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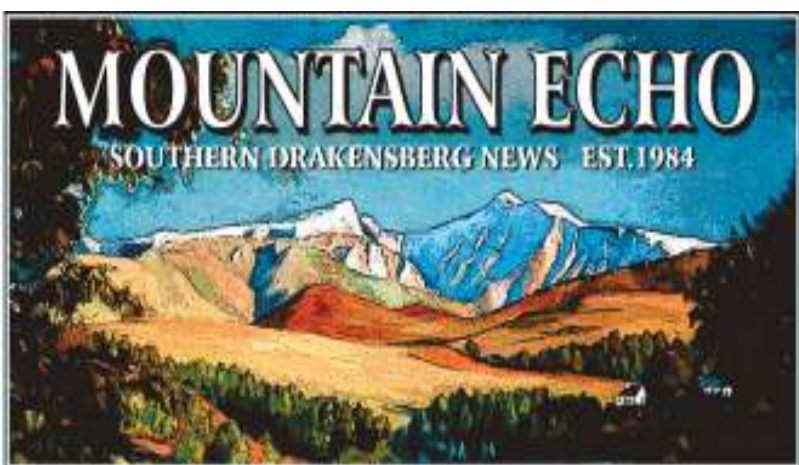
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New Mountain Bike Challenge Cements Underberg as Unrivalled Hub for Adventure Sport Athletes

Running Man Adventures (RMA) is thrilled to announce the launch of the Sani Pass Time Trial (SPTT), a new mountain bike challenge set to take place on Saturday, **25 October 2025**. Entries for this unique event opened 2 July 2025, **visit www.sanipasstt.com to enter**. Nestled in the breath taking Southern Drakensberg, Underberg is a renowned natural backdrop for various adventure activities, hosting major events such as the Sani2C, the Drak Challenge Canoe Marathon, RMB Ultra-trail Drakensberg and Sani Stagger endurance races. The introduction of the SPTT further solidifies the region's reputation as a premier destination for outdoor enthusiasts. SPTT offers a truly distinctive experience: a 21km ascent of the iconic Sani Pass, often referred to as the "holy grail of all Southern African mountain passes" and the gateway to the "Roof of Africa." The race will commence from Premier Resort Sani Pass at an altitude of 1450m, culminating at the finish line on the edge of Lesotho at 2876m, involving an impressive climb of nearly1500m. "The South African MTB calendar is definitely crowded, but there's nothing quite like a time trial up the Sani Pass, so we feel we're offering something truly unique," says Spurgeon Flemington, owner and race director of Running Man Adventures. "We also wanted to provide a race where the challenge is very real, but the time commitment isn't excessive, allowing riders to enjoy a fantastic weekend on their bikes without needing extended leave or time away from family." This pure time trial format will see riders setting off at timed intervals with a strict no-drafting policy. The clock will stop as each rider or pair crosses the timing mat at the summit. The return journey down the Pass will be an untimed neutral zone, encouraging participants to safely take in the magnificent surroundings of the Maloti Drakensberg World Heritage Site, with its unparalleled vistas and thin air. First-timers to Sani Pass can expect to be immersed in a special landscape, while experiencing the extreme challenge of the ascent. The route comprises 13km of tar to the South African Border Post, followed by 8km of lung-busting gravel to the summit. The Sani Pass Time Trial will feature four race categories: MTB, E-Bike, Gravel Bike, and Single Speed, with options for riders to compete solo or as a team of two. The inaugural event on Saturday, 25 October 2025, will see the first riders depart at 07:00, with the last by 09:00. Start times will be allocated once entries close, with Single Speeds leading the charge, followed by Gravel Bikes, Mountain Bikes, and E-Bikes. All riders are expected to be back by 13:00.



Premier Resort Sani Pass will serve as the race base, hosting the start, finish, prize-giving at15:00, and a celebratory spit braai and after-party for all entrants. On-site accommodation at the hotel will be available for booking two weeks after race entries open. "It's always motivating to bring people from all over SA and beyond to share in the beauty of the Southern Drakensberg," adds Flemington. "All our events are growing, and the future looks bright as we strive to continue offering transformative experiences for athletes from around the country."**About Running Man Adventures:** - Running Man Adventures (RMA) is a leading organiser of sporting events in South Africa, known for iconic races such as the Sani Stagger and RMB UTD. With a passion for outdoor adventure and a deep connection to the Southern Drakensberg, RMA is committed to creating challenging and memorable experiences for athletes of all levels **ByAngie Richardson at angie@thepressoffice.net**

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JULY / AUGUST 2025

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Underberg Trout and Clay Shootout. @ Reveille Clay Club & Goxhill Dam. **Contact kevfras@gmail.com or WhatsApp 072 394 0387.**
Underberg Gran Fondo 140km, 94km and the 45km to choose from **start and finish at The Olde Duck on Drak Gardens road see page 9**
Country Market @ Trout Walk Centre **see page 2**
Woman's day Bulwer Airsports Club. Contact Ria for more info and to book: 082 7488637. ria@wildsky.co.za **see page 4**
CHOC Walk up Sani Pass more information dbn@choc.org.za or 0844888026 **see page 3**
Historical and Museum Society AGM and talk by Chris Wheeler @ St. Michael's Church Hall 6pm **see page 6**
Garden Club meeting AGM @ Underberg Country Club number 078 306 1758
Jailed in Pevensey Pen @ Underberg Country Club from 4pm **see page 3**
SA Vets & U19 international Polocrosse vs Zambia & Zimbabwe**see page 3**
Pevensey Fete@ Underberg Primary School
TIDY TOWN COLOUR RUN -details to follow
Rhino Peak Challenge **see page 10**
Sani Pass Time Trial (SPTT) **visit www.sanipasstt.com to enter see page 1**
Underberg UFA Agri & Lifestyle Show email for a stall & more details admin@kznufa.co.za
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Sani Stagger 2 road events (42.2km and 21.1km) 2 trail events (38km and 21km) Entries open 5 March sanistagger.co.za
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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

William Paterson Small

25-07-1924 – 21-06-2025 nearly 101

Bill's staff at Cobham called him aptly and affectionally Uvemvane' – Butterfly. Typically a Zulu name often describes personality and character – with a bounce in his step, he strides across the African veld with deviations, curiosity and intent.

Born at Broughty Ferry, Dundee, Scotland 24th July 1924 he lived and explored wild places around Dundee. He immigrated with his parents to Durban South Africa 1936 aged 12. They lived in Stellawood where he attended the Junior School and later Glenwood high school. He left school early to assist Dr Vincent Wager on Tobacco Mosaic Virus, he also caught frogs and chameleons for photographing for his books. In his spare time he did Cycle racing on a fixed wheel bike and once cycled to Bulwer. He also went to night classes as he had promised his Mother, before she died at 42, that he would get his matric.

The war was on so as soon as he turned 18 he signed up. He was on whalers on submarine lookout up and down the West Coast and down to the Roaring Forties. Then from Durban up to Mombasa escorting the war ships. After the war he tried Stellenbosch but as his professor said "If he'd applied as much energy to his studying as climbing Jonkershoek he would have passed.

He then did a year of Forestry Practical at Spitzkop in the Transvaal. On the way back he did part of the Grand Traverse 'solo', from Mont Aux Sources to Cathkin Peak. At Saarsveld near George he qualified as a Forester. His practical was done in Knysna where he collected data for research.

He met Alta who was teaching in Knysna but was sent to Northern Rhodesia to start a plantation outside Ndola. He started writing to Alta and after a visit by her, in his 6 months leave (every 2.5 yrs) he went down and proposed to her, they were married in 1955 and travelled to Scotland and toured for his long leave. Helen was born in Ndola and later Wells in Kitwe where he was then transferred to. 1965 Zambia became independent. He stayed on to train his staff and transferred in 1966 to South Africa, Stutterheim to do orientation as a forester, Phillip was born there.

A posting to Creighton brought him back to Natal. Over 10 yrs he established Pine tree plantations and saw to the conserving of the indigenous forests. Transferred to Underberg in 1976 he oversaw the start of what was to become the Ukuhlamba Drakensberg Park. His enduring legacy was the construction of the now iconic Giants Cup Hiking Way. He ended his career as Chief Conservator at Cathedral Peak under the Natal Parks Board in 1988.

"Retiring" to Underberg he became involved in everything and was a member of: The Sani Wild Life Society branch of WESSA becoming a driving force, Chairing it many times. He received the Conservationist Award in 2009. As a member of the Garden Club he gave many talks on indigenous gardening and attracting wildlife. Together with his great friend Rob Guy they started the Sani to the Sea idea by walking it, at first in sections as places of interest then joining them together. This was then done over 10 days in stages, the first from Thabana- Ntlenyana in Lesotho, to St Josephine's bridge in the Umkomaas valley. The second from there to Scottburgh. As if this was not enough five of these pioneers decided to climb Mt Ruwenzori in Uganda. Bill the most senior was 69.

2024 as member of the local M.O.T.H.'s active 'Boot and Saddle Shellhole' he was invited by the Mayor of Cape Town to attend the Armistice Day Parade in the city. That year he was also invited as a dignitary to the inaugural re-opening of the renovated Sulenkama Hospital in the Transkei as the nephew of the Scottish Missionary Doctor Paterson who started the hospital. His family spent many holidays there in his youth.

Bill passed away peacefully in his home at Mountainairs, Underberg early on Saturday morning 21st June 2025, he was over 100 years old. His funeral at his Underberg Congregational church was well attended and celebratory. He leaves a daughter Helen, sons Wells and Phillip, eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

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09:00 Kids for Jesus (all
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18:30 Tuesday: 15:00
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Partly Furnished Cottage With Stunning Views, In Quiet, Leafy Suburb, this beautiful Thatched Cottage, utilized as a holiday home and available for rent on Airbnb, offers a unique blend of rustic charm and modern comfort. The cottage boasts three, or four cozy bedrooms, providing ample space for family or guests, with a full bathroom equipped with a bath, shower, and basin ensures a comfortable and relaxing experience, plus guest loo.

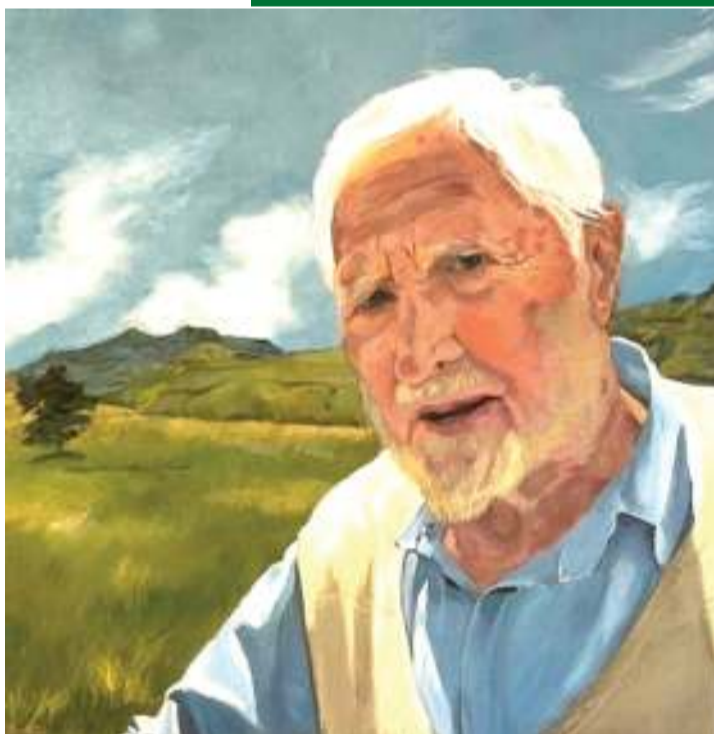
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UNDERBERG R4 250 000

Calling All Investors! Breathe New Life Into This Timeless, Prime Piece of Real Estate Nestled in a charming neighborhood, this unique home is waiting for the right person to restore it to its former glory. With ample bedrooms and living areas, there's plenty of space to unleash your creativity and design the perfect layout for modern living while respecting its historical roots. Whether you want to restore it to its original state or add modern touches, the possibilities are endless.

Despite needing some TLC, the property's character shines through, offering a unique opportunity to create a one-of-a-kind living space. With the right care and attention, this home has the potential to become a stunning showcase of craftsmanship and design. Restoring it could significantly increase its value, making it not only a personal passion project but also a smart investment.



Painting of Grandpa Bill and memories By Niki Higgs

Today I say goodbye to a legend! He was the best grandpa I could ever ask for. He made my favourite christmas presents as a kid. He showed me a love for the outdoors. He let me name his new calves. I will never forget riding in his old bakkie, he with one hand on the steering wheel the other using his electric razor as he drove the dirt roads of underberg. How he crushed my antibiotics and mixed them with honey when I had tonsillitis and couldn't swallow tablets. I'm proud to have made him a great grandpa and even prouder to say he lived to 100 and 11 months! I'm even prouder for what he taught me. To never waste (even if that meant scrapping the mould off the top coz 'it was fine underneath'), a couple of dirty jokes, how to make limericks and sleep in a cave.

For many years I have left Underberg with a hug and a last touch, wondering if this was the last time I would see you. And many times I came back and you were STILL around. It will be bittersweet going to Underberg now but I'm grateful you have gone to a place of rest. The one perk of living to 100 is there are more friends to greet you on the otherside than you have left here. I hope you have a great party in heaven, Bill Small you legend. By Niki Higgs



DA Councillors Adam and Ngcamu at Pevensey Place on Mandela day with cupcakes for the residents



Round Table Sani152

Jailed in the Pevensy Pen

22nd August 2025
@ Underberg Country Club
Time: 16:00 till we reach target

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**CHOC WALK
9 AUGUST**

CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation SA - KZN Region invites you to our 16th Annual Sani Pass Walk. The CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation South Africa KZN region is thrilled to announce the 16th annual CHOC Sani Pass Walk, which will be held on August 9, 2025. This incredible event will see participants walk up the challenging Sani Pass in the Drakensberg Mountains to benefit children and teenagers suffering cancer and life-threatening blood illnesses. **Date:** August 9, 2025 **Location:** Sani Pass, KwaZulu-Natal **Distance:** 16km, 8km Up and 8km down. The 1st walk in 2010 was initiated by a volunteer with approximately 70 walkers. Since 2018 CHOC has hosted this flagship fundraiser which has grown phenomenally. Purpose The CHOC Walk Up Sani Pass aims to raise awareness and funds for CHOC, each step taken reflects hope and unity. The CHOC is a NGO that helps support families that have children and teenagers with cancer and life- threatening blood disorders. CHOC provides holistic support to these families

Jason Hartman
30 & 31 July
@Underberg Country Club
Opening act at 6pm, Jason Hartman at 7pm
Tickets R180pp 033 7011130 *Seats are limited* – Book now to avoid disappointment!

South Africa’s Idols Season 5 co-winner, Jason Hartman, is back in the 'Berg for two unforgettable nights of live music! A singer-songwriter known for his soulful rock vocals and crowd-pleasing energy, Jason has performed across the country and brings his signature sound back to Underberg for an intimate, high-energy show. Opening the evening is the rising talent Matthew Clement, performing a solo acoustic set from 6PM–7PM. With his rich voice and heartfelt songwriting, Matthew is fast becoming a legend in the making. *Don't miss this double bill of live talent.

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GODFREY EDMONDS - THE PIONEER OF THE SANI PASS

Godfrey was born and educated in Durban, and being a young adventurer joined the RAF at an early age when called upon, to go and serve for king and country.

Flying was his passion and on the 30th of May 1939 he began his flying training in a DH82 Tiger Moth, in Oxford UK, three months later he had converted to Oxford, Anson and Hampden aircraft. It was during a solo night flying exercise, that tragedy struck on the 4th of March 1940. Godfrey had German Measles at the time, and unbeknown to all, this caused night blindness. He took off from Hayford airfield in Oxford and once airborne and away from the runway lights, was unable to see the instrument panel in the darkness. He believed he was gaining height, and felt that his wings were level, unfortunately he flew into the side of a small hill on the adjoining farmlands.

The aircraft burst into flames, he managed to kick his way out of the bottom of the Anson aircraft that he was flying at the time. A farm hand by the name of W.H. (Bill) Kill of 5 Aston View, Somerton, Oxford, lived exactly opposite to where Godfrey had crashed. Bill ran down to the burning aircraft, dragged Godfrey from the wreckage and wrapped him in a blanket and sat with him until the ambulance had come to take him away. The next day Bill went to retrieve his blanket from the nearby hospital, and enquired who that pilot had been, he was told it was the South African Godfrey Edmonds, Bill never forgot that name.

Godfrey spent 19 months in hospital in East Grinstead, which was a specialised burn unit that was maned by Dr. Archibald McIndoe at

the time, who was later knighted for the work that he did on the burn victims. Remembering that this was pre-Penicillin days, and the only way to treat burns was to submerge patients into a saline bath. Through extensive skin grafting done by McIndoe, and after too numerous operations to mention, Godfrey's body was patched back together. He was recorded as one of the worst burnt pilots to survive the war and was a founder member of the Guinea Pig Club which was made up of all the burn victims from East Grinstead.

On the 10th of October 1941, and 19 months after his accident, he was back training again in a Tiger Moth, he went onto fly over 1000hrs in Anson, Oxford, Lysander 111, Whitley, Wellington, Defiant 1, Lancaster, Martinet, Proctor 111, Dominie, and Dakota aircraft. He was involved in amongst other things in the bombing of Dusseldorf and Berlin and It was only natural that he would be promoted to Flight Commander of his own airfield.

After the war he returned to Kokstad in East Griqualand with his Scottish wife Gladys who had sat by his bedside throughout his entire war ordeal. He joined his long-time friend in Stanley Motors, they were marketing the 4x4 Willy Jeep that had proved itself through out the war. This was specifically targeted at the farming sector, as the Jeep could do almost the same work as a small tractor.

Godfrey had a chance meeting with Brian Gray, the then District Commissioner of Mokhotlong, they got talking about the transport problems in the Lesotho mountains, and they decided to see if the Willy's Jeep could be used on the pass to solve these issues.

Godfrey being the great adventurer, and always ready to prove what these vehicles he was marketing could do, took on the challenge to drive up the Sani Pass.

On Tuesday 26th October 1948, history was made. Godfrey Edmonds became the first person ever, to ascend the Sani Pass in a motor vehicle. Accompanied by three travelling companions, the intrepid pioneer set off from Himeville at 07h25, bound for the first stop at the old Basotho police post. After refuelling and a brief rest, the party set off on the steep bridle path leading to the Sani top. Accompanied by a group of Basotho labourers, they made slow progress as numerous, treacherous hairpin bends slowed the group to crawling pace. After a backbreaking ordeal and having to bounce the Jeep around the hairpin bends, the victorious adventurers crested the Sani top almost three hours later, much to the astonishment of the local population! The final 60-kilometre drive inland meant crossing Black Mountain, which at 3200 meters is the



Godfrey Edmonds looking at the skeleton of a pack mule that was used to transport goods into Lesotho

highest mountain range in Southern Africa. Exhausted, but elated, Godfrey Edmonds reached Mokhotlong twelve hours after starting out. **The Sani Pass had been conquered!**

Many years later, a documentary was aired on BBC TV on the history of the Guinea Pig club, and how these badly burnt service men had been treated by Sir Archie McIndoe. Godfrey Edmonds name was mentioned as being so badly burnt. W.H. (Bill) Kill remembered that name and wrote to the guinea pig club asking of Godfrey's whereabouts and for his contact details.

He wrote the most touching letter to Flight Commander Godfrey Edmonds who had retired and now lived in Merrivale, Tex and **Anita Turton (Godfreys daughter who has lived in Underberg for over 40 years)** were visiting at the time, they recall the tears rolling down Godfreys cheeks, as he read the letter aloud to the family.

Tex and Anita together with Hylton and Ruth Crouch (Mrs Tidy Town) were about to travel to the UK on vacation, Godfrey made them promise that they would make contact with Will Kill, this they did and in fact spent two nights with Will who was still living in the same small house. He who took great delight in recalling the events of that dreadful night on the 4th of March 1940 when he saved Godfrey Edmonds from the burning Anson aircraft. Godfrey died 48 years later on the 4th of March 1988, the anniversary of his accident.



Richard Braby at Black Mountain viewsite

FIRST ELECTRIC 4X4 UP SANI PASS

On 16 July 2025 a new milestone was made in a kilometre world when Richard Braby took the first four by four electric vehicle up Sani pass in a Riddara bakkie made in China for export to Thailand so there was no heater in the car but under the bonnet is a fiery 356-kilowatt engine that takes you from zero to 100 km/h in 4.5 seconds People noticed the vehicle from its quiet and stealthy approach to the South African border post and the Sani Pass tour drivers could see the unusual undercarriage which showed nothing and then asked Richard to pop the bonnet to see the engine and admire Richard's new toy. The bakkie has a smaller size profile than others but the clearance handled the Sani Pass and did not bottom out and took the sharp corners in one go. There was snow and the ice was formed on the waterfalls but no ice on the road surface.

When we reached the Lesotho border post there were more curious people, and the one border official asked Richard how fast it accelerates, and Richard put foot and the 356-kilowatt engine that takes you from zero to 100 km/h in 4.5 seconds pushed me deep into my seat with the G forces generated. Wow ... time to exhale at high altitude which does not affect the performance of the electric motor. We drove all the way to black mountain at an altitude of 3240 meters. On the way back down, we checked how the accelerator held the vehicle back because it has no gears and then discovered there was an extra computer application that had to be activated which had a graphic of a vehicle on a downward incline.

We stopped for lunch and a Maluti beer at the Highest pub in Africa before the descent into South Africa and remembered that we must push the appropriate button again. The vehicle is a computer on wheels and like a computer you need to play with it to get to know how it works. **Thanks for another great adventure, Richard from Paul Welch.** (Editor's note: - be cautious when driving towards pedestrians especially children, they are not used to quiet vehicles

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9TH AUGUST 2025

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WOMEN'S DAY 9 AUGUST

On the 9th of August the Bulwer Airsports Club invite you to join for us for an amazing Women's Day! Our 2024 event was a huge success.

Starting at the Mountain Park Hotel, the day kicks off at 9am with an hour of yoga by Tasha yogi local to Underberg, followed by a scrumptious Mountain Park Hotel brunch. Open to men and kids too.

Centered, fueled and ready to go on an adventurous hike up Bulwer Mountain, ? guided by the Mahwaqa Hiking Club, viewing hidden bushman paintings along the way, either to the Peaks to Bulwer launch. Start and end at the Mountain Park Hotel.

For those who are keen on taking to the skies a shorter hike is led by the BAC up to take-off where Wildsky Paragliding are offering 43% off tandem flights - at an unheard of price of R1050 - for women only. Men are not left out with a 16% discount, they are welcome to fly at R1550.

(For those that are not up to the hike, we can transport from Wild Sky to launch via a 4x4 route). Experience flying first-hand with expert pilot Hans Fokkens to elevate your Women's Day to unforgettable!

Contact Ria for more info and to book: 082 7488637. ria@wildsky.co.za

BIRDING IN THE SOUTHERN KZN DRAKENSBERG

By Stuart Mc Lean



Creating a bird-friendly garden in the Southern KZN Drakensberg is a rewarding way to attract local species, many of which are typically found in forests and riverine scrub. While the region is

often associated with harsh frost conditions, you don't need to be discouraged from planting indigenous plants. In fact, it's the smaller plants that can thrive here, offering both beauty and functionality to your garden.

If you're hoping to attract sunbirds, start with plants like Red-hot Pokers and Wild Dagga. These are favorites for a variety of sunbird species. For instance, the Malachite Sunbird, in particular, enjoys the late-flowering Wild Dagga as their chicks are transitioning to lower elevations for the winter months. The Red-hot Pokers are a hit in the summer, providing essential nectar for these vibrant birds.

Another great option for your garden is Aloe aristata, a frost-resistant Aloe that does well in both shade and sun. Its compact size makes it perfect for growing along rock crevasses, adding texture and colour while attracting sunbirds. The Fence Aloe, another hardy variety, can grow as a hedge or clump, making it a versatile option for creating a bird-friendly boundary. This will also attract the Gurney's Sugarbird, known for its distinctive call and elegant appearance.

For a more diverse approach, consider planting the Tree Fuchsia (Halleria lucida). Not only does this shrub provide nectar to various bird species, but its fruit-bearing branches are a magnet for fruit-eating birds like Robins, Bulbuls, Barbets, and Tinker-barbets. During our time in St Lucia, we even set up a hedge of Halleria and successfully ringed over 300 Olive Sunbirds for Digby Cyrus during moult studies. After flowering, the shrubs continue to offer bountiful fruit, drawing in a host of birdlife. Similarly, species of Searsia (formerly known as Rhus) are excellent choices for attracting birds. Their tassels of edible fruit are irresistible to many species. Varieties such as Searsia dentata, Searsia gerrardii, and Searsia krebsiana are all frost-resistant, making them ideal for our region. Another small, but valuable addition to any garden is the Glossy Leaf. This tree or shrub produces fruit that is favoured by the Bush Blackcap, among other bird species.

Buddlejas are another versatile shrub, easy to grow and known for attracting small insects that, in turn, attract insectivorous birds like the Fairy Flycatcher or various species of Warblers. In fact, even the larvae of burrowing beetles, often found on Buddlejia plants, are a valuable food source for birds like the Cardinal Woodpecker. Buddlejia auriculata, in particular, has a strong, pleasant scent, which also draws in butterflies. At times, you'll find that Cape Canaries and Sweet Waxbills frequent the Buddlejia shrubs, feasting on their seeds.

If you're looking for a tree with dual benefits, consider the Wild Peach (Kiggelaria africana). The female trees produce an abundance of capsules filled with edible fruit, which attracts a range of birds. While these trees also draw Garden Acraea butterflies (whose larvae become an essential food source for Cuckoos), the sighting of Cuckoos, which are otherwise hard to spot, is an added bonus for any bird enthusiast.

Grasses can also play an important role in your bird garden, though they require a bit more space to form a successful patch. Grasses like Panicum are particularly attractive to Waxbills and Bishops, who often feed on their seeds.

For those lucky enough to live in frost-free areas, attracting birds with plants is undoubtedly easier, but for those of us in colder regions, these hardy plants offer a simple and effective way to build a bird-friendly garden. These plants are common, easy to grow, and—most importantly—serve as an inviting habitat for a wide variety of birds. **By Stuart McLean**

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ABOUT TROUT FISHING IN UNDERBERG

The still - water season is in full swing, but with mixed reports coming in from all over. It seems that while most other Trout fisheries are fishing well, closer to home, although not bad, is still fishing a little slow with fewer than normal fish coming to the net. Reports from anglers fishing club water as well as private and resort water talk of difficult fishing. Some anglers believe we might be a little behind time this year and good fishing still to come. I surely hope so too. Some anglers reported good fishing in the area contrary to most other reports coming in. Talk of 7lb (3kg) fish from one of the resorts and some 5lb+ (2kg+) fish from another resort. As the season progresses more fish have been spotted in shallows mulling around and in spawn mode. This could also be some cause for the difficult fishing as these fish do not readily take a fly but can be tempted to strike at it out of aggression. By using the right techniques fish can still be caught. Although frowned on by many fly anglers, the use of egg patterns is a sure way to get some fish to the net. Fished static under an indicator seems to be the best method for fishing them. The fish that were brought to the net was predominantly caught on white or bright flies. Orange, Pink and White accounted for most of the fish caught. The usual natural-coloured flies (Leaches, Woolly Buggers, Mrs. Simpsons, Damsels) in olive and brown also caught some fish. Targeting the fish not actively spawning and still feeding it works well fishing smaller flies like Zebra midges, Pheasant tails, Gold ribbed hares' ear and other flies imitating pupae or midge larvae. These can be fished on tandem rigs and work very effective using a long leader fished "washing line" method where a couple flies are fished "hanging". This works well as multiple water columns can be fished at once. Club statistics show 33 fish caught off 66 anglers. Some anglers getting more than 1 fish a session while others were struggling to bring fish to the net. AS the season progresses, I'm hoping to see more fish being caught and that we start moving away from this poorer than normal fishing reports.. **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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Deville Wood in Underberg.

The centre of many small towns in South Africa have monuments which honour the fallen in innumerable wars. Mostly they're an obelisk of some sort with names, dates and descriptions. Himeville's is known as the cenotaph, a mortar like structure erected to commemorate local folk whose served and died. The local M.O.T.H.S. are particularly dedicated to the cenotaph's upkeep opposite the Himeville Hotel. Erected after World war 1 it commemorates the fallen three wars are represented.

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AFTER-HOURS CALLOUTS

Mathew Marwick's talk on the subject of Delville Wood recently brought it all home momentarily. It was well attended and I was stimulated to 'delve' further into the battle. 15th – 18th July 1915. James Bruce Little being Underberg's sole casualty is clearly represented on the centotaph. I thought to myself who else? There is a plaque in the museum grounds with a Mc lean soldiers name from Lotheni – died at Delville Wood 1915. There must have been some survivors from this district too. I recall a conversation I've had with Pat Eustace whose father was a prominent military man.

'These guys from the farm between Lotheni and Swartberg they rode down to Durban to join up, their grooms brought the horses back to the farms , most of them never returned.' The internet provided some clues. A site called 'Roll Call Delville Wood' revealed much. Old Natal names are well represented. The names Crocker and Vinnicombe caught my attention. Privates Crocker and private J. Vinnicombe once farmed as nieghbours on the Ngwagwane. Errol Crocker a son 'or nephew' in his book 'Motherless son of Africa' published July 2010 mentions driving his father and John Vinnicombe Snr. to Underberg to attend M.O.T.H. meetings. Both are buried in the Underberg graveyard without any war citation.

I used to take Dad (Crocker) and Uncle Johnny (Vinnicombe) to M.O.T.H meetings in

Underberg but on these occasions made sure not to drink alcohol. Dad and Uncle Johnny would consume a good deal though, and would tell fantastic war stories on the way home. It became a very satisfying for Dad to repay Uncle Johnny for all the fetching and carrying he had done for us over the years. In addition Dad looked happier and more relaxed with regular trips to the M.O.T.H. meetings. (I'm guessing the dates of these excursions were the 1950's.

The Vinnicombe and Crocker farms have changed hands, their history is mostly lost, but the most recent owners 'STUART FARMING' of West Isley found an old WW1 photograph unmarked with no names in a cupboard. Who knows this could bring further light to the lives of some Delville Wood survivors in the district.

I am reminded of the M.O.T.H.S. monotoned recital.



MOTHS Remembering those who fell at Delville Wood in World War 1 at the Himeville Cenotaph

L-R Adam Kriel Pay Bill, Hylton Crouch Adjutant, Ivan Reynolds Old Bill, Len Wittstock doing induction. Missing Johan Coetzer Deputy Old Bill



Delville Wood Memorial Parade was held 15 July at 11am. The MOTHS of the BOOT & SADDLE SHELLHOLE arranged for Matthew Marwick, lawyer turned teacher at Maritzburg College, and now sister-school GHS's new Principal, to speak.



Museum Snapshots

This exquisite fan, hand made using hammerkop feathers, is on display in the Armoury Room at the Himeville Fort and Museum. It was donated by Mrs. Irene Nicholson of XL Farm in 1981. The fan has 26 inner ribs and 2 stronger outer ribs, a black bow and a long black satin ribbon on the handle. Displaying hand painted birds and flowers on each feather, this elegant fan would have provided relief on warm South African days and is a beautiful example of crafted women's accessories used in years gone by. Pop into the Armoury Room at the Himeville Museum to view this item as well as many more historical fashion and household objects. **By Anne Young.**

Join the Southern Drakensberg Community Tourism Organisation – Be Seen, Be Supported

The Southern Drakensberg Community Tourism Organisation (SDCTO) is actively recruiting new members and renewing current memberships. For just R500 a year (that's R41.66 a month), members gain valuable support and visibility in a growing regional tourism network.

Here's what your membership includes: A listing on an active and well-maintained website, giving your business an online presence. Technical support from Sphamandla Vezi, who keeps links fresh, uploads updates, and ensures your business is presented professionally. Promotion of available accommodation, especially over peak periods to boost bookings. Retail and restaurant information posters circulated locally to attract visitors and locals alike. Personalised advertising on social media, with feature stories that highlight individual members and their unique offerings – managed by our dedicated and committed social media manager, Rosemary Hall. Guidance on compliance requirements, helping you meet the necessary standards to operate with confidence. Representation at key meetings, ensuring your voice is heard in discussions with municipal, provincial, and national stakeholders. Join this fast-growing, dynamic platform and become compliant. It's the right thing to do. Contact us to join or renew today: Michelle: 062 949 2046 (WhatsApp only please) Russell: +27 81 772 4319 Pierre: +27 83 709 8900 Robyn: +27 60 345 1246

'Old soldiers never die – never die – they simply fade away...simply fade away.'

For my part all this reading and research around the subject of Delville Wood yielded me a family surprise. A great uncle of mine Captain Leonard Warren Tomlinson (DS0) 3 SAI D Coy was decorated for actions at Delville Wood. The reference reads ; During the taking of Dellville Wood, on the 15th July, he led raiding parties on a German trench in the eastern perimeter. After an attack with a bayonet, his party took prisoner 3 officers, 150 other ranks and brought back a machine gun. He was wounded and evacuated.

My Tomlinson side of family had a proud military tradition, DNA which was clearly erased in future generations. doncguy59@gmail.com



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Viv and Don Jarrat

MAGICAL MINIATURES & BESPOKE GUITARS

The few COUNTRY WOMEN at VIV and DON JARRAT's haven on the Drak Gardens road, must be the envy of the rest.

Apart from the view into the mountains, (Viv vows her death venue will be her front verandah chair), we were treated to the unique creations of this unique couple.

Many times, Viv's passion of 30 years, the creating of MINIATURES, has won her the BEST on SHOW prizes in Durban.

Her exquisite, perfectly scaled homes/shops/fairy-tale scenes etc can be found in her workshop, (from outside it looks like a gingerbread house), where she uses different tools and all manner of materials to forge cut sew and glue and make her mini objects.

I love her staircases. And a home housed in a discarded radio set that turned out to be solid oak.

Just as fascinating are Viv's framed dioramas (3D miniature scenes in a box), and she makes them to order.

All her works are worthy collectors items.

As are Don's HANDMADE GUITARS.

From the moment at age 16 he was given a cheap guitar and he plugged it into his folks' radiogram, Don has loved playing and singing.

And for most of his working life, once he'd turned his boat making hobby into a profitable business, Don's career has been a "Labour of love".

So much so, Viv had a long fight to get him to retire.

Fortunately his second "Labour of love", his 15 year old hobby of guitar making, helped him to give up the boats and live here permanently.

Nothing can compare with the satisfaction of playing his self made instrument.

And now Don's boat-building experience of different woods and fibreglass is opening up amazing possibilities for bespoke guitars.

Undeterred by the loss of a leg and crippling arthritis, Don is still labouring with love.

I'm inspired by both Viv and Don's standards of excellence and their joie de vivre.

By Rae Higgins

TIDY TOWNS

22nd July 2023 marked my first Tidy Town event – a work party in the Peoples Park in Underberg so I have been operating for two years. A number of Tidy Town initiatives took place: Tidy Tidy March, Tidy Gum Boot Dance Competition and the Verge Competition all in that same year. We painted some 15 Tidy Town litter bins in that year and then last year some green Love Nud flower bins for the Round Table ladies who commissioned me to do something.

COLOUR RUN: Last year saw me organise the Colour Run specifically to help with the cleaning up of the Oak Trees between Himeville and Underberg. I have scheduled another such event for Sunday Sept 7th at 10.30. Last year the route was from the Cairn to the old Magistrates House. But this year we will reverse it, starting at the old Magistrates House. This will be to raise money to maintain the grounds of this Heritage/Amafa site and anything else pertaining to Himeville. Maybe some cherry trees to replace those that have died. They are such a feature of Himeville but Shaun Van Huysteen tells me they are very expensive to buy.

OLD MAGISTRATES HOUSE: After this house was vandalised a month or two back, Mike Hunter kindly paid for Ian Crouch from Drak Silvix & Agri Care to slash and clean up. He further paid last week for Greendoor to fell a very tall, massive 'Leaning Tower of Pisa' gum that was threatening to land on the roof of GOLD. Doreen and her team also removed a dead gum that fell in that terrible wind and was wedged like 'a seesaw' in a nearby gum. The concern, good will and generosity of this dear man, Mike Hunter is greatly appreciated. The Grand Old Lady (Gold) is grateful that she continues to get some TLC but she is still sad to be empty and devoid of occupants, fitting to her status.

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH: I decided to bless the Father and his parishioners. Three of the Tidy Town chaps cleaned up the front verge. We lowered the hedge, removed bongo-bonga, privet bushes, brush cut etc...and so exposed this lovely old red brick building. According to his daughter, Jane



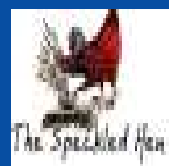
Furniss it was built some sixty years ago by Mr Mike McBean. NUD Old timers would remember him and his wife, Anne McBean who was involved with the nursing services here in this district. Please when next you pass, make a concerted effort to look at this old church. Father Mncwabe kindly sent a thank you message which made it all the more worthwhile to spend the whole day cleaning it up. We are halfway through the year with several things in the pipe line but my role is like 'putting plaster on' and attempting to work on the small things so hence I 'do sweat the small things'. Pierre Horn has just asked for us to clean up the stretch of the little back road from Riverview Hospital and out near James Watson workshop. This is to tidy up in preparation of the Gran Fondo event on Sat 26th July.

NUD MURAL: We thought to get a mural done on the walls of the two reservoir tanks at the entrance to Himeville. I have tried to motivate to get Harry Gwala to get the two roofs painted and the residents to come up with their own images but nothing forthcoming as yet.

I have decided not to stage a Tidy Town Verge competition this year as one needs to give it a break but I would like to thank Erika Smith, Sharron Berruti, Angela Walker, Geoff Line and Michelle Stevens for their help in judging and co-ordinating the Verge Competitions 2023 and 2024. Tidy Towns certainly keeps me busy and I am so very grateful for the couple of folk who do scheduled payments

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and those who do once off donations, be it big or small. I have always endeavoured to send an official Tidy Town letter. I do think the village businesses suffer from donor fatigue so it would be a good gesture if farmers were to contribute in some way as they do come to the village to purchase, send their children to school, attend the churches etc. I am sure there are many who do help various organisations in many ways but we can all 'get off the fence' and help in some small way. **Ruth Crouch 0842073057**



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SANI COMMUNITY FORUM

NICHOLAS CONEY AND DISUNTER.

“WATER LEAKS ACCOUNTS FOR NEARLY 26 PERCENT OF THE NATION’S UNACCOUNTED FOR WATER AND COSTS THE COUNTRY ABOUT 7 BILLION ANNUALLY.” According to the *Government Communication and Information System. (CGIS)*

WATER LEAKS: A decade has passed since the “War on Water Leaks” was launched by the Department of Water and Sanitation, whereby 15 000 unemployed youth would be trained, and a budget was approved for R2.2 million. Last month, the SIU reported that this figure had ballooned to R4.7 million and they expect this figure to grow as investigations proceed due to fraud. On top of this, R1.1 billion in contracts and administrative decisions were believed to be invalid and thus subsequently dismissed, by the SIU. Once again, the rampant fraud in South Africa, has not only failed our unemployed youth, but deprived in some capacity, every resident in the country, of their constitutional right to water.

Nearer home, water leaks are reported via the local Water and Infrastructure Whatsapp Group and yet the Harry Gwala Municipality Plumbers do not treat these leaks with any urgency, nor do they entertain residents’ constitutional rights to water. Threatening residents for interfering when leaks have not been attended to for weeks, is not a solution, but a dereliction of duty. Recently, a massive leak on Arbuckle Street had been reported for 3 weeks, but to no avail. Today, the plumbers arrived on a Friday and merely shut down the water, leaving a single mother with two children, one being a special needs child, without water. Why wasn’t this resident afforded a tanker and given free water like the residents in the Low-Cost Villages are given? Residents in The Roses Complex went without water for a week with no communication from the powers that be, and yet no special delivery tanker was dispatched to assist them.

We pay for service delivery, the parameters of which are clearly set out in the Municipal Structures Act, and we are not receiving it. Rumours abound of the Municipality wanting to meet with residents individually regarding old, disputed debts. The Municipality remains blissfully unaware, or perhaps by choice, as regards a class action by residents against the Municipality that is pending, and therefore the Municipality is legally obliged to deal with the Sani Community Forum attorney on record, Leisha Van As Attorneys, and may not communicate directly with individuals.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE: Thanks must go to those supporting those in need in our community on so many levels or contributing with their time to assist so many outreach programs within our district. Sani Community Forum continues to distribute food parcels to those in need and recently teamed up with the NPO ESINAM FOUNDATION, conducted by the inspiring and dynamic, Ica Mbebe.

DEVELOPMENTS: Sani Community Forum recently submitted their objections as Interested and Affected Parties (I&AP) along with so many other residents and concerned citizens regarding the massive, planned development on the Sani Pass Road. Notwithstanding the gravity of all the Environmental concerns of a massive development in a World Heritage site buffer zone, we decided to leave that topic to those far more competent in this field. Thank you to everyone who is

Hand in Hand – a Story from the Southern Drakensberg

It’s in the quiet moments that a community shows its true face. The past few weeks in Underberg and Himeville have been full of movement and challenge. Another storm rolled over the region, the cold crept in, roofs shook. But in the end, it’s not the weather we’ll remember. It’s the way people stood together when it mattered most.

One simple message on social media was all it took. No big campaign, just a gentle call. And not long after, the first loads of firewood started arriving. People who didn’t wait to be asked. People who said, just come fetch some, take what you need. We share what we have. For us at Be Your Own Hero South Africa, that moment says everything. Our projects - Clouds of Hope, the Safe House, the Homework Clubs and Reichenau Primary School all exist because of this spirit of togetherness. Because of the trust that we can achieve something, side by side.

At the Safe House in Himeville, wool turned into warmth. Nosipho, with a clever idea, got needles moving. Children received hand-knitted beanies, scarves, jerseys and warm winter jackets. (Thank you to the ladies at 3-in-1 for coordinating the community drive) Bottles of Amasi from Underberg Dairy were gifted- simple things that fill hearts. And just like that, the school holidays began. Not with packed bags or big trips, but with warm clothing, full tummies, and the quiet feeling that says, “someone sees me”.

In our Homework Clubs, it was a special time too. Talente and Nosipho, who guide the children with so much patience and heart, organised our very first little prize-giving – together with our Director of Education Jenny Grinwis, Rotary Underberg and KFC. Ice cream vouchers were handed out to those who’d shown great commitment. And if you saw the kids’ faces, you’d understand. It wasn’t about the ice cream. It was about being noticed. Being celebrated. That’s something that stays with you.

And then came the day the Debonairs Underberg pizza delivery arrived at the gate. At Clouds of Hope, where many children spend the holidays, there was pizza for everyone. A treat for the kids, it felt like a feast. Sometimes it’s those small, unexpected things that light up a whole day.

Youth Day brought another special moment. More than four hundred children and teenagers came together. There was playing, talking, listening. A day full of energy and moments of encouragement. In July alone, nearly a thousand meals were served to children in the township of Underberg. Not because we have to, but because the kids need it. A huge support in keeping things running smoothly has been Michelle Stevens. Her gift for bringing people together has been a real blessing for all our projects. Quietly and without fuss, she helps make things happen.

BE YOUR OWN HERO South Africa is growing with each step. Soon, we’ll be showing you our new office – a space for ideas, for conversations, for building new dreams. Even as we’re still unpacking, our eyes are already

fighting this 1000 bed development on the Sani Pass Road. Briefly, Sani Community Forum raised these points as I&AP.

*ESKOM is a huge problem in the area and in Himeville, in particular. Transformers cannot take the load as it is, and the power outages are frequent because of this. What is the plan for Eskom to provide for this development if the present demand cannot be accommodated by the inadequate infrastructure presently?

*What provision has been made for the construction vehicles and the host of additional vehicles if the Bulwer/Underberg is being resurfaced over the next 5 years as the Stop/Go interruptions are already a huge issue with the backlog?

*What contribution does the Premier Group make towards Tidy Towns and Sani Community Forum to clean up the towns, fix potholes, plant trees, open drains, paint murals, clear pavements, sort out water leaks, paint speedbumps, feed and clothe our destitute and general an action group that benefits our whole community? How and where do the Premier Group invest in our local community and support Community Groups if all purchases are made outside of Underberg?

*By their own admission, the SPH has a faulty Sewerage Plant. Surely this should be addressed immediately before further development is planned to indicate that they have a vested interest in preserving such an ecologically sensitive valley. If their sewerage system is faulty, with little interest to fix it on display, why would they be inclined to maintain anything new?

*The Municipality cannot even fix the potholes, and the community must step up to fix potholes from our own pockets as we have severe accidents and deaths due to drivers driving dangerously to avoid potholes. Our roads were not built for all this traffic and with the increase of heavy construction vehicles, this will cause massive damage to our already eroding roads and literally destroy them.

*School kids walk from the Himeville Low-Cost Community to Faithway and Goxhill schools, along with Noah’s Ark kids, along the Arbuckle Street Road. With the massive increase of traffic this will only increase the danger to these children walking on these roads. We have already had deaths from speeding and pothole dodging.

*There is already no accommodation in the two villages to accommodate the Road Construction teams and commercial growth in Underberg as it is, so where will all these SPH development people be accommodated? This development will encourage more squatters. We have zero accommodation to be had for tenants presently, so where will these additional numbers be housed,

on what comes next. New projects, new paths. And all of you who walk them with us.

Just recently, our chairman Tsepo Jama signed off on something close to the heart – a new playground at Clouds of Hope. Designed with care, by **Doreen Whitehead of GreenDoor**



Landscape Services, the theme reflects our region. Tsepo grew up at CoH himself. He knows better than anyone what children in care need most. Love. Happiness. Hope.

If you’d like to support us, there are many ways to get involved. A message on WhatsApp. A spot on the newsletter. A bakkie load of wood. An hour of your time, or simply an open heart. Whether you come as a volunteer, a donor, or just someone who wants to stand alongside us – every gesture matters. Khwezi Ngcobo, our radiant finance minister, keeps a sharp eye on it all. Every contribution is welcome and deeply appreciated. Here, in this quiet corner of the world, we see every day what’s possible when we walk together. Hand in hand. Step by step. For our children. For a future we build together.

Contact Michelle Stevens,
office@beyourownhero-za.net

as the Precinct Plan for Underberg clearly acknowledges that the two villages have little room for expansion as they are surrounded by productive agricultural land?

* We have heard the rumour again that the SPH staff are going to be accommodated at the Himeville Arms. This exercise will destroy the Himeville village. We objected to this possibility a few years ago and we will object strongly once again. Please may we have clarity on this.

*There is not enough water. The two Low-Cost developments cannot be expanded to cope with the overcrowding and shacks because there is not enough water according to the Minister of Social Development. Our local communities must be accommodated in housing before a new development is built that is bigger than Himeville! The development will benefit the rich at the expense of the poor and marginalised.

· Himeville Water system must come off the Umzimkulu River and Himeville must get water from the Polela and Umkomazi Rivers. This development must not take preference of our limited resources at the expense of our local communities being adequately housed and services provided.

· No one has consulted with Zulu speaking rural communities in our municipality, at all. Where has this development been advertised to Zulu speakers? Why was this not advertised in our local Mountain Echo Newspaper and on the various Social Media Groups in Underberg? To advertise in The Witness is disingenuous as few people buy the Pmb newspaper.

· The Dump!!! It is impossible to have any increase in the usage of the Himeville Dump as it is a health hazard and should be condemned. We have so much information and reports as to the dump which the Municipality has failed to act on. The increase in the already overused and abused dump, will create an ecological disaster.

· The Tourism industry has not recovered from Covid and this development will destroy livelihoods of those dependent on the tourism pie.

· The district has a harsh history of developments and tenders being awarded to outsiders as they bring in the own labour. Few jobs are created for locals, and the transfer of skills is absolutely dismal.

· SPH want to create a village the size of Himeville. What provision has been made for Policing as our local SAPS are already struggling to cover the whole district?

We trust all these points will be covered.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond as Interested and Affected Parties.

SANI COMMUNITY FORUM. Community First

RESTMOUNT - HOLIDAYS FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED KIDS



Restmount was founded in August 1942 when the late Dr. Fred Cluver shared his dream of a Drakensberg holiday home for underprivileged children with members of the Durban Rotary club. The late George Hotchkiss kindly donated the land on which the Homestead now stands. The first camp was on 6 October 1945 and further successful camps were held until a devastating fire in 2000 demolished most of the buildings. By 2011 new buildings

had been built and camps started running again. In 2020 Covid brought a halt to camps. One of the main reasons that has taken so long to restart these camps is the lack of transport due to ER Collins bus services having to sell all but 2 buses. In May this year a group of elders, from a Durban church, came to minister at the church we attend. Over a cup of coffee after the service we shared with these elders about Restmount.

They put us in touch with Linda who lives in Wentworth. She assists with a homework club where children, who would normally get to empty houses after school, go. Linda has contacts that can help with transport and together we worked towards finding donations for fuel for the transport and groceries for the five day camp.

The camp was held from 7-11 July 2025. Eighteen boys, three leaders and two prefects attended. It was overall a wonderful camp with most of the boys never having seen a farm animal; the mountains; wide open spaces; a river; waterfall; a star-studded sky or drink straight from a fresh mountain stream. They experienced all this and more. We had the opportunity to share values, God's love and that He has a purpose for each of them.

Most of these boys come from challenging backgrounds and we pray that seeds sown will come to fruition. They are valued and loved. We pray that this will be the start of regular Restmount camps as we know them. A huge thanks to Friends of Restmount, a local bible study group of ladies, Liz Mackay, Lorna's Delights, Heather Stevens, The Whistling Goat, the Hallatt's, Paul Welch, Elgin Dairy and SPAR (We hope we mentioned everyone), for your generous donations. Simon and Brenda Rayner (managers of Restmount - Drak Gdns Road) Kind Regards **Brenda Rayner Restmount Children's Holiday Home Homestead: 033 701 1706 Cell: 079 411 1214 Email: info@restmount.org Website: www.restmount.org**

Underberg Padel Ladder League Wrap-Up

The Underberg Padel Court recently hosted an exhilarating six-week ladder league that wrapped up at the end of June 2025. This fantastic event brought together a spirited group of 40 community members who participated in a mixed ladder league, fostering both competition and camaraderie among players. The sportsmanship displayed was commendable, making it a great opportunity for everyone to meet and enjoy the sport together.

After an exciting season, the top three prize winners emerged from the competition. Securing third place were Lana Jover and Greg Johnson, known as the "Bashful Bullets." In second place, the dynamic duo of Murray and Taryn Turner, affectionately dubbed "Captain and His Crew," showcased their skills throughout the league. Finally, taking the top spot were Donae Keet and Gareth Moulton, proudly representing "Fork 'n Cleaver." The award for the best team name went to "The Tail Gunners," adding a fun twist to the league.

Overall, it was a fantastic time for all participants, and the excitement continues as the next league is set to commence on July 24th. Interested players are encouraged to submit their names to **Poppet Acutt at 073 171 9446 to enter** either the men's or ladies section. Entries can be made individually or as pairs, with participants paired according to their strength to ensure a fair playing field.

Join the fun, and be part of the next chapter in Underberg's vibrant padel community!

WINNING STOCK MARKET STRATEGIES

NVIDIA DAZZLES AGAIN WITH IT'S SHEER BRILLIANCE

* EXTRAORDINARY PROFITS FROM ORDINARY SHARES

* WINNING STOCK MARKET STRATEGIES

This month Nvidia continued to write the greatest story in corporate history. It became the first company to be worth 4 trillion dollars. And it hit this mark and continued its climb.

On Wednesday 25th June 2025 the company closed at a record high of \$154.31 exceeding its prior closing high of \$149.43 hit on the 6th January 2025.

It again overtook Microsoft to become the most valuable company in the world. At this level it was worth \$3.77 trillion.

Apple and Microsoft are the only other US firms with a market value of more than \$3 trillion.

According to Al Jazeera, the company is worth more than the combined value of the Canadian and Mexican stock markets and its value exceeds the total value of all publicly listed companies in the U.K.

Its stock trades at a 12 month forward price-to-earnings ratio of 32, below its three-year average of 37.

This is absolutely fantastic, but it is by no means the end of the story. On 9 July 2025 Nvidia stock jumped again and this pushed the company past the \$4 trillion market capitalisation milestone.

The latest good news is that the company recently received approval from the U.S. government to sell some of its AI chips in China.

Prior to the AI boom, Nvidia was mostly known for creating premium graphic cards that were used by gamers in high-speed visuals. Now the company is famous for



selling powerful chips that help chatbots such as Open AI's ChatGPT and self-driving cars. Nvidia powers more than 75% of the 500 most powerful computer systems in the world.

Nvidia sales increased 69% to \$44.1 billion in its fiscal first quarter compared to a year ago. Net income was nearly \$18.8 billion, up 26% from a year ago. In its fiscal year 2025, the company's revenue more than doubled to about \$130.5 billion compared to a year earlier, and net income increased 145% to nearly \$72.9 billion compared to fiscal year 2024.

Let us look at what happened last week. On Monday, the share price opened at \$163.94. It closed at \$164.28. At this level Nvidia was worth \$4.006 trillion. It closed the week at \$172.41 giving the company a value of \$4.205 trillion.

So, last week alone Nvidia added over 200 billion in market value – that is the same value as Shell Plc. But Shell was founded in 1833 near 200 years ago.

These numbers are difficult to explain. One billion dollars is 1000 million dollars. So, 200 billion is two hundred thousand million dollars. In language South African readers can understand and at an exchange rate of 17.71 Rands to a dollar that is three thousand five hundred and forty-two thousand million rand. I hope I have this right. I think it is. I am happy for readers to check the maths.

I suppose the point is, it is a lot of money to create in one week!

And so, the incredible story of Nvidia continues to unfold.

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Responsible Disengagement by Heidi Kyle

Disengaging from toxic people, particularly family members with narcissistic traits or gaslighting behaviors, requires courage and strategic planning. It's difficult when the toxic person is your child, spouse or other close family member. While family bonds are important, protecting your mental health sometimes means creating necessary distance from those who consistently harm your well-being.

Narcissistic individuals often manipulate conversations, dismiss your feelings, and make everything about themselves. Gaslighters systematically undermine your reality, making you question your own perceptions and memories. When interactions consistently leave you feeling drained, confused, or emotionally wounded, disengagement becomes an act of self-preservation rather than selfishness.

Start with clear, consistent boundaries. Examples are: limit contact to specific occasions or timeframes. Use the "gray rock" method—become as uninteresting as possible during interactions by giving brief, neutral responses. This reduces the emotional fuel that feeds toxic dynamics without creating unnecessary drama.

When possible, avoid being alone with toxic individuals. Having witnesses present often curbs their worst behaviors. If you must engage, prepare mentally beforehand and have an exit strategy ready, such as a pre-arranged appointment.

Family members may pressure you to "keep the peace" or maintain relationships "because they're family." Remember that being related to someone doesn't give them license to abuse you emotionally. You can acknowledge their pain or struggles without accepting their toxic behavior as your responsibility to endure or solve.


Document interactions when necessary, especially if gaslighting is involved. This helps you maintain clarity about what actually happened. Seek support from trusted friends, therapists, or support groups who understand toxic family dynamics.

Consider whether complete no-contact is necessary or if limited contact with strict boundaries suffices. Sometimes gradual reduction in engagement works better than abrupt cutoffs, depending on your situation and safety concerns.

Disengagement isn't about punishment—it's about self-care and realising you are not responsible for fixing toxic people or managing their emotions. By protecting your peace, you help create healthy boundaries and space for relationships that nurture rather than drain you.

Recovery takes time, but choosing your well-being over familial obligation is both brave and necessary for your long-term mental health, however guilt can be a problem that needs to be managed.

Next month we will focus on emotional guilt in close relationships.



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Kevin Benkenstein leads the front group early in the 140km event in 2024. He is followed by eventual winner Tyronne White, Thabiso Zindela, David Shelley and Michael Rowland. Photo: Ant Grote/ Gameplan Media

Drakensberg ready for Gran Fondo gravel riders

The hills of the Drakensberg are calling, with hundreds of riders set to tackle the foothills of the famous mountain range on Saturday July 26th in the annual Underberg Gran Fondo gravel cycle race.

This testing event is made up of three races – 140km, 90km and 41km – and is considered one of the most scenic events on the South African cycling calendar, with riders taking on the challenge under the spectacular backdrop of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg World Heritage Site.

The 2024 champions, Team Drive Train Academy's Tyronne White and one of his trainees, Sanchia Malan from Index Property Solutions, are both expected to be back to defend their titles.

The 140km event has built a reputation as a slickly organised, all-round test of gravel riding with riders preparing for a challenge from both their rivals as well as a route that provides a great test of all gravel riding skills.

The first half sees riders using their bunch-riding skills as they roll through the river valleys, and then are forced to test their strength on the first big climb at about 60 kays. The second half of the loop is undulating and those riders who have paced themselves and put in the hours in training benefit – particularly as the time ticks towards five hours for the leaders.

While the 140km event is the main race, competitors also have the option of an easier 90km race and a relatively short 41km.

The racing starts from 8am and all events start and finish at The Olde Duck restaurant just outside Underberg and follow the same route until first the 41km peels off and loops back to the start/finish. The 90km follows the same route as the long event for just over 60km, and just after the big climb out the Ngwangwane Valley, the riders split away and head back to Underberg. The 140km riders loop around and return through Himeville and then Underberg back to the finish. **Written By: Tim Whitfield**

BILL SMALL

On 21 June, one of our stalwarts, Bill Small passed away at the ripe old age of 100, on the cusp of his 101st birthday! Bill has been the driving force behind the Sani Wildlife branch of WESSA since the late 1980's, and together with his wife Alta, were long time WESSA members



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and committee members, Bill was the chair of Sani Wildlife a number of times for many years and set high standards which the current committee endeavour to live up to! Whilst Bill and Alta did not start the Sani Pass Flower Walk, they were instrumental in its growth and success. Alta for many years did the bookings, and in a time before email and cell phones, this was a massive task! She did a lot of work behind the scenes.

Bill encapsulated what WESSA stands for – he was truly a man caring for the earth. Bill qualified as a forester and spent his working life in places as diverse as Zambia, Creighton, Cathedral Peak and Cobham. He was instrumental in creating so many of the paths in the Drakensberg and has a cave in the Vergelegen area named after him. He also was instrumental in setting up the 5 day Giants Cup Trail across the southern Drakensberg. Bill and Alta impacted on a wide variety of avenues of life in our district. Bill kept the WESSA flag flying high, and drove our local committee, ensuring a regular supply of interesting talks and outings. He tried hard to establish an environmental education centre in the area at the Good Hope site, but this never came to fruition. He stood firm against inappropriate development, whilst always keeping in mind the realities of a farming district and the need for earning a living and creating employment. A keen indigenous gardener, with his forestry background, he and Alta were advisors and mentors to many aspiring gardeners. Rock art was another of Bill's passions – he knew more sites than anyone I have ever met, and his memory of their content and exact location was staggering.

In 2016, Bill was honoured by WESSA during their 90th anniversary celebrations as one of 90 South African "Conservation Giants" at a ceremony held locally. He remained an honorary member of our committee in his later years, adapting to changing times as he followed minutes on a tablet. It was his innovative suggestion in 2015 which led to us establishing a program to offer courses to educators from the district at Umgeni Valley. Over time, this program has developed into our highly successful Eco-Champions competition. Bill's impact on Sani Wildlife and WESSA has been immense, and we are grateful for his many years of enthusiasm, drive and dedication. His was a life well lived, a man who has endeavoured within his own sphere to leave the planet a better place than he found it. Hamba Kahle Bill. **By Russell Suchet**



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‘First catch your Eland’

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The title of a book written by Laurens Van der Post mostly about cooking and cuisine in the African veld.

One has to admit these are magnificent ‘meaty’ creatures, no wonder they were revered by the bushman, entrenched in their mythologies and part of their way of life! But in the Southern Drakensberg farmland Eland have become a problem.

By the time this piece goes to press the landmark-landowner/conservation/biodiversity meeting at the country club will have taken place. What a great initiative. Conservation challenges have to be addressed in a collaborative and practical way.

Regards the Eland challenge, the issue recently jumped right in front of me. I quote from the video clip I posted on the internet; ‘Isn’t that beautiful ...eh... isn’t that absolutely magnificent’

John Michaux was describing the scene set before us, a herd of thirty plus Eland pelting across the road scaling his neighbours fence and then his own on the run back to Ezemvelo land after a nights grazing, on Andrew Gilson’s Waterford farm. On examination of his damaged fences John had a lot more to say (unpublishable) about harsh realities. This wildlife costs him and his neighbour big time.

Actually, Eland are hunted by landowners in the district, there is a quota which, landowners access. But says another farmer Simon Acutt also a professional hunter.

‘This problem can’t be solved by culling alone - there is a forum between landowners that monitors this Eland challenge. Some translocation of Eland, specifically from the Bushman’s Nek area is being explored.’

As hiking guides, we have our own ideas of where Eland

sightings are almost guaranteed and it corresponds with access to winter feed. Evemvelo fences are in a dismal state and opportunistic Eland scale them with tremendous grace anyway.

Back to that subject ‘Conservation and biodiversity on farmland’. It’s common sense really. I have a few gripes which I periodically express. Mostly on the wetland issue. Proper respect for wetlands and riparian areas like streams and rivers is a world-wide problem. There are laws and they are not adhered to. What pleasure one gets when you walk on a farm where the ecotone between river and field is respected. What pleasure it is when one sees plantations and menace wattle removed from catchment zones no matter how small, what a thrill it is to see wildlife on farmland not only for its biltong value, it’s good for the spirit and the wild life, I’m sure the bushmen and their ancestors would have agreed.

Don and Helen Guy are hiking guides based in Underberg 066 0186430.

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VARIOUS VETS

Over the years I have had the good fortune to work with a number of vets. One who stands out was an Irishman named Seamus. He was typically Irish, broad brogue and all, who could charm a bird out of a tree. This was in the early pe computer days and we had record cards on which we wrote the dog or cat's details, the diagnosis and treatment given.

I started to notice a lot of cards for animals that Seamus had seen for the diagnosis had SBI written on them. I was puzzled and eventually said t him "Seamus, what is SBI ?" He replied "Something Bad Inside ". Only an Irishman could have written this – although all vets have had similar feelings about puzzling cases (and I am sure our GPs too). He eventually left to go and help his father with the harvest, back in Ireland. Can you believe it – his father still preferred to go to the local bone setter rather than the local doctor for any medical problems? Another vet who gave us a few laughs was Roger, who was newly married and very religious. He was a good vet who while in the army had been sent to Namibia which he loved. It was still in the days of the hand written record cards and I remember reading one for an aggressive dog where Roger had written :”The dog was very nervous, AND SO WAS THE VET !! “Again this is something all vets can understand and sympathize with.

It is not only big dogs that can be aggressive. Once the local



BIO SECURITY CHECKPOINT FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE!!!

Kwanalu: FMD response must protect communal lands to commercial corridors KwaZulu-Natal's Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak is tightening its grip on the province's livestock sector – impacting everyone from rural families selling a single animal to put food on the table, to established agribusinesses battling to keep export operations afloat.

The KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Union (Kwanalu) has reiterated its call for provincial disaster declaration, and a coordinated and inclusive response – one that empowers all livestock owners to comply with disease control protocols, while ensuring no farmer is left without the support needed to survive.

“We are seeing intense pressure across the board. Some of the country's most established commercial operations are at risk of closure, while small-scale farmers face impossible choices between following the law and feeding their families,” says Sandy La Marque, CEO of Kwanalu.

In many rural communities, the sale of a single animal is a family's only financial lifeline, but with movement restrictions in place, many find themselves caught between survival and legality. Kwanalu warns that unless urgent support mechanisms are introduced, including education, mobile permit access, a market within the DMA and veterinary services, compliance will remain out of reach for many.

“No farmer wants to break the rules, but the reality is that some are left with no choice. We must remove those barriers – not with judgment, but with practical help,” says Angus Williamson, Vice President of Kwanalu and Chair of the Red Meat Producers Organisation.

The Union has welcomed recent government efforts to expand vaccine access across the province. The Minister of Agriculture has confirmed the arrival of additional vaccines, with plans for free distribution via State Veterinary Services in affected zones. Kwanalu says this must now be matched with on-the-ground coordination, particularly in communal farming areas where the outbreak continues to spread.

“Every corner of this sector is hurting. But if we work together – commercial and communal, government and farmer – we can slow the spread and protect every player in the value chain,” says PJ Hassard, President of Kwanalu.

The FMD crisis has led to export suspensions and production bottlenecks, particularly in affected zones – placing livelihoods, local economies, and the reputation of South African agriculture at risk.

In affected commercial corridors, producers face mounting logistical and financial losses; from delayed exports to disrupted operations, placing jobs and future viability at risk. In rural regions, they're felt in empty plates and school fees unpaid.

Kwanalu is calling for permit and veterinary support in rural areas, language-specific communication of protocols and best practices, and economic relief measures for affected producers of all sizes.

“Kwanalu is seeking solutions which are beneficial to all farmers. Agriculture in Kwazulu-Natal is the backbone of economic development, employment and growth and must be protected at all costs.” La Marque concludes.

The KwaZulu-Natal Agricultural Union, Kwanalu, is a representative organization voice of the rural and agricultural sectors in the province. Its viewpoints are based on submissions from its members, and it is committed to a sustainable and profitable future for Agriculture within KwaZulu-Natal and the greater South Africa. For more information on Kwanalu, visit www.kwanalu.co.za or call 033 342 9393

Methodist minister's mother brought her Chihuahua to see me. As I reached out to touch it the little dog without warning, snapped at me. I was startled but not put off – after all he was only little. I reached out again – and once more the aggressive little dog flew at me and bit me. “Your dog just bit me !” I exclaimed. “No it didn't “ she said firmly. “Yes it did “ I replied. “No it didn't “ she said. By now I am dripping blood on to the examination table. Did she think I was just a spontaneous bleeder perhaps ?

Anyway we agreed to disagree and once I had washed my wounds we proceeded more cautiously with the consultation.

To get back to Roger, this was ion the days of mini skirts and short shorts. One day Roger was on duty and the receptionist showed the next client in to the consultation room for him – a very attractive, buxom young lady with a deep cleavage. Roger exploded out of the consultation room saying “Someone come and help me . She keeps bending over !” Everyone laughed and said “Roger you are on your own. Now get back in there .” Bravely he did.

In earlier days there were far more men than women vets. This meant that women vet students and qualified lady vets had to really fight for their recognition. I employed various lady vets over the years. The one that stands out was a short round lady named Rose. Rose made it her mission to prove she was better than any male vet. At the time we had a big fearsome Rottweiler patient named Zarkov. We always treated him with care and respect. One day he came in when Rose was on duty. First up she decides to have a look down his throat. I don't

UNDERBERG FARMERS ASSOCIATION - OUT REACH



We have been busy working on educating ourselves, and our neighbours, on the implication of the 'groot gevaar'. Ndimiso Gule, from the Red Meat Producers Organization (RPO), kindly assisted with an excellent presentation on the foot and mouth disease threat. This after a well-attended meeting at the Underberg Country Club on the subject. Ndimiso Gule addressed our local communal dip tank representatives and was

subsequently requested to attend another community meeting at Enhlanhleni near Reichenau Mission. An earlier meeting allowed us,



as neighbouring commercial farmers, to interact with the same community on other matters that needed attention. Attended by Phillip and Mathew Turner with Lyn Blomeyer. The local councillor Basil Ntshiza did well directing discussions which let us clarify those concerns, framed within the FMDthreat, and reach some form of consensus. We hope that next time Lyn Blomeyer remembers his hearing aid. In other news, our smaller grain producers are busy with their maize harvests. Derek Corfe's maize shellers are assisting these



farmers with this tedious task. They are so appreciative of this service, I'm certain my blood sugar has seen a huge spike. Fortunately, I burn it off before I feel woozy. Let's hope. Bull sales are in full swing, and so are we. The graffiti artists handy work has been rectified with a fresh coat of paint. And there is some wonderful artwork on the walls at our sale yards, not to mention some extra seating. Make a turn when you can and admire the new look. luck guys, Julie Braby is like a dog with a bone. To the activists on the Drakensberg Gardens Road, well done. Julie Braby did well organizing a productive meeting with various Drak locals and government departments on eradicating invasives along the upper Umzimkulu river. Excellent work has already been done by Richard Braby with hopefully more to come. Good luck guys, Julie Braby is like a dog with a bone.

And to the editor of our local paper, Paul 'two stents' Welch, we at the UFA wish you a long life. You are a part of our crazy, we will have it no other way.

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



think any vet had ever had the courage to open Zarkov's mouth and peer at his tonsils. He did not like the idea one bit. Luckily she escaped uninjured. Not even his owner would try that.

At the time I had another client who bred St Bernard dogs. They had one breeding male and several females. The husband had been at me for a while to do a fertility test on the big male. This involved masturbating him until he ejaculated into a test tube and the semen could then be examined under the microscope,

I did not fancy doing this and had been ducking and diving for a while. He then approached Rose – who said “Sure – bring him in “. I don't think the owner realized what was going to happen.

On the appointed day, Rose, the owner and the large male St Bernard disappeared into the consulting room. Banging , crashing and swearing ensued – until finally Rose appeared sweating but triumphant, with her test tube of semen.

By Llew Evans
retired vet

She was followed by a very embarrassed looking owner who crept out to his car with his dog, not looking ant anybody. The staff all had a good laugh.



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8.00 AM - 4.30 PM

SATURDAY 8.00 AM - 10 AM

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UNDERBERG
ESTATE AGENTS

IMPRESSIVE HOME IN FAIRMOUNT ESTATE



R3 200 000

This exquisite 3-bedroom home in Fairmount Estate combines luxury, comfort, and breathtaking views. Each bedroom includes a full en-suite bathroom, while two elegant lounges with fireplaces create warm, inviting spaces. The modern kitchen features granite tops, a centre island, walk-in pantry, and separate scullery. A spacious veranda with a jacuzzi overlooks panoramic views of the Southern Drakensberg. Positioned front row in the estate, the property borders the Country Club, this home is the ultimate lifestyle destination.



R1 595 000

This warm and inviting family home in Himeville offers four bedrooms, including a master en-suite, two lounges, and a well-equipped kitchen with built-in cupboards. Enjoy a peaceful garden featuring a koi and goldfish pond, plus an additional en-suite bedroom attached to the garage, a laundry/utility room, double garage, and ample parking. The fully fenced yard with an automated gate ensures comfort, security, and space for the whole family to enjoy.



R685 000

This property in Bulwer has 2 dwellings on it. You could live in one and earn income from the second. Cottage number 1 (67.1 sq m) consists of 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, lounge/kitchenette and fireplace. Cottage number 2 (33.3 sq m) consists of 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchenette/lounge with fireplace. Garden needs a good trim and you will enjoy views of Bulwer Mountain.



R1 495 000

This spacious 4-bedroom double-storey unit offers unbeatable views from its enclosed patio with built-in braai. The first floor features the main bedroom, bathroom, lounge, dining room, granite-topped kitchen, and patio. Upstairs includes 3 bedrooms with built-in cupboards and a bathroom. Additional perks include an automated garage with direct access, a side carport, and access to the complex's peaceful gardens, pool, and tennis court. Mountainairs is a well-managed complex, perfect for relaxed living.



R2 500 000

Located in a quiet cul-de-sac within The Meadows Country Estate, this single-story home offers mountain views, modern country charm, and luxurious comfort. Enjoy an open-plan kitchen, two fireplaces, underfloor heating, three en-suite bedrooms, and a versatile fourth room. A closed-in patio, landscaped garden, double garage, and access to estate amenities. this home is a peaceful retreat or ideal family home in the perfect position.

CONTACT OUR AGENTS

SCAN FOR MORE LISTINGS

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PROPERTY SHOWCASE

Underberg



REF# 1UB1705608

HIMEVILLE - R 995 000
4 BEDROOMS | 3 BATHROOMS | 2 COVERED PARKING
Thatched home set on a generous 2011sqm stand, this property offers ample space and a warm inviting atmosphere.

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



REF# 1UB1704530

HIMEVILLE - R 1 250 000
3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 4 COVERED PARKING
Spacious 3-bed, 2-bath home on 4,047m² beside Himeville Nature Reserve, with a study, open-plan living, and 2 income-generating cottages. Ideal family home, weekend getaway, or smart investment.

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



REF# 1UB1645754

UNDERBERG - R 1 650 000
3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 1 GARAGE
Enjoy panoramic views of the Southern Drakensberg from the enclosed verandah of this spacious, front-row double-storey Mountainairs unit. The price includes a large inventory of household contents .

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



REF# 1UB1694492

UNDERBERG - R 3 890 000
3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 2 GARAGES
This newly renovated home surrounded by mature trees and a low-maintenance garden, offers easy access to your private stretch of the 'Mzimkulu River. The property is suitable for horses.

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



REF# 1UB1603055

UNDERBERG - R 1 125 000
VACANT SMALLHOLDING
Spectacular mountain views from this exceptional setting. Located close to the Drak Gardens Hotel, this property offers access to the hotel's top-class amenities and the popular Ezemvelo hiking trails.

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



REF# 1UB1704725

UNDERBERG - R 325 000
VACANT LAND
Ideally located, this fully fenced stand offers mountain and farmland views. With walking access to the Umzimkulu River and exclusive use of a riverside area, it's perfect for your dream home.

Sue Preston
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Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC