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**#SPLASHY2025 SEDGWICK'S**

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**SPLASHY**

**SA'S FRIENDLIEST FESTIVAL**  
 17 - 21 APRIL 2025

**#SPLASHY2025**

**DAY PASS**

Available for purchase at the festival gate.  
**R700 for Adults**  
**R200 for Children (Ages 4-12)**  
**R20 for Children under 4**



**SPLASHY**

**APRIL 17- 21**  
**SPLASHY FEN MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**FINALLINEUPANNOUNCEDFOR**  
**SPLASHY FEN 2025 – PLUS A BRAND-NEW STAGE!**

Tickets on sale from <https://splashyfen.co.za/tickets/#>

**PHASE 2 LINEUP REVEALED** Adding to an already exciting Phase 1 lineup, festival organizers have now confirmed the full list of performers who will take to the Splashy Fen stages. Fans can look forward to performances from: **International & Local Stars:**

**YOUNGR (UK) Darren Kiely (Ireland) Desmond And The Tutus, Mafikizolo, GoodLuck, Prime Circle, Ard Matthews Trio, Neon Dreams (Canada) Veranda Panda, Ben Rodriques, Hot Water, Perez, Cinema, Sunset Sweatshop, Nomadic Orchestra, Booshle G, Black Mamba Man, Jamie Lee Sexton, Jemma Kate.** In addition, the Splashy Fen Acoustic Stage will host the **#LegendsoftheFen** series, featuring unforgettable sets from **Cinema, Perez, Madala Kunene, Can Of Worms SA, and The Black Lapels.**

**A FESTIVAL FIRST: INTRODUCING THE MXD FORTRESS OF FUNK** As if the music lineup wasn't enough, **Splashy Fen 2025 is unveiling an all-new 6th stage – the MXD Fortress of Funk!** Get ready to groove all weekend long with an electrifying lineup of funk, soul, and dancefloor anthems.

**JOIN US AT SOUTH AFRICA'S FRIENDLIEST FESTIVAL**

Splashy Fen 2025 is more than just a music festival—it's a place where **music, nature, and community unite to create lifelong memories.** Secure your tickets now at [www.splashyfen.co.za](http://www.splashyfen.co.za). = **Stay connected!** Follow Splashy Fen on social media for lineup updates, festival tips, and more. **For local**

tickets email: [info@splashyfen.co.za](mailto:info@splashyfen.co.za) with a copy of your utility bill to get access to our **Otter Club** priced tickets

**SEE YOU AT SPLASHY FEN 2025!**

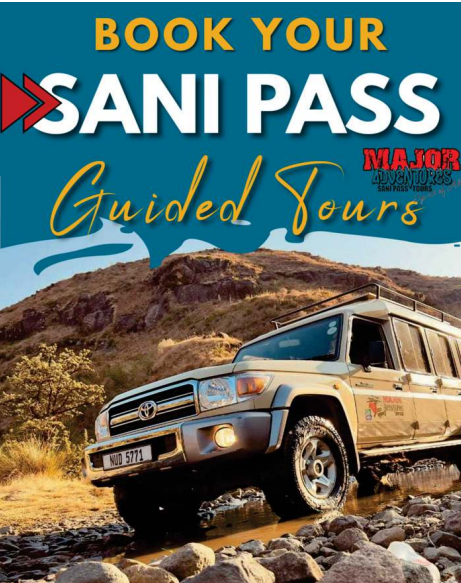
**Memories Splashy Fen Music Festival - the early years By Paul Welch**

In March of 1990 Pete and Almary Ferraz gathered with Robyn Ferraz, Bart Fokkens and Maureen Smith to celebrate their birthdays that all happen near the beginning of the year with Robyn Gawler and Paul Welch at Mount Dragon Restaurant 12 kms out of Underberg on the Swartberg road, a folly of Billy Welch's, a neo Tudor mini Castle. After many drinks Peter Ferraz was reminiscing about him and Almary going to a music festival at Woburn Abbey in England in the 1960s and his dream of having a festival at Splashy Fen Farm that had a natural amphitheatre. In retrospect we all regarded the idea as an alcohol fuelled romantic dream. Sure, enough it came together in October of 1990 much to everyone's surprise. Fortunately, Bart was involved with folk music clubs in South Africa and the next thing Splashy Fen was born. To their surprise about 1200 Splashy Fenners gathered on the amphitheatre hill that looks down onto the stage from the rocky hill just below where the pine trees meet of today's food court before you go down to the river stage. The electricity for the stage and musicians was from an old tractor driving an erratic farm generator that laid down a steady beat to the music that would sometimes stop when the tractor was being refuelled, there was no Eskom. Robin Church collected the entrance fee

**continued on page 3**

**VOL:41 NO: 3**  
**MARCH / APRIL 2025**  
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**EVENTS WITH**  
**THIS SPACE**

- APR 5** Country Market @ Underberg Country Club from 9am - 1pm, 1st Saturday of every month
- APR 9** Berg Musicians Club local talent from 18h30 @ NUD Country Club. 2nd Wednesday of every month **Booking essential 033 7011130**
- APR 16** Garden Club meeting @10 Kenmo Lake. Elize Jackson will be speaking about trees.Contact number 078 306 1758
- APR 17- 21** Splashy Fen Music Festival [www.splashyfen.co.za](http://www.splashyfen.co.za). see page 3
- APR 25 - 27** Drak Ultra Trail 25 & 36 & 65 & 100 and 160km to choose from **for info [www.ultratraildrak.com](http://www.ultratraildrak.com)**
- MAY 4** Kenmo Lake Autumn picnic (Historical Society Fundraiser)
- MAY 6-10** KAP Sani2C Visit [www.sani2c.co.za](http://www.sani2c.co.za) for more information
- MAY 22 - 24** Giants cup Trail for more info [www.thegiantscuptrail.com](http://www.thegiantscuptrail.com)
- MAY 30 - JUNE 1** Awaken Yoga Festival Visit [www.glencairnevents.com/awaken-yoga-festival](http://www.glencairnevents.com/awaken-yoga-festival)
- JUNE 14 - 15** TIP TOP seniors tennis tournament @ Himeville Tennis Club
- JUNE 20** IDesk Dance Marathon **contact Nina 084 567 1669**
- JULY 19** Wimblegin tennis Sani Round Table Ladies @ Himeville Tennis Club
- JULY 26** Underberg Gran Fondo 90 and 100 and 160km to choose from
- AUG 9** CHOC Walk up Sani Pass more information [dbn@choc.org.za](mailto:dbn@choc.org.za) or **0844888026**
- SEPT 6** Pevensey Fete@ Underberg Primary School
- OCT 3 -4** Underberg UFA Agri & Lifestyle Show email for a stall & more details [admin@kznufa.co.za](mailto:admin@kznufa.co.za)
- NOV 1 -2** Himeville Underberg Garden Club OPEN GARDENS
- NOV 8** Sani Stagger 2 road events (42.2km and 21.1km) 2 trail events (38km and 21km) Entries open 5 March [sanistagger.co.za](http://sanistagger.co.za)
- NOV 8** UNDERBERG SUPERSPAR FOOD AND WINE SHOW
- NOV 15** Bass 4 Cash fundraiser@[pevenseyplace.co.za](http://pevenseyplace.co.za)
- DEC 6** Touch Rugby Tournament, Round Table fundraiser
- DEC 12 -14** Umzimkulu River Rally @ Khotso
- DEC 13** The Local Collection Christmas market for more info **Lauren Perks 079 244 9601**

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**Underberg Congregational Church Church Times:**  
Sunday Services at 09:00. Children & Junior Church at 09:30 Bible Studies on Thursdays: at 10:00, contact Erika Smith 082 - 688 6759 & at 18:00, contact Ray Scott 083 - 413 6917. We hire out our facilities at the House of Grace for private or business meetings / functions / training courses. Contact Daniela 082 - 403 8864

**Easter Services at Rosa Mystica Catholic Church, Underberg**

We warmly invite the community to join us in celebrating Easter. Services will be held as follows: Palm Sunday (13 April 2025) – Mass | 8:00 AM

Holy Thursday (17 April 2025) – Mass | 5:00 PM Good Friday (18 April 2025) – Mass | 3:00 PM Holy Saturday (19 April 2025) – Mass | 5:00 PM

Easter Sunday (20 April 2025) – Mass | 8:00 AM All services will be conducted in English and isiZulu.

**Underberg Congregational Church**

**Easter times for 2025:**

**Tenebrae Service**

**Thursday:**

17. April at 18:30

**Good Friday**

**Service:**

18. April at 09:00

**Easter Sunday**

**Service:**

20. April at 09:00

**Steel Shelving needed for the Museum**

In a far corner of the Himeville museum beyond A replica of one of the first local Forge's there is a small room. It houses the paper archives of the district which is labored on by the illustrious Liz Mackay. Perhaps some of your family papers will find their way there.



Pictured is Dr. Peter Howard who visited recently offering his PHD thesis which he completed in 1983. Peter lived in the district for three years and studied Reedbuck as a problem animal on farmland. He remarked "well that problems gone away, nowadays it seems to be the Eland that are the menace." Incidentally his findings were that Reedbuck population were limited by the cover they could get not the food source, that's in abundance.

What would help is if there is enough space to store them so if anybody has **Steel shelving** which is unused the Himeville Museum archives could use it. Contact Kitt Du Preez on 071 8987892. himevillemuseumkzn@gmail.com

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**Highlands Church International**

Johann and Debbie Van As  
033 7011470 Sunday:  
08:30 Prayer Meeting  
09:00 Celebration Service  
09:00 Kids for Jesus (all ages welcome)  
Monday: Homegroups  
18:30 Tuesday: 15:00 Pevensey Ministry  
Thursday: 18:00 Prayer Meeting Alternate  
Fridays: 06:00 Men's Sunrise coffee (confirm 033 7011470)

**Berg Community Fellowship**

**Berg Training Centre**  
**2 Hlogoma Crescent**  
**Underberg**

**Easter Services**

Good Friday - Quiet Service focusing on the Cross - 9 a. m.

Easter Sunday - 9 a. m. Worship with Communion. Phone Pastor Dennis on 0834407889 for more info.

**Anglican Church Himeville**

**Palm Sunday** 13 April at 9 am **Maundy Thursday** 17 April at 5 pm **Good Friday** 18 April at 12 pm **Easter Vigil** 19 April 5 pm **Easter Sunday** 20 April 9 am

**MOUNTAIN ECHO**

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Your input is valued!


**DEADLINE DATE**

**APRIL 18 DISTRIBUTION DATE**

**APRIL 25**



Nosipho is by no means the only Faithway success story. I've already met many products of Faithway, of all skin-colours, cultures, and personalities, and its potential is still very much alive. If I think of the future of my house-keeper's bright 3 year old, presently ultra-blessed to be at Noah's Ark, how



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**Drak Gardens – R5 950 000**

Being Sold as a Going Concern - NO TRANSFER DUTY

An established nursery, with several grow tunnels, irrigation, water tanks, and the most beautiful gardens and large, 3 bedroom home, 2 lounges, full kitchen and scullery, plus separate cottage. As well as more land for expansion. Staff accommodation. Exquisite views.



**The Meadows Country Estate – R2 800 000**

Offering expansive, open plan living areas and large, granite kitchen with laundry/scullery, and direct access to the garage. The living areas flow seamlessly to a large, covered entertainment patio and enclosed, manicured garden with exquisite views of farmlands and the Southern Drakensberg. On this level, there are 4 generous bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. The master suite, with walk through dresser and full en-suite bathroom.



**Mountainairs Village - R1 750 000**

Delightful, 3 bedroom family home, plus loft room. Embrace country living at it's finest, with panoramic mountain views, from the expansive, enclosed patio in your manicured garden.

Spacious open plan living areas to large, fully fitted kitchen and private courtyard. There is a small, external workshop with a shower and loo, covered parking and garage.

**FORWARD with FAITHWAY.**

We COUNTRY WOMEN, who love to highlight worthwhile community causes and to encourage and engage with newcomers, were inspired, at our February meeting.

SUE LITTLE's enthusiasm was infectious. She highlighted the prize asset that FAITHWAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL is, and that it can continue to be, in our area.

FAITHWAY on a FRIDAY Although I helped out at Faithway for two weeks a while ago, I'd only been into one classroom, so I called there to take a fresh look. What a pleasure. Every classroom is light and airy. The children are smartly dressed and polite. The pleasure those teachers must take in those small classes!! And even if the numbers serendipitously doubled, they would still be small.

The day was beautifully hot and sunny. Mrs V Gope was teaching two pupils under a tree. The mower was mowing. The farmland view over the valley made me so grateful to be in Himeville. How blessed these pupils are to be in this place. The Foundation Phase rooms in their playground were a delight. I found Mr P. GOPE, competent acting Principal, teaching Grade 12's. Again, what great individual attention. Then I found the **Consumer Studies** teacher in her classroom. And also with pleasure, I found that she is **NOSIPHO NYAWOSE**, Himeville born and bred, a Faithway Deputy Head Girl, studied at Varsity College, and has just started her first post. She talks of her parents with great respect - they sacrificed much to educate her and she hopes to help her family in return. And

wonderful it would be for her to go on to Faithway.

The mountain to climb to reach the 130 tipping point might seem too daunting, but once it's been reached and the numbers grow, the fees can be reduced which will encourage yet bigger numbers. I foresee the potential snowballing.

I just know that whether Sue's visions -and she has more than one - whether they materialise or not, Faithway is just too much of a legacy, a prize asset, for this community to ignore its future.

FAITHWAY and CW's March Meeting After the February meeting, Annie C offered as an example, to commit to a small Stop Order every month. This led to a suggestion that a Scholarship Account be opened, for any donations, big or small, once-off payments or preferably regular, monthly or annual etc amounts.

Then by this March CW meeting, Sue had already organised a **SCHOLARSHIP Account**. **Bank Name: FIRST NATIONAL BANK** **Account Name: Faithway Christian School** **Account Number: 62069318410.**

**Your Reference: Your Name.**

VISIT FAITHWAY. BECOME AWARE OF POTENTIAL PUPILS you could sponsor, or for whom you could CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS a sponsorship. HOW COULD YOU CONTRIBUTE TO ENRICHING the lives of even one pupil?

What a rich prolific variety of talented and experienced people there are in our area. Engineers of all disciplines, Artists, Crafters, WildLifers, Gymnasts - the list is endless. I remember that Peter de Wet coached Archery with amazing success before he emigrated. At least one girl's life was radically changed.

A vision comes to me, of generous Community members, seizing a golden opportunity to share their talents, to make rare differences to one or two or many learners, or different aspects of the school.

Is this you? **Queries: Call 0337021257 or Sue on 0822909770 or Mail BURSARY@FAITHWAY.CO.ZA**



continued from page 1

## Memories Splashy Fen Music Festival - the early years

By Paul Welch

in a Tupperware at the gate. The musicians were determined to keep a good thing going and between sets I particularly remember the Silver Creek Mountain band stepping up many times. Plagal Cadence, Tony Cox and Syd Kitchen must have also filled in. Little did we know that from these small beginnings the oldest music festival in South Africa would still be going in 2025 and that I would have a lifetime achievement of not missing any Splashy festivals except for the one limited to 350 fenners because of covid in 2021.

I remember telling Peter about my friend James Phillips from Rhodes University days should be invited to the next Splashy but once I described his genre of music, he thought it would not be in keeping with the folk theme. James had a stage alter ego Bernoldus Niemand who performed as "Bernoldus Niemand en die Government", "Die Swart Gevaar" and "en die dagga rookers" who eventually performed at Splashy

before his untimely death in July 1995. James was part of the "Voelvry movement" that went on a national tour of Afrikaans musicians who were critical of Apartheid. James was acknowledged by Nelson Mandela for his cultural contribution to the change in South Africa. Splashy Fen in its early years was a homegrown event with locals providing food and other stalls including Tessa Payne who made Polar Fleece Splash jackets, Colleen and Keith Riggien had a general dealers stall named Abduls and Peter Heathcote out of an army tent that sold boerie and breakfast rolls which helped him pay for his kids education and Sue Meyer who with soft serve ice creams that sorted out her debts, Alan Louch's hot showers where the water tanks had to be checked for water levels while looking down into the showers. I made free sweetcorn fritter friendship cookies laced with dagga that I left with Dan Knight at his wood and Chicken stall for people to have. A narcotic squad member was kind enough to tell me that it was illegal for me to give friendship cookies to festival goers. Richard Robinson a nuclear Physicist who retired in Himeville offered Gluhwein laced with mountain cabbage for free from a knapsack sprayer and there was enough of a cloudy haze for people to get stoned for free. Locals were not used to seeing such unusual and exotic people coming through Underberg but all of a sudden there were Gluhwein fuelled private parties held by the older folks who went into thin air off verandahs. I remember Dave Barnett and Seamus

Thompson did not forget my fritters and neither did Tim Bekker, you can ask Dave Barnett about that.

1998 saw the biggest turnout ever of 12 000 when Landscape Prayers was the international act, and Ard Mathews did an unforgettable cover of Rodriguez's "Sugarman". John Nicholson, a local Pastor had big banners warning festival goers of the evils of Splashy Fen at the turnoff to the R600 which might have been provoked by Jennifer Ferguson's song about Lillith. In 1994 Splashy Fen happened on the weekend of 27<sup>th</sup> April now known as "Freedom Day". Pedro Carlo was director of Splashy Fen for well over a decade before Stu Berry and Impi Concepts events took charge of Splashy Fen which has now become well organised with all the necessary infrastructure that made it no longer necessary for me to eat a whole block of cheese to constipate me. Pedro passed away in February 2025, he started White Mountain Music festival.

By Paul Welch

## BERG MUSICIANS CLUB 9 April

Is going to be an all local lineup. Nina will begin solo with her ukelele and do a few numbers and then Nina will join Tanzanite with some songs and Callie will solo their outro. Then (what do we call ourselves now?) Denis, Gordon, Tracy, Caron and Rob (call us Underberg? Like Chicago or Boston) will do a set of their intricately woven numbers, something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue. Booking essential 033 701 1130 Underberg Country Club.

April 5  
9am - 1pm  
APRIL 5  
**Country market**  
Underberg Country Club  
HOMEMADE GOODS  
FOOD STALLS  
LOTS AND LOTS OF GREAT GOODS ON OFFER  
Join us for a fun filled day!!  
We ❤️ NUD



Matthew Hayes and Kevin Fraser at the South Coast area conference

## Sani Round Table

March has been another busy month for us Round Tablers. We had a team take part in the Moths Bowls Day. It is always fun to support our fellow organisations in Underberg. With 16 teams taking part, Sani Round Table managed a second place!

Six of us attended our Natal South Coast Area Conference down at Leisure Bay. Outgoing area Chairman Kevin Fraser handed over the reigns to Matthew Hayes who has blended in very well to Sani. It is really encouraging that we have members from our small town leading from the front at a provincial level. We made a donation to Tidy Towns and we would like to encourage more businesses and individuals to do the same. Ruth Crouch and her team are

## Sister Abigail Ntleko Received an Honorary Doctorate from University of Johannesburg for her Humanitarian work

University of Johannesburg conferred an honorary doctorate on the extraordinary Sister Abegail Ntleko, a globally recognised humanitarian and beacon of hope. At 91 years young, her lifelong dedication to serving vulnerable communities, particularly orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS, continues to inspire us all. Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who once called her "the true heart of South Africa." Sister Ntleko has raised 42 children—both fostered and adopted. From her groundbreaking work in rural communities to her recognition by icons like the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu, Sister Abegail's legacy is one of compassion, resilience, and transformative impact.



## MOTH - Boot and Saddle Shellhole Young Veterans Day parade 6 APRIL

Young Veterans Day parade to be held at Himeville Cenotaph on Sunday 6 April at 10h00. All welcome.

Parade to commemorate the end of the 23-year Border War and remember those who fell or were incapacitated.

Should you wish someone's name to be read out, please follow up with Ivan on 082 5300 935



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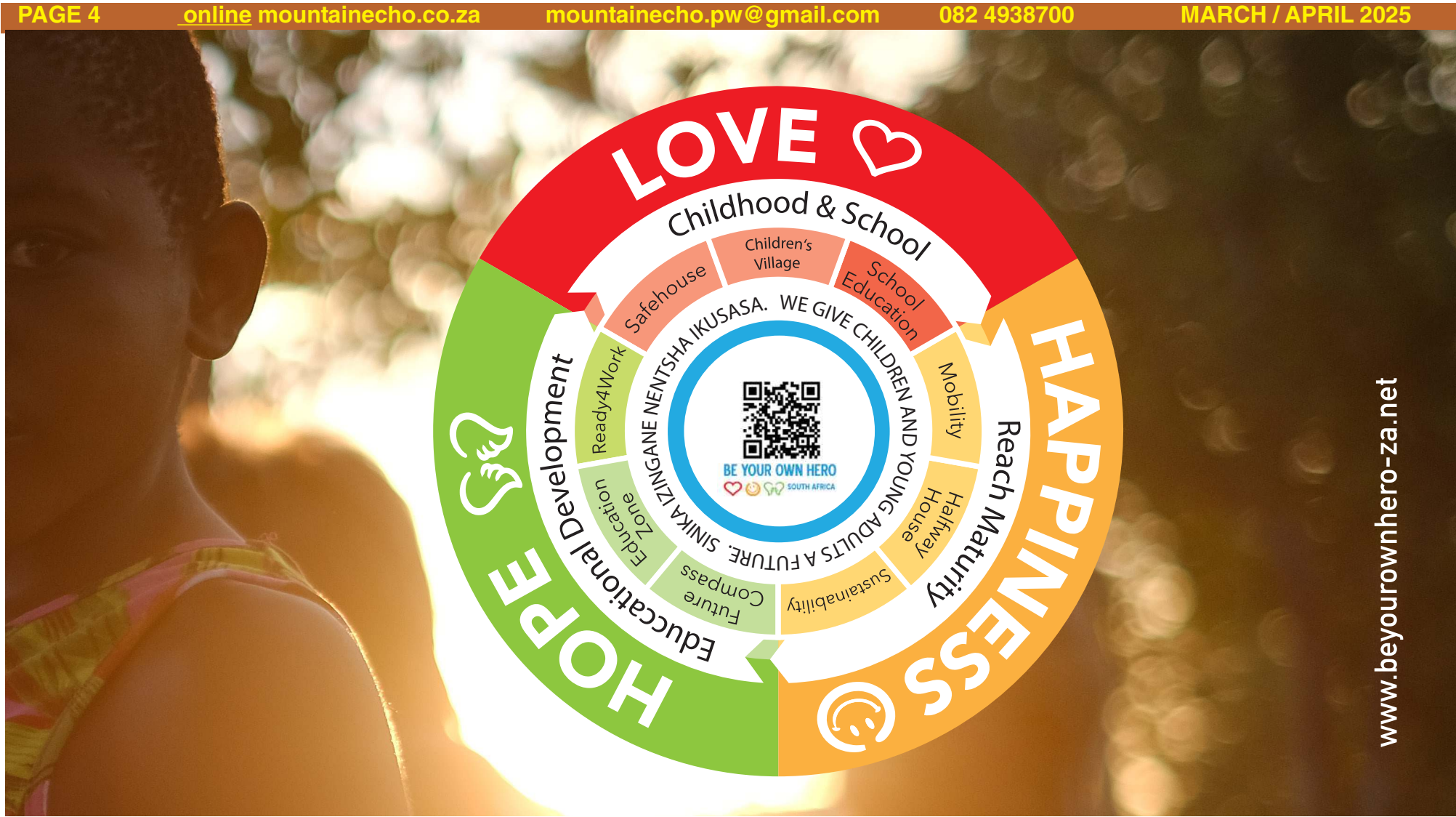


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## Indlu ephephile e Underberg nase Himeville.

Silekelela izindlu ezimbili e Underberg nase Himeville. E Himeville sisiza umuntu osuke ehlukumezekile ekhaya engenayo indawo yokuhlala isikhashana. Siphinda sinike usizo kubantwana emsebenzini wabo wesikole nokubapha isidlo sasekuseni esifudumele. Lendluyase Himeville isikhulile kakhulu ngenxa yokuthi umphakathi uthola usizo imini nobusuku, kuyanikezelwa nangempahla eningi kakhulu kubantu abanesidingo bese kunakekelwe nezingane. E Underberg nakhona sibapha isidlo sasekuseni bese siba siza ngomsebenzi wabo wesikole. Lezizindlu ziphethwe abantu abafundisiwe abasebenzisana nabezenhlala kahle. Uma ufuna ulwazi oluphelele ungaxhumana no Nosipho beno Talente.

## I-Future Compass

I-Future Compass eyethulwe ngokusemthethweni ngo-2019 kanti imbandakanya inkundla yebhola, indawo yezemidlalo, nesikhungo lapho kusingathwa khona izinto ezahlukenene. Iletha ezemidlalo, amakhono, igqugquzele ezobuciko ezinganeni nentsha yasendaweni. Abaqeqeshi basemphakathini bafundisa amakhono empilo ambandakanya ezemidlalo, imisebenzi yezandla nokuqwashisa ngezempilo. Okusohlelweni ukuthi kwenziwe isikhungo sibe sikhulu ukuze kufundiswe ngezemisebenzi yakusasa nokuqeqeshwa.

## Childrens Village - Clouds of Hope

Ngokubambisana nalabo abanobubele abayizakhamuzi zase-Underberg, sesesike iClouds of Hope kusukela ngo-2003. Le Christian Children Care Centre ese-Underberg iyikhaya ezinganeni ezingu-72, izinika imfundo, ukwelulekwa ngokwengqondo, nokunye okumele kwenziwe abantwana uku-zigcina bengenaso isithukuthezi. Ukhululekile ukuthi uxhumane ngqo namalungu ebhodi yeChristian Children's Care Centre - iClouds of Hope ukuze uthole olunye ulwazi. info@cloudsofhope.org.za +27 64 883 4289

## I-Halfway House

I-Halfway House ibhekelela intsha engaphezulu kweminyaka engu-18, esiqedile esikoleni kodwa ishoda ngendawo yokuhlala. Inikezela indawo ephephile kubahlali abangu-12 ukuthi baphothule imfundo yabo, bafunde nangezidingo ngqangi zempilo. Ngohlelo lwemifundaze, iyasiza ukukhokhela izifundo, ukufundiswa ngemisebenzi nokuqeqeshwa. Uma sebefinyelele eminyakeni engu-18 labo abayizintandane baphinde baxhunyaniswe nemiphakathi yabo. Kwakuwuxhaso oluphelele lweBYOH esondelene neSaarland ngo-2004, futhi basaqhubeka. Imibono neziphakamiso ezivela emphakathini zamukelekile.

## I-Reichenau Primary School (RPS)

Imfundo esezingeni elihle ibaluleke kakhulu ukuqinisekisa ikusasa elinempumelelo. Kusukela ngo-2015 sesishintshe iRPS yaba isikole sesimanje esinamagumbi okufundela angangenwa nakancane amanzi, kukhona inkulisa, izindlu zangasese eziqondile nezihlanzekile, indawo yabafundisi (othisha), ikhishi, nengadi. Njengoba inakekela abafundi abalinganiselwa ku-352 nsuku zonke, iRPS iyisikhungo esiholwa uNkk Nombuso Mkhize (uthishanhl-oko). Abaxhasi bangasiza ngokunakekela abafundisi (othisha), izinsiza kusebenza nengqalasizinda, ukuqinisekisa imfundo esezingeni eliphezulu.

## Ready4Work

Ukweseka abantwana nentsha ukuthi bakhethe kahle imisebenzi abazoyenza, kusemqoka kakhulu. Isibonelo, ngokubambisana nesisebenzisana nabo njengeFarmer's Association, sihlala ukuvakashela amafamu ehlukene, lapho kusengwa khona izinkomo namanye amabhizinisi, ukuze intsha ibone amathuba emisebenzi ehlukene eNDZ namaphethelo. Lezi zinsuku abanikwa ngazo amathuba ziqinisekisa ukuthi bayakubona okwenzeka emabhizinisini, baxhumane nabathile, baphinde bafake izicelo zokuqeqeshwa emisebenzini ethile. Lokhu kubasiza ukuthi bathathe igxathu eliya phambili elibheke ekusaseni elinesisekelo esiqinile.

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Khwezi Ngcobo ( Ezokuphathwa kwezimali)  
Sandra Wukovich( Ezokuhlaliswa kwabantu )  
Malwande Mayeza and Rae Higgins ( Ithimba lezokuxhuma)

Lezi kafushane yizinto eziyisithupha kweziyisishiyagalolunye esizinakekelayo sizeseke. Zonke ngobuningi bazo zidinga imibono yenu ukuze zikhule. Uma ningakujabulela ukuseseka nokusixhasa ningafonela amalungu ethu ebhodi noma nivakashale izindawo esisebenzela kuzona. Uma nifisa ukuba yingxenye yethimba lethu sicela nixhumane nonobhala wethu **uMichelle Stevens** +2762 949 2046.

Siyabonga kakhulu kubo bonke abasesekayo nakuzakwethu **uTsepo Jama** - usihlalo.





BIRDING IN THE SOUTHERN KZN DRAKENSBERG

By Stuart Mc Lean

Pam Ellenberger found a Lesser Moorhen at the entrance to Khotso on the Drakensberg Gardens road on 3 March. Unbekown to Pam, Aldo Berruti would find 4 chicks skulking with the other parent bird. Most years there is at least an immature Lesser Moorhen in the district. A pair did breed near Reichenau Dam a few seasons ago.

This year the breeding season has ended with a lot of rain, flooding grasslands and stream banks and wetlands. These occurrences tend to flush out skulkers like crakes. I saw Corn Crake on the Pevensey Road early morning in wet and miserable conditions as was the one I saw at Marutswa Forest late last year. African Crake have bred in the Dublin Vlei, with fairly regular sightings of the adults or fully grown young early or late in the day, also preferably overcast days. Glen McLean and I had Red-chested Flufftail out on the middle of the road at Ottermere on an overcast day.

It was the best year for Black-headed Canaries in all my years working the eastern highlands of Lesotho with a sighting rate of almost every trip. White-throated Canaries still remain elusive on this eastern side of Lesotho, but I have had the most sightings this season as well. Glen discovered a young, injured bird which attracted 4 other White-throated Canaries to join it struggling on the ground, at his feet.

The long staying Purple-crested Turaco has now been in Underberg for 8 years, first being spotted by Janet and Allen Roth in Manse Road. It has only once been heard in Himeville. One is tempted to think this bird may have been an escaped cage bird but there have been other, out of the ordinary birds from further afield, such as Narina Trogon. The Eustace's have twice had Narina trogon on their farm. It seems more logical to have Knysna Turaco here as their local population is closer, at Bulwer and Ngelebantwana Forests, but Purple-crested are not true Forest birds, they prefer more woodland type habitat. The gardens are not yet so mature as to attract many forest birds yet but may do so in the future.

Garden birds are always very special for folk. Tony and Kristel Coetzer get Fiery-necked Nightjar, a very special call especially of the bushveld areas. A really interesting sighting in a garden at Richmond, was of an Olive Bush-shrike feeding a young Black Cuckoo, reported by Wally Walker. It was reported as a Boubou, but clearly it is an Olive Bush-shrike, which is a great garden bird in itself. Andrew and Patricia Poole have a regular visitor to their vehicle window at their home at Nzinga, of a mature Red-billed Ox-pecker.

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Stuart Mc Lean  
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ABOUT TROUT FISHING IN UNDERBERG

The rivers have certainly given us very little opportunity to fish them. They were full and fast most of the time and anglers had to adapt accordingly to get some fish to the net. Fishing the slower edges and eddies where the fish tend to be where they are safe from the energy depleting faster currents. The lower sections of rivers were a bit discoloured and did not produce many fish. As one moves up to the middle and upper reaches the water cleared up nicely, and even though it was fast some good fish were brought to the net. Reports of 14inch(38cm) fish being caught aswell as numerous other in these upper reaches of the rivers. The number of fish being caught slowly increasing. UHTFC stats for the river show only 4 anglers fishing club beats with 1 fish to show. Flies that did well were Parachute Adams and Klinkhamers for the dry fly anglers while heavy weighted PTN, hotspot Nymphs and other Euro styled flies worked well for those opting to fish deeper, with the black perdigon standing out for hooking many fish. The coolness is already in the air and rivers settling nicely and this sure to bring along good fishing. The stilwater temperature was still a little on the high side, but atleast dropping slightly with the cooler weather we have had. Fishing the cooler days when the water temperatures dropped a little seemed to work best. Some good reports came in among all the ones of blank days. Reports of good numbers of fish caught in the resorts around Underberg with a 6lb(3kg) fish mentioned coming from these waters. The UHTFC statistics show 8 fish caught of 34 rods. Biggest fish caught was a Rainbow Trout of 24inches(63cm) caught by Bianca Luther on a Olive Bunny Leach on private water. Flies reported to work well fooling fish were Olive Papa Roaches, Olive Red Eyed Damsels, Black Wooly Buggers, Black and Orange Wooly Buggers, Pancora Buggers and various other streamers also accounting for fish caught. The cooler weather we experiencing bringing along colder water is hopefully going to just make the fishig pick up as we approaching the better part of the fishing season. Remember to fish responsibly, keep fish wet and handling to a minimum when practising catch and release.

By Duane Vaughn Howell

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HIMEVILLE UNDERBERG GARDEN CLUB

at Kenmo 16 April

The Garden Club meets again on 16 April 2025 at 10h00, at Kenmo Lake. Elize Jackson will be our speaker and the topic will be TREES. This will include choosing trees suitable for our area and the care thereof. We welcome visitors the entry fee is R30 which includes tea and eats. We look forward to enjoying this beautiful setting with members and visitors alike. Please remember to bring a hat and a chair!

UHTFC Stillwater. 2.2kg Rainbow hen Caught on Olive Papa Roach with intermediate line by Keaton Thom

Shane Trollope gave a fascinating and informative talk on snakes at the GCAW fundraising Underconda event. You can see the Underconda at The Grind a stone snake that you can donate to by painting a stone

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# ON THE ROCKS

LGBTQI+ have you ever even heard of it? For those that don't watch the news (LGBTQI+) is a 'Trumpian quoted code' for that neighbouring country over the mountains which the USA has decided to decommission it's aid. You won't be seeing those US Aid 4x4's parked outside SPAR in the next four years at least.

We were on the brink of visiting a wonderful LGBTQI+ lonely planet destination when my namesake Donald brought it to the world's attention. I'm talking about **LESOTHO'S Sehlabathebe**. Located on a wetland plateau, below Basalt crags, Sehlabathebe is a montane grassland paradise interspersed with a unique brand of sandstone rock formations which are a treat to eye and camera, walking amongst them one transcends into a fairyland. It's a movie set! Peter Jackson could have made 'The Hobbit' there. The flowers are at their peak in February. My guess is that some of the tarns are man made but that does not deter from their beauty. Our accommodation was Tarn cave which overlooks the Knuckles or Three Bushmen peaks, you can see them from

Underberg. The track up and down is well worn an old servitude and everything is on tap, but the beds are straw so take a mat. Chief Jonathan's lodge is for all intensive purposes abandoned, I've stayed there in the past, most memorably at the time when the MDTP Transfrontier Park was being inaugurated in the early century. There's a new fancy lodge I believe and the homestays nearby are recommended for a budget visit. Tarn cave is in South Africa, you can book it through Ezemvelo for \$7. **'e lollipop'**

Back to **LGBTQI+ (Lesotho)**. The surge of satirical material stimulated by recent Trumps discovery yielded a memory for me. A retired moviemaking mate posted a link on Social media You Tube to **'e Lollipop'** a box office classic from the mid late 70's a picture allegedly shot on location in Lesotho. If you lived in Underberg at that time you probably watched it at Tarboton's Garage cinema or the UFA hall and for good reason there are few locals in the credit roll. Jonathan Aldous – Best boy is the one I noticed. The plane belonged to Jeff Titren and he and oldman Mike Aldous had candid parts in the film. Best boy - Jonathan (Jokey) Aldous takes us aack.

**Don Guy**. - I see in the credits you were the best boy. What's a best boy in film jargon? **Jokey Aldous**. – Dog's body. **D.G.** So you looked after *'Sugar Plum'*, the little white dog. **J.A. Laughs...** No there was an animal guy on set that did all that, it was big crew, filled the Himeville Arms for about three months. We hired houses and spread them out. You know it was in the bad old days. Black and white people had to be apart, they couldn't even eat together, not sure how my oldman did it, it was a mixed cast, he got through the hoops somehow. We all ate and drank together. **D.G.** It's 40 years ago, 1974, politically shortly before the Soweto riots. Tell us about the **'e lollipop'** film locations. **J.A.** Mostly around Underberg, Sani Pass hotel, the waterfall, the snow scene using blown in polystyrene was filmed behind MMT where Mike Clarks old Land Rovers were parked off, *nowadays Sani Backpackers*. But Loteni was the main location, St Anna's mission and the Christies farm on the road up to Snowtop, that's were a village was built amongst the boulders using mud pasted onto hessian cloth,. The Pedlar store was also used. **D.G.** Did any local feature as actors?

**J.A.** Jeff Titren, I remember him walking into the wing of his plane. Ouch! **D.G.** Any scenes shot in Lesotho?

**J.A.** Well one scene I can remember was shot in Lesotho, to show the car accident where the boys parents were killed they pushed an Austin Minor off the escarpment near Phinong pass, you can still see the wreck to this day. I remember it was bought in Edendale for about R7000.00, it was driven up Sani Pass just how I don't know. Well there you have it, a classic Lesotho feature movie shot in and around Underberg, and it's a classic - That's the movies! There is a sequel too, a bit of a *'skiet en donner'* made about ten years ago in Jo'burg. If you haven't heard of or seen it the *'e lollipop'* movie, it tells the story of a friendship between two boys, black and white who were drawn together under strange circumstances. A cute feel good movie, the screenplay is typically South African 1970's style and technically superior to **'Gods must be crazy'** shot a few years later.

Shooting *'e lollipop'* in Lesotho would be very feasible today, Chinese constructed roads make it accessible to another level of traveler and certainly changed the rural culture of the people living there. A young country, it has rich history of independence and diplomacy. Mosesh was the first Mandela. Before the gun wars **LESOTHO** was under Cape government. Missionary influence and a series of military actions between the Cape colony and the Basuto led to negotiations which ceded Basutoland to Britain relinquishing the Cape colony of it's control. **Lesotho** got its independence in 1966.

You can watch *'e Lollipop'* on **Ashley Lazarus – CinevisionUSA – Inc showreel**. According to a comment he made on his site Ashley, the Screenwriter/Director grew up on the border of Zululand had a childhood with a similar child friendship. Cinema chain owner Philo and Producer Andre Pieterse had come across a legend of such a story and asked Ashley to develop it. The film was made in 1975 at the heart of Apartheid and Ashley recalls how delighted he was when the censorship board spontaneously burst into applause at the screening.

REPEATED FOR EDITOR You can watch *'e Lollipop'* on **Ashley Lazarus – CinevisionUSA – Inc showreel**. You Tube According to a comment he made on his site Ashley, the Screenwriter/Director grew up on the border of Zululand had a childhood with a similar child friendship. Cinema chain owner Philo and Producer Andre Pieterse had come across a legend of such a story and asked Ashley to develop it. The film was made in 1974-5 at the heart of Apartheid and Ashley recalls how delighted he was when the censorship board spontaneously burst into applause at the screening. **Don Guy is a hiking guide in the Southern Berg. He writes, paints murals makes short films and digital graphics. 066 0186430 – He and his wife Helen have a passion for Rock Art.**



Looking from Tarn Cave towards the Devil's knuckles or three bushmen

## TIDY TOWNS. BY RUTH CROUCH.

**EFFECTS OF THE RAIN.** We have had so much rain which I am sure has kept many folk busy weeding, mowing etc. The municipality have thankfully kept abreast with cutting the verges, but it is the finer aspects that don't get attended to - trimming round trees, ensuring that the gutters are free of weeds etc. So, my appeal is that homeowners, to please wherever possible, to take more pride in their verge, after all it is an extension of your home and garden. Encourage your neighbour to do so too or even help out with one or two properties around you.

**ADOPT A GARDEN:** Angel Little sewed a seed and so together we wish to launch 'Adopt a Garden' within the Underberg Village. All businesses are encouraged to maintain their outer premises but we have highlighted several hotspots which need attention and TLC. Angel already has a few volunteers. So we will be knocking on the door and appealing to folk to 'come on board.' You will also be able display a small sign advertising your name, be it personal, a business, or an organisation, saying this garden is maintained by you. I had already submitted this article but I was able to quickly add that newcomer, Matthew Hay, associated now with his new restaurant, 'Charlie's', mentioned to me regarding an official and legal concept called 'Adopt a Spot' in conjunction with the municipality. He said he will run through the whole procedure with me and he is therefore prepared to help. YAY!!!!

**TIDY TOWNS.** We have tried to neaten up in front of the Underberg Inn, around Super Quick and the small and big taxi ranks. I have a vision to make a Peoples Market in this latter area. We are trying many avenues to request that Puma Garage tidy up their property in Himeville. The Historical Society is understandably not prepared 'to throw any more money' for me to maintain the Old Magistrates House so the Grand Old Lady (GOLD) is worried about her future. (Me too!) Thank you to Roger Spencer and Round Table who sent donations this last month. We wish to commend Dorning Motors on the lovely neat and well maintained premises as well as Spar as one approaches from Kokstad and of course, the Boxer Centre which has been well landscaped. Many folk have complained about the long bank opposite Underberg Country Club. Once again, "The Bingo Evening Team" have kindly donated their takings into SCF/Tidy Towns in order that Drak Services undertake to spray this entire area. I am grateful to Chris Dwen who responded to my request to fell several of the young gums in front of his property at the Mushroom Factory (Old Stables) and get the lower branches of the Pin Oaks lobbed by Drak Services. It was pleasing to see on the farm 'Sunrise' and Ian Bonsma's Farm near to the Olde Duck, where the similar image is taking place, in that he is removing and lobbing all the lower branches. Hence, we can aptly say, **TIDY TOWNS/TIDY COUNTRY!!!** Together we make a difference. All in the interests of beautifying NUD. **Ruth Crouch**



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## Essential Autumn Prep for a Gorgeous Spring

Autumn is here, and that means one thing for garden lovers—it's time to get to work! The effort you put in now will reward you with a breathtaking garden when late Winter and Spring arrive. So, before the real cold sets in, let's dig into some essential tasks to keep your garden thriving.

### Lock in Moisture & Protect Your Roots

As the rainy season winds down, don't forget to keep watering at least once a week in the mornings. Get ahead of the game by mulching **before** the last rains stop—this helps retain moisture and shields your plant roots from the cold. Any organic material will do, but if you need wood chips, we've got you covered at **Peony Perfect in Himeville!**

TIPS FROM  
*Belinda*

### A Last Burst of Blooms

Don't let your flowers fade just yet! **Deadhead spent blooms** to encourage one more gorgeous flush before winter takes over, especially for your annuals. A little effort now means a few extra weeks of colour and beauty in your garden.

### Plan for Winter Colour

Winter gardens don't have to be dull! Start planning your **Winter colour palette** with cheerful **pansies, violas, and primulas**. These hardy

flowers will brighten up your garden even on the coldest days.

**Seed Now for Spring Magic** Want a riot of colour in Spring? Now's the perfect time to **sow your poppies and sweet peas!** These beauties love being started in the cooler months so they can burst into bloom when the warmer weather arrives.

**Take Cuttings – But Keep Them Safe!** If you're looking to propagate your plants, Autumn is the time to take **hardwood cuttings**. Just be sure to **protect them from frost**, so they make it through the winter safely.

**Feed for Strength and Resilience**

Give your plants a **potassium-rich fertilizer** (like 2:3:4) to help them withstand the cold. Remember to **feed at the dripline** of your plants, not directly at the crown, and water in well to ensure absorption.

**Get Your Bulbs in the Ground** Dreaming of a spectacular late Winter and Spring display? **Now's the time to plant your bulbs!** Check out **Hadeco and The Flower Cartel** for an amazing selection online. And if you're a **peony lover**, get excited—we'll have **peony rhizomes available for planting in July!** Pre-order yours with **Belinda** at **belinda@peonyperfect.co.za**.

**A Big No-No: Don't Prune Yet!** Resist the temptation to **prune now or after the first frost**. Pruning too early can leave your plants vulnerable to frost damage and could even kill them. Hold off until Spring, and your plants will thank you!

### Enjoy the Calm Before the Cold

Make the most of your garden before winter fully sets in. **I have a feeling this Winter will be early and extra chilly**, so the work you put in now will pay off beautifully when Spring finally arrives. Happy gardening, and here's to a stunning late Winter and Spring display! **By Belinda**



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## REICHENAU TOURS AND STONE GROUND MAIZE

As the seasons shift, the early mornings and evenings bring a cool reminder that autumn is on its way. The Reichenau Mission Farm has had an outstanding first crop of potatoes, and we are fortunate to have the support of a local supplier. Thanks to the generosity of a local farmer, we now have a scale to accurately pack 10kg bags. The process is labor-intensive, from washing to packing, but it remains deeply rewarding and reminds us of the tenacity of those early Trappist monks. Our 50 acres of mielies have endured the intense heat and rain and now stand tall, a testament to the resilience of our crops. Meanwhile, the Reichenau Mission Primary School vegetable garden, which we proudly manage on behalf of Be Your Own Hero South Africa, is showing great promise, adding to the farm's growing impact.

**Tours, Stoneground Maize & Book Sales**  
The popularity of our historical tours continues, and we sincerely appreciate everyone who recommends them to visitors. Please remember that all tours must be prearranged and prepaid via WhatsApp at 062 949 2046. Tours are priced at R100 per person.

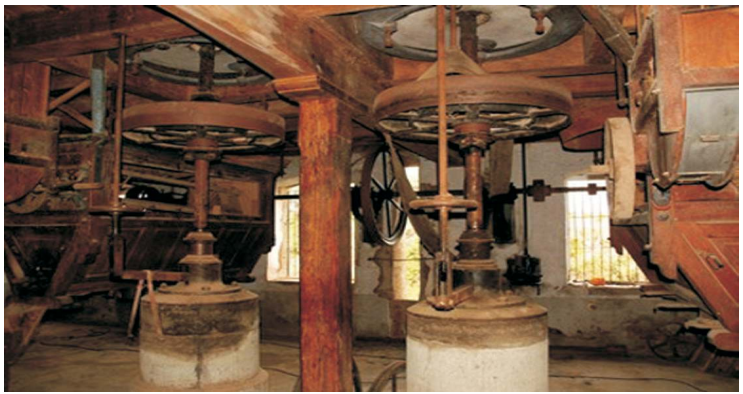
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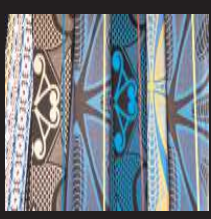
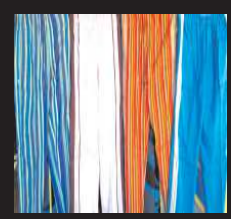


### The Mill at Reichenau Mission

We are also proud to stock Nicki von der Heyde's book, "Triumph and Tragedy: Trappist Missions" which tells the fascinating story of Reichenau Mission and other historic missions across KZN. Books are available for R100 each. You are welcome to add book and produce orders to your tour invoice for a seamless purchase experience.

A gentle reminder that Reichenau Mission is private property, and we kindly ask that this be respected. Thank you for your continued support in preserving this historical and agricultural treasure. By Michelle Stevens

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## DA Urges Immediate Action to Resolve Water Crisis in Mnywaneni, Donnybrook

by Councillor Rowena Aldous-Trollope

The Democratic Alliance (DA) is extremely concerned about the ongoing water shortages in Mnywaneni, near Donnybrook, under the NDZ Municipality. Despite numerous efforts to raise awareness and engage with the municipality and the ward councillor, the community continues to endure an unreliable water supply without long-term solutions in sight. A community engagement initiated by DA councillors and attended by over 50 residents revealed that Mnywaneni has relied on just one JoJo tank and a mountain spring for water for the past 15 years. In winter, the situation worsens, and now, with one of the JoJo tanks broken, the crisis has deepened. DA Councillor Rowena Aldous-Trollope raised this issue formally with the District municipal manager in November last year and attempted to lodge a complaint with the Harry Gwala

Water Office in December. However, the complaint was rejected by officials, who claimed the matter was being addressed. Although construction of a new water catchment system, fed by an underground spring and pipeline, began late last year, the new supply currently serves only a few households via a standpipe, leaving the majority of residents without adequate access to water. Additionally, large quantities of water pipes remain abandoned along the road leading to Mnywaneni. These pipes were purchased and delivered in 2021 with the intent of supplying water to the community, but the project has since stalled, highlighting yet

another failed initiative and the waste of taxpayer money. The DA is calling on Harry Gwala Municipality to take immediate and meaningful action to resolve this issue. Access to clean, reliable water is a basic human right, and the ongoing neglect of Mnywaneni residents is unacceptable. We demand that the municipality provide a transparent, long-term plan for ensuring sustainable water access for all residents of Mnywaneni, not just a select few. The DA will continue to hold the municipality accountable and push for real solutions to this crisis. Councillor Rowena Aldous-Trollope 072 018 9665





**NICHOLAS CONEYANDDI SUNTER.**  
“THE TIME FOR EXCUSES HAS EXPIRED.”  
GAYTON

some who do not live or own property in NUD, that are assisting us with murals, roads, potholes, gardens, verge clearing, trees, bollards, signage etc A big thank you to Mr and Mrs Paul Roth for your regular donations to the feeding scheme.

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MCKENZIE. FEEDBACK FROM OUR OPEN LETTER TO THE MAYORS. The feedback from the Open Letter in last month's Mountain Echo to the two Mayors of our Local Municipality and our District Municipality, has been overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to our NUD community for the support and encouragement to continue with this unflinching endeavour of holding the Municipalities to account, and demanding the service delivery that we pay for, along with requesting that their mandate of transparency, accountability, and open communication with the residents, is adhered to. It is unfortunate that the isolated criticism levelled at us, has been from those whose job we are doing. Sani Community Forum remains apolitical and prepared to engage with any Councillor that endeavours to work with us as a community organisation and those in the Municipality that go beyond their job description to make NUD, "A Better Place For All." Thank you. **SANI COMMUNITY FORUM AND TIDY TOWNS:** Do you think that Sani Community Forum and Tidy Towns has been successful, or at least view us as stemming the relentless tide of decay and litter and making a difference to NUD? It is fair to say, a positive "YES" if social media is to be believed. Our biggest failure has been in not inspiring others in greater numbers to break the shackles of pessimism about NUD. The volunteers and wonderful Municipal cooperation on the South Coast with their Tidy Towns Campaign, is awe inspiring. The jobs, the boost in tourism and sentiments of business confidence and investment that is echoed by the sharp ascent of property prices.. Why then does NUD, who miraculously managed to embed themselves in a list of the top ten country towns in South Africa, fail to garner support from residents and businesses? Two businesses, Pam Golding Properties and SPAR donate to the Tidy Towns Campaign every month, along with two residents, Liz Simon and Marge Durnford. There are a handful of volunteers,

Recently, social media was ignited in a very vocal and heated spat initiated by a disgruntled visitor to NUD with an axe to grind, complaining about a filthy NUD village. The praise for Sani Community Forum/Tidy Towns as the driver of a clean welcoming village that we are justifiably proud of, was overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to those people who attributed these accolades correctly. Strangely, the Municipal Manager, gave the impression that he was responsible for all this praise and positivity of NUD being so clean and tidy and yet he, the Mayoress and Councillors refuse to communicate or attend meetings despite them being set up. Dr NDZ Municipality could start with enforcing all the By-Laws, fixing failed infrastructure and providing Public Toilets, just for a start and then supporting Tidy Towns financially. Thank you to Ward 2 Councillor Rowena Aldous-Trollope, ex NUD Councillor Trish Crawley in Stellenbosch, and our home boy, Edwin Bath, in KZN Public Works, for your endless support, advice and availability, despite SCF/Tidy Towns being apolitical. NUD has a secret weapon; the Energizer Bunny, Ruth Crouch, who has sunk her life and soul into Tidy Towns and she deserves all the support she can get. Ruth and there is not a more inspirational or dedicated person in our community. She needs your support. Thank you, Ruth, for your selfless dedication. Residents and Businesses that are benefitting from the SCF/Tidy Towns driver that is leading to; increased Tourism; property prices that are escalating on an unprecedented scale which stimulates a rates base; business expansion or new investments that are creating jobs; better communications to sort out water and infrastructure; better safety and security; the preservation of the environment; pothole patching; signage; kerb appeal and beautification of NUD; please consider donating to the Sani Community Forum/Tidy Towns initiative monthly, or just volunteer. 4 regular donors from a raft of NUDDers, is rather dismal. The time is now. The other person you are waiting for to do something, is you. **Thuma Mina. Send me.**



# WINNING STOCK MARKET STRATEGIES

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Basically investment return is future value over historical cost over time. So how do we maximize this equation? You will need the greatest future value over the smallest cost over the least amount of time.

Now, how do we choose investments whose inherent characteristics will automatically morph into a maximisation of the above equation?

Well you need to make sure you will end up with a large future value in the first place. The following comments and check-list will help you get there.

First, a health warning. Finding growth stocks is not easy. It will certainly consume a great deal of your time. If you are not fairly experienced, do not invest a large amount of your capital. The markets can be dangerous and are totally impersonal and a stock doesn't know you own it. There is no easy way to find bonanza stocks and a lot of advisors make a pile of money out of selling advice and not nearly so much out of investing for themselves. Having made this point, however, it should be noted that nowhere else, but in the stock market, can great wealth be accumulated quickly by the careful selection of growth shares. With patience and discipline significance success can be achieved.

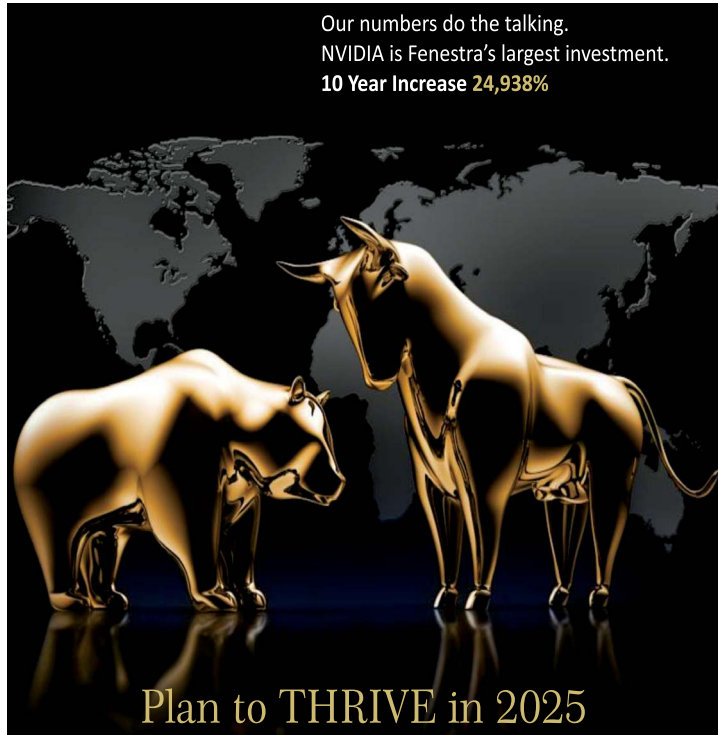
Here is the list :

- Is the management team innovation and creative? Are they honest and respected? Would the business community classify them as excellent? Management must display a high level of trusteeship for shareholders and if this is not the case any investment must be avoided.

- Do they have the resources, processes and vision to succeed?

- Do they complete on performance and not price?

- Is the top line – revenue – turnover growing year by year? No hoof, no horse – no revenue, no company! The company must have a product or services that has



sufficient potential to lead to ever increasing sales. The company does not need to show increasing revenue every year, although it is better if it does, but the revenue line must be on a growth trajectory. The revenue growth can be lumpy as new products are developed and marketed but the sales line must then show a step like increase. Therefore this growth should be measured over several years – I like to see at least five years! It is important to realise that unless a company continues to enjoy the benefits of excellent management there is no way its revenue line will grow dramatically.

- Is the compound growth rate in earnings per share in excess of 20% per annum?

- Does the company dominate the market and are there barriers to entry.

- Is there a huge market for the product? The bigger the market the greater the probability for success.

- Back to earnings. A fantastic indicator for an investment winner is a great historical track record (as mentioned above a compound growth in earnings per share in excess of 20% per annum) and current accelerating earnings growth. This combination can result in an explosive winner. In the investment industry this indicator is known as momentum.

- Is the business highly cash generative and not capital hungry? Can the company increase a dividend payout ratio year on year, have enough capital to fund itself and engage in share buy backs if it wanted to?

If you can answer yes to most of these questions you have probably found a winner!

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## Physical Abuse in Intimate Relationships

by Heidi Kyle

What happens when relationships turn violent? The majority of victims are women in heterosexual relationships. There are many services available. However, the current vogue of gender fluidity has taken up valuable space in the public sphere and there has been less focus on this issue recently. "I would never stay with a man who hit me!" is oft declared. I applaud the sentiment but it's not that simple. A loving husband doesn't punch his wife in the face. Physical abuse in intimate relationship builds over years. This violence creeps up on woman who will have experienced other forms of abuse (as detailed in last month's article on Relationship Abuse). She may have been subjected to years of verbal denigration, isolation from family and friends, financial abuse and being manipulated to feel her version of events is false or that she is "mad" or "dumb" (gaslighting). Over time, her self-esteem is severely damaged. Sadly, physical abuse can sometimes flow from this toxic river.

There is a sense of shame and embarrassment. Due to low self-esteem, isolation and gaslighting the victim struggles to cope. She often hides physical abuse from children, and this is another factor in making her feel alone and worthless. Children can become affected and may start

misbehaving and acting out at home or school. Ironically, the abuser will often blame the mother for being a poor mother (just another layer in the abuse which keeps her trapped).

The Cycle of Abuse is useful tool to understand this dynamic. It illustrates four phases of violence: tension builds; violent incident; honeymoon phase and then calm before the cycle begins again. During the honeymoon phase the perpetrator will often buy gifts, act very affectionately and praise the victim. All highly manipulative, so it's not surprising it takes woman an average of 7 – 12 attempts before leaving for good. Many women don't leave at all, and some become homicide victims after their spouse goes too far.

If your partner gets you into a "choke" hold, puts his hands up near your neck or the side of your face while in a temper or while drinking alcohol, please do everything you can to leave. It's a real sign of danger. Women don't realise how much danger they are in due to the gradual incremental creep of violence, sadly they get used to it and often say "he would never really hurt me". That is until he does.

What to do? If your husband has become physically violent or threatening violence it is important to have an escape plan. It might be a friend or family member who knows what is happening. However, if you have become isolated over time it might be the police or a responsible member of the community who you can reach out to. There are various social workers who are attached to the courts who can guide and one of the first acts of empowerment is to start gathering these types of contacts.

Women who have formulated a plan have a much better chance of escape so it's important to start exploring, if you are not in imminent danger.

Next month we will look at how women abuse men in relationships.  
**by Heidi Kyle**

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## Southern Drakensberg Community Tourism Organisation

Welcome to Our New Members! We're excited to welcome Bunkers Accommodation, Lakeview Restaurant at Castleburn, Coleford Lodge, Castlerock Guesthouse, and Moodco Gift & Decor Shop. A special welcome to the district, Craig & Glenn (Bunkers) and Werner & Twanei (Castlerock Guesthouse).

**Tourism & Community Updates:** We've grown to 127 members and encourage anyone involved in tourism to join us. If they spend money at your business, welcome to tourism. It's the right move, and we're dedicated to promoting this district.

It seems to have been a quieter season with fewer international visitors compared to previous years. Could it be global politics, economic shifts, or just a temporary lull? Whatever the reason, now is the time for us to rally together and energize tourism in our district. Every visitor we interact with, should leave with a positive impression of the Southern Drakensberg and our district.

The quieter months are also a great opportunity for deep cleaning, maintenance, servicing fire extinguishers, and stocking up on wood for the coming season. It's also the perfect time to prep the garden for the next season's growth.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Elsa and the family of Derryl from Yellowwood Cottage during this difficult time.

We attended the Ward 2 Community Outreach Program at Enhlahleni, meeting amongst other departments, teams from Home Affairs and SAPS. Their mobile units were well-equipped and can serve the community effectively.

At the Bulwer Hall Community Information morning that we were invited to, key tourism concerns were raised. These are being addressed, and we'll share updates soon.

### Social Media News

Our intern, Sphamandla Vezi, recently visited and assisted Karmichael Farm and Moorcroft Manor with their CTO website updates. Check out [www.southerndrak.org](http://www.southerndrak.org) for the latest, especially the events.

A huge thank you to Rosemary Hall, our dedicated Social Media Manager, for her passion and hard work in promoting our district with our partners EDTEA and KZN Tourism within the Harry Gwala district

### Looking Ahead

**Tourism is a team effort—be welcoming, give clear directions, and never litter.**

**For more info or to join, contact: • Michelle – 062 949 2046 • Robyn – 060 345 1246 • Russell – 081 772 4319 • Pierre – 083 709 8900**

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*Ezemvelo staff members helping HO's with the bi-annual Sani Pass clean-up.*

## SDHOs are volunteers who work behind the scenes, supporting our stalwart Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife staff and raising funds for conservation projects.

2025 started in a swirl of cleaning. On 29 January, a tremendous **Sani Pass Cleanup** got underway. The focus was clearing up litter along both sides of the road. A team of diligent volunteers gathered at the Lesotho border post and worked their way down to Good Hope Store, collecting an impressive three bakkie loads of rubbish along the way.

Thank you to everyone involved, with special recognition given to the Wild 4x4 Tour Guides and their drivers, who eagerly pitched in to make a difference. Hopefully, other tour operators will participate in the future. We also appreciate the good showing and strong arms of 14 Ezemvelo staff members, as well as the hard-working and influential Russel Suchet from Sani Backpackers, Roger from Mkomazana Lodge, Jelle and Cynthia Meintsma, Christine Davies, Julian Simon, Evon and even Eduardo, a Spanish tourist who was convinced to put in two hours of hard work during his visit. This bi-annual cleanup, which takes place in January and October each year is a necessary and worthwhile operation, although one has to ask; if people didn't throw their rubbish onto the roadside, would it be so essential?

**Himeville Nature Reserve** also benefitted from a clean-up. The main gate has been repaired, Pam Kleiman continues to do battle with invasive coreopsis while Sifiso Mbiwa has been combatting the brambles. Pam has planted indigenous trees in the picnic area and Julian Simon brushcut the picnic site. The bird hide overlooking the wetland continues to attract visitors and will grow even more popular as it becomes better known.

The momentum didn't stop there! Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officers also helped with a productive clean-up at the **Lotheni Museum**. This initiative was in collaboration with the Historical Society, and HO's leapt into action to assist in sorting, cleaning, inventorying, and maintaining the museum. Cynthia and Jelle Meintsma, Mike and May Bloom, and Jacque Flamand helped to refresh and organise this small but significant museum. A follow-up visit saw Mike, May, Cynthia, Jelle and Jacque working at Rood House to preserve rotting woodwork and save some of the furniture and contents in these historic buildings, contributing to the preservation of the rich history of the Lotheni Reserve.

Ongoing HO projects are the Good Hope Store historical display. The **Good Hope Store** historical display project stalled for a while, but is on the move again. This historic building at the foot of the Sani Pass was a trading store built in the 1920's. SDHO intend to portray and display its colourful history

## KSLA & UFA working together for the future

The KSLA takes knowledge very seriously. And because of this, a special meeting was called immediately after the one reported on last month. As a schedule had to be set! With all reps' present pushing to have their dip tanks higher on the list. After some compromise, the list was finally accepted. This will see us visiting all fifteen dip tanks over a period of a few months. The first training session was scheduled for the 19th February at Mashayilanga dip tank in Kilmun, however heavy rain prevented us from continuing and we moved the date a week later. And what a great day we had. At least fifty farmers attended. Enthusiastic and eager to learn. Sigcino and I were accompanied by TWK Agri, GWK, Agrimark, Antrovet and Afrivet. Topics covered included important diseases, vaccination, dosing, supplementing and diagnosis and treatment. Among many other concerns. In true South African hospitality, we were treated to a wors roll. I only hope that we will be able to keep up the energy for the other dip tanks.

Who thought that the UFA would host a classy evening like we had on the 8th February. The inaugural auction of advertising space around the scale proved fantastic. I have never seen so many farmers as clean and tidy as on that Saturday. Everyone was in high spirits, and the monies raised reflected that. Thank you to all for supporting our Association. And I'm sure we will have a smidge to cover the graffiti artist's work.

This year is proving to be a year of many surprises. There has been great work done recovering stolen cattle and fighting crime in our communities. From communal cattle recovered on the Sani Pass Road to commercial cattle recovered at Ka-Thunzi. Our hard work is beginning to show results.

And for the surprise. Nick Williamson and Bruce Parker have donated a sturdy bull to their neighbours at Umqatsheni. Nick is currently running cattle on Zinkwana Farm near Umqatsheni and thought it would be courteous to assist his new friends. This gesture proved to be a little overwhelming for Thomas Miya and I'm certain is gratefully appreciated. Despite our challenges, we need to protect our little piece of heaven.

**By Wayne Mc Namara (U.F.A. COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER)**

**The Executive of the UFA are very proud of our local UFA Agri & Lifestyle Show 2024 achievements** recognised at the Gala Evening and Award Ceremony of the National SAFJA Carcass and Show Championship held in Ladysmith on Friday, 14 March, and our grateful thanks to the organisers.

Not only was the fantastic animal production in

on boards affixed to the original walls. The content of the displays has been finalised and boards will be printed towards the end of March. If readers have any old photos of the Good Hope Store taken between 1920 and its closure in the 1980s, please contact Russell; they would enhance the fascinating recorded history of this iconic landmark.

Appreciating the need to educate the general public, SDHO's initiated the formulation of an **Alien Plant Booklet**. Michele Hamer and Julie Braby are eminently qualified to put together this much-needed publication. They have already drawn up a spreadsheet of the invasive plants that will be featured, and will soon be busy with the photographs. The first printing could be as early as September this year.

**Eland Management** is an important, ongoing project, where the SDHO under the guidance of our able chairman Simon Acutt, perform the delicate task of bridging the gap between Ezemvelo, farmers, and hunters in the management of Eland. Those animals in the Ezemvelo Park are under the direct protection of KZN Wildlife but there are also considerable numbers of Eland outside the protected area. An aerial count indicates that the number of Eland in the reserve is 6% up on last year, which is good news.

**Fundraising** remains an important activity for the HO's and this year money will be raised by manning aid station tables at races, a repeat of the popular Trout and Clay competition and possibly a 4x4 rally fundraiser. Other projects for this year are repairs to the swing bridge (Tommy Topp bridge) at Cobham and plumbing at the Garden Castle campsite ablutions. At the AGM meeting on 6 March, all office bearers were re-elected, finances were in good order and it was agreed that the past year had been productive and successful. If you would like to join the Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officers, please contact Cayla at sdhosecretary@gmail.com **By HO Nicki von der Heyde.**

our area rewarded, but so too was the event that makes this showcase possible. To Storm and her team, and Joffs and Brendan and their FLA team, we thank you for your hard work in ensuring that our annual Show has received this recognition, all the while maintaining the traditional Farmers Show ethos that has been built up over many years with determination and pride. To the winners in the carcass sections, thank you for participating in our Show and adding to its reputation as a platform for top quality livestock entries. Well done to all of you and we look forward to your efforts in the 2025 show! **Craig Clowes - Chairman And the UFA Executive**

**WATER WOES:** The new water meters appear to be working reasonably well but the problems lie in the water going off every night with no communication or explanations given. Furthermore, there is absolutely no transparency in the water quality, as after all, we are paying for potable water with no proof of what we are purchasing. In comparison, imagine the outcry if we were filling our vehicles with diesel that had a high paraffin content. Sadly, the feedback that we are receiving from the Himeville Low Cost Village, is that Hary Gwala Municipality have finally relented in giving the 6KL to households across the board. However, these 6KL come with conditions, in that these 200L are only available to those residents between 4am and 4.30am. Bearing in mind that there are sometimes 20 people on a property with one meter, the system is a recipe for disaster and contravenes human rights and the constitution on so many levels. Sani Community Forum will be working with these residents in a united front to fight these gross violations of human rights. Our voices have been heard in parliament before, and they can be heard again. Stronger



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# UFA Agri & Lifestyle Show 2024

## Won Best Beef Show in South Africa Award

We cannot be prouder of what our small community can achieve when we put our all towards something we believe in. On Friday 14th March we traveled to Ladysmith for the SAFJA Gala Evening & Awards Ceremony. This is a National Carcass and Show Championship.

We are extremely proud to share that the “UFA Agri & Lifestyle Show 2024” Aka The Underberg Show won The Best Beef Show in the country! This is an incredibly huge achievement, and such a win for our amazing small community.

Just goes to show the incredible beef we have right here on our doorstep, the talented stockman that work tirelessly to produce the best, the farmers, the livestock agents, the show committee and the community in its self.

We’d also like to make special mention to the following individuals who through the **Underberg Show excelled in the following categories:**

- Eustace & Son - Champion Brahman Carcass
- Eustace & Son - Champion Brahman Group Carcasses
- DS Beef (Dean Storah) - Champion Beefmaster Carcass
- Barry Farming (Ed Barry) - Champion Simmentaler Carcass
- RDM Farming (Duncan Watson) - Champion Brangus Carcass & 3rd in the National Carcass Competition
- Vova Genetics (Chippy Watson) - Champion Droughtmaster Carcass

Underberg Show also came 3rd in the best Sheep Show nationally.

We’d like to say a big thanks to The show committee, our sponsors, livestock agents & our loyal farmers for their support.

And a big thanks to SAFJA for all their hard work. 2025 is looking good already

By Storm Storah



Brendan Blore and Storm Storah accept the Underberg Show’s SAFJA award for 2024 Champion Beef Show in South Africa from Greg Talbot of Tal-Tec



L-R: Lubbe Jacobs (Chairman SA Fat Stock Judges Assoc) Sandy and Pat Eustace and Andrew Adams (Adminitrator SAFJA)

## LONG AGO

It seems so very long ago now when I started as a veterinary student at Onderstepoort. The Faculty was funded by the Dept of Agricultural Technical Services so the accent was very much on farm animals. We were expected to know everything about horses, cows,sheep, pigs,poultry....and dogs. Dogs were very much an afterthought and as far as the Faculty was concerned cats did not exist. They were just small dogs. We learned better in later years !!!

There were no lectures on fish or fish farming, exotics, reptiles or wildlife even though for some vets these would be a vital part of their lives. We were just supposed to wing it and hope for the best.

It is funny thinking back because there as always wildlife being treated at Onderstepoort. I clearly remember a lion being there when I was a student. What it was being treated for I have no idea but we students were fascinated by it.

Our class consisted of only 3 girls and 42 boys although later another delightful young lady named Kotie joined us. These girls were supposed to just muck in like the reast of us. No special treatment was given. It was tough for them.

After you qualified you went out into the bright exciting world all eager to get involved with the world of animals, farmers, feed lots and the like. The gaps in our knowledge we just had to try and fill in from books, older more experienced colleagues or pure luck based on using general surgical and medical principles.

When I started in my own practice in 1976 I treated quite a lot of fish, snakes, white mice and hamsters, rabbits and guinea pigs. Later when I worked in the UK I did not even recognize some other queer creatures I was presented with...animals from South America and even hedge hogs. These latter were frequent patients but very difficult to examine as they kept rolling up into a prickly ball !!! I was even presented with a couple of ferrets. No one taught us about those !

We sewed up savaged wounded wildlife like Duiker, dassies, mongooses and just did our best. And you know what ? Most of them survived .

Any animals going to other countries had to be given a health certificate by a private vet. I remember someone bringing me 2 snakes they were taking to Canada who needed a health certificate. I wondered if the Canadian immigration authorities were going to welcome these 2 African snakes ? More likely “ Not for us mate. Take ‘em back where they belong !”

Most of my snake medicine was of the kraalmuir kind ie done from the other side of the room ! Luckily most of the treatments involved handing out antibiotics and gentian violet for mouth infections, leaving the owner to puzzle out how he was going to apply it to the sharp end of

the snake.

Sometimes though things got interesting. Someone from a Safari Park once brought in a python because he thought it had a sore back. He wanted it x-rayed. Well trying to get a 2 or 3 metre long python to lie still on an xray plate and say “Smile “ was challenging to say the least. Finally the snake got fed up and reared up....the room emptied in a flash !!! This left the Safari Park manager dancing around it with a little blue hand towel he had grabbed off the nearby basin. After a few matador like moves he managed to drop it over the irritated snakes ‘ head, covering its eyes and it calmed down. Back to the xray.

I wonder what my friend Dr Dewberry the chiropractor from Pinetown would have said had I pitched up with a big python in a milk crate and asked him to do a few manipulations ? If he tried to grab it by the head and do that “Crick crack “ manoeuvre of theirs he might have had a problem. I wonder what he would charge ??

Some of the lecturers at OP seemed determined to make the students’ life difficult. One was a very gruff older surgery lecturer. Everyone was nervous of him. One day he decided to demonstrate to the students how to neuter a male cat. One of the nursing sisters in the dept volunteered her cat for the op. But now he is showing off. He drapes the anaethetizes cat in sterile drapes, swabs the whole area liberally with alcohol and makes the first incision in the scrotum. As always happens when you cut the skin there are a few small blood vessels that bleed. He reaches for the hyfrecator. A hyfrecator is like an electrical pen. When you push the button sparks jump out and seal off minor bleeders.

As he pushes the button, sparks fly out and ignite the alcohol !! There are flames and smoke. The Afrikaans nursing sister who as watching starts yelling “ Jy brand my kat, jy brand my kat !!!” as Dr X is frantically trying to beat out the flames with his hands. The students of course thought this was the best thing they had seen in years. Luckily apart from a few singed drapes no harm was done.

By Llew Evans  
retired vet



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**A HUGE SAVING**

**DISCLAIMER**

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**GCAW**  
**GIANT'S CUP ANIMAL WELFARE**



ACUTTS<sup>TM</sup>

ESTABLISHED 1851

UNDERBERG ESTATE AGENTS

SMALLHOLDING IN UNDERBERG WITH BREATHTAKING VIEWS



R4 600 000

This 4-hectare smallholding offers breathtaking, uninterrupted views of the Southern Drakensberg mountains. The property features a spacious main house with 2 wings, each with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a lounge, and kitchen, plus additional bedrooms in the loft. A separate 2-bedroom cottage with a lounge/dining area and kitchenette. Equipped with municipal water, three-phase electricity, and a small dam. The property offers great potential for family living, farming, or rental income. This is a deceased estate and must sell.

SMALL HOLDING WITH DAM AND ARABLE IN UNDERBERG



R7 950 000

Nestled in the picturesque landscape of Underberg, this 30-hectare farm offers breathtaking views of a fully stocked dam and the Southern Drakensberg mountains. The modern 3-bedroom home features spacious living areas, an ensuite with a walk-in dressing room, and an enclosed patio with panoramic views. Additional accommodation includes a garden cottage and a 2-bedroom fisherman's cottage. With a 5-hectare dam, workshop, staff quarters, picnic area, and 12 hectares of arable land, this property offers endless opportunities for living, farming, and income generation. VAT applicable.

ARCHITECTURALLY DESIGNED SMALL FARM



R 11 400 000

Glentowy is a stunning 64ha farm on the banks of the Umzimkulu River, offering a beautiful 5-bedroom sandstone house with 3 bathrooms, a country kitchen, and skylights throughout. The property includes a double garage, workshop, games room, and a 1-bedroom flatlet. Equestrian facilities such as stables and a tack room cater to horse lovers. Self-sustaining with solar power, 37 panels, and 2 generators, it also offers ample grazing, arable land, and 3 staff quarters, making it perfect for farming, relaxation, and entertainment.

IMPRESSIVE HOME WITH STUNNING VIEWS



R2 650 000

4-bedroom home with stunning mountain views, 3.5 bathrooms, and a newly renovated kitchen that opens into a bright living area leading to a patio and pool. With two fireplaces and a cozy country feel, the home's patio provides the perfect setting to enjoy the Southern Drakensberg scenery. The property also includes a one-bedroom cottage with a bathroom, kitchen, and lounge, ideal for guests or rental income. Additional rooms offer potential for a study or storeroom. Staff accommodation, security features, and a peaceful neighbourhood.

FAMILY HOME WITH FLAT IN HIMEVILLE



R1 595 000

This spacious home offers 3 well-sized bedrooms, each with built-in cupboards, and 2 bathrooms. The large, fully fitted kitchen is perfect for family meals, while the lounge and dining room provide ample space for relaxation and entertaining. The property also includes a convenient laundry room. Attached to the house is a granny flat featuring a lounge/kitchenette and 2 rooms. The double garage provides secure parking, and the home is set on a level stand with mature trees, located at the end of a peaceful cul-de-sac.

CONTACT OUR AGENTS

SCAN FOR MORE LISTINGS

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Property Showcase - Underberg

Underberg Office 033 701 1563 • underberg@pamgolding.co.za  
pamgolding.co.za/underberg



Ref: 1UB1694492

UNDERBERG - R 4 000 000

3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 2 GARAGES

An opportunity to secure this beautiful property, with 'Mzimkulu river frontage, an easy walk from the recently refurbished home. Large trees and a low maintenance garden.

Paula Bullimore +27 (0)79 491 0101  
Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



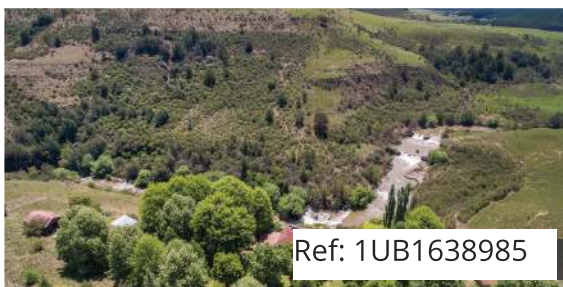
Ref: 1UB1693994

UNDERBERG - R 1 500 000

4 BEDROOMS | 1 BATHROOM | 2 GARAGES

Solidly built home situated in a pretty, developed garden. Generous living spaces and bedrooms plus many extra features. A wonderful option for a family or a retired couple.

Paula Bullimore +27 (0)79 491 0101  
Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



Ref: 1UB1638985

UNDERBERG - R 3 500 000

3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 2 COVERED PARKING

A perfect getaway from busy city life. Enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of nature and bird life from this unique home overlooking the Polela river, with cascading waterfalls.

Paula Bullimore +27 (0)79 491 0101  
Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



Ref: 1UB1675449

UNDERBERG - R 1 395 000

4 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 2 COVERED PARKING

Spacious thatched cottage with a large loft, perfect for extra guests or a home office. Features a cozy living area with a wood-burning fireplace, a separate dining room and a well-equipped kitchen.

Sue Preston +27 (0)84 880 8701  
Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



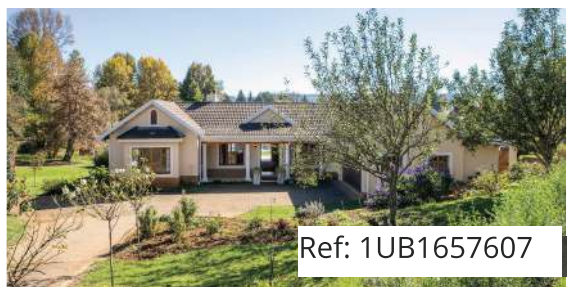
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HIMEVILLE - R 1 995 000

6 BEDROOMS | 5 BATHROOMS | 4 COVERED PARKING

Charming property surrounded by a beautiful flower and organic vegetable garden. Two homes in one dwelling with separate entrances, providing opportunities of a home office or B&B.

Paula Bullimore +27 (0)79 491 0101  
Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



Ref: 1UB1657607

UNDERBERG - R 1 950 000

3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 2 GARAGES

Springside Park. Generously proportioned, refurbished home in excellent condition with a pretty garden. Ideally positioned in the estate overlooking the dam and golf course.

Paula Bullimore +27 (0)79 491 0101  
Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



Ref: 1UB1661968

R 10 000 000 - GOING CONCERN

THE OLD HATCHERY

The Old Hatchery provides a variety of accommodation styles including B&B, self-catering, camping and glamping facilities. On-site restaurant. Going concern.

Paula Bullimore +27 (0)79 491 0101  
Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



Ref: 1UB1670088

UNDERBERG - R 180 000

VACANT LAND

Fairmount Estate offers perfectly levelled grounds, creating the ideal foundation for your dream home. Enjoy breathtaking mountain views in a serene and prestigious setting.

Khwezi Ngcobo +27 (0)73 381 3957  
Registered with the PPRA - Candidate FFC