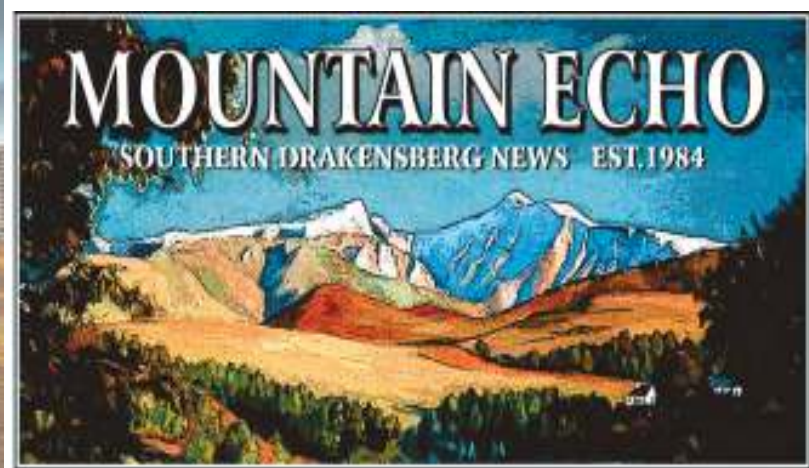


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“Goodbye Western Cape – South Africans are semigrating to this area in KZN instead” from **BUSINESSTECH** By Malcolm Libera

South Africa’s semigration trend continues to benefit smaller towns and rural regions, and one area seeing a noticeable influx of newcomers is Underberg in KwaZulu-Natal. “**The Small Kzn snow town drawing in big city buyers**” in **THE SOUTH AFRICAN** By Sundeeka Mungroo

“Young families and retirees alike find value and lifestyle appeal in Underberg homes.” Pam Golding Properties issued By Gaye de Villiers.

Nestled in the foothills of the Southern Drakensberg, the picturesque Underberg region in KwaZulu-Natal is drawing growing interest from home buyers seeking space, tranquillity, and excellent value compared to city house prices.

Angela Walker, Pam Golding Properties area principal in Underberg, elaborates: “Freestanding homes on large 2 000sqm to 4 000sqm stands in Underberg and nearby Himeville – just 5km away – are in high demand. These properties offer exceptional value, typically selling between R1.5 million and R4 million.”

A renowned trout-fishing haven with over 160km of rivers and 60

dams, Underberg also offers canoeing, rafting, tubing, hiking, cycling, horse trails, and easy access to the famous Sani Pass into Lesotho. Just two hours from Pietermaritzburg and about three from Durban, it’s a peaceful escape within easy reach of the city.

Currently underway, the resurfacing of the R617 between Underberg and the N3 will further enhance accessibility and boost the region’s appeal in the future.

Walker says positively, younger buyers are moving into the area, relocating their families from cities such as Johannesburg and Durban, and some from the Western Cape, acquiring homes in the R1.5 million to R2 million mark, while retirees tend to purchase up to around R3 million.

“Consider the fact that one can acquire a four-bedroom, 246sqm sectional title unit with spectacular ‘Berg views for just R1.495 million, and it’s no surprise that young families are increasingly choosing to settle in Underberg, drawn by accessibly priced homes, coupled with excellent primary and pre-school options and a strong sense of community. Many are relocating for new job opportunities, which is positive news for the local economy, while others benefit from the flexibility of working from home,” says Walker. **continued on page 3**

VOL:41 NO: 9  
SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2025

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SEPT 20

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SEPT 26 -28

OCT 3 -4

OCT 4

OCT 12

OCT 15

OCT 18

NOV 1 -2

NOV 8 & 9

NOV 8

NOV 15

NOV 22

NOV 8

NOV 29

DEC 6

DEC 12 -14

DEC 13

JAN 31 & FEB 1

APR 2 -6

**Rhino Peak Challenge**

**80s Mix tape Music evening** @ Underberg Country Club **see page 3**

**Heritage day Spring Fun Fair** @ The Olde Duck 11am - 5pm. To book **whatsapp 076 415 7378 see page 3**

**Underberg Himeville Trout Fishing Club Still water festival** to enter **uhtfc.org/ stillwater festival**

**Underberg UFA Agri & Lifestyle Show** email for a stall & more details **admin@kznufa.co.za page 3 & 11**

**Country Market** @ UFA SHOW **see page 2**

**Underberg Bowling Club family fun day** **see page 2**

**Garden Club meeting** @ Melissa Price Moore. Speaker Isobel Johnson - Clematis. 078 306 1758 **page 9**

**St. Michael’s Does Music** @ Underberberg Country Club **see page 5**

**Himeville Underberg Garden Club OPEN GARDENS** **page7**

**Poppy day** on 8th then **Armistice day parade on 9th** @ Himeville Cenotaph 11am

**Sani Stagger** 2 road events (42.2km and 21.1km) 2 trail events (38km and 21km) Entries open 5 March **sanistagger.co.za**

**Bass 4 Cash fundraiser**@**pevenseyplace.co.za**

**Sani Pass Time Trial (SPTT)** visit **www.sanipasstt.com** to enter

**Drak 250 Off Road Race** for more info **Graeme Petersen 084 688 6772**

**Museum and Historical Society Traditional Christmas Bazaar** at the Himeville Museum.

**Touch Rugby Tournament, Round Table fundraiser**

**Umzimkulu River Rally** @ Khotso

**The Local Collection Christmas market** for more info **Lauren Perks 079 244 9601**

**N3TC Drak Challenge** Entries for 2026 Drak Challenge open on 1 November For information **www.drak.co.za**

**Splashy Fen Music Festival** otter club tickets available from 22 September 2025 **see page 5**

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**Underberg Congregational Church** Church Times:  
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**Berg Community Fellowship**  
**Berg Training Centre**  
**2 Hlogoma Crescent**  
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Every Sunday at 9 a.m. Phone Pastor Dennis  
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**Angels service** The  
Eucharist service is at 9  
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Sunday school at the  
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Rev Kayla Urbasch 082  
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Johann and Debbie Van  
As 033 7011470 Sun-  
day: 08:30 Prayer Meet-  
ing 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 Fri-  
days: 06:00 Men's Sun-  
rise coffee (confirm 033  
7011470)

*Song of Solomon 2:11-12*  
*'See! The winter is past. The*  
*season of singing has come.'*

- *There is an expiry date to every season,*  
*especially the winter ones.*
- *When the time is right, the Lord*  
*changes seasons and times.*
- *It is time to move from a season of*  
*difficulty to one of flourishing.*
- *Step forward with faith and hope,*  
*knowing that God is with you.*

**PRAYER:** Lord, You are the One Who  
changes seasons and times. I pray that  
You will work in my life and heart so  
that I can enjoy the new season that You  
have prepared for me. Amen.

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#### UNDERBERG R1 300 000-00

This beautiful home offers five generously  
sized bedrooms, or 4 bedrooms plus study,  
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fenced garden.



#### UNDERBERG R9000pm Rental

Soak up the gorgeous views from the patio  
of this spacious, secure 2 bedroom home on  
a shared property in Underberg. Featuring 2  
lounges with a full kitchen, including a  
separate scullery and pantry, a dining room  
and 2 bathrooms. The main, en-suite  
bedroom with both a bath and shower,  
features built in cupboards and a nook you  
can use as a home office or study. The 2nd  
bathroom is beautifully decorated with  
exquisite floral wall paper and features a  
double, walk in shower. Gas geyser installed.  
Pet friendly with owners permission.



#### HERITAGEDAY

In celebration of our community, our diverse  
cultural traditions and the heritage of our  
beautiful rainbow nation, Peta and her team  
at Peta Parker Properties would like to wish  
our community, clients and friends and  
Happy Heritage Day!

"Africa is not a country, but a continent like  
none other. It has the quiet intensity, that  
beat you feel in your soul" ...Lupita Nyong'o

## HOME RUN RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA Michael Clark

**AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY  
MIKE CLARK**



Mike's family are pleased to let friends know  
that his latest autobiography is shortly going  
to be printed. We found this on his computer  
some years ago but he said it was not ready for  
publication so we have tried to edit it with  
pictures and in a way that he would have liked  
but left the story telling to him in his own style.

The book covers the period in his life after he returned from seven years working as a trawlerman  
in Europe, cowboy, lumberjack, road constructor in Canada and finally in dam construction in  
Australia and arriving back in Durban. He made his way to Drakensberg Garden Hotel where  
his parents were working and over 60 years later,  
he still lived in the district until his death last  
year. This book covers these years and is full of  
his anecdotes about people and events that only  
he could tell in his brusque and often amusing  
detail.

I would appreciate it if people could give me an  
indication of their interest so that we can make  
sure there will be enough copies in the first  
printing. Rosanne 0823596736



## PEVENEY PLACE THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT AT THE FETE

A huge thank you to the local community for making Pevensey Place's annual Fete on Septem-  
ber 6th a massive success!

Despite the effort, your generosity and donations of goods to the white elephant stall were  
incredible. We appreciate the time and effort locals put into manning stalls, donating fruit,  
vegetables, plants, cakes and much more.

#### Congratulations to our raffle winners:

Robyn Collins, Glenda Morkel, Sven Hulst, Bron Flemington and Mandy Wood.  
From Pevensey Place, a heartfelt thank you to Underberg and Himeville for your kindness and  
support... Till next year!! Kind regards Nadine Bruigom. Bookkeeper/Secretary pevensey place  
Association. Adult Cerebral Palsy Centre / Oord vir Volwasse Serebraalgestremdes

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**COUNTRY  
MARKET**  
4th of October 2025  
Saturday 9am onwards  
UFA SHOWGROUNDS  
UFA SHOWGROUNDS  
4TH OF OCTOBER 2025  
SANI PASS ROAD  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME  
SUPPORT LOCAL

**Underberg Bowling Club**  
**FAMILY  
FUN DAY**  
Sunday  
12 October  
**FUNDRAISER**  
Team of Four players  
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Congratulations to Kerry and Cassey on the  
birthday of their beautiful baby girl Lilly  
Rosemary on the 27th August at Hilton  
Hospital. From Grandma Kathy Abbett

## MOUNTAIN ECHO

Is Your newspaper.  
Your input is valued!

**DEADLINE DATE**  
**OCTOBER 10**

**DISTRIBUTION DATE**  
**OCTOBER 17**





Photo: Paul Welch

**continued from page 1** “With farming forming the backbone of the region, Underberg continues to attract employees across key industries, including dairy farming, the large-scale Underberg Dairies plant which buys and processes locally produced milk, agricultural co-ops and support services, and local supermarkets.

“Often, newcomers rent before buying, creating healthy demand in the rental market. Adding to this sense of growth and confidence is the opening of a new shopping centre, anchored by national retailers such as Clicks, Boxer Supermarket, and Debonairs.”

Walker notes that smallholdings remain highly sought-after in the Underberg region, with properties selling across a broad price spectrum, from around R3.2 million to R12 million, depending on size, position and features.

In Himeville, a three-bedroom home plus rentable cottage and staff cottage, and set on 4 047sqm bordering the nature reserve is currently on the market priced at R1.25 million, while a three-bedroom, facebrick home with two separate cottages ideal for rental income and with a garden entertainment lapa is for sale at R2.075 million.

Award-winning stone homestead for sale

Currently on the market is an exceptional 64-hectare smallholding, featuring a striking architect-designed five-bedroom homestead alongside a range of additional buildings, including a guest cottage, garages, laundry, workshops, two staff cottages, and converted stables. Originally built by a visionary Johannesburg engineer, the home is constructed from massive stone blocks and finished throughout with beautiful solid Malaysian teak. In 1993, the property was honoured with the prestigious South African Institute of Architects’ Award of Merit.

Says Walker: “Positioned on the banks of the Mzimkulu River and ideal as a boutique guesthouse – with a cottage for an owner/manager to live in, this remarkable property is priced at R11.4 million. The homestead is both grand and inviting, with expansive interiors, large windows, and stack-away doors that flood the living spaces with natural light and frame uninterrupted views of the river.

“The landscaped, park-like grounds are enhanced by some 1 500 tall, established trees. Modern conveniences and sustainability have also been carefully considered, and the property is fully solar-powered with a back-up generator, while fresh water is supplied from a pristine mountain stream. Security features include electric fencing and roller shutter doors at the main entrances, ensuring peace of mind in this tranquil setting.” Local activities and attractions in Underberg include the Drak Descent cycling event, Sani2C, the Drak Challenge Paddling Race, polo and polocrosse, a food and wine show, and various clubs for fishing, hiking, tennis and bowling, while the Underberg Country Club offers golf, squash, padel, swimming, touch rugby, and cricket. For further information contact Pam Golding Properties Underberg on +27 33 7011563 or email angela.walker@pamgolding.co.za.

issued **By Gaye de Villiers.**

**SANI ROUND TABLE**  
~ 152

*Presents*

**SATURDAY'S LIVE MUSIC**

**4 OCTOBER**

4 - 6pm MATTHEW CLEMENT  
6 - 8pm HAYDEN & GWYN  
8 - 10pm THE KICKSTANDS  
10 - late DJ GWYN

**3RD OCTOBER 2025 - UFA GROUNDS**  
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**FRIDAY NIGHT**

5:30PM - JOHN POOLER HAPPY HOUR  
6:30PM - SANI ROUND TABLE DIRECTORY AUCTION  
8PM - BAR & DJ GWYN

**CASE** **UNDERBERG SUPERSPIN** **vk6** **GWK**

## UNDERBERG FARMERS ASSOCIATION AGRI & LIFESTYLE SHOW.

**3- 5 OCTOBER**

*Where the community meets*

Get Ready for the UFA Agri & Lifestyle Show 3rd – 5th October 2025 R20 Daily Entry pp – Fun for the Whole Family! (Sat & Sun - Fri night Free) on the Sani Pass road if you are new members of the community. Tickets sold at the gate from 8am – 8pm.

With Bio Security in place for the Foot & Mouth crisis, cars to be sprayed upon entry and all to use the foot baths provided when entering the show at ticket station.

“2024’s Best Beef Show in the Country” AWARD

Mark your calendars and bring the whole crew for two days of non-stop fun at the UFA Agri & Lifestyle Show! Whether you're a farm fan, a foodie, a craft lover or just looking for a fantastic day out — we’ve got something for everyone!

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ALL FAMILY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!!!  
Complimentary Bacon & Egg Roll + drink at the Finish!

**R50**

**04 Oct. 2025**  
STARTS @ 8AM  
UFA SHOWGROUNDS

**80's MIX TAPE**

**MIX TAPE**

Underberg Country Club  
Sat 20 September  
Arrive: 5pm - Order off menu  
Showtime: 6:30  
R150  
Info/bookings: 033 701 1130

Kath McClelland  
Adrian Raman  
Arl Forder  
Jenna Horby  
Paul Spence

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## The circle of life.

Historically our landscape in the Southern Berg was in its natural state without imported trees, today if you climb Hlogoma and look upon the district you no longer see grassy hills and vleis. The rivers are dammed, roads lined with rows of exotic trees, even in the winter months a patchwork of green dairy pastures mosaic across what was once open veld. Titled land has facilitated the arborator in individuals to imprint their own seed.  
In the early 80's a hundred years after land was surveyed, my Old man a legendary birder in the district, acquired the property that was to become his final homestead. Prominent in the yard was a 100 year old Gum tree, one of the first planted in the district.



If trees could talk the Gum tree at 12 Woodford road would keep you entertained. Besides the Bushmen who lived a few hundred metres to the left on the slopes of Hlogoma, and Sakyedwa who once had a kraal alongside the stream ,the Erf. was occupied by the first traders in Underberg. This was Mingay's store, and I 'd bet my bottom dollar the towering historical gum was planted by that residency in the 1890's



Gary and **Jayne Smith** bought the property some years ago and as I have recently learnt ,fallen deeply in love with the 100 year old gum

tree. A strange thing because it's VERY DEAD ! The Oldman ringbarked it - for the very purpose that it is now LOVED!.

Some 25 years ago he explained and justified his actions to me with an anticipated grin. 'It will be a perfect roost outside the back door'

Roll on nearly 20 years from when his ashes were spread, in appropriate Natal Robin habitat, it is indeed a roost of note, regular visitors are Egyptian geese, Hadedda's, Sacred Ibis, White Storks and even a Crane or two. A dead tree has given the Smith's much pleasure - So there can be life in death !

And to add to that - commercial opportunity. A

## On the Rocks [doneguy59@gmail.com](mailto:doneguy59@gmail.com)

## n/um

I'm going to attempt to explain what it means; *n/um* lives in the stomach becomes hotter, boils, rises up the spine and causes much pain.

I've taken this from a book recently gifted to me; 'Testament to the Bushman' mostly written by **Jane Taylor** with a chapter by **Laurens Van der Post** with whom she travelled with for a time in the mid 1980's for the purpose of a documentary series made in that name.

### Cracking the code.

It was a collection of narratives that '**cracked the code**' ,that is the motives behind the bushman rock art which is so prolific in Southern Africa. The first narratives are found in **Dr. Williem Bleek** and **Lucy Loyd's** painstaking bushman translations in the 1870's, the second **Joseph's Orpen's** interaction with the bushman Qing at the same time and thirdly some incredible relatively recent work amongst Kalahari and Namibian bushmen conducted by anthropologist **Megan Biesele**. These three narratives all hinted at the meaning and power of dance, trance and medicine men.

The Academic **Dr. David Lewis Williams** intergrated these peoples work and wrote up a long standing motive and meaning of San art as we know it today with particular reference to **n/um**.

Like **Megan Biesele**, **Jane Taylor** experienced a Bushman trance dance and put it on screen and into print for us to deceive, that's the great thing about filmmaking – You have to be there! Here's my summary of what Jane saw.

The women tended the fire throughout the dance. The songs they sang contained **n/um** endowd by the Great God and given to man who in the dance can release it and use it for healing.

In Jane's case a bushman called **!Koga** had been singled out for healing. The dancing became intense. The sweat that poured off the dancers bodies increased the heat of the **n/um** in their bodies. Rising up through the spine the **n/um** boiled and put the dancers into trance causing them to shriek 'Qai! qai! – read pain! Pain! The dancing healers would occasionally

B & B has been located ' at the back door'. It's name 'Acorns and Quackers' – A celebration of the exotic trees and the fauna that take advantage of the wooded Erf. at 12 Woodford rd. I was commissioned to make up a logo and paint an appropriate mural at this old stamping ground.

While administering my commission I was reminded of the incredible birdlife on the property (the subject of the mural) in mostly man made habit, the roost towering above, a monument to the history of this Erf. Probably the first surveyed in our town.

## Don Guy paints murals, writes, make short video clips and with his wife Helen takes HIKING TRIPS in the Southern Drakensberg. WhatsApp. 0660186430.

'Acorns and Quackers', now that's a name



wipe sweat from under their arms (As Qing had explained to Orpen in 1872) and rub it on **!Koga** the sick man's body. Also a healer would lie next to the sick man, so that the **n/um** could flow directly from on e body to another. And then with all of the healers hands on them directly they pulled from **!Koga's** body the evil things that had caused his

illness.

The stage was now taken over by another spectral. One of the healers **!Kase** crashed down on the ground in the deepest trance, or 'death'. He felt cold and the others pulled him next to the fire and rubbed hot sand over him rubbing his body all over to relax his muscles which the **n/um** had taunted, a tortoise shell with herbs was also used to cool down the heated **n/um**.

A woman then came and massage his body. The work of the woman was to deflect all the evil things that **!Kase** had taken out of **!Koga's** body. These harmful things she took into her own body to be lost again at her next menstration otherwise the evil things would stay with her and they would also stay with the sick man.

**!Kasi** had been a particularly good friend of the sick man **!Koga** and had given it his all. These things may seem strange to a Western mind. What is Communion? What is it when people speak in Tongues? What is the Wailing Wall all about? Baptisim? And more. The power of the spirit has been with us for a long time and manifests itself in all cultures, perhaps the bushman are among the first and a derivative of **n/um** experiences occur in all of us.

**Together with his wife Helen Don Guy takes guided Hiking trips. They are particularly knowledgable on San Rock Art. WhatsApp 066 018 6430 to start a Hiking conversation.**



# BIRDING IN THE SOUTHERN KZN DRAKENSBERG

By Stuart Mc Lean

Local birding picked up radically with the discovery of a **Collared Flycatcher** at Bushman's Nek Border Control. A male in full plumage



made it all the more rewarding. Thanks to the digital cameras carried by most birders now, this bird was photographed by someone who understood it was of interest, but possibly not to the full extent. Fortunately, she passed it on to a birder who immediately posted on the KZN Rare bird groups causing a flurry of birders trying to escape the office etc to get there before it moves on. This stunning little flycatcher with its black and white plumage is difficult to photograph while foraging in the white flowering trees, blending in very well. It was first seen on the 15th of August and was last seen on the 28 August. This uncommon, non-breeding Palearctic species visits the northern tip of South Africa and Zimbabwe where it is generally found in woodlands.

On one of my trips to Bushman's Nek I saw 6 Greater Flamingo on Waterford Dam. Not a bird we often find here. There was an adult with five immature birds. Some wader migrants have arrived, such as Common Greenshank and Black-winged Stilts. The water levels for much of this year have been high, leaving little mudbank habitat for waders. South African Cliff-swallows have also returned which typically means Greater Striped Swallows should be back soon.

Some interesting birds for the area were two White storks seen on the 24 Aug, possibly over wintering birds. Selwyn Rautenbach saw a Capped Wheatear near the Umzimkulu Vulture Hide on the 26 Aug. Birds of interest for Provincial listers this month were Layard's Warbler, Karoo Prinia, Yellow Canary, and Grey Tit, all seen on the upper Sani Pass on the Kzn side. All of these are considered rare in Kzn but not required to be reported on Sani Pass where they are fairly often encountered. Pam Kleiman reported the first Common Quail calling at Himeville Nature Reserve on the 31 Aug, as well as Little Rush Warbler. Shannon Hoffman's Bearded Vultures are looking great at the Breeding program. I only know this as I removed some problem bees from one of the cages. It is not open to the public, surely a wasted opportunity for making a small amount of money to put back into the program by allowing visitations and a great tool for education. You might consider voting for the Bearded Vulture to be the bird of the year for 2026.

**Birds & Beyond - Bird Tours & San Rock Art Walks**  
Stuart Mc Lean  
[www.birdsandbeyond.co.za](http://www.birdsandbeyond.co.za)  
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Food and drinks available at the club.

# Sani Pass TOURS



## Sani Pass Day Tour

- Day trip into Lesotho
- Lunch at a local venue in Lesotho
- Visit the local church or village

## Mokhotlong Day Tour

- Extended day trip into Lesotho
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# ABOUT TROUT FISHING IN UNDERBERG



**Ziggy Aucamp. Dams are starting to fish well.**

Fishing reports since last write up seems to be improving all over. Fish have somewhat returned to their normal feeding behaviours as anglers have started bringing fish to the net more frequently and reports suggest the fish are more willing to feed and thus readily take a fly. Some good news after a very unusual winter stillwater season. The warmer water temperatures that has been recorded lately plays a big role in this as the metabolism of the fish move up a gear and they start feeding aggressively post spawn. Talk of fish over 50cm that have been caught making the rounds. Some of the club dams have done better than others with a few dams offering up more fish than other dams. Blair Atholl standing out with quantity of fish being caught while some other dams quality came into play with some good sized fish coming from them. Even the dams that have not produced anything for some time have also started fishing well. Biggest repoted fish for the month a Rainbow trout of 2.2kg caught by Ziggy Aucamp in one of the UHTFC waters. Flies that worked well were wooly buggers in black and olive, Red eyed damselflies, Bunny leaches in natural colors aswell as the old faithful Mrs. Simpson. Any fly in Orange also seemed to worked very well. Lets hope the season carries on improving. UHTFC is also having their annual Stillwater Festival on the 26th till 28th



For those who joined the fun this year, there's good news: **Otter Club ticket sales open on Monday, 22 September 2025!** These exclusive, lowest-priced tickets are only available to 2025 festivalgoers. **For updates, follow:**  
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September where 10 teams of two anglers each spend the two days in a non competitive fishing festival. Im hoping to report on some trophy fish caught. The river season is opened on the 1st of September. Unfortunately very few reports have come in of fish brought to the net. The odd fish has been caught but no good numbers or sizes reported. The most probable cause for the very few numbers of fish around would be the die off that we had in the summer. Let us hope the few fish that around that spawned left us with enough fry to grow up and give us the enjoyment we anglers get hunting our speckled quarry.

**By Duane Vaughn Howell**

**Underberg Flyfishing and lifestyle centre at The Clocktower Centre. - Contact 0832286707 or 0655232877 Check out our website at [uhtfc.org](http://uhtfc.org)**

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# **DRAK CHALLENGE** **2026** **JANUARY 31** **- 1 FEBRUARY**

By Nick Tatham





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Drak Challenge lining up epic 2026 edition Underberg - The jewel of the Southern Drakensberg, the N3TC Drak Challenge, will once again wow paddlers and spectators alike from 31 January to 1 February 2026. Now entrenched as one of South Africa's premier river races, the Drak Challenge attracts paddlers from all over the country due to its unique appeal and one-of-a-kind hospitality. The town of Underberg lights up over the weekend of the Drak Challenge with paddlers and supporters alike enjoying the crisp summer air and warm weather on offer. With exciting rapids, jaw-dropping scenery, unpredictable water levels, and a sense of community that makes it more than just another race. Over two days and roughly 72 kilometres, paddlers are thrown into a test of skill



*Poppet Acutt and Tim Hempson winners of the Padel tournament*

Tim and Poppet who emerged victorious, claiming the title in a closely contested match. Congratulations to all participants for their spirited play and sportsmanship; everyone enjoyed a fantastic day of padel. Stay tuned to Underberg Padel's social media for updates on the next tournament date!



Left: Gerhard Van Zyl, Bud Manthe Sani Round Table and Terrence Van Dyk 7 41ers ran the meat stall

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*has a panel beater who did a great job on the MOUNTAIN ECHO bakkie which I can now drive with pride. The panel beater can't do insurance jobs because he is not qualified yet. Thanks so much from Paul Welch*

and nerve that has earned the Drak its reputation as one of the most technical and rewarding events on the calendar. Few races in the world can match the beauty of the Drakensberg. Crystal water, towering peaks, and a sense of wild isolation make every kilometre as memorable as it is demanding. "Every year we have to make sure that the Drak Challenge continues to deliver on the promises that we make to our paddlers," chairperson of the race organising committee Greg Hitchins said. "Paddlers and their support teams always expect a certain level of hospitality and service, and we always strive to give them the most enjoyable weekend in the mountains. "We can't control the water, but we try and make sure we look after everything else." 2026 will be the 32nd edition of the Drak Challenge and the race has seen all conditions possible with 2025 being arguably some of the best conditions

## **PADEL** **@** **UNDERBERG COUNTRY CLUB**

The Underberg Padel Tournament, held on August 30, showcased thrilling matches and fierce competition among eight teams in a round-robin format. The excitement culminated in an intense final where Kiki Crouch and Wade Karducci faced off against Poppet Acutt and Tim Hempson. Ultimately, it was

## **THE PEVENSEY FETE**

No one who hasn't connected to the Pevensy Fete, can claim to be an Underberger. If nothing else the excitement of the Pevensy residents as they greet you is more than rewarding. And also as they assist in the various stalls and sales points. Especially in the Pancake Gazebo. I only have to see Richard wielding frying pans for my mouth to begin to water. The Fete is one occasion when the NUD Community come together, farmers and townies alike, some to provide the attractive fare, others to buy. But all are there to raise funds for "our" unmatched institution, primarily fostered by the SANI ROUND TABLERS. The White Elephant Stall, or rather Hall, is unique. Generous people worked many hours to mark and set out the mountains of generous donations. And then they manned the tables, while the public searched for bargains, and left beaming. For many years Trish Anderson convened the fete but recently Ilene van Dyk has done the coordinating. The ex "Monday Ladies", Country Women, Church Groups, various businesses, Spar in particular, and individual volunteers like Gisela Glietenberg and Pud Turner, all contribute, selling crafts, plants, delicious eats, veggies and so on. Even Oakleigh Funeral Home who have a special "product" for Pevensy, were there handing out fudge and their interesting magazine. I was delighted to catch the Kearsney Choir. Casually dressed and so natural, their harmony and cleverly synced movements were a pleasure - no wonder they do so well internationally.



A big plus was seeing former Pevensy Board Chairman, Ian Davies, and his lovely wife Felicity, former Country Women Chair and valued Himeville H Book Club member. I do hope the takings will be as pleasing as the happy morning. What an honour to live in this caring community. **By Rae Higgins**



The white elephant market was held in the School hall

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**Ralph and Joanne Mills and Pete and Jacqui Huxham**

Back in February of this year, Jacqui had the bright idea of doing a motorcycle trip to Namaqualand to see the Spring flowers. We talked to our good friends Ralph and Joanne Mills and they were keen on the idea. What followed was months of research, planning the route and booking accommodation. Our BMW R1200 GSs were serviced and loaded with luggage and on the 16th August we headed off on our 10 day 3885 km adventure to see the daisies. And what an adventure it turned out to be! We headed for Barkly East as our first stopover and from there followed the road less travelled through some amazing places, some we'd never heard of. Lady Grey and the spectacular Cape Vulture Sanctuary, Bethulie, Loxton, Victoria West, Carnarvon, Vanrhynsdorp, Nieuwoudville, Kamieskroon and the Namaqua National Park then back to the Biedouw Valley past Clanwilliam. Our return trip took us back over part of the route to Carnarvon again then Colesberg, Springfontein, Bloemfontein, Ficksburg, Fouriesburg and our final night in Clarens where we stayed in Gypsy caravans and celebrated Jacqui's birthday in style.

You may be wondering whether we saw any flowers? Let me just say we certainly did and were not disappointed! Early rains ensured that they were in full bloom and the fields alongside the road were a mass of bright colours as far as the eye could see, as was the National Park near Kamieskroon. It was certainly worth the ride.

The roads varied from beautiful scenic tar that wound through some spectacular mountain passes to the long straight sections of the Free State to some sketchy corrugated and sandy dirt roads which kept us on our toes. If you ever want to really experience this beautiful country we live in you need to do it on a bike! Unlike being cocooned in a metal cage, on a bike you are one with the elements and fully exposed to all the



sights, smells and sounds of what's happening around you. We averaged about 7 1/2 hours a day on the bikes, including stops for fuel and food and arrived at our destinations in mid afternoon which left some time for exploring. We stayed in some wonderful accommodation and met some great people wherever we stopped. Everyone was super friendly and interested in where we were from and what we were doing and the loaded bikes drew a lot of attention. And they both ran flawlessly eating up the kms every day.

We took hundreds of photos along the way but unfortunately can't share

them all in a short article like this. We rolled back into Underberg on the 25th August, saddle sore and windswept but with a lifetime of memories after what was certainly an epic adventure. Time to plan the next one!

**By Pete Huxham. Photo: Jacqui in the namaqualand daisies**



At the recent AGM of the Himeville-Underberg Garden Club, **Ruth Crouch** was awarded Honorary Life Membership in recognition of her sterling efforts and commitment in heading up NUD Tidy Towns. Ruth started her Tidy Town mission in 2023 and has transformed many neglected areas of both Underberg and Himeville. The Garden Club donated a voucher to Ruth to help towards her ongoing work and projects. Thank you Ruth!

Well, we now are venturing into the last quarter of the year and the silly season will soon be upon us. Hence I have chosen not to do the Verge Competition at the end of the year like I did in 2023 and 2024. But I would like to encourage businesses and residents to still spruce up their outer premises. There are no street cleaners assigned to sweep gutters so it is so encouraging to see Andrew Burnett keep his gutters always swept in front of the building that houses Pep and Ackerman. May other businesses follow suite. It is the little things that make the difference. Many of those ineffective concrete bollards going out of Underberg towards Himeville have been destroyed. The white stones outside two businesses could either be repainted or removed. The three railway stop ends in Peoples Park all received a new coat of paint, thanks to the kind donation from Lloyd Rigen. Again it is those small acts of kindness that enable me to continue doing what I do and so hopefully Tidy Towns is making a difference. We venture onto Himeville where several gardens will be on view for OPEN GARDENS Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> (mine included) The Himeville museum is gearing up too as they will be the venue to sell the tickets. They plan to have a tea garden and The Underberg Country Quilters will have their quilts on show. A beautiful natural water feature has recently been created within the heart of the museum garden and there will be many a gardener who will be 'oohing and aahing' over it. The Museum Christmas fair will also take place there on the 29<sup>th</sup> Nov so if you are spring cleaning or you have any unwanted items, please do send them our way. Then I wish to make mention of the Himeville Arms where I saw Jamila, the manageress, rolling up her sleeves and painting the gum pole barricades, outside table was varnished, window frames painted etc.... Whistling Goat also recently got a makeover with a whole new deck, roof re-redone etc....

Last but not least the Old Magistrates House was the start and finish to the Tidy Town Colour Run. It was a fun filled day with adults, children and dogs walking or running the route. Mr Ndlovu, the Chief Traffic officer kindly provided a traffic escort. I appreciated all those who helped manning the paint stations and marshalling etc. A big thank to all who participated although we did miss the Pevensy residents this year. It was lovely to see folk walking along the dirt farm road with the row of oak trees alongside. They benefitted from the 2024 Colour run proceeds and this year it goes to the maintenance of the Grand Old Lady who was so thrilled to host such a happy event. Multi-talented Don Guy videoed the event and he certainly captured the festive spirit. Thank you Don.

I would love to implement an Underberg azalea project and a Himeville Cherry tree project but will leave that for a later date. I am also brewing on the idea of another Tidy Town Gumboot dance but early next year maybe in March. So Tidy Town will still be active for a while yet but I will have to call on and rely on your continued support.

**By Ruth Crouch TIDY TOWNS**

**Left:** All the trophy winners at the Underberg Primary school Athletics day where Hlogoma House won

**Right:** House Captains for Hlogoma, the winning house: Lexi Ekerold and Mason Wiggill. With guests of Honour Ryan and Nicolette De Beer

Junior Victrix Ludorum – Jessie Tarr

Senior Victrix Ludorum – Lexi Ekerold

Junior Victor Ludorum – Ross Ekerold



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PUBLIC NOTICE**

**APPLICATION IN TERMS OF CHAPTER 4 & SCHEDULE 4 OF THE DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA MUNICIPALITY SPATIAL PLANNING AND LAND USE MANAGEMENT BY-LAW, READ TOGETHER WITH THE DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY LAND USE SCHEME**

Notice is hereby given that the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality has received an application for the following:

**CONSENT IN TERMS OF THE DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA MUNICIPALITY LAND USE MANAGEMENT SCHEME FOR THE USE OF SOME OF THE EXISTING BUILDINGS AS A LODGE, INCLUDING BED AND BREAKFAST, ON THE REMAINDER OF PORTION 3 OF LOT FP 243 NO. 8704, ZONED AGRICULTURE 1.**

A copy of the application and its accompanying documents will be open for inspection by interested members of the public between the hours of 08h00 and 15h00 Mondays to Fridays (excluding Public Holidays) at the Reception, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality, Main Street, Creighton, 3263, for a period of 30 days, as from 19 September 2025 to 21 October 2025.

Comments or representations in respect of the application must be lodged or made in writing to the Municipal Manager at the above address, or at P.O. Box 62 Creighton 3263, or may be submitted by email, to the Town Planner, Mr S. Gwala at [gwalas@ndz.gov.za](mailto:gwalas@ndz.gov.za) before the end of the day on 21 October 2025.

Please note that the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Municipality may refuse to accept comments submitted after the closing date and that persons who did not comment on the application, will not have a right of appeal against the decision of the Municipality.

Mr N.C. Vezi  
Municipal Manager





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International markets have been attracting South African Investors for decades. Many South Africans want to invest overseas, many already have and thousands add to their overseas investments every year. The rewards are obvious. The returns are much higher, you harvest the diversification benefits from low correlations with emerging markets, foreign currencies are more stable and stronger (e.g. the Swiss Franc and New Zealand Dollar) and you obtain a level of political insurance.

Problematically most South Africans have the vast majority of their assets in South Africa and they are therefore denominated in rands. South Africa is classified as an emerging market and represents less than one percent of all investable markets. Conversely this means that more than 99 percent of the available universe of investments is ignored.

A further problem with emerging markets is that although at times they can show very strong growth, they all have a tendency to display extreme volatility. Circumstances can change quite rapidly as emerging markets mature and become sophisticated but they can also, unfortunately, experience devastating declines.

By moving some of your assets into mature markets (the United States, Europe and New Zealand), you gain the safety of diversification. Furthermore, you gain the opportunity to choose from a much wider asset class. Excellence and performance are not confined to a specific corner of the world. Superb managers work day and night wherever they may be and capitalize on every opportunity they find no matter where it is. If you search worldwide, you will find more growth investment opportunities that if you stick to only one country.

Of course, there are detractors, such as governments with exchange controls that discourage or forbid citizens to invest overseas. This, in itself, is a warning and should convince you.

As a country still striving to complete the democratization process and with a tax regime based on worldwide income, exchange controls have overstayed their welcome. Furthermore, how can we plausibly argue the viability of South Africa



as an investment destination when we do not have the courage to completely scrap exchange controls.

Investing overseas remains a complex matter. The investment universe is huge. There are approximately 40 000 mutual funds and 10 000 large capitalisation stocks. Opportunity ranges from stocks to bonds, hedge funds and thousands of derivative products.

Each investment opportunity needs to be studied to determine its place and appropriateness in terms of characteristics of risk and potential return.

Also, unlike South Africa, overseas countries have many different markets. The US, for example, has a number of stock exchanges that have different trading methods and services. The main US markets are the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the National Association of Security Dealers' Automated Quotations (NASDAQ).

The Nasdaq is typically home to high-tech companies and is totally computerised. Trading takes place via computers without a trading floor, similar to the system now used by the JSE.

The NYSE is home to the old economy smoke stack – type companies and operates in the old – fashioned way, where brokers and specialists trade on the floor of the exchange.

Notwithstanding the difficulty and trepidation of investing abroad, globalization increases daily. Foreign and local markets are increasingly integrated and investors who do not educate themselves and who are unfamiliar with international investments will find themselves at a growing competitive disadvantage.

When allocating investment capital, it is most important to stick to a trend against a back drop of emerging demographics. Studying these trends will immediately turn your focus on areas that are growing rapidly. The work from anywhere phenomenon, the increased competition for specialist staff, the increased stay at home emphasis, medical issues and an increased rate of obesity are just a few areas that are more significant now and must get more investment attention.

If you restrict your investment to South Africa, you will miss out on investments like Apple, Microsoft, Google, Facebook and Tesla. These companies are still great investments but there are many other smaller companies that are growing even faster.

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### HIMEVILLE-UNDERBERG GARDEN CLUB 15 October

Our next Garden Club meeting is on Wednesday 15 October 2025. This month we will be visiting Melissa Price-Moore's stunning and tranquil garden.

Our speaker is Isabel Johnson who is well known for the beautiful clematis that she grows and she will be enlightening us on the care thereof.

The meeting will start at 10h00 and end with teas and eats.

Visitors are welcome at a fee of R30.

Please remember to bring your hats and chairs. Happy Gardening! Spring in certainly in the air!



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## The Weight of Guilt: Feeling guilty in close relationships

by Heidi Kyle

Guilt is a heavy feeling – it really can weigh us down. In relationships it often manifests in the feeling that you're not doing enough, not giving enough, not being enough. For some people, this feeling becomes so pervasive that even in loving, supportive partnerships, they struggle to accept care without feeling indebted or anxious about reciprocating beyond what's healthy or sustainable.

As mentioned last month, this pattern often traces back to childhood experiences. Children who grew up in households where love felt conditional—tied to performance, caregiving, or meeting others' (eg adults/parent(s) emotional needs—may develop a deeply ingrained belief that their worth depends on what they provide to others. Perhaps they were the child who cared for a struggling parent, or learned that their own needs were secondary to keeping peace in the home or that they weren't important enough to have their own needs. Many adults who were raised in chaotic homes feel like this.

These early experiences create neural pathways that persist into adulthood. The child who once felt responsible for their parent's happiness may become the adult who can't enjoy their partner's generosity without feeling guilty, who apologizes excessively, or who gives until they're depleted because receiving feels selfish or uncomfortable.

In relationships, this manifests as chronic over-giving. These individuals might consistently prioritise their partner's preferences, are slow to ask for help, or feel guilty when they're not actively contributing something tangible to the relationship. They may interpret their partner's bad mood as somehow their fault or feel anxious during periods when they're receiving more support than they're providing.

The irony is that this guilt-driven giving often stems from love—both for their partner and from their partner. Yet it can create an imbalanced dynamic that leaves both people feeling disconnected. The guilt-prone partner exhausts themselves trying to earn love they already have, while their partner may feel shut out from opportunities to nurture and care in return.

Healing involves recognizing that this guilt isn't a character flaw but a learned response to early experiences. It requires gradually challenging the belief that love must be earned through constant giving. This might involve setting small boundaries, practicing receiving without immediate reciprocation, or learning to distinguish between genuine care for others and anxiety-driven over-responsibility.

Therapy can be particularly helpful in unpacking these patterns, but even small daily practices—like accepting a compliment without deflecting or allowing a partner to handle their own problems—can begin to rewire these deep-seated responses.

Ultimately, the goal isn't to eliminate all guilt or stop being generous, but to create space for mutual care where both partners can give and receive freely. If you are struggling with irrational guilty feelings it's important to discuss with your partner. It may be that you need to feel you have a space where you can reflect these feelings and not hide them in a welter of unnecessary activity.

Next month we will focus on specific ways we can start to alleviate the guilt that may pervade our lives.

by Heidi Kyle



# SANI COMMUNITY FORUM



BY: DISUNTER  
“THE BEAUTIFUL SPRING CAME, AND WHEN NATURE RESUMES HER LOVELINESS, THE HUMAN SOUL IS APT TO REVIVE ALSO.” HARRIET ANN JACOBS.  
Spring ignites in us all, a feeling of warmth manifesting in the rejuvenation of the soul, which instils in us a positivity to create new plans and projects for NUD.  
**THE SPRING COLOUR RUN.** The second Annual Spring Colour Run in Himeville, was another huge fund-raising success for Ruth Crouch, the TIDY TOWNS “Energizer Bunny!” Starting from the iconic “GOLD”



(Grand Old Lady Done Up) Historic Magistrates Building, the atmosphere of the Spring event was one of a family fun event of yesteryear. Some participants turned out on foot to run, some came on bicycles, some with dogs in tow for a Sunday Walk to the Cairn and back, and others like Beany Blake pedalled the distance with a son on the bike and nudging another son along on his own bike. What a fantastic day it was and a great annual event. Thank you to all those that organised this event and participating in this iconic fundraiser. Congratulations to Ruth Crouch for driving Tidy Towns.  
**SEMMIGRATION TO NUD:** AI gives us the following definition of Semmigration in South Africa. “It is the act of people moving from one region to another within the country, often from urban centres to coastal or smaller towns, to improve their quality of life. This internal migration

is driven by factors such as a desire for better safety and less crime, a higher quality of life, the ability to work remotely, and more affordable living conditions than larger cities. The trend, which accelerated after the Covid-19 pandemic, sees people seeking a less stressful, more balanced lifestyle away from urban congestion and poor service delivery.” NUD once again hit the headlines on so many social media platforms and print media, knocking the Western Cape off the top pedestal for the top “Semmigration destinations.” Not only are tourists flocking to our paradise, but the adventure sport enthusiasts are hot on their heels, exploring everything that NUD has to offer with the plethora of outdoor events to choose from. NUD is an exceptionally desirable place to live as our Estate Agents will attest to, with their shortage of stock available to buyers or for rent, reflecting these sentiments. Although property prices have soared, they are not on a par with the Western Cape. However, our properties offer excellent value for money in a very desirable place to live and work, or for business investment. But this elevation of NUD’s status to a top destination has been achieved by the hard-working community in a variety of spheres and on so many different levels, to make NUD the best it can be. Tidy Towns and Sani Community Forum have been the front runners in their community service endeavours, as too those of Adopt a Spot, Tourism and Giants Cup Animal Welfare, amongst others. Tidy Towns spin off is “Adopt a Spot” and it is something that every single resident can easily get involved in as their personal contribution to NUD. Fresh mountain air and sunshine will stoke the spirit to absorb the beauty of spring in our mountain kingdom and ignite the desire to make NUD the best town in South Africa. However, we do need the Municipality to play their role in enforcing the By-Laws, like it has been done in other municipalities to halt the urban decay. Broken and dangerous catchpits abound, traders monopolise the pavements’, broken lighting is not repaired, drug and alcohol abuse thrive, and public disobedience are all rife on our streets. Complaints fall on deaf ears. But the community organisations continue undeterred. Please support NUD.

## From The Saddle of Boot and Saddle

We would like to thank all the donors of sheep, donors of prizes, sponsors, participants, the Country Club and all other contributors and supporters for making the Annual MOTH Golf Day Fund Raising event a huge success. Without the community, we couldn’t do it, and we are look forward to putting what we raised back into the community through the various organisations that look after the community so diligently.  
We would like to invite everyone to participate in the upcoming Poppy Day event to be held on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November, look out for our collection point and collectors, wear the poppy with pride. We invite all to join us on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> November at the Himeville Cenotaph for the annual Armistice parade starting at 11h00 where the end of WWI is commemorated. Should you wish to have someone’s name read out at the memorial who fell in any war, please feel free to contact me and give me their name and where they fell so that we may remember them.  
We bid farewell to Gary and Jayne Smith as they depart for Riversdale and wish them well on their new adventure. Gary was the Old Bill for the Shellhole for the past two years and did great work on behalf of the Shellhole and the MOTH organisation.  
The MOTH organisation was started on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1927 by C.A.Evendon. He was a veteran of WWI and saw the need to support Veterans who had suffered physical and mental injury. The association was started in Durban and expanded nationwide and then internationally. What do we do as the MOTH?  
We firstly provide a safe environment for veterans to gather and socialise with individuals who have shared experiences. We provide financial support for some who need it and raise funds for good purposes. We donate to organisations locally that contribute

back into the community such as Nursing Services, Ambulance Services, the Museum and Tidy Towns. We assist individuals confidentially so as not to impinge on their dignity. We as an organisation are here to look after fellow Veterans and to contribute to the greater community where we can.  
We are always happy to welcome new members who are veterans, or should you wish to become involved, even though you have not served, or not served in combat, please feel free to contact the Boot and Saddle and see how you can become part of this worthy organisation.  
**Ivan Reynolds – Old Bill - Boot and Saddle**  
– 082 5300 935

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**Rotary Club of Underberg** wish to thank all sponsors, listed below. Their generous donations, contributed to a successful “Darts competition” fundraiser on 6 September 2025  
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# MANY WAYS TO SKIN A CAT

Hold on ladies ! Before the wonderful ladies of GCAW start sticking pins in my picture I don't mean that literally. Bear with me. Long before we had MRI, CT scans , PET, scans, ABC, EFG and all those fancy things ,vets were doing their best to help their animal patients. And overall with very good results. When I started working in JHB the vet in charge was using a Thomas Extension splint to fix femur fractures. This is a device made of fencing wire bent into the shape of the leg, padded and strapped to the led to hold it in extension while the bone healed. And although awkward for the dog to wear, it worked.

Not many vets were operating on spines in those days and we were still faced with many Dachsies and other long backed dogs with back problems. I found that if I gave strict rest and 3 injections of cortisone over a period of time many of them came right. In fact if you look on the internet today you will find many cases with just rest and pain relief will recover. Obviously if you have a total disc blow out with no sensation in the back legs this is far more serious and needs specialist help quickly. Years later when I was lecturing at Onderstepoort I wrote a paper with my case reports and results of these Dachsie cases. Unfortunately they first showed it to the surgeons who were horrified. There was whispering behind my back "He just wants to give them cortisone ". Shock ! Horror ! These surgeons only knew about operating and drilling away the roof of the spine to remove the prolapsed disc material. It often worked well but there was a long recovery period and nothing was guaranteed. I used to wonder when watching these operations what the long term effect of weakening the spine would be ?

This brings me to another common problem...cruciate ligament problems in knees. The cruciate ligaments are 2 ligaments in the knee that because they cross one another are called Cruciate ligaments. If a dog runs and turns sharply he can tear these ligaments. This is made worse if the dog is overweight, running on a slope or has

genetically bad bone structure. There then is sharp pain and lameness that follows. Again with a partial tear, strict rest and pain relief will help . With a full tear you need to think what the options are. Over the years many many different operations have been developed by some very clever people. For the vet some are easy to do and some are difficult to do. Some involve just stabilizing the joint, others replace the torn ligament with something else...we used to carbon fibre but that caused a lot of other problems and often had to be removed later. Then we used fascia . This was a strip of tendon like material cut from the dog's own thigh. This worked very well but was time consuming. I did many of these operation. Then nylon was used just to stabilize the joint. This was a lot easier and quicker. In smaller dogs this was very successful.

Later, fancy operations were developed involving changing the bone structure of the knee surface as it was felt this may be the root cause in bigger dogs especially. This is technically difficult to do and needs imported equipment and specialist knowledge and skill. But all this comes at a very high price.

Recently a vet in Westville has been promoting a procedure where he does not operate but instead injects into the knee where the torn ligament is. This results in the formation of scar tissue in the joint and so stabilizes the joint. He claims great success in all sizes of dogs and of course is a lot cheaper. I have seen successful cases in dogs and cats but have big reservations about using this method in a big dog. However if it fails you can always go back and operate to repair the ligament.

What I am getting at is that there are many different options..all with pros and cons and all having very different costs attached. So PLEASE be guided by your vet and do NOT be rushed into doing the most expensive operation first thinking it will be the best. This is often not the case.

Now for something completely different. When I was lecturing there

was an American student there who previously had worked on a horse ranch in the States and knew how to throw a lasso. Other students were always pleading with him to demonstrate his skill. I was there one day when he did this. Firstly I saw that the rope he used was stiffer than what we had used as kids trying to be cowboys. Secondly the rope ran through a leather T piece so these then combined to keep the loop open while the rope was being thrown. Anyway, he duly twirled the rope around his head in true cowboy style , looking for a target. We all expected his to throw it over a dustbin or something similar. But just at that moment one of the African grooms walked across the grass square in front of him. Before you could say "Buffalo Bill" He neatly dropped the rope over the groom and dropped him. We were all stunned !! "What are you doing ? Get the rope off his before anyone sees !!" Lucking no one was hurt and everyone disappeared

**By Llew Evans**  
**retired vet**

The moral ? Don't trust anyone twirling a rope over his head especially if he has an American accent.



## UNDERBERG FARMERS ASSOCIATION - OUT REACH. Growing Local farming together

Well, winter says goodbye and the harsh winds say hello. If you spend any amount of time outside, and most of us do, you will spend that time blinking to get the dust off your eyeballs. There have unfortunately been some unplanned fires. Putting people and properties at risk. Kudos to Community Watch for keeping us informed on all things fire and risk related.

To date we have put together nine training sessions at our dip tanks. Averaging two a month. This month we also supported another FMD awareness exercise by the Vet Department from Ixopo in the Ridge area. Radio and television have tried to get the message across; however, it is clear that there is a major disconnect on the urgency of getting this disease under control. Our work in these communities helps to keep us informed about any potential issues and reinforces our already robust networks. Soon we will be back to planting in Nkwezela. Apart from a few hiccups in the group out there, a few stern words and mild threats, we should be back on track to continue our exercise in no-till planting with them. Guy Taylor has again volunteered to help get them on track. The nduna's and community leaders in Nkwezela have seen our efforts and have been supportive of our interventions.

Reichenau Mission continues to confuse me with their hap hazard approach to farming. I occasionally get random requests for assistance.

No matter, we will continue to make an effort in getting them on track. Ultimately, we will need them to realise the tremendous value of their farm.

Our local municipal councillors have also been very supportive in all matters agriculture related. Cllr Mkhize is working hard to keep the cattle off the R617 near Bubble Creek Farm, and Cllr Ntshiza is always willing to support us when we work in the local communities.

It is not always easy bridging the gap between the public and private sector, however we are fortunate to have people on our side.

While crop farmers are slowly picking up the pace, our livestock farmers are storming ahead. With dip tanks now up to eighteen, and membership booming, they have big plans for their future. I'm guessing my little ramble last month triggered some deep thinking. Their bank account is growing and also the need for proper reporting to their members. One of their members is a retired auditor and has taken on the responsibility of getting their books in order. No outsourcing, no tenders, just in house solutions.

Their chairman has also expressed the need for a more central facility for their communal stock sales. Currently we all trek to Ndawana for these auctions, which makes certain areas unable to send livestock.

Member dip tanks will be presenting their proposals to the chairman at the next meeting. Highlighting their plans if the facility is constructed in their community. I like this. Everyone participating in the association and treating it like a business.

Another issue being highlighted by our frequent training sessions, is the quality of livestock at these dip tanks. This is pretty obvious to all of us; however, it has always been a problem convincing the small farmers to improve their herds and flocks. While imultaneously

being aware that they work with limited resources. Quality grazing and arable land are not always available. And working together

with your neighbours is the most difficult.

I could talk about good fences at this point, but there are no fences.

The livestock association is now working on a plan to reduce oxen, bulls and non-productive cows. And using the money from the sale of these animals to buy in quality heifers and bulls. We are still in the early stages of the plan; however, their minds are set. Every dip tank representative on their committee is working on a detailed census of their livestock. This data will allow us to add a value to the

project. I have been tasked to talk to some friends at the Harry Gwala Development Agency in Ixopo. Fortunately, I still have a few there from my Agri Parks days. With everyone working on their part of the plan, I think the chairman will be pleased. Closer to home. The UFA show committee is feverishly working on their plans. Be prepared for some fun in the sun with lots of excitement. It is set to be much louder, bigger and busy.

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



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QTY SUPPLIED	356
QTY SOLD	355
PERCENTAGE	99%
MAXIMUM PRICE	R30 900
MINIMUM PRICE	R3 500
AVERAGE PRICE	R16 844



**3RD - 5TH OCT**  
**DAILY ENTRY - R20**

**Friday Night**  
5:30pm - John Pooler Happy Hour  
6:30pm - Sani Round Table Directory Auction  
8pm - Bar & DJ Gwyn  
Friday Night entry Free

**Saturday**  
8am - Underberg School 2&5km Fun Run in Assoc with Spar  
8:50 am - Livestock Judging Starts  
9am - Horse Showmanship & Fancy Dress (Main Arena)  
10am - Q Magic Show (Main Tent)  
11am - Show Jumping & Gymkhana (Top Field)  
11:30am - 1:30pm - The Farmers Challenge (Main Arena)  
2pm - 4pm - That Beer Boat Race (Main Arena)  
4-6pm - Matthew Clement Live (Main Tent)  
6-8pm - Hayden & Gwyn  
7pm - Mechanical Bull Competition  
8- 10pm - Kickstands

**Sunday**  
8am - Youth Show  
11am - Pevensy vs Sani Round Table Cricket  
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Charming Country home with beautiful views of the mountains and farmlands. Situated at the end of a cul de sac this charming home offers 3 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, open plan living area with fireplace and kitchen with granite tops. The living area leads out onto a verandah to enjoy the entertaining lifestyle. Currently used as a self catering /holiday home. Price includes some furniture, inventory supplied on request.

CONTACT OUR AGENTS

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 Kathy Abbott 082 925 7983  
 Kerry Abbott 076 934 1487

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# PROPERTY SHOWCASE

## Underberg



**HIMEVILLE - R 2 395 000**  
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 This enchanting home nestled in a sprawling garden, embodies the allure of country living. Well maintained and fitted with modern conveniences, it offers a cozy and comfortable living experience.

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 Thatched cottage close to town. Featuring a lounge with Jetmaster fireplace, separate dining space and fitted kitchen. Ideal holiday escape or permanent home.

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**Khwezi Ngcobo**  
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**UNDERBERG - R 1 980 000**  
 2 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 2 GARAGES  
 We love this home on Fairmount Estate with panoramic Drakensberg views. 2 en-suite bedrooms, study with fibre, open-plan living areas. A perfect lock-up-and-go lifestyle.

**Jade Lloyd**  
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**UNDERBERG - R 3 890 000**  
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