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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

In memory of Beth Fey

Beth Fey, a well-known member of the Underberg-Himeville community for many years, died on 4th May 2025 in Kokstad. She

notably *Valley of the Eland*. By the time Venn died in 1986, Beth had found her own niche. The boys had grown up and



was 101 years old. Beth was born in Kenya, the second of five children of Scottish farming parents, WJ Dawson and Cathie Williamson. After she had finished school in Nakuru she trained in nursing and midwifery at Grey's Hospital in Pietermaritzburg. She met Venn Fey while nursing at the War Memorial Hospital in Nakuru. They married and began farming on the Kinangop, where Venn's grandparents had been early settlers. At their farm, Njabini, she had five sons during the Mau-Mau uprising in the 1950s. While Venn fought in the forest, Beth nurtured her boys and managed the farm. At Kenya's independence, the farm was expropriated for resettlement. Beth and the boys moved to England for two years while Venn dealt with loose ends in Kenya. In 1962, they settled in Natal on a small farm near Donnybrook. Beth and Venn did dairy and seed potatoes, sending the boys to boarding school. After education had largely been taken care of they sold the Donnybrook farm and Venn joined a resort development at Drakensberg Gardens. He wrote books which Beth typed and illustrated,

prospered, excepting Andrew who died tragically on his motorcycle. It was he who best understood his mother's love of flowers. She worked for the hotel at Drak, managing the gardens and the children's menagerie. She gave years of work creating floral beauty and stimulating the imagination of countless adoring children. Some of them, grown up, maintained contact. After the hotel told her to retire, Beth moved to the new Castleburn estate and helped establish their grounds which, along with Fairways golf estate, are a legacy of her creative enthusiasm. She nurtured her grandchildren in the berg during their holidays, feeding their imagination and even giving them driving lessons. Some of her baking was unforgettable, especially oatmeal crunchies.

Beth retired to Underberg, and later to Khanyeni in Himeville. She was active in the community, especially in gardening circles. Her garden at Mountainairs was widely admired. She was an accomplished

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 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)

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water-colour painter, especially of landscapes. Well into her nineties she produced greeting cards with paintings of flowers, birds and mountains which she sold at souvenir shops.

Her motto had always been: "make do".

Beth celebrated her 100th at Drakensberg Gardens with family gathered from the USA, Germany, East Africa, Australia and Kokstad. On that day she learned of the closure of the home in Himeville. Chris, her eldest, and his wife Thebe took her in on their farm near Kokstad. Now, halfway through her 102nd year, she has died peacefully in her sleep. A life well lived. Many in Underberg and Himeville will remember her fondly.

Besides Andrew, Beth lost another son John 15 years ago, but leaves three sons: Chris, Martin and Keith.



A message from 'Our Beth' (Written into her Will and last testament) It is my wish that the notice of my demise shall expressly state no special memorial or funeral shall take place. It is my wish that any mourner should privately take a flower of their choice, hold it and look into the centre of that flower in memory of me, there they will see my smiling

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face, there I shall be saying "I loved you all, I am off to plant my own garden where I am going".

"Kwa-hari, Salagahle, Goodbye."



OBITUARY Garth Lumley 13.05.1952 – 14.04.2025

I am sad to say my father, Garth Roger Lumley, passed away at home after a long illness on Monday 14th April 2025.

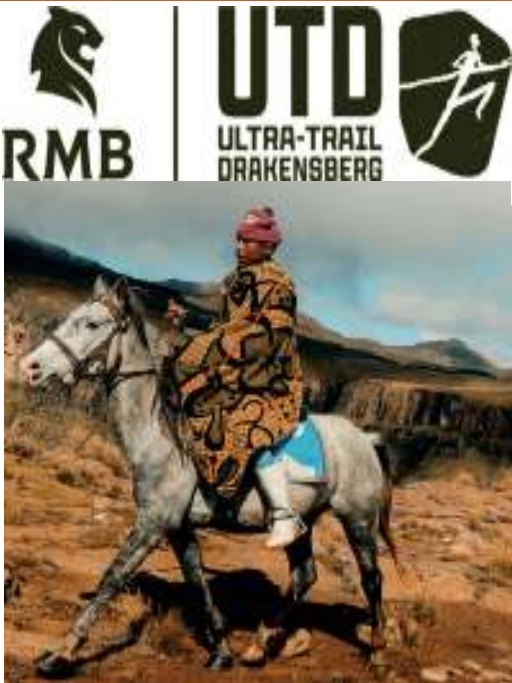
I remember a reserved man with a sense of humour so dry it was almost crispy. Part of what Kevin Carter called the bang bang club. Winner of awards for his press photos; who took pictures of Nelson Mandela, Princess Anne the Princess Royal, Fidel Castro, Pope John Paul II amongst others less well known. Liza Minelli requested copies of the photos he took of her. He loved the shadows and light of black & white photography with its snapshot observations of the wry, silly and whimsical moments of life.

But he also loved to cook and he taught me. I discovered that no other 11 year old knew how to bake an apple with a fruit & nut stuffing. He was thrilled to be a grandfather and loved hearing their news. (Although photos were sometimes received with advice for improvements). He asked that there wasn't a memorial. So I'm going to find an actual camera, hopefully a Leica, and take some black & white photos. Go with God and our prayers.

The Wykeham Collegiate is proud to celebrate the remarkable achievement of one of its **pupils from Underberg, Hannah Trower, Grade 11, who has been selected to represent South Africa at the 2025 ICF Junior and U23 Canoe Slalom World Championships, taking place in Foix, France this July.**

Hannah's selection follows years of dedication, discipline, and passion for canoeing. Her inclusion in the national team is a testament to her talent and commitment to the sport, and an inspiration to her peers. The championships in Foix will bring together the world's most promising young athletes in a challenging test of skill, speed, and precision on water. Competing at this level is a significant milestone and offers Hannah the chance to gain invaluable international experience. Canoeing South Africa officially announced the national squad on their Facebook page, and the news has already sparked great excitement among the local paddling community.

At The Wykeham Collegiate, we are continually inspired by the diverse range of activities our pupils pursue beyond the classroom. From cultural pursuits to sporting excellence, our girls are making their mark, locally and internationally.



UNDERBERG GRAN FONDO 26 JULY

Entries opened on 30 April for the 2025 Underberg Gran Fondo with riders once again offered a range of races that will give all riding abilities an opportunity to admire the beautiful Berg while enjoying one of the country's best gravel races.

On July 26th, 2025, the mighty Drakensberg mountains overlooking the Southern Drakensberg town of Underberg will once again become the majestic backdrop to the Underberg Gran Fondo. The beautiful setting has earned the Underberg Gran Fondo the reputation as the most beautiful cycling event in the country, and this is equaled by the passionate desire of the local community to organise an event that matches the spectacular surroundings.

Underberg in July is well-known for the Underberg Gran Fondo which draws the best gravel riders to the village nestled in the foothills of the Drakensberg Mountains. There are a choice of three races **140km, 94km and the 45km** Tour de Farms provides a perfect introduction for those testing their legs on a gravel bike. Easier and more manageable for the average riders, the route still provides the stunning scenery without many of the more testing sections of the route.

Entries for the Underberg Gran Fondo via the MyActive entry portal at <https://underberggranfondo2025.myactive.co.za/> The start and finish is at The Olde Duck Restaurant which is the home to Sani Spoors on the Drakensberg Gardens road. The Olde Duck Restaurant and Sani Spoors also host Run the Rivers for trail runners and Drak Descent for mountain bikers in January.

Kennedy Sekhuthe 1st in UTD Miler (160km) Finish Time: 25:08:26. The race kicked off at 09h00 Friday 25 April in Lesotho. The runners were shepherded by Lesotho shepherds on horseback on loop along the escarpment. Runners re-entered South Africa via Sani Pass before nightfall. Conditions during the night were wet and cold, but Kennedy Sekhuthe a police constable from Roodeport dominated first position from the start

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VW BEETLE ASCENDS SANI PASS 1st June 1956

Recently, May 2025, there was a headline of a group taking a Volkswagen Beetle up the Sani Pass. This is not a first event because the first VW Beetle to go up the pass was in 1956 driven by Leicester Symons, the motoring editor for Rand Daily Mail. He repeated the

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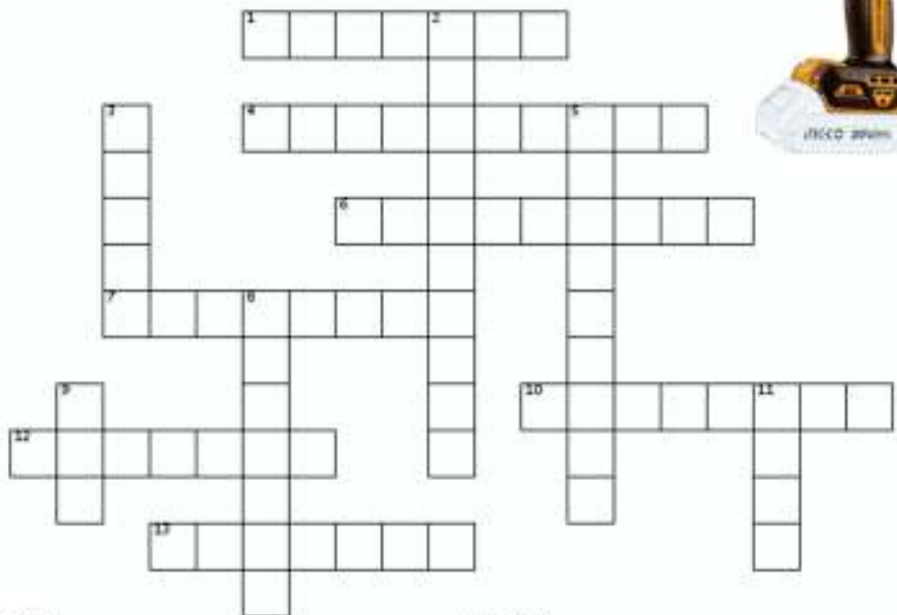
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4. This machine powers air tools and inflates tyres
6. Used to remove built-up oil and grime
7. A toothed wheel used with a chain
10. Reduces friction and help things rotate smoothly
12. They trap dirt and debris to protect engines
13. Keep lubricants in and contaminants out

DOWN

2. A system to keep crops watered
3. Fasteners with threads, often paired with nuts
5. Steel Rust-resistant metal, used for durability
8. Protective clothing worn over normal clothes
9. Vital fluid that reduces friction in machinery
11. These hold bolts tightly in place

trip on the twentieth anniversary on 20th May 1976 and featured the trips on the anniversary of the initial trip on 1st June 1956. (I will often quote from Mr. Symon's article in the Royal Automobile Club of S.A., July 1956 magazine). The first trip was made more difficult due to a recent heavy snow fall which made the upper reaches of the Pass more perilous. Leicester was joined by three other members of the Pretoria Motor Club. Initially one of the passengers rode on the running board so that he could get off quickly and push the vehicle when needed. There were numerous cross drains over 2m wide with a drop of 15cm on one side and often a rise of more than that on the other side. The drains were edged with higher rocks as well. The vehicle carried two planks on the roof to bridge the drains but were not often used. These drains impeded the speed of the vehicle so he could not get a good run at a rise in the road. In the higher stretches these drains were hidden by heavy snow with under lying ice. For the upper reaches all three passengers rode the running boards and pushed the vehicle and then have to catch up to it on foot because they could not allow the car to stop unnecessarily.

Previous to this trip David Alexander had got his Peugeot 303 as far as the second zigzags on the lower section but the VW passed this climb with "no great difficulty". The road surface was not loose and "consists of fine firm gravel, but at frequent intervals extremely substantial boulders up to 8 inches (2cm) high protrude through this". The narrow track did not allow for a choice of driving round or of putting one wheel on the side of the rock. At one place where a big boulder had been brought down onto the road the man on the running board had to jump off smartly as the bumper hit the rock and he leapt over the rock and got back to his position on the running board. After 3.5hrs they reached the old Basutho police post, approximately 15km from the start of the bridal path at Umkhomozana.

The approach to the police post was littered with boulders that had to be threaded around and the next section was also boulder strewn. David's land rover caught up with them after the police post and now the running board

travellers could get a lift up to where the VW once again came to a standstill. After nearly 3 hours from the border post, they reached the 8,800ft section where the snow and ice reached across the

Twentieth Anniversary Trip Leicester Symons, the driver for both trips, his wife Marian and Mike Clark

TIDY TOWNS

Two years ago I took it upon myself to prune the many long overhanging branches of the cherry trees in Arbuckle St in Himeville. I did this in order that the brushcutting could take place under these trees. Little did I know that it was the beginning of my Tidy Town campaign.

TREES: ·Cherry trees. So I decided to give these beautiful trees some further TLC and during this month of May, we systematically removed all the dead branches.

·Young gums: Also used panga and poison on those that have sprouted and shot up at the back of Himeville Park.

·Two plane trees. We planted them in Peoples Park on the 15th May

Elize from Heritage nursery kindly donated the trees. Doreen of Greendoor advised us where to plant, Agri Mart gave the fertiliser and compost and Sfiso Mkhize from the municipality gave the gum poles so it was a team effort!

GENERAL: We continue to weed and maintain the bed in front and alongside Lemon Tree, railway stop ends, water the flower bins etc.. **SIGNS:** Started work on the small concrete street signs. The idea is to straighten and repaint them. Simon Rayner has offered to help with the lettering so this will be fairly time consuming. Also we wish to address the issue of signs haphazardly erected and endeavour to keep to the bylaws which state that all signs should only be on the business property. There are several very faded signs around the district.

track. They put chains on the back wheels for extra grip and slowly moved forward until 4ft drifts of snow blocked the track and all persons had to dig through the obstruction. One pack horse driver, who was so excited to see the little car, sent his assistants on with the animals and he turned back to help with the final ascent to the summit of the Sani Pass. There weren't enough spades to go round so "those off duty amused themselves by throwing snowballs at the toilers and sliding down the snowbanks". After 8 hours from the start they reached the summit of the Pass.

There was still more work to do to get across the Sani Flats and up Black Mountain and this section of 4 miles took over 3 hours. The snow was 6 inches deep to start and by the time they reached the top it was 18 inches and when the vehicle stopped it froze to the bottom. In comparison the track to Mokhotlong was easier but still treacherous with snow and ice forcing it to the edge of precipices overlooking the Sehonghong river. On the return trip they put chains on all the tyres for going down the very slippery, icy Sani Pass. The VW stood up well to the intense battering and with a few very minor modifications like armour plating under the sump and gearbox, "without which we would not have reached the border post", it suffered superficial damage only.

Leicester was so flattered to read what the A.D.C. to the District Commissioner Mr. B.K. Taoana wrote in his report about their arrival "I have to congratulate these daring gentlemen on their wonderful contribution in opening up the mountains areas".

In 1976 Leicester wrote "The shape of the two Beetles involved represented the greatest similarity between the two journeys. The first was something of a minor epic: the most recent a piece of cake".

2026 will be the seventieth anniversary of the "minor epic" and fiftieth of the "piece of cake" and it will be interesting to get the description of the modern anniversary trips. Bv Roseanne Clark



The crew of the first standard car to climb Sani Pass 20 years ago. From left: Dave Preiss, Leicester Symons, Martin Harper and Ewald van Bergen.

1956 Summit of Sani Pass. Note the planks on the roof rack.



MUNICIPAL MATTERS : I continue to liaise with Trish Maphanga and now Sfiso Mkhize. I attended the Budget meeting and five folk were able to pose questions. I asked why there is no money in the budget to tackle the issue of invasive alien plants and secondly when do they intend to award the Horticulturist tender for the five villages.

THANK YOUS: This month I wish to thank, over and above the four scheduled payments: Pete Hampson, the Wood family, Moths and Splashy organisers, Stu and Andrew for their kind and generous donations which will help with paying, in particular the labour, their outfits, boots, my petrol, tools etc. I am also helping to give employment and a sense of dignity to the two or three chaps I use. I certainly do not take these contributions for granted and I am very grateful for them all, be it big or small. Thank you MOTHS for the handing over ceremony of the donations at the Grind on Wed 14th May. It was indeed a fitting and memorable occasion.

IN CONCLUSION: Now that the growing season is slowing down, we will be able to focus our efforts more on bins, signage, hopefully another mural, removing alien plants etcAll in the interests of keeping NUD neat and trim.**By Ruth Crouch**

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BIRDING IN THE SOUTHERN KZN DRAKENSBERG

By Stuart Mc Lean

The winter is taking time to settle in which means a few birds are remaining a few weeks longer than normal. The Banded Martins have been seen around Dublin right up to 5 May as have Greater Striped Swallows, which have been over Himeville up to the 14 May. Even one Barn Swallow was present on the Mzimkulu River on the 13 May. Bart Fokkens saw two White Storks on the 15 April. Pam Ellenberger was still hearing Klaas’s Cuckoo calling on the 9 April and saw White-throated Swallows on the 2 May as well as a Male Malachite Sunbird. Barry and Lynda Revell have the Gurney’s Sugarbird and Malachite Sunbirds in their garden virtually year round, with as many as 15 birds at a time. Nico Kritzinger reported African Crake at Ikwezi dairy on the 5 May.

Richard Adamson saw a flock of 14 Wattled Cranes, 52 Grey Crowned Cranes and several Blue Cranes at Waterford Farm on the Bushman’s Neck road. There has been a lack of Blue Cranes lately. A pair of Wattled Cranes have returned to nest near Moorcroft Manor after about a 15 year absence. This is great for visitors to Moorcroft Manor, as the birds should be visible when standing on the ridge on the northern side of the property.

Wendy Arnot saw a Black Stork with a juvenile. This lightly populated bird species is always a great sighting. Luckily they tend to nest in cliff faces, not easily accessible which affords them some protection. There are not many nests known locally, I know of only three. Black Storks further north in Africa may be migrants, but here in the south they appear to be resident - how would you know by looking at them? Garden birds continue to attract attention. Tony Coetzer’s Ground Hornbills are a first prize. The Purple Heron seen by the Berrutis is a good one, but the Goliath Heron by the Matchers in Himeville has to be a really unusual one. Sadly unbeknownst to us this bird was in more than a little trouble. Glen spotted that it was limping, but we did not think it was in need of rescue, not that we could have caught it. Sadly Michael Schleyer found it dead a week or so later at the Himeville dam. Glen saw a Gurney’s Sugarbird in our garden at the feeder, I have never seen one in our garden. I go to Lynda and Barrie’s garden where the Sugarbirds are just amazing, you might arrive with not a bird in sight, but after 15 minutes they suddenly are all over.

The use of silage spillage by birds is well known, it is well worth watching the road verges where this happens. I have watched numerous seed-eating birds such as Red Bishops, Queleas, Pintailed Whydahs and Doves, Ducks, Spurfowl as well as African Rail, Black Crake all enjoying something from or as a result of silage.

Some bird sightings worth noting for this district was a White-fronted Bee-eater seen by Simon Acutt at the entrance to Pevensey Place. Cameron Christie saw a Spotted Thick Knee at Ikwezi Dairy, so few of these otherwise common birds in this area. Mondli Miya had Cape Glossy Starling in his KwaPitela garden, another bird with very low numbers locally. I saw a Lesser Grey Shrike on the lower Sani Pass, but for me an African Red-eyed Bulbul seen about 30 km into Lesotho is of interest as it is the closest to Sani Pass I have ever seen them.

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Stuart Mc Lean

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ABOUT TROUT FISHING IN UNDERBERG

A dreadful river fishing season ‘has come and gone. Although it did produce some fish there were not many around and finding them turned out to be harder than expected. Again, going to the upper reaches of the rivers was the best option to guarantee catching some fish. Although smaller they do give a good account for themselves when using lighter tackle. Dry flies will be the norm targeting these. Dropping a small nymph below the dry also a good option getting down in the water column and finding fish lying at the bottom. Some good fish did appear as the season closed off, but they all were in spawn mode and refused flies cast to them. This is a good indication to let the fish be and leave them to peacefully continue their spawn, ensuring good future population and fun for us anglers. The annual UHTFC Rivers in May festival also showed the low numbers of fish around as only 5 fish were caught off 20 rods fishing local rivers. Even with the slow fishing I am sure there is always some peace to be found on the rivers. And enjoying the festivities after the days fishing. UHTFC statistics show 1 fish caught off 8 rods. Let’s hope when the season opens 1st of September fishing returns to what we are used too. Until then let our attention turn to the still waters.

With the river season closed and the Stillwater slowly starting to cool down and reports of water temperatures below 18 degrees Celsius slowly bringing on the start of the still water season. Although not many fish have been caught and still many complaints of poor fishing coming in from private as well as club water. UHTFC showed 18 fish caught of 40 rods. A slight increase of fish per angler and sightings of some fish spotted in the shallows chasing each other is a good sign that they are starting to move in shallower preparing to spawn. With this brings on good fishing if using appropriate tactics. Static flies with indicators do well. Egg patterns do extremely well in these times. And for those anglers that frown upon fishing egg patterns a trusty

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HIMEVILLE UNDERBERG GARDEN CLUB

18 JUNE

Having enjoyed nature’s autumn splendor, winter is fast approaching. We look forward to welcoming you to our next Garden Club meeting, on 18 June 2025, in the beautiful gardens of Sani Window B &B situated at 13 Fairway Avenue in Underberg. Our guest speaker will be Helen Guy, who will be sharing her passion, the topic being “Garden planning and layout” The meeting will start at 10h00. Visitors are most welcome. Entry fee is R30 which includes tea and cake. Please remember to bring your own chair.



COLOUR YOUR WINTER GARDEN

Why not top up by planting two winter blessings; pansies and violas. Don’t be fooled by their delicate appearance, these are hardy little plants that will survive the most bitter conditions and bloom throughout winter and well into spring. If you come out one morning to find them all frozen stiff from the wintery night before, never fear, they will defrost and be just as lovely as they were before.

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hotspot PTN will also do the trick. When fishing streamers bright or white colours work best. Using fast strips to effectively hook fish that inhale and spit flies out because of aggression. Let’s hope the cold comes to bring along some better fishing. And when the fishing turns on I’m sure there will be reports of trophy trout caught. By Duane Vaughn Howell Underberg Flyfishing and lifestyle centre at The Clocktower Centre. - Contact 0832286707 or 0655232877 Check out our website at uhtfc.org



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"FOR ALL THE EVILS IN THE WORLD, I THINK APATHY IS ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS." CHRIS LONG

Sadly, the apathy by residents was mirrored in the poor attendance at the IDP Budget meeting. This should, in theory, replicate the view that our residents were entirely satisfied with the service delivery that is being delivered by our municipality, but this view is contradicted in the complaints and anger that are reflected in the Service Delivery Group on a daily basis. 5 residents attended this vital meeting and were allocated 3 minutes each. 15 minutes for residents to ask all their questions.

Absolutely zero budget was allocated to Tidy Towns which is a complete disgrace and once again there was no money for public toilets, so our residents and visitors have to suffer the indignity of no facilities unless you can afford to pay. The total wastage of funds in a very opaque budget was yet again, a total reflection of the fiefdom that our municipality has become. Entertainment type events that give absolutely no return on investment were the order of the day.

The question was asked as to exactly why numerous water tankers are filling up their tankers in the very early hours of the morning to take to the Low-Cost Villages and yet the water is being turned off to Underberg residents every night. Why? The question put to Harry Gwala Mayor did not get answered. We have so many issues in our villages and the small nucleus of us trying to make a difference with our own money, time and efforts, cannot stem the tide of decay alone. The keyboard warriors are quick to complain and send Admins abusive messages but were conspicuous by their absence at the IDP meeting. For those supporting us financially we are most grateful, but we do need more feet on the ground in volunteers. Jill Thompson of Underberg Pre-Primary thanked all those volunteers who helped with the water issue at the school, individually. What a breath of fresh air for all those doing the hard yards to be recognised and thanked.

Potholes have raised their ugly faces again and Sani Community Forum has been asked to assist with the last of our remaining funds in our ROAR account. REPAIR OUR AWFUL ROADS.

If you would like to volunteer you would be most welcome but more importantly, we require funds to replenish our reserves to purchase Cold Mix.

Sugar Street in the Himeville Low Cos, costing R5m, comes in at around 4 times more /m2 than Thomas Street and more alarming, it is costing more than the Sani Pass Road, it would seem. For those who have seen the Sugar Street concrete road, will know that it is already deteriorating and being washed away. Wanton wastage of vital funds is shocking but 15 minutes of floor time for 5 residents was just a drop in a very wide pit of tax payer abuse.

FARE WELL LOUISE RODERICK

This pocket-rocket landed at the HIMEVILLE MUSEUM in 2015, becoming Curator in 2018.

She has had many only positive reactions on Trip Advisor, making the MUSEUM 2nd on the list of UNDERBERG/HIMEVILLE best places to visit. No surprise that visitors donations became the Museum's biggest income. Despite the Government barely covering salaries, Louise's passion has kept the standard high, and she was called on to coach others on the running of a Museum. You will be sorely missed, Louise, but enjoy your deserved rest.

By Rae Higgins



Barbara Bruynse (Left) handed over the curatorship of the Himeville Museum in 2015 to Louise Roderick

PEVENSEY PLACE RUMBLE

Heartfelt thanks to our local community for the Easter Break treats! Special appreciation to Trish Anderson for spending quality time with us at Pevensey Place, making those who couldn't go home feel loved. Thanks also to Sani2C organizers for including us again – we enjoyed support the cyclists with refreshments! And to PG Bison for the pancake and coffee stand opportunity at the floating bridge – What a blast!

"Aging is not for the weak. One day you wake up and realize that your youth is gone, but along with it, so go insecurity, haste, and the need to please... You learn to walk more slowly, but with greater certainty. You say goodbye without fear, and you cherish those who stay. Aging means letting go, it means accepting, it means discovering that beauty was never in our skin... but in the story we carry inside us."

~Meryl Streep Echoes of Insight

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FAITHWAY COLLEGE - Improving all the time

Last month Faithway College was awarded two Certificates of Achievement for their matric results. One is for the school with consistent **100% pass rate** for the past 3 years and the other is for the school with outstanding performance of **100% pass rate** over a 5-year period consecutively.

The pupils of Faithway now do sport and extra-curricular activities



four days a week. The pupils are also benefiting from the new Afrikaans teacher, **(left) Teriza Burger**, who happens to be a qualified sports coach in many disciplines. With a kick start from Country Women, the Faithway Governors have started a **Faithway Scholarship fund**. This is to raise money for new pupils who would benefit going to Faithway but need financial help. It

is hoped that the local community will get behind this initiative and set up stop orders, anything from R50 a month, that goes into a specific bank account. Single donations are also appreciated.

Faithway Scholarship
Account name: Faithway Christian School
Bank: First National Bank
Account no: 62069318410

Please put your name as a Reference. A big thank you to those who have already done their stop orders.

Faithway College is planning to be supporting the community in the future with events like the Sani Stagger, The Draks Challenge and Splashy Fen.

Also, we have some openings in the Board of Governors at Faithway College. If you feel that you would like to support the school and help it continue to improve for the children in the community, please do contact Sue Little 0822909770 to have a chat.

by Sue Little.
Governor of Faithway College

EARLIEST FLU SEASON IN A DECADE UNDERScores IMPORTANCE OF HAND HYGIENE

Following an early surge in flu cases across the country, health officials are highlighting the role of good hand hygiene in protecting against infection this winter.

According to the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), the 2025 flu season began exceptionally early – starting in the week of 24 March (week 13) – making it the earliest onset in more than a decade, since 2010. This marks a significant shift, as the 2024 season only began four weeks later, in late April.

Data from the NICD's pneumonia surveillance programme also confirms that the most prevalent influenza strain currently in circulation is influenza A(H3N2), which accounts for 68% of lab-confirmed cases to date.

The 21st edition of the KAP sani2c

KAP sani2c Adventure and KAP sani2c 'OG' – two versions of the sani2c, dubbed 'the fastest stage race in South Africa' by the pro riders, took place between 7 and 10 May, with two-person teams enjoying the challenging 270 kms over three days, from Glencairn farm in Himeville down to Scottburgh on the South Coast.

While UCI registered riders took part in a Prologue the day before the start of the 'OG', and raced to the sea in an incredible winning time of 9 hours, 44 minutes, and 18 seconds, the rest of the field had the ride of their life at their own pace, some pushing hard and racing against the clock, others happy to make it across the finish before dark!

Marco Joubert and Tristan Nortje (Imbuko ChemChamp A) and Sarah Hill and Sam Sanders (Efficient Infiniti Racing) are the 2025 KAP sani2c champions. Lynford School alumni Michael Foster and Bianca Haw each secured a podium place for their teams.

After leaving Himeville on the Sani Pass road, participants ride through farmlands and forestry plantations, crossing the PG Bison Floating Bridge over the Mossbank Dam near Pevensey. The route winds through the Donnybrook area to finish day 1 at Mackenzie Club in Creighton, where 'Farmer Glen' Haw, the founder of the event, greets riders - along with the Lynford School learners who hand out chocolate milks and other refreshments. Lynford School was the original beneficiary of the race that was started as a fundraiser, and more than 20 years later there are over 23 beneficiary schools and community organisations.

Stage 2 sees riders descend into the Umkomaas Valley and finish at Kings Harvest School, overnighting at Jolivet, where the Lynford community provide all the catering in the Race Village.

Stage 3 is a fast and furious day down to Scottburgh through sugar cane fields, Vernon Crookes Nature reserve and Mtatati Bush indigenous forest.

By Maryann Shaw

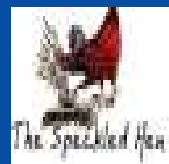
Glen Haw celebrates with the Lynford learners, hard at work handing out refreshments at Mackenzie Club.

(Photo Anthony Grote)



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Former Lynford learner Michael Foster of team PYGA Euro Steel passes over the PG Bison bridge with teammate Phil Buys following. The pair crossed the finish first on the Prologue at Glencairn, and finished third overall after three tight stages of racing.

(Photo Anthony Grote)



Bianca Haw (right) former Lynford learner and daughter of sani2c founder Glen Haw, and teammate Danielle Du Toit, secured the stage win at Mackenzie Club and came second overall.

(Photo Maryann Shaw)



A sketch penciled by Chelmsford secretary in the eve of the battle of Isandlwana. 22 Jan 1879.

Isandlwana

Mention this place in the presence of anyone living in our province and no doubt it will conjure up a picture of that famous saddled hill – **Isandlwana**. The word suggests slaughter, redcoats and Zulu warriors. Anyone who lived in Natal and Zululand on the 22nd Jan 1879 would have been connected to either someone who fell there, or miraculously escaped. Samuel Grant, a Great great uncle of mine was a Native interpreter employed in a colonial auxiliary force. Isandlwana is a hauntingly beautiful place, go there.

Underberg and the immediate surrounds was surveyed in the early 1880's. So what significant event in Natal history spurred on the survey? In my opinion, three things, the advent of the **Zulu War** Jan - Sept 1879, a permanent solution to **Basuto stock theft** and **land hunger** driven by second generation British settlers. Land hunger went beyond White colonial settlers. Before the Zulu War Edendale's *Kholwa* (mission educated) population of 1000 African folk owned titled plots varying between 5 and 30 acres. Diamonds and transport riding had given opportunity for the accumulation of capital. Determined to live within the parameters and safety of European colonial society Edendale's Daniel Msimang expressed his loyalty and position as living 'under the shadow of the great White Queen'. In an address to Bulwer and Sir Bartle Frere leading up to the Zulu war he offered his people to them.

Quote; '.....We know the power and cruelty of the Zulu King, and if he should subdue the Queens soldiers and over run this land he will wipe out all the native people who have dwelt so long in safety under the shadow of the Great White Queen, shall we not gladly obey her, when she calls for the services of her dark children?'

Ixopo, Alfred country, Lions river, Alexandra and Msinga were all areas the *Kholwa* purchased Crown land after the war. In the 1880's landowners from Edendale also purchased Crown lands on the upper reaches of the Umzimkulu, Umkomazi and Polela rivers in our Drakensberg foothills. The name surname Molife is still common as landowner in our region and it is no coincidence that amongst prominent African folk who participated in the Zulu War within colonial forces the name Molife is prevalent. The *Kholwa*, competed with whites for land. Crown lands were made available for public purpose at ten shillings per acre.

Quote; '.....Stephanus Mini and Stoffel Molife found the presence of African occupiers on their newly purchased land in the Polela desirable for they were a potential source of labour and provided income from rents. The presence of their chief, Ramncana (Dumisa's son) proved a source of conflict, however, because he is reluctant to recognize the new landlords'.

War and land, what's new in the world?

Back to Isandlwana. Another Zulu war name associated with our district is **Col. John Dartnell**. He never lived here but Dartnell street in Himeville is not named after him for nothing. In 1879 the district had not yet been settled by White farmers. Below Hlogoma there was a kraal occupied by Sakeytwa a younger son of Dumisa who had settled in the upper Mkomas valley since the early 1860's. Dumisa's people from Umzinto had been persuaded by Shepstone to settle on what was crown land to serve as a buffer to bushmen raids, later they had helped prevent Basuto infiltration and cattle raiding . **Major John Dartnell** had formed the Natal Mounted police after the Langalibele rebellion in 1873. This force had been deployed throughout the province and had become familiar with the upper Mkomas, Mzimkulu and Polela. His experiences at Isandlwana had influenced him to persuade **Albert Hime** Premier of Natal and engineer to place what became the Himeville fort (Now the museum) where it is today and not near the Underberg store below Hlogoma.

Dartnell is said to have had his experiences at Isandlwana in mind when he insisted that the new loopholed fort be established on open ground with clear views of any attack. More on **Dartnell** and **Isandlwana** on **18th of June at Speirs brasserie** when the historical society screens a movie, fill bellies and engages in some war talk.

OFFICERS' MESS

INSIDE

— Starter —

Spiced Butternut Soup (V)
Velvety and gently spiced with Cape Malay influences, served with a swirl of cream and toasted seeds.

Charred Sweet Corn & Home-Smoked Hake Chowder
A rich, creamy chowder infused with house-smoked hake and fire charred sweet corn, finished with chives and cracked pepper.

— Main Course —

Beef Fillet with Bone Marrow Jus
Wild Mushroom Risotto with Red Wine Shallots and Garden Vegetables (V)

— Dessert —

Sticky Toffee Pudding with Homemade Custard


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I Thought to Write a Short Story... my StoryMatters

By Sonya Caldecott

This last season of fostering kittens in Underberg, has been the worst I've ever experienced, emotionally, physically, and financially.

I now brace myself for what's still to come in the next season, with diseases worsening and budgets tightening, I felt the need to share a little truth.

Because the reality is friends: most don't fight for a heartbeat when it's needed the most. It easy to rescue and dump into a home or shelter, turn and walk away.... but what actually comes with what you have just handed over?

LET ME TELL YOU....

Giving up time, comfort, sleep, and sometimes even my peace of mind to be a voice for the voiceless, it all comes naturally, like a calling some would say. When taking in the next broken little soul, knowing full well what it might cost my heart, i'll sure do it again and again and again. Because....even the smallest heartbeat deserves someone to fight for it - right?

Fostering kittens isn't just about tiny paws and fluffy faces -though those moments are magical. ?? It's mostly about sleepless nights, silent prayers, and the kind of love that tears can only explain.

Every single rescue comes from a place of hardship. Some are born into colonies riddled with disease, others are dumped, unwanted from humans, orphaned, or forgotten. No matter their age, they arrive carrying invisible scars, and it's my job, as a foster mom, to help them heal. I pour everything into them — my time, my energy, my home, my heart. Each tiny life is a fragile flame that I guard fiercely. I celebrate the milestones: the first purr, the solid poop (yes,

1000 PAWS JUNE 1

Now in its 16th year, the 1000 Paws Walk for SPCAs fundraising programme is getting ready for the event on Sunday 1 June. It is the culmination of over six months' worth of planning and hard work by the 1000 Paws Walk steering committee.

"We are so excited about this year's Hill's 1000 Paws Walk for SPCAs event, which takes place on **1 June at Highgate Wine Estate (next to Piggly Wiggly near Howick)** in the KZN Midlands," says Gaynor Lawson, member of the 1000 Paws steering committee. "It brings together hundreds of animal-lovers, walkers, families and their dogs. They love the two pet-friendly routes around this beautiful wine estate as well as the dog-focused arena events, stalls, good food and live music in this magnificent Midlands' setting. Last year we welcomed an impressive 581 people, 332 dogs and even a cat!" For further info or to offer support to this year's 1000 Paws campaign, **please contact Gaynor Lawson of the 1000 Paws Walk 2025 planning committee on 082 55 88 928 or via email at glawson@global.co.za**





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it matters!), the curious climb up the curtains. The pitter-patter of little feet fills my space with life, love and hope. (NOW read this sentence again!)

But the truth is, sometimes... we lose them or a decision is needed.

And those are the hardest moments. The hours where medicine doesn't work, where they fade despite everything, and I am left holding a body that was once full of fight. I grieve each one deeply. Because I didn't just house them, I loved them.

Still, I continue.

Because the joy of seeing a once-sickly wild kitten curl up and sleep safely... the transformation from trembling to trusting... the moment they find their forever home - NOW that joy outweighs the pain.

This is what I feel fostering is: a beautiful, heart-wrenching, soul-growing act of love. Behind every photo of a healthy kitten is ME who cried, fought, and gave my all to rewrite their story.

This is what I've chosen, and by no means am i wanting a pat on the back! This is simply me reaching out to you, telling you my story and that rescuing is more than picking a stray up, it becomes someones responsibility - a life. ??

You can support myself and the team at Underberg Giant's Cup Animal Welfare by becoming a friend, become a PAWPAL. (Editor Note: This story really got to me)

WINNING STOCK MARKET STRATEGIES

EXTRAORDINARY PROFITS FROM ORDINARY SHARES

The S&P 500 closed out a winning week on Friday. This was the fifth positive day in a row - up 5.3% for the week.

And the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at 42654.74 putting it back into positive territory for the year.

The Nasdaq composite also had a great week with a 7.2% gain. Nvidia was up 16% for the week, Meta 8%, Apple 6% and Microsoft 3%. This is interesting because simultaneously the University of Michigan's consumer sentiment index came in at its second - lowest level on record. To make matters so much worse consumers also now expect to see prices rising 7.3% over the next year, up from 6.5% in April.

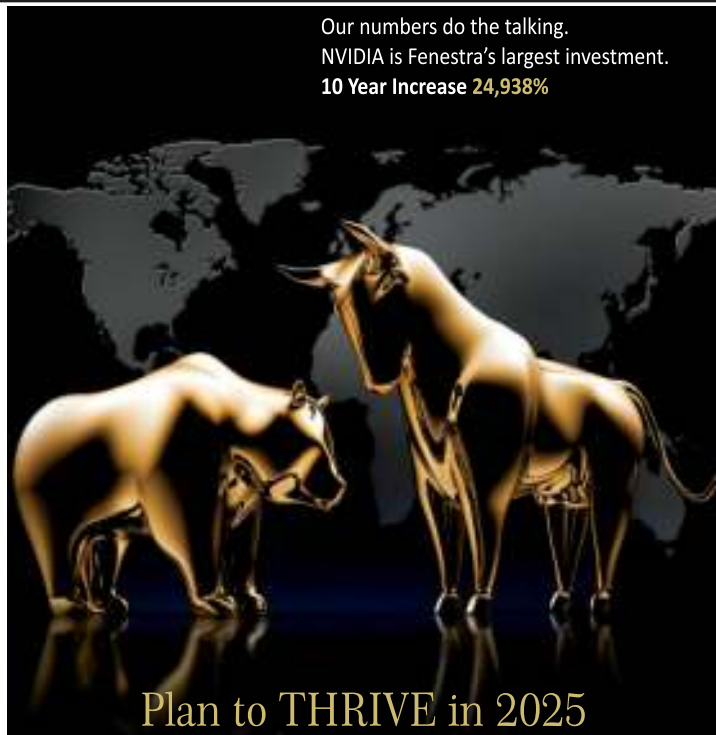
This is the Federal Reserve's worst nightmare scenario with inflation expectations now moving so much higher - price increases become self-fulfilling and companies find it easier to pass on increased costs.

It is my strong conviction that the U.S. economy has already been in a recession since the 1st of January 2025. Over the next few months, the data will either confirm or invalidate my view. We will just have to wait and see.

The Federal Reserve had hoped it could cut interest rates this year against the backdrop of falling inflation and a still robust economy and labour market.

Now it may be cutting interest rates for a completely different reason. An economy that has fallen into an abyss. The silver lining and irony here is that this time much higher inflation could well be "transitory".

The last time Jerome Powell, the Fed Chairman, infamously claimed inflation would



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be transitory, it definitely wasn't. This time he will be cutting rates to revitalise an economy in I.C.U. with bleak prospects.

If this is difficult and complicated, sadly, it gets worse.

On Friday, after the markets close, Moody one of the Big three credit rating agencies downgraded the United States credit rating because of the growth in government debt.

This will lead to an increase in interest rates which of course is a big negative for bonds and stocks.

"Successive U.S. administrations and congress have failed to agree on measures to reverse the trend of large annual fiscal deficits and growing interest costs. We do not believe that material multi-year reductions in mandatory spending and deficits will result from current fiscal proposals under consideration," Moody's analysis said in a statement.

So, there you have it. An interesting week and it certainly is going to be an exciting month.

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"Gaslighting" by Heidi Kyle

The term "gaslight" comes from the 1938 British play of that name and the follow up movies. In the play and films a husband manipulates his wife into believing she is insane as she notices the gaslights are flickering in the house and he does not want her to know he is searching the upper floors of the home related to a murder he has committed previously.

The term became popular in the mid-2010s, mainly due to the Me-Too movement and now it is used frequently. Many people are not sure what the term really describes and it's worth an explanation.

Basically to "gaslight" someone is to manipulate their reality with claims that the memories, experiences and perceptions of the other person (often a spouse or close relationship) did not happen the way they recall. Everyone has different ways of remembering, so it is not gaslighting when one person recalls an event differently to someone else. That's normal. However, abuse occurs when one party deliberately claims that the recollections or events are different to what they were, and they are doing to achieve an outcome of their own and to make sure the other person does not question that.

Gaslighting can occur in individual relationships, in families, workplaces and any type of group. In fact, governments, media, and other groups are often guilty of gaslighting the public. Advertisers and religious groups are culprits at times. The question is why would this be desired or necessary?

The core of gaslighting is the desire to get another person or group to do something that they may not do if their perceptions were not impaired. Simply put, if you don't believe something you are not going to do it and so to "gaslight" is to simply alter experiences so that the person will believe what you say or do. In a group setting, gaslighting might be used to keep the group together or to get the group to go along with certain practices that they may not agree to otherwise.

Cult leaders, narcissists, dictators and abusers commonly use gaslighting to achieve their aims and the technique is used mostly to brain-wash their victims. As this happens slowly over

a long time many victims are unaware of what is happening or how brain washed they are.

There are so many ways to gaslight someone it's almost impossible to list them all but some common ones are: questioning the others memory "you always remember things wrong"; trivialising "you make such a big deal out of nothing"; pretending to forget what happened, or using the persons religion, race or sex to claim that they have less power and that no one will believe them.

Once someone has been gaslighted over a period they will start to become confused and cognitive dissonance results (where their beliefs are now in conflict). The best way out at this point is disengagement but that is hard when you can't trust your own perceptions.

Next month we will focus on cognitive dissonance and how to responsibly disengage.


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Charity is a word we equate with donations of money and resources from wealthy people or businesses who give their excess to people in need. This is, of course, a necessary and deeply valued component of charity, and forms a core part of the work *Be Your Own Hero* does in

our district. Yet, charity, in the true meaning of the word, doesn't start there. It starts with a need being recognized by people who decide, that even with few options, they can't be complacent about an issue, and they get up and do something meaningful with what they have on hand. Often, this is just their time and a little bit of know-how and care, and that is exactly how a little creche, in Underberg's township came to be. Mbali Dlamini saw a need, and partnering with her community and local government, set about establishing a safe place for little ones to learn and play in a caring environment while their parents are at work during the day. Seeing the growth, our local municipality stepped in to provide the venue at the Community Centre in the township, and then, catching *Be Your Own Hero's* attention, what began as a humble day-care for just over 30 children, is now evolving into an educational, early-learning centre that is ensuring vulnerable children in difficult economic and social circumstances can reach their full potential. *Be Your Own Hero* also partnered with *Family Literacy Project* to train the creche's teachers in their *Reach Out to Read Program*, which paves the way for literacy and ensures cognitive and educational milestones are reached in readiness for entry into formal schooling. Recently, *Be Your Own Hero* also equipped the school with new push-bikes, music and sports equipment, puzzles and learning activities so that learning goals are supported by the resources that make education experiential and fun, a primary foundation for long-lasting learning and application. Two other really important parts of the equipping were beautifully covered sleeping mats for the younger children to have their much-needed day-time naps in comfort; and generous donations of *Lego* through *Family Literacy Project's* association with the Lego Foundation. When asked about her future goals for the crèche, Mbali said that the crèche is now a registered NPO and she has already engaged with the Department of Education to register as an Early Childhood Development Centre. This will improve credibility with *Be Your Own Hero* whose transparency with donors remains a pivotal part of our charity drives and which have also, for many years, extended to working partnerships with organisations like *Rotary*, whose important work you are probably already familiar with, not only in our district, but globally. It is true, there are enormous economic and social pressures on people everywhere today, but these are even more keenly felt amongst the poor, and in the low-cost housing communities that are an integral part of the Underberg and Himeville landscape. Yet, right here in this space of need, we have real heroes rising up to model the true heart of charity, and it isn't difficult to see why *Be Your Own Hero* saw Underberg Creche as a worthy cause. When individuals are ready to rise up, to speak and act for themselves, their families and their communities, charity becomes a way of life, a way of empowering; not just a hand-out. Charity really is a 'thing' we can all do. Pop into your local *Be Your Own Hero Office* at the Clock Tower Centre, to see how you can get involved in any of *Be Your Own Hero's* projects in this special community. Alternatively, you can [send a Whatsapp to: 0823760424 / 062 949 2046](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/002910823760424), or email: office@beyourownhero-za.net

Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officers

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

An important fundraiser for the SDHO and major attraction to our district is the annual **Underberg Trout and Clay Shootout**, to be held at the Reveille Clay Club and Goxhill dam on **26th July**. Registration starts at 08h30, then the excitement begins as clay shooting competitors fire at the clay pigeons hurtling overhead. They regain their hearing over a man-size lunch at the Reveille club house and, when replete, move over to Goxhill dam for a nail-biting trout fishing competition. The longest three fish (nose to tail) from each team of two will count towards the results and each angler has to put forward at least one fish to be measured. All fish are released immediately after being measured. Kickboats and rowing boats are allowed and battery powered motors are ok, but no fuel powered motors. After this strenuous afternoon's sport, supper and the prize giving party take place at the Underberg Country Club. This extremely popular and well-run event held in beautiful surroundings will be limited to only 20 teams of two, so get your entries in very soon by contacting kevfras@gmail.com. It's vital that this event is well supported, because all proceeds from the **Underberg Trout and Clay Shootout** go towards funding the various HO projects mentioned below, and in previous reports. SDHO's have made significant contributions to the current condition of the **Himeville Nature Reserve**. Their hard work has included eradicating alien plants, renovating the bird hide, restoring the now immaculate picnic spot and repairing the ablution rooms. The reserve abounds in Blesbok, the dams are full and the renovated bird hide makes for exciting birding. HNR is now a major attraction in Himeville, a free treasure right on our doorstep.

HO Russell Suchet is a key player in a significant project which will soon be a major tourism asset on the Sani Pass road. This is the **Good Hope Store historic display**, now well on its way to completion. The historical display boards mounted on the walls of the Good Hope Store ruins will tell the story of Sani Pass in photographs, starting from the early years, when San and Basotho people moved into the mountains from the west, to the founding of Mokhotlong, the arrival of missionaries and traders and the first use of Sani Pass as a trade route (after the railway arrived in Underberg.)

The next display section will cover the mule train years and the establishment of trading stores at the foot of the pass. And section three

Wildlife ACT Fundraiser Golf Day

Funds go to Rhino & Vulture Conservation

28 June 2025

Golf Information

Format: Betterball Stableford
Enter in Pairs
R300 Per Player (includes half way meal & green fees)
Tee off from 10am
Lots of great prizes to be won

Other Information

Potjie Kos Competition
Start Cooking at 2pm
Ready to eat at 5pm

Live Music With Hayden Rattray & Gwyn Viljoen From 6pm

UNDERBERG COUNTRY CLUB

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covers the opening the pass to motor vehicles.

There is also a section on characters of the Sani Pass. And one on the birds, plants and animals, reptiles and amphibians. The Good Hope Store historical display boards will be a wonderful resource, preserving our past for all to see and admire.

In addition to these major projects, SDHO's are involved on an ongoing basis with **alien plant eradication**, including coreopsis, (the yellow flower invading our grasslands and in HNR) **maintenance** at Cobham Nature Reserve, **hut repairs** at Mzimkhulwana hut and Swiman hut and improvements to the Garden Castle ablution block. These projects are all vital to maintaining the condition and reputation of the well known Giants Cup Trail, a jewel in the crown of the southern Drakensberg.

If you'd like to help, join the Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officers by contacting Cayla at sdhosecretary@gmail.com

By HO Nicki von der Heyde.



Photograph, from left to right: James Mthembu (Ezemvelo OIC), Garth Patterson (Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officer), Pamela Kleiman (Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officer), Simon Acutt (Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officer Chairman) and Sifiso Khoza (Ezemvelo DCO)

We give tribute to and a warm farewell to Garth Patterson, a proud Honorary Officer. Garth, dedicated 20 years of service as a volunteer Honorary Officer to Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Southern Drakensberg Group.

We thank him for his effort and contribution to our team. As well as, wishing him the best to come, in hopes he will still be involved as much as he can.

Pamela Kleiman, one of our current and active members, is to be Congratulated on receiving her 7 Year Service Award as an Honorary Officer. Thank you so much for your endeavours to our team. We appreciate your dedication, which has not gone unnoticed.

Grant King competed in the SA National Cubing Championship

Grant King was accepted to compete in the SA National Cubing Championship held at BMG world in central Johannesburg on the weekend of 26th to 28th April. In the Clock finals he placed third with an average of 8.35 seconds and a best of 7.57 seconds. Therefore making him third in South Africa. Although he didn't podium in other events he managed to get into the finals for the majority of events he competed in.



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THE SADNESS OF LOSING A PET.

We all love getting a new pet, be it a fluffy kitten or a cute puppy or even an older one as a new home for a rescue animal. But few of us give any thought to the sad day that will come when we have to say goodbye. Even the toughest of our farmers will blink back a tear when a much loved cow or horse has to be put down. Somehow natural death just seems so much easier. It takes away the decision part and we all feel that it is a part of the cycle of life.

With small animals ie cats and dogs, it is so much worse. They often steal our hearts and are so much a part of the family that to decide “today is the day “ seems so awful. If they are really ill or suffering it is so much easier because we tell ourselves we are putting an end to their suffering. And there is truth in that.

However sometimes the animal is just old, smelly or inconvenient, or we are moving house...that then is so much more difficult. Younger animals have a chance of being rehomed but the elderly less so. Imagine deciding to put your old granny to sleep just because she smells funny, snores at night or wets her bed ?? Or puts her false teeth in a glass next to the bed that scares the kids ??? These are often given as reasons to request euthanasia of pets (except for putting of false teeth in a glass !! That I have not come across .)

When the time comes, please remember it is your decision and your responsibility The vet will help ou make that decision but in the end it is your decision. If you are terribly upset at your decision you often transmit this to your pet. If you fall all over the pet crying, you make the procedure so much more difficult. Old animals also often have bad hearts, low blood pressure, poor or scarred veins, making the vet’s job so much more awkward and difficult. All vets feel deeply

Underberg Farmers Association Helps the Community in so Many Ways

Over the Easter weekend, and leading up to it, we were stationed at the Country Club. Sanitising vehicles that came to collect their Splashy Fen armbands. Despite a few challenging individuals, our **FMD (Foot and Mouth Disease) intervention** was well received. The donation of 25 litres of Glutacide by Roger Spencer was most appreciated. Many visiting farmers were impressed by our resolve and “take charge” mindset.

A conversation with Richard Jardine highlighted the need for us to take ownership. We are not short of disheartening stories in our country, and we can all agree that there are huge gaps where government has failed. That does not mean we should sit back and allow our special part of this country fall apart.

Working together to find solutions and making things happen should be our intention. Many people I work with in our greater community have a special saying. Loosely translated; they will find us down the road. Quite simply, don’t try convincing the nay sayers, get on with it.

With winter getting settled in, we are all grateful for the blue skies. Our potato farmers are getting the spuds out the ground and there is some last-minute haymaking.

Amongst all this hustle, there are some indigenous creatures that are also busy with some activities. **A few wattled cranes are sitting on nests, which will hopefully yield a few more citizens.** **Jacque van der Westhuizen of EWT (Endangered Wildlife Trust)** has been monitoring their progress and will share news of any progress. Thank you to local farmers and tour guides for sharing and participating in the conservation of our endangered birds. With the chill, there are others that need to climb the high peaks of our part of the Drakensberg and rescue another endangered bird. We have all seen the write-ups in the mountain Echo about our **Bearded Vulture Breeding Programme**. **Shannon Hoffman**, the programme manager, does a sterling job with support from our farmers. Her facility on the first Coleford road is magnificent. I have been fortunate to visit the site over the course of its construction. And as it filled with new residents. The work that goes into running these programmes is mind boggling.

As is the norm this time of year, the Tabler’s (**Sani Round Table**) with **Underberg school were able to produce a bumper crop of pumpkins.** **Congratulations to the winners of the heaviest pumpkins.** **Many needy people were grateful for the tasty addition to their evening meals.** Good job kids, and parents who had to load those pumpkins. And to end. Our chairman was fortunate to be interviewed by the SABC over the Easter weekend. Let us hope they use the footage unedited. Craig Clowes did well highlighting the importance of disease control and the impact on farming communities like ours. And for those paying attention, some of the signs are on the wall at the sale yards.

In the words of a few old men:
We will meet
down the road.

By Wayne
McNamara
(U.F.A. COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER)



DISCLAIMER

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about putting animals to sleep No one takes it lightly and it does not get easier with time. We carry the regret and guilt feelings with us all the time. We did not spend all those years training to end up as executioners of animals.

We all hope for a quick merciful, procedure but sometimes it is not like that for all the reasons I have given above. If the vet struggles to find a vein or get it over and done instantly, please remember he or she is just doing their best and praying for it to be over so that a gentle passing into the night is achieved.

Please don’t then go home and write a letter of complaint about the vet because it did not go according to your plan. I know of vets who have given up practicing because of euthanasias and this kind of thing adds immensely to the pressure, stress and depression suffered by so many vets.

We all love our pets, even vets, and we all want a quiet, peaceful and gentle end to their lives. That is the final kindness we can give them and that they deserve.

Now to end on a lighter note.....years ago I had a friend who brought his old dog in to me one night to be put to sleep. It all went off smoothly and then when the dog breathed its last he suddenly broke out into a long loud prayer that went on and on. I did not know what the correct response was for me but then when he paused for breath my lovely receptionist broke in with a loud “Amen !” Bless her. And the owner went off well satisfied that a fitting end had been given to his beloved pet.

By Llew Evans
retired vet



DATE: TUESDAY, 10TH JUNE 2025

TIME: 6PM

VENUE: UNDERBERG COUNTRY CLUB

Join
Sani Wildlife
for their AGM,
with Guest Speaker :
Wade Whitehead
from FREEME Wildlife in
Howick on 'Nandi' - A Wattled
Crane's Story.

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THE ROADS WERE WORKED ON FOR SPLASHY FEN

Every year at Easter, Underberg experiences what can be described as a once in a lifetime experience.

Something much like the migrations on the great planes. A unique blend of mountain men and women descend on our quaint little village. As in those migrations, they are challenged by a treacherous path to the fertile hills of our part of the Drakensberg. Deep dongas, murky pools and bone rattling trails. And those are just the potholes.

The councillors of our local municipality with the roads department have done their best to assist, however it may have been left too late.

Let us hope that the proposed road upgrades will have progressed when we again get to experience this once in a lifetime event, next year. By Wayne Mc Namara

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R1 300 000

Pear Tree Cottage in Himeville has lovely views over the Himeville Nature Reserve and farmlands and Bulwer Mountain. Home consists of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open plan lounge/dining area with fireplace. All set in a neat garden. Undercover verandah off lounge with braai area. There is a single garage, carport, wooden shed and staff quarters. A short walk to the Himeville Museum and Himeville Arm Hotel for great cuisine.

NEW LISTING! FAMILY HOME IN HIMEVILLE



R1 595 000

This family home located in Himeville consists of 2 lounges of which one is a sunken lounge. There are four bedrooms, the master bedroom has an ensuite, while the remaining bedrooms share a common bathroom. The well-appointed kitchen has built-in cupboards. Step outside to discover a charming garden with a fish pond full of Koi and goldfish. Additional features such as an extra bedroom en suite attached to the garage, a utility room currently used as a laundry, ample parking space and double garage. Has a fully fenced yard and automated gate.

IMMACULATE HOME IN THE MEADOWS COUNTRY ESTATE



R1 950 000

Experience luxury and convenience in this stylish 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom freehold home in The Meadows Country Estate. Enjoy open-plan living, a granite-topped kitchen, gas fireplace, and built-in braai on the patio with stunning Southern Berg views. The estate offers a pool, clubhouse, tennis court, dams, and access to the Underberg golf course. This home blends modern comfort with natural beauty.

MAGNIFICENT DOUBLE STORY HOME IN FAIRMOUNT ESTATE



R3 500 000

This Stunning double-story home is located in Fairmount Estate, Underberg Golf Course, with stunning mountain views. Features a double electric garage, open living/dining area with berg vistas, modern kitchen, sunny patio with jacuzzi, grand staircase, pajama lounge, 3 bedrooms (two en-suite), and a guest room. Enjoy luxury and comfort in this gated estate.

MAGNIFICENT HOME IN THE MEADOWS COUNTRY ESTATE



R2 650 000

Discover tranquil living in this modern, single-story home in The Meadows Country Estate. Enjoy breathtaking mountain views, open-plan living, underfloor heating, and dual fireplaces. Featuring three ensuite bedrooms, a versatile office/fourth bedroom, and a double garage with extra storage. Access estate amenities like dams, a pool, clubhouse, tennis court, and golf course. A perfect, secure, serene countryside retreat or stylish family home awaits!

Property Showcase - Underberg

Underberg Office 033 701 1563 · underberg@pamgolding.co.za

pamgolding.co.za/underberg



Ref: 1UB1645754

UNDERBERG - R 1 650 000

3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 1 GARAGE

Private, double-storey, front row sectional title unit, offering uninterrupted views of the Southern Drakensberg. Lots of extras. A must see.

Paula Bullimore +27 (0)79 491 0101

Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



Ref: 1UB1697444

UNDERBERG - R 4 500 000

3 BEDROOMS | 3 BATHROOMS | 2 BEDROOM COTTAGE

This OFF-GRID haven with river frontage in Scotston Valley is the perfect escape from the chaos of the city, offering panoramic beauty.

Jade Lloyd +27 (0)72 194 2121

Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



Ref: 1UB1603055

UNDERBERG - R 1 125 000

VACANT SMALLHOLDING

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Paula Bullimore +27 (0)79 491 0101

Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



Ref: 1UB1699372

UNDERBERG - R 385 000

VACANT LAND

Don't miss this rare opportunity to own a spacious vacant stand in the heart of the scenic Southern Drakensberg. Enjoy peaceful, small-town living just a short walk from the Country Club and shops.

Sue Preston +27 (0)84 880 8701

Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



Ref: 1UB1666133

UNDERBERG - R 1 990 000

3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | DOUBLE GARAGE

Thoughtfully designed for comfort and sustainability, this home features solar power, direct garage access to the house, productive garden tunnels and a reliable water tank.

Khwezi Ngcobo +27 (0)73 381 3957

Registered with the PPRA - Candidate FFC



Ref: 1UB1694492

UNDERBERG - R 4 000 000

3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 2 GARAGES

An easy walk to the 'Mzimkulu river from this immaculate, recently refurbished home. A beautiful property with large trees, low-maintenance garden and river frontage with space for horses.

Paula Bullimore +27 (0)79 491 0101

Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



Ref: 1UB1689524

UNDERBERG - R 320 000

VACANT LAND

Tucked away, this property provides both privacy and stunning views, a rare combination that sets it apart. Ideal for those seeking tranquillity, space and scenic surroundings.

Jade Lloyd +27 (0)72 194 2121

Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



Ref: 1UB1670088

UNDERBERG - R 180 000

VACANT LAND

Fairmount Estate creating the ideal foundation for your dream home with breathtaking, unhindered mountain views. Own your personal escape.

Khwezi Ngcobo +27 (0)73 381 3957

Registered with the PPRA - Candidate FFC

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