have been caught in both club and private water and mentions of big cockfish moving into the shallows. Fish seem to be feeding well and bulking up before the spawn. Floating lines in the shallows accounted for many fish although fishing deeper still caught fish too. As always black wooly buggers (speedcops) did well along with various leach and tadpole patterns, Matuka in olive and black as well as Mrs Simpsons, Pancora buggers and various Dragonfly patterns caught fish. Big patters did well all over. White flies and flies tied with red stood out at some of the dams (club and private waters). UHTFC produced 69 fish from 62 rods fishing. The longest being a Rainbow of 62cm(24inch) caught by D.Parsons. As the cooler weather continues the stillwater will surely be a good alternative to rivers that are closing in little under a month. And with the fish in the shallows at that time will surely make for enjoyable sight fishing. **By Duane Vaughn Howell Underberg Flyfishing and lifestyle centre** at The Clocktower Centre. - Contact 0832286707 or 0655232877 **Check out our website at [uhtfc.org](http://uhtfc.org)**

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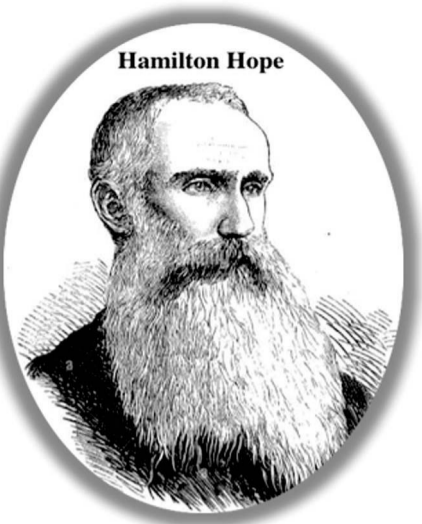
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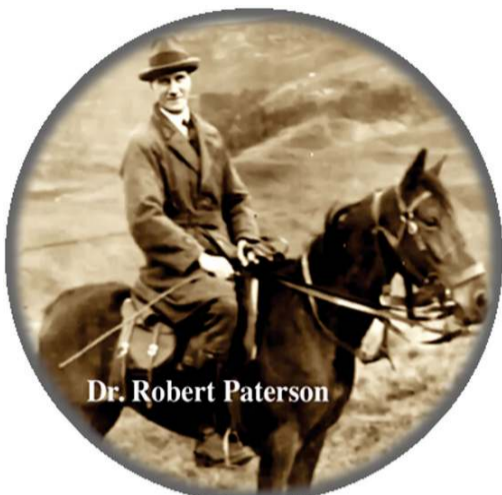
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# ON THE ROCKS Don Guy (066 018 6430) Basutoland Gun Wars - 1880-1 and an associated visit to a mission hospital

Recently we fielded a surprise phone call from **Sulenkama** near **Qumbu** in the Eastern Cape. The subject; The unveiling of a renovated grave and monument at a mission hospital. *'Is Mr Bill Small there? We know he and his daughter have visited the mission hospital at Sulenkama'* (Bill Small is a long-time resident of Underberg approaching his 100th year). A series of phone calls later culminated in a visit by officials and the local chief of **Sulenkama** to Bill's Underberg home. A formal invitation to the event followed - History had come to greet us. **Nessie Night mission hospital** had been Bills first home in South Africa in the 1930's and he has many a fond memory of holidays in this remote Transkei outpost. The unveiling of a new monument to Bills missionary uncle Bob - **Dr. Robert Lamb Paterson** and his wife 'Nessie', **Agnes Knight** proved to be a momentous occasion. A budget of over R100 000 000 has been allocated to revamp and enlarge the hospital founded by their Scottish Presbyterian church with funds first raised by **Nessie** in Scotland nearly 100 years ago.



Hamilton Hope



Dr. Robert Paterson

Close to today's Underberg on the Ndawana river a farm called **'Bathurst'** has clues as to how far repercussions of the **Basutoland Gun War** reached. It was occupied by a frontiersman **Randall Walker**. RW whom I have written about before, farmed on the then **Cape** side of the Ndawana river in the late 1870's. On old maps it's known as **'Walkers Camp'**. Historical records point to RW's service during the Gun wars of 1880 - 1881 and his association with **Donald Strachan** and his private army the 'Abalondolozu' that successfully kept the Basuto Gun war rebel influence from extending into East Griqualand. **Walker** with his men kept the Natal / East- Griqualand flank with several incursions into Basutoland. There is reference to frontier families **Scott, Carol** and **van Wyhe** and his sons taking refuge at the **Walker farm 'Bathurst'** in the 1880's. Natal colonists residing near the Drakensburg mountain passes feared assault by rebel raiding parties, the **Natal** police mobilized under **Major J. G. Dartnell**. (Dartnell is associated with Himeville later on when he implemented and chose the site of the Fort which now houses the Museum.) The gathering at **Sulenkama** had many a political innuendo. **Hamilton Hope** the magistrate who had been murdered up the road from the mission was contrasted at the monument ceremony to the likes of **Dr. Paterson** the missionary doctor from Scotland, in the 'political speak'. A 'colonial oppressor' contrasted with an international 'do gooder'. The next monument to be erected will likely be to the Chief who ordered the killing of the Qumbu magistrate **Hamilton**

**Sulenkama** first came into the spotlight in 1880 at the onset of the **Basutoland Gun Wars**. The Cape Government had passed a Peace Prevention Act (PPA) to disarm tribes. (Basutoland and East Griqualand were then part of the Cape colony). A **Qumbu** magistrate by the name of **Hamilton Hope** and two of his staff were murdered at **Sulenkama** after they attempted to coax **Kumkani Mhlontlo** a local Chief into assisting colonial forces against the **Basuto Gun War Rebellion**. Interestingly **Hope's** assistant a missionary's son **Alfred Davis** was untouched. He fled to Shawsbury mission after the Chief who had connections with his father missionary **Davis** 'Sunduza' separated him from the other Cape colonial administration officials. This was not an isolated incident, **Walter Stanford** in **Tembuland** had his offices sacked and burnt and a **Mr. Welsh** the magistrate of **Tsolo** locked himself and companions in the jail for safety. **Charles Brownlee** magistrate of East Griqualand was besieged in the Ongeluksnek valley near **Matatiele**. In the aftermath **Chief Kumkani Mhlontlo** was exiled to Basutoland and losing his official status, he died a pauper. Reference to much of what I am writing about can be read in **Kokstad** author **Milner Snell's** marvelous book **'A Beautiful Country'**, which can be found in the Himeville Museum archives.

**Hope**. A descendent, His Majesty **Kumkani Zwelozuko Matiwane** of the **AmaMpondomise** spoke at the ceremony. **Mhlontlo's** people were severely dealt with after the **Hamilton Hope** murder and current thinking in the Eastern Cape has it that this must be contextualized and rectified. A heritage trail capable of being promoted as the **Kumkani Mhlontlo Resistance and Liberation route** is now planned. The Zulu war of 1879 preceded the **Gun War** and the siege at **Moorosi's** mountain fortress in **Quthing Basutoland** gave the Cape colonial Government and British troops a run for their money. Other clashes with armed Basuto rebels forced the Cape government to the negotiation table and this extended to parliament in London. The outcome was that Basutoland reverted to governance directly from Britain. In effect Basutoland was de-annexed by an Act of parliament from Cape rule in 1883



**What caused the Basutoland Gun War of 1880-1?** Basutoland had been annexed to the Cape Colony in 1871, Taxes soared. In 1879 18 000 pounds was collected in hut tax. The Basuto had, became sullen. Following the discovery of diamonds in Kimberly in the 1870's people of all creeds and colour poured up to the mining operation. One of the main objectives of the tribal labor was to accumulate guns, their chiefs encouraged guns in lieu of wages. Cecil John Rhodes noted that natives would walk 100 miles to earn wages to buy the "white mans magic," yet he failed to emphasize that guns were the white man's major enticement for workers to come to the diamond fields. The thought of 20 000 armed Basuto had scared the colonial rulers of the Cape colony into ordering the registration of weapons and ultimately disarmament. On December 22, 1879, Colonel Griffith ordered an unpopular PPA (Peace Preservation Act) to administer Basuto and Transkeian citizens to disarm. There had been opposition in it's implementation in Cape politics and with missionaries particularly the French missionaries in Basutoland. Tribal land had become 'Europeanized' and traditional land rights were eroding. A civil war and rebellion followed, today it's known as the Basutoland Gun War. It threatened to spread beyond the border into the Cape and Griqualand East and it did. Basutoland in 1878 was included in the Cape Colony. Lesotho received independence from Britain in 1966 in line with Britains de - colonization process. South Africa declared its self a Republic and disassociated itself from the commonwealth at the same time. The Transkei has had its fair share of border transformations too. Nowadays the **Walker Farm 'Belfast'** is incorporated into **KwaZulu Natal** part of the **Harry Gwala District Municipality**, such is the dynamism of border survey and political manipulation, this recently as a result of democratic elections in 1994.

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**A LASTING IMPACT ON OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY**

On behalf of Goxhill Primary, we wanted to extend our deepest gratitude for the incredible act of kindness Methodist church that showed by visiting our school and providing shoes for our children. Their generosity has left a lasting impact on our entire community. The smiles on the faces of our students when they received their new shoes were truly priceless. Your thoughtfulness has not only provided them with a basic necessity but has also instilled a sense of care and compassion that will stay with them for years to come. Your commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others is inspiring, and we feel immensely fortunate to have your support. Thank you for embodying the spirit of generosity and for being such a shining example for us all. **By Teacher Mbokazi (Goxhill Primary School)**

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# THE SPECKLED HEN

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The Editor was having difficulty processing the tragic death of **Chris Bonsma** and asked to meet **Heidi Kyle** at **THE LEMONTREE** the answer was right before me - I saw my own positive photo memory many times and it was beautiful.

**Christopher Ian Bonsma**  
27/12/1995  
to 6/4/2024



ordered, just lots of little things. The whole town feels the loss of his vibrant life, but it's a loss in the five-sense reality of human existence. This is a poem written by Mary Elizabeth Frye that has come to my mind so often since I heard this news:

*Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there. I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow.  
I am the diamond glints on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.  
When you awaken in the morning's hush  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of quiet birds in circled flight.  
I am the soft stars that shine at night.  
Do not stand at my grave and cry;  
I am not there. I did not die.*

What did I know of Christopher Ian Bonsma? Actually, I didn't know that much, I am a newbie here. What I knew was those blazing blue eyes, the golden hair, the tanned skin and the sparkle of intense mischief in those amazing eyes. I only "knew" him from our intellectually impaired daughter, Clementine, who loves the Olde Duck and goes there as often as she can with cries of "pink milkshake!" I know Janine, with her sparkly eyes and big heart and her kindness to Clemmie - always engaging her in whatever conversation Clemmie can participate in on the day. I know Bronwyn the same way - letting Clemmie try on endless hats at Vanilla Rose and laughing when I get stressed that she might do damage.

Christopher always stands out in my memory for his laughter - Clemmie is funny in her ways. So many people don't get that. They are pious or they are serious because after all this is a disabled child right? Chris was different. He would laugh out loud at her funny antics and her funny way of speech. Always with a twinkle of pure merriment and joy in his eyes. She would laugh right back - her rolling laugh when she knows something is really funny and making complete eye to eye contact. Both of them have bright blue eyes. Two old, joyful souls connecting across what should be an endless divide, but in that magic, isn't.

I went to his life celebration, not because I knew him well but because I knew he had life, heart and joy and I felt like the whole of South Africa should be there! An amazing soul who came for a good time, not a long time. Souls know that and they extract every drop. There the town was, out in force, cars everywhere, people celebrating, laughing and crying, many, many tears. Who were we crying for I wondered as I tried to find a dry spot in my inadequate hankie? Ourselves, obviously. Left behind, waiting forever.

When Carol Souki's voice soared into the heavens singing "Lord of the Dance" it was so happy! That's exactly right. He is probably playing jokes on us right now. "Bet he's having heaps of fun," I thought to myself.

I pray for his family, for his beautiful, strong fiancée, Lexi, and for them to reach a place of healing. You can't get over this, you learn to live with it. You learn to live with the changes, the difference, you find joy in small memories, the photo that falls out of your wallet unexpectedly, a meal at a restaurant that you know he would have

## New Race Venue, same magic, at Ultra-Trail Drakensberg

Ultra-Trail Drakensberg (UTD) festival of trail running takes place from 26-28 April, with events of 160 km, 100 km, 65 km, 36 km and 25 km. Four of the five courses traverse the Giant's Cup Trail, in the southern section of Maloti-Drakensberg Park World Heritage Site. The races incorporate features of the southern Drakensberg such as Sani Pass, Twelve Apostles, Khanti Ridge, Hodgson's Peaks, Garden Castle and Langalibalele's Pass.

Spurgeon Flemington, local farmer, is the Race Director and Founder of Ultra-trail Drakensberg and established the event in 2017, though it was years in the making prior to that. A big shift this year is a change of venue, and Flemington says: "The Premier Resort Sani Pass Hotel has supported this event from the start, serving as our Race Village, and the 25 km race still starts there this year. But moving to Glencairn Farm further down the road is part of taking the event to a new level. Glencairn is a venue that's specifically built around a vision of events like KAP sani2c. They have all the infrastructure, big gathering areas, and their food halls, toilets and bathrooms are all geared for 1000 people attending an event."

Numbers will always be limited to ensure that the experience is not impacted by growing too large, and there is a cap on numbers to limit any impact on the trails. But, says Flemington: "By being at Glencairn we are able to make ultra-trail running in the Drakensberg more accessible to a wider audience. The shorter distances sell out faster, and we'd like to see some of those runners extend into the longer distances, and come back each year for a bigger challenge."

Changes to the routes have been made to incorporate the new venue, and in the longer distances, some other changes have been made to enhance the experience out on the trails. Says Flemington: "On the 100 miler, we reduced the amount of mileage in Lesotho to 27 kms, and it will be much more scenic and visually spectacular, as those 27 kms are all on the edge of escarpment and they summit the major peaks of the area all in daylight hours. We are taking the miler runners back to the Bushman's Nek side, and then on about 50 kms of the Giant's Cup Trail, where before, there was only 20 kms of Giant's Cup Trail for them. It's a spectacular trail, so I think the miler has a well-balanced route and it's very, very beautiful."

The 100 km race will start at Silverstreams Trading Post, and runners will do the entire Giant's Cup Trail, all 62 kms of it: "I think that is pretty special. Then we're going to send them up the Sani Pass road, and to the 12 Apostles Traverse, and then along the Khanti Ridge-line - that's going to be a real sting in the tail. I think the 100 km is going to be a pretty challenging run, but a beautiful, pure mountain experience."

Last year UTD hosted runners from 27 countries to run the spectacular trails of the Drakensberg, and the event hopes to continue attracting visitors to experience the majestic beauty of our mountains and surrounding areas. **By Maryann Shaw**

For more information visit [www.ultra-trail-drakensberg.com](http://www.ultra-trail-drakensberg.com)



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# SANI COMMUNITY FORUM

“SO WHAT I’M TELLING YOU TO DO NOW IS TO ACT. BECAUSE NO ONE IS TOO SMALL TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.”

GRETATHUNBERG

As we reach SANI COMMUNITY FORUM half century of articles printed in the MOUNTAIN ECHO, the opportunity arises to thank fellow Old Rhodian and Editor, PAUL WELCH, for his endless patience, guidance, and level head, over the last 4 years. The Mountain Echo is one of the few Print Media Newspapers that is read from cover to cover, thoroughly enjoyed, properties purchased through advertising, and articles contemplated and debated. The Mountain Echo epitomises Timeless NUD, and despite the plethora of Whatsapp Groups with everything from the Weather to Lost Pets and Fibre, it is still nourishing for the soul to settle down with a cup of coffee in a patch of sunshine and read the old fashioned “Newsie.”

It was not too many years back, that DR GAVIN KING embarked on a lonely journey to clean up around the Vet Surgery and on his verge, on a Friday during the lunch hour. This is similar to what is compulsory in RWANDA, but in NUD, Dr KING was belittled for this selfless act. In Rwanda, everyone from the President to the Pauper participates in the clean-up and Rules and Laws are enforced. Rwanda, once a country of horrific genocide that saw over 800 000 people slaughtered, millions mutilated and livelihoods destroyed, miraculously rose from the ashes. This Phoenix is now the Jewel of Africa, with International Tourists flocking to this clean and safe country, where the laws are enforced.

Fast forward some years and the participation in NUD TIDY TOWNS led by RUTH CROUCH, has been phenomenal. This was kickstarted by DR GAVIN KING, as a lone crusader against litter. Wall Murals are going up, old signage removed, verges planted, potholes patched, dead trees removed, and most importantly, TOURISTS are noticing and are encouraged by the green shoots of the rejuvenation of NUD. BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, NOT THE PROBLEM.

It is up to the Municipality to play their part in enforcing ALL THE BY-LAWS and promoting TOURISM and INVESTMENT. It was gut wrenching to read in the Dr NDZ Municipality Budget, what would appear to be, a meagre R880K budgeted for Tourism for the year and that was allocated to participation in a handful of Tourism Events, Nationally. Compare this to the awarding of R19.1M annually for Private Security/VIP Protection and then, to add insult to injury, the award was not to one of our local Security Companies. The question begs, which Budget item will create the most jobs? By DI SUNTER



Before and after mural at The Underberg Clinic by Rob Leenhouders

## RISK VS REWARD. THE SCALE USED BY CRIMINALS.

By NICHOLAS CONEY.

When a criminal decides, he is going to break into a residence or business property, they always weigh up the RISK VS REWARD for each property. Criminals usually monitor a property they are going to break into before they go ahead. What they are doing at this point is looking at what you have at your premises. In our town, most of the time it is garden equipment such as brush cutters, lawn mowers, chainsaws etc. Once they have a good idea of what you have, they will then look at your security. If you have tight security, they will normally pass your property and move onto another. Criminals do not want to get caught so if they find a situation to be too risky, they will move on.

In the security industry we talk about layers of security, starting from your boundary line inwards. Always secure your fence line and driveway gate, grow flowers/bushes that have thorns on like roses. This makes it unattractive for a criminal to attempt to jump your fence as the risk of hurting themselves is higher. Make sure you have a cage over your gate motor so that it cannot be interfered with. The next step is lighting. Criminals do not like to be seen, as they prefer to move in the shadows so ensure you have outside LED lights, preferably solar powered, so they will still work during load shedding. Keep your property illuminated during the night.

The third thing that needs to be installed, are outside beams surrounding your home as this will prevent the criminals getting to your home without being picked up. As I always say, do you want to know when the criminal is inside your home or before he gets to your windows or doors?

The fourth thing is to install an alarm system inside your home just in case the criminals get past all the security measures outside.

Always ensure you have a panic remote close by. Strategically put them around your house so in the event of you witnessing something going on in your property, you can quickly alert your Security Provider. Keep your Security Company Control Room Number as a Favourite on your phone so you can get hold of them quickly.

If you live on a farm or remote property, find a room in your home that you can use as a “Safe Room” somewhere where you can lock yourself and family in and stay safe until help arrives. If you would like advice, please contact me.

It is important that Public Areas are illuminated at night. Here, I am referring to Street Lights. If the Streets are lit up at night, Security Companies will be able to perform their duties far better. They need to see what lurks in the shadows, to protect their clients and themselves.

There have been many instances across South Africa in the last couple of years, where Security Reaction Officers have been murdered in their cars for their firearms, mostly because the areas were not illuminated properly. If your Street Lights are not working, report them. There are members of our Community that are fighting to get these lights fixed through the SANI COMMUNITY FORUM. We encourage everyone to get involved in reporting the Street Lights. Your safety and those walking home after dark, depend on good lighting.

Underberg and Himeville crime rate remains low, which we are grateful for. This is not to say there is no crime. There is most certainly some crime, so please continue to stay vigilant and contact your Security Providers if you see anything strange. The Woonga addicts are still milling around town, looking for opportunities. Many of them have found vacant land around Underberg where they have made little shelters for themselves to sit and smoke their drugs. If you have vacant land near your homes, please keep an eye on them and report any suspicious activity to your Security Providers. We all need to keep the pressure on them, so they feel uncomfortable and know that addicts and criminals are not welcome in our town.

In closing, if you would like advice on your Security Systems, Perimeter Security or Safe Rooms, please feel free to contact me. My goal is to ensure our Community is safe and the Residents have secure properties. Your home is your castle, protect it as such.

## TIDY TOWNS: BY RUTH CROUCH.

I see my role with Tidy Towns as trying to make a difference with the small issues within NUD, while we wait for the Municipal Tender to be awarded to attend to beautifying the villages. In the interim, I am happy to help and work with the Municipality on certain issues. Let us give praise where it is due. MR VEZI always has ‘an open ear’. Ms TRISH MAPHANGA formed the OPEN SPACES, PARKS, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FORUM. She is very proactive and always follows up with matters, for which I am grateful. Meetings are successful, with an excellent rapport amongst participants, and there is a genuine common desire to achieve our objectives. DON GUY sits on this forum and voices the concern about the sanitation issue for the Underberg and has done a complete site visit of all the areas pertaining to this issue. Don has had two cordial meetings with MR VEZI, who acknowledges there are challenges. I have been addressing the issue of signage and we are hoping that By-Laws will be exercised as regards signage in and around the district.

A well-known farmer from Richmond, where he has lived for 68 years, lamented what a sorry state Richmond was in, with the beautiful Old Magistrate’s Old House now condemned. I see the same deterioration in my hometown of Pietermaritzburg. This is becoming the common cry for so many of our towns and villages across our beloved land, where decay and poor service delivery is the norm.

But I am positive that we can turn things around in NUD. We are a Tourist Destination and many sporting events take place in our district, so we must tap into that. Many people who come to our beautiful Underberg district, be it on holiday or to participate in the many cultural and sporting events that take place, help to boost business turn-over, utilise our accommodation outlets and eateries etc. and essentially create the much-needed jobs. Through TIDY TOWNS, we endeavour to beautify our two villages and so improve tourism which in turn, creates a WIN/WIN for everyone in NUD. Someone told me recently that Underberg has been voted the top destination in KZN. Young and old are indeed seeking to live here too and the Estate Agents are short of stock to sell. SPLASHY FENN is the ever popular annual musical festival and DRAK CHALLENGE and SANI SPOORS CLUB host the Drak Descent race and Run the River events which are huge drawcards. They are so many wonderful events on the sporting calendar, all taking place in our district, surrounded by beautiful scenery, well cultivated farmlands with meandering streams and rivers and overshadowed by the majestic Drakensberg Mountains. My dear Dad, SKONK NICHOLSON often referred to the Underberg District as “GOD’S OWN COUNTRY.” So yes, we can all most certainly capitalise on God’s creation, but it remains for us to be good and caring guardians thereof.

A big thank you this month to STUART BERRY and ANDREW VAN RENSBURG from SPLASHY FENN FESTIVAL and PIERRE HORN, IAN BONSMAN, ED SMITH and DEREK CHRISTIE from SANI SPOORS who have generously donated funds, which makes my work possible, so I can pay my labour. CHANTELE SWANEPOEL, the SANI COMMUNITY FORUM Treasurer, DI AND RICHARD SUNTER, and I, do not draw any payment for ourselves. I do get reimbursed for my petrol.

Thanks to BARBARA BRUYNSE who kindly donated her daughter’s garden tools to Tidy Towns. Thank you too to MR MOHSHIN from JUMBO for his support and to MR AKRAM BUTT who helps me from time to time with loan of tools and donation of cement to plaster the library wall for the one mural.

This leads me to further comment on the three lovely murals:

- The bold large white daisy and ladybug mural by ROB LEENHOUWERS on the Clinic wall;

- The detailed mural of children playing with a soccer ball on the taxi rank wall by SIMON RAYNER;



· and the modern interlinking figure images on the library wall by DON GUY.

Each artist has his own style, and we believe they are eye-catching and bring a creative element to Underberg. We are going to proceed to Himeville where

HEATHER FITCHET has happily agreed for Don Guy to paint a mural of red-hot poker on the outside of THE STONE HOUSE KITCHEN WALL. I was approached by CLOUDS OF HOPE to offer them some community work and I asked MR VEZI if we could revamp the Municipal Workshop that has several bushman images. He gave the thumbs up. DON GUY duly organised a hike so a party of ten, including the five CLOUDS OF HOPE students went to see two caves with the genuine bushmen paintings to inspire them to paint their own images on these walls. In May, we will commence with this exciting project and in addition, ROB VON LEENHOUWERS will work with the students on the Public Toilet Walls in the Himeville Park, with the blessing of MR VEZI. SIMON RAYNER is keen to work on the container at OUT THERE SERVICES. Our multitalented DON GUY made two jaunty videos of the murals and the hike which you can be viewed on Underberg News FaceBook page.

JAMES WATSON is kindly sending in his TLB again to remove the stumps in Himeville Park and in the Grand Old Lady’s grounds while IAN CROUCH will get the permit to burn all these stumps. Thank you to you both for your kind and continued services. So Stronger Together.....

Still pertaining to matters in Himeville, I have on a couple of occasions sent a letter to the Himeville Police Station suggesting they remove the encroaching Spanish Broom bushes and paint their staff house roofs, but they have no budget. Hopefully Puma Garage will soon get new owners.

I always seek permission, approval and blessing in all I do now and I try to approach folk in a respectful manner. They can either say yes or no. Sometimes I feel that some folk need to get out of their comfort zone, some are not aware of things and there are those who don’t care. On the other hand, there many who do assist and want to improve matters.

There are certain people who are forever driving up to the small square rubbish bins, dropping their kitchen refuse bags alongside the bins, not even inside, and yet the dump is only one km away. This happens regularly on any day of the week as they are not prepared to wait until rubbish collection day. These bins are only meant for pedestrian litter. I did see one lady in her car- I am hopeless at car makes, much to my son’s despair. I did take note of the number plate. Please if anyone sees folk dumping refuse bags or any form of dumping, post them on social media, or tell me. I think it is time we name and shame. In addition, the Municipality has a R3000 fine for this offense, I believe. Rubbish is put out on a Sunday and dogs tear into them, creating a huge mess. Please put your Bags out on a Monday. So, am I nit picking? The broken window movement began in New York City where residents started fixing the small broken and unsightly things which then led to big issues being tackled. If NYC can do it, NUD most certainly can. If there is anything you might feel I can do or not do, please contact me and I will endeavour within reason and limited resources, to try and address the issue. **Ruth Crouch 0842073057**

**kintsugi – the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery by joining pieces back together with gold lacquer, to make a feature of the flaws and “embrace imperfection”**  
submitted by Paul Welch



## MICROSOFT – THE UNIVERSAL TUTOR

**\* EXTRAORDINARY PROFITS FROM ORDINARY SHARES**

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A lot has been happening at the Microsoft Campus – headquarters of Microsoft Corporation, Redmond, Washington, USA, Seattle.

And I mean a lot.

Microsoft has become the tutor and teacher of the world.

In February Microsoft announced plans to train 2 million people in India with Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) skills. Countries and companies are ramping up investments to take advantage of new AI opportunities. The training in India, which will be delivered in conjunction with government, nonprofit and corporate organisations and communities, will help the future workforce “harness AI’s potential”.

According to Forbes.com this includes partnering with national and state governments to give basic and advanced AI training to 500 000 students and job seekers “in-depth AI technical skills training” for 100 000 young women and raising awareness of responsible AI use and AI – enabled careers for 400 000 students in schools in remote and tribal regions.

Nadella, a native of India who took the helm at Microsoft a decade ago, said the country is “uniquely positioned to make the promise of AI a reality, AI is in the air now. It is going to have an impact on GDP”.

Microsoft will also train 100 000 developers in AI tools and technologies that will create AI fluency among India’s workforce, government officials and develop AI capacity in nonprofit organisations.

Nadella said: “Its fantastic to see how India’s developer community is applying our technology and tools to build the future for India and the world”.

Last year Microsoft announced a GBP 2.5 billion investment to expand its next generation AI data centre infrastructure in the UK.

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Microsoft committed to doubling its datacentre footprint in the UK and training more than one million people for the AI economy. They will be given the skills they need to build and work with AI, including expanded training for people looking to start, or move into, a career in AI.

Working in partnership with multiple learning and non-profit partners, the programme will focus on building AI fluency, developing AI technical skills, supporting AI business transformation, and promoting safe and responsible AI development and use including the first Professional Certificate on Generative AI.

In November 2022 Microsoft launched its “Skills for Switzerland” and to date 630 000 people in Switzerland have gained new digital skills. In the same announcement Microsoft committed to train 10 million people by

providing free access to 350 courses, six new Career Essential’s Certificates and 50 000 LinkedIn Learning Scholarships.

This month Microsoft announced a \$1.5 billion investment in Abu Dhabi’s G42 to accelerate AI development and global expansion. This strategic investment will enhance the UAE’s position as a global AI hub and provide further opportunities for partners and customers to innovate and grow. Both companies will support the establishment of a \$1 billion fund for developers.

Also, this month Microsoft announced a US\$2.9 billion investment, the single largest investment in its 46 – year history, in Japan to expand its AI and cloud infrastructure.

Last year it announced a \$3.2 billion cloud and AI investment in Australia.

I could continue this article in the same vein for many pages but I am constrained by time

and space and I think I have managed to get the message to readers.

The Microsoft’s Mission is to empower every person and every organisation on the planet to achieve more.

Let’s not be naive. Microsoft is not totally altruistic, but it is very easy to see that the companies influence and reach and most importantly, for shareholders and new investors, its profitability is growing very rapidly.

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**William Meyer – 0796244031**

## “ADHD” Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder

by Heidi Kyle

Once, if one couldn’t concentrate, struggled to understand instructions, found it difficult to sit still or stared out the window excessively we were given the ruler or the wooden spoon. The teacher would carefully place her chosen weapon in a prominent position at the front of her desk and and fix the “culprits” with a beady eye.

It’s good to know we now understand this condition much better. Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) was recognized by doctor Sir George Frederic Still in 1900 who noted a “lack of .. control by children who were otherwise intelligent”. In 1968 it was included in the Diagnostic and Statistic Manual (DSM) and in 2000 it was officially recognized as a condition.

Great research and evolvement have occurred since 2000. There are now many interventions available for children and adults. Many adults are diagnosed when their children are diagnosed and mom or dad realise they are just the same!

ADHD is the overarching term, there was the term ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder), but that has been dropped. There are three presentations of ADHD. First, the classic hyperactive, lack of attention. This is the stereotypical image of the young child jumping off walls and unable to focus while the teacher pulls their hair out. The second

category is what was previously termed “ADD”. This is a non-attentive presentation and has the lack of concentration but is accompanied by dreaminess and a mildly non-responsive demeanor. The third category is a combination of the two – bouts of hyperactivity interspersed with non-attentive behaviour. The third category is the most common.

There are medications that can be effective but there is a period of adjustment as the doctor will need to ensure the correct type and dosage is administered. Recently, ADHD medications have evolved and there are more options available. There are great results to be had with diet, exercise, meditation, breathing techniques, cold water immersion and scheduling changes. In childhood, the focus of parents is on concentration for school, however the condition is synonymous with emotional dysregulation. This is due to the lack of impulse control ADHD sufferers have. This is demonstrated, not just in behaviour, but in how sufferers express their emotions. They may become angry, confused, frustrated or violent. This is why it is important not just to medicate but to holistically manage this condition to keep an even keel.

Hypnosis can be highly effective as we can help clients to visualise themselves having great days, being productive, setting goals and reframing unhelpful memories of failure or feeling demeaned by teachers and parents who didn’t understand. Counselling can be helpful for clients (adult and teen children) to make good decisions about suitable careers that work best for them. There is a wonderful organization

in the UK called “Attention Different” (attentiondifferent.org) which helps to frame this condition positively.

Next month we will focus on the emotional effects of ADHD which are often overlooked. **by Heidi Kyle**



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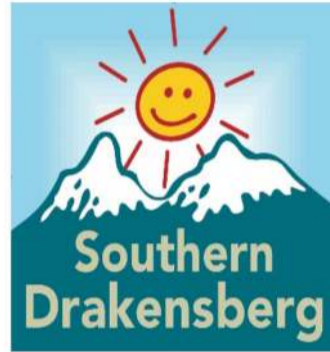


## B-I-N-G-O!! 2 MAY

Our first bingo evening at the Country Club was a huge success. **The proceeds of R4050 were given to Underberg Nursing Services.** Come along to the next one on 2 May at Underberg Country Club start 6.30pm . R50 per person Dinner R80. Call 033 7011130 to book **Proceeds this time will be going to GCAW.** Bring along a tin of cat or dog food to assist.

## Southern Drakensberg Community Tourism Organisation

*Places to stay  
Things to do  
What to see*



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For example, next month we are off to the Travel Indaba in Durban. It is ostensibly the largest trade fair in South Africa and is attended by many International tour operators so we will get to showcase our members there!

It is also worth mentioning that if you are involved in tourism, you are legally required to be a member of a CTO. So, here we are, come and join us!

For membership information, please email Russell at [info@sanilodge.co.za](mailto:info@sanilodge.co.za) or Robyn at [robynferraz@icloud.com](mailto:robynferraz@icloud.com).

## “FARMERS TO WATCH RIGHT NOW”

First up we have none other than **May Mndaweni**,

His story:

Born in 1959 in the Indawana area. He left home when he'd completed school to work in the Orange Freestate at a gold mine. In 2002 he was retrenched and returned home to his wife and family where his father gave him the option to work with the livestock at home or to leave and go look for work elsewhere. May Mndaweni chose to work with livestock.

In 2003 his hard work and strong people skills paid off and he was chosen as nduna by the community. A position he still holds today. His memory fails him, however he estimates that in 2007 the diptank at iNdawana was refurbished with a large push from his influence as nduna. Following that, he drove the development of the sale facilities and for the new wool shed. May is also a founding member of the Kwa Sani Livestock Association. He has a large flock of 200 sheep. He regularly purchases rams and ewes from local farmers,

such as the Eustaces and the Pooles. His drive is to improve his clip/wool before he increases the size of his flock.

He has 117 cattle & regularly buys bulls from farmers such as Tim Hempson. There has been a marked improvement in the quality of his cattle. Larger framed animals, but are able to fend well for themselves in the mountainous rough terrains.

He also has 94 goats that he uses to supply the rural market.

Let's give May Mndaweni the recognition he deserves and a very well deserved well done!

@the\_farmers\_daughter7  
@storm\_storah\_photography



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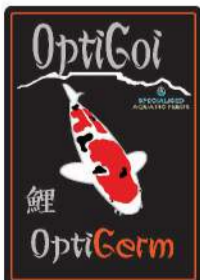


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## SOUTHERN BERG FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

### Basic Fire Regulations

These regulations are a guide-line only and any decision to burn fire breaks or block burns should be based on the current daily FDI (Fire Danger Index). If in doubt contact the *Southern Berg Fire Protection Officer, Kevin Webster* (082 784 1818) for confirmation. Please note that Underberg/Himeville Community Watch will broadcast the FDI's every morning on UFA channels (1 to 4 and Repeater) between 06h30 and 07h00 from Monday to Friday starting on the **1<sup>st</sup> of June 2021**. The FDI will also be sent out via Whatsapp and Telegram. Should the FDI prediction change radically during the course of the morning a further broadcast will be put out at approximately 10:00.

The burning periods indicated below may be extended should extreme weather conditions persist. This is at the discretion of the Southern Berg Fire Protection Officer.

- Gramoxone / tracer lines to be done in March. Burning of tracer lines should be completed by the end of May.
- EKZN will be allowed to continue strategic block burning during Autumn.
- Burning of fire breaks may take place on public holidays with the exception of a public holiday falling on a Friday.
- Cut-off time for burning fire breaks on a Friday is **18:00**.
- **Cut-off date for burning fire breaks is 15<sup>th</sup> of July.**
- No burning of any kind may take place over a weekend.
- Strategic fire breaks will be burnt from North to South where practical, utilizing dams, streams, roads and ploughed lands.
- Block burning of veld grazing paddocks may take place from 15<sup>th</sup> of July.
- Burning of timber slash and open fires is not permitted from 1<sup>st</sup> of June to the 31<sup>st</sup> of October.
- **No burning of garden refuse and rubbish is permitted between the 1<sup>st</sup> of June and 31<sup>st</sup> of October.**
- Weather forecast on UFA Radio Network given daily at 06:30 Monday to Friday. **A ban on burning must be adhered to!** Any change in weather conditions will be broadcast when received. Dangerous FDI's for the Province will be adhered to.
- **All burns must be logged with Com-Watch on the day of burning, either by radio, phone, Whatsapp or Telegram.**

**Southern Berg Fire Protection Association / Community Watch Emergency Contact numbers:**

**Tel: 033 702-1143 / 702-1114 / 702-1117**

**CeII: 082 784 1818**

**KWASANI FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

**BAS/C/F/RE REGULAR/ONS**

Lemithetho iyimhlahandlela kuphela. isinqumo sokushisa izindawo ezinkulu fonele sihombisone neFDI (Fire Danger Index) yonsuku zonke.uMo ungaqinisekile *Yotanele* uthintane nabakwaMaspala wakwasani iProtection Officer yakhona.

Qaphela ukuthi iUnderberg/HimevilleCommunity Watch ijwayela ukusokaza iFDI (Fire Danger Index) kanye neminingwane yesimo sezuLu.uMo izinombolo zeFDI ziyela 'ENGOZINI'. iCommunity Watch isakaza leminingwane kwi UFA channel 1-4 ngaphambi kwa 7:00 ekuseni.uMa iFDI ibona ushintsho olungenzeka ngaleso sikhathi ekuseni lapho omunye umyalezo *uzosaYozwa* ngobo 10:00 ekuseni.

Lezizikhathi zokushisa ezibhaliwe ngezansi zingahlelwa uma izimo zezulu ezishintshashinshayo ziqhubeka, lokhu kuzoba esinqumweni sika Fire Protection Officer wakwamaspala wakwasani.

❖iGramoxone/amafolo-omlilo kufanele enziwe ngoMarch. ukushiswa kwamafolo omlilo fanele kube sekuphelile ekupheleni kwaMay.

❖EKZN izovumeleka ukuthi iqhubeka ukushisa izindawo ezivulekile ngeNtwasahlobo.

❖Ukushiswa kwamaFire Breaks kuvumelekile ngamaholidi ngaphandle uma lelo holidi lingolweSihlanu.

❖Isikhathi sokugcina kokushiswa kwamaFire Breaks u18:00 ngolwesihlanu ntamboma.

❖Ukushiswa kwezindawo ezivulekile kungenziwa kusukela ngomhlaka

15 July.

❖Ukushiswa kwezihlahla nezindawo ezivulekile akuvumelekile phakathi komhlaka 1 June kuya kumhlaka 31 October.

❖Ukushiswa kwadoti wasengadini nodoti ojwayelekile akuvumelekile kusukela npomhlaka 1 June kuya kumhlaka 31 October.

Imininingwane mayelana nesimosezulu itholakala kwi-UFA Radio Net nsukuzonke ngo 7:00 ekuseni ngomsombuluko kuya kulwesihlanu .Noma uluphi ushintsho kwisimosezUIU lizosakazwa.AmaFDI's ayingozi KwiProvince azobhekelelwo

KwaSoni Fire Protection Associofion/ Communify Watch Emergency. Ucingo: 033 7021143/7021117

umokholo-ekhukhwini: 082 7841818

## NEIGHBORS

Stronger together. There is so much we can achieve when we work together. When we sit together with no expectation except for that of our community. Together at Moyeni farm with John and Jemma Eustace and the Acutt brothers. Eating delicious home baked Bakers biscuits. Together in a field, fascinated by a tractor. Under trees at Reichenau Mission, getting to know each other. Planting the largest pumpkins, and then giving them away.

Mark Anderson, seeing the pumpkins and saying his mustard greens would complement them.

These small gestures that snowball into wonderful projects. Like the PIB and Enhlanhleri project. This exercise is growing into something that will provide help where it is needed most. Though

## Umbrella Disease

By Llew Evans



When veterinary students are training each holiday they are sent somewhere to see at first hand the kind of work a vet does. For example, at various times we were sent to spend time on a farm, working with private vets, state vets and even in abattoirs. When we came back from these experiences we all had tales to tell. I clearly remember the one about diagnosing Umbrella Disease.

One of the students had been sent to spend time with a private vet in the farming district of Standerton. As they were returning to the surgery one day the vet suddenly braked next to a field of cattle.

He pointed at one cow who had her head and neck through the fence and was munching rather inquisitively on the remains of an old umbrella in the long grass.

“See that cow” he said. “Make a note of her markings. I am sure we will see her again.”

Sure enough, the following day there was a call from a farmer to see one of his cows that was unwell. The vet and the student jumped into the vets' vehicle and sped to the farm. There was the same cow, looking very uncomfortable and giving little grunts if anyone prodded or pushed against her.

The vet stood and contemplated the cow. He took her temperature. He carefully listened to her chest. He walked slowly around her, and then turning to the farmer announced “ I am afraid your cow has Umbrella Disease.” The farmer's jaw dropped open. Then closed. He looked disbelieving “Ag nee Dok...”

“No time to lose my friend” the vet said. “We must operate immediately.” So in front of the bewildered farmer they did just that and set about the operation. They sedated the cow and shaved her side, made a long incision and opened up the rumen (the cow's stomach) and the vet placed his long arm in right up to his shoulder. He felt around a bit and then rather triumphantly produced the remains of a now very battered umbrella.

“There you are, my good man” he said, handing the umbrella to the student. The farmer's eyes bulged, his jaw opened again but no sound came out. He just shook his head and turned away.

That vet's reputation as a diagnostician was just made for ever.

Post script : It is a well known fact that cows very often will eat and swallow strange objects, often even bits of metal. These objects can then become lodged in the rumen and even penetrate the reticulum (another compartment of the stomach ) with very serious consequences. Cattle vets are often called upon to retrieve these foreign objects from cow's stomachs.**By Llew Evans**

## Underberg Primary School Hosts 4th Annual Heaviest Pumpkin Competition

Underberg Primary School, with support from Sani Round Table, recently hosted its 4th Annual Heaviest Pumpkin Competition. This year, the goal was not just to find the biggest flat white boer ford pumpkin, but also to help families in need. Over 50 entries were received, showing the school's enthusiasm for the event. Special thanks to Mayford Seed, Sakata, Forge Agri, Mr. Urbach and Underberg Primary School, who ensured the competition was a success.An extra big thank you goes out to all the kids who took part, showing kindness and making a difference in our community. **Kayla Manthe** won the competition with her pumpkin weighing 10.65kg. Ian Tsodzo came in second and Emma Manthe third. Wayne McNamara and the Underberg Farmers Association played a crucial role in distributing the pumpkins to those who needed them most. Their efforts ensured that the spirit of giving continued long after the competition ended.

The 4th Annual Heaviest Pumpkin Competition was not just about pumpkins; it was about coming together to help others and make our community stronger. **YIT Bud Manthe. (left) of photo**

**The Ngwagwane Water Users Association** has elected its first official management committee. Congratulations to the steering committee on getting this far. I think Mike Willment is the most relieved. The eland meeting this month proved to be more informative and helpful than previous iterations. Simon Acutt and his fellow HO's will be able to update you on the way forward if you have any queries. Search for us at Underberg Farmers Association on Instagram. **By Wayne Mc Namara**



still in the early stages, the plans are very progressive with a very strong education and community component. More in the next edition. Fr Vusi and Lyn Blomeyer spent time getting to know each other. Working at being better neighbors. Helping to open the Church's eyes to the potential of the land they own at Reichenau Mission. And of course, the pumpkins. For several years now I have assisted the Sani Round Tablers identify needy families. This year we visited Kwa Pitela and were able to add our new range of mustard greens from Mark Anderson Farming. The combination was a great hit. The recipients would like to thank all those involved for their generosity and goodwill. **By Wayne Mc Namara**

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- Sarah Acutt 073 171 9446
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