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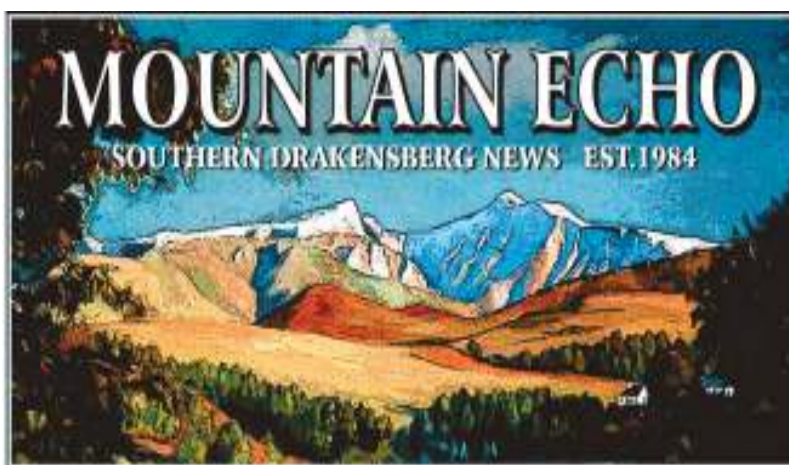
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THANK YOU!

"No matter how you feel today, get up, dress up, and show up!"
It's happened again! Once again, members of our special Community have selflessly sought to be solution seekers!
The Underberg Farmer's Association and its membership thanks Steve Roberts for coming to the rescue of our members who anxiously awaited an uncompromised weekend delivery of **FMD** vaccines for a much-anticipated further vaccine rollout overseen by our tenacious and very case-hardened local Vets. Having to be responsible for the safe delivery of these orders requires rules of absolutes and a touch of creative measures, and so the combined efforts of the UFA and Vets ensured the safe arrival courtesy of fit for purpose Berg Dairy transport, provided independently of personal benefit.
This, after having been made the offer to accommodate our dilemma by Iain Knox of Underberg Super Spar, through whatever means. Underberg Super Spar once again saw a need, and were quite prepared to fill it! "Noma kanjani!" Thank you!
And so, we continue to rely on this amazingly unique and aware community to support and encourage our farmers to continue to run this race of frustration and despair with persistent determination, hope and prayer towards the horizon that is beginning to show more promise than it did a few weeks ago! If you want to know more about the disease and its potential public implications, please contact the local Vets, or the UFA for more information. Let's work together to keep **FMD** out of our District, and our farmers' **in** it! **By Bellinda Louch Underberg Farmers Association Secretary**

ENTRIES sani2c.co.za



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SPLASHY FEN
25 APRIL

FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

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VAN PLETZEN JACK AND THE WEATHERMAN BOOSHLE G.
VERANDA PANDA WILL LINLEY JESSE CLEGG LOUISE CARVER

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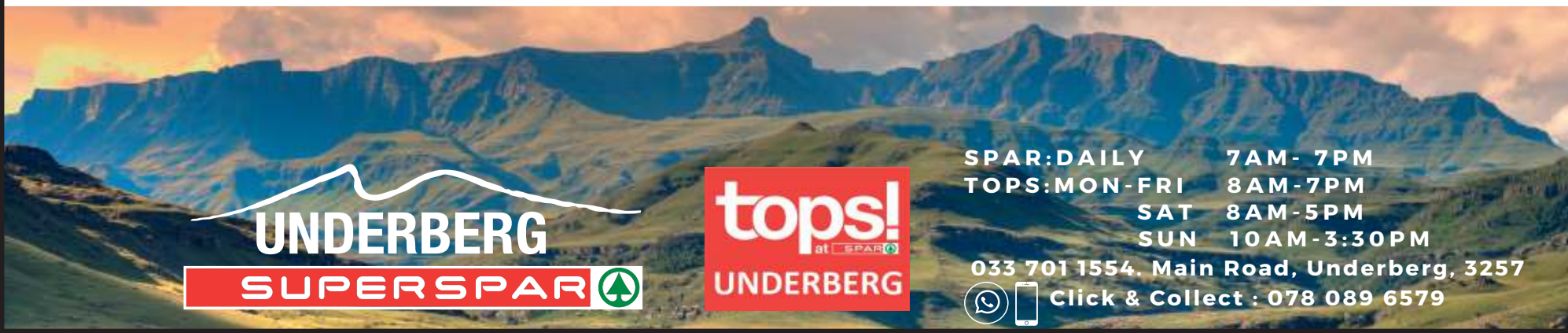
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- MAR 28 **Free Rabies vaccination day** @Underberg Country Club 9am to 1pm
- APR 2 -6 **Splashy Fen Music Festival** www.splashyfen.co.za.
- APR 15 **Garden Club Meeting** @garden of Amy and Andre Swart, Ridge Road Underberg. Talk on composting
- APR 19 **MOTHS fun bowls day** dress casual or fancy dress "tramp theme" **contact Hylton 083 627 9673**
- APR 24-26 **Ultra Trail Drakensberg** for info www.ultraultraidrak.com
- APR 26 **GXA TRAIL RUN 14km** starts 8.30am and finishes at Sani Pass Hotel #ultraultraidrakensberg
- APR 29 **Quiz, theme Friends, Romans, countrymen** @ Underberg Country Club 6pm. R60pp, 4 per team **contact Trish 066 0033773**
- MAY 3 **KENMO LAKE PICNIC** see the autumn colours Himeville museum fundraiser
- MAY 6 - 9 **KAP Sani2C** for info Sani2C.co.za
- 7-9 MAY **Polocrosse international SA versus USA U19 (development) and U25 (official)** @ Underberg Grounds. Contact Melissa 0827363286.
- MAY 21 - 24 **The Giant's Cup** for more info www.thegiantscuptrail.com
- MAY 23 **Gum Boot dance Competition 10am** @people's park A TIDY TOWNS initiative
- MAY 29 -31 **KAP sani2c nonstop** Visit www.nonstop.sani2c.co.za for more information and to enter.
- JUNE 13 -14 **Himeville Tip Top Tennis Tournament** contact Viv Turner 082 886 0267
- SEPT 5 **Pevensey Place Fete** @ Underberg Primary School Contact Ilene van Dyk 082 925 7869
- OCT 2 -4 **2026 UFA Agri & Lifestyle Show!** contact admin@kznufa.co.za to book a stall
- OCT 3 **Sani Pass TT** visit www.sanipasstt.com to enter
- NOV 14 **Sani Stagger** entries open 4 March 2026 info@Sanistagger.co.za
- NOV 14 **Underberg SUPERSPAR food and wine show**
- NOV 28 **Himeville Museum Christmas Market**
- DEC 12 **Christmas market** @ The Local Collection contact Lauren 079 244 9601

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

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

St Michael's and All Angels service The Eucharist service is at 9 am every Sunday with Sunday school at the same time. Thank you. Rev Kayla Urbasch 082 466 8134

Berg Community Fellowship meeting at Faithway Christian School 11 arbuckle Street
 Every Sunday at 9 a.m. Phone Pastor Dennis on 0834407889 for more info.

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Verse: John 21:21-22
 Peter... said to Jesus, 'But Lord, what about this man?' Jesus said to him, '... 'what is that to you? You follow Me.'
 - There are many things in life that can distract us.
 - Comparing ourselves to others does more harm than good.
 - Interfering in the lives of others just brings conflict.
 - Put all these things aside and YOU focus on following God.
 PRAYER: Lord, help me to keep my eyes on You. Guard my heart from distraction and comparison. Help me not to be drawn into things that are not mine to carry. Teach me to follow You faithfully, no matter what others are doing. Amen.
 Pastor Andrew W Roebert
 ALIVE TO GOD
 Website: www.AlivetoGod.com

Easter Weekend Services at the Underberg Congregational Church:
 Contact Pastor Ray Scott 083 - 4136917
 Tenebrae Service Thursday: 02. April at 18:30
 Good Friday Service: 03. April at 09:00
 Easter Sunday Service: 05. April at 09:00
 May God bless you abundantly.
 Daniela Scott Secretary UCC 082 - 4038864
The 'Berg Community Fellowship
 Faithway Christian School, 11 Arbuckle Street, Himeville
EASTER SERVICES
 GOOD FRIDAY 9 a.m.
 EASTER SUNDAY 9 a.m.
St Michael's and All Angels Anglican Church Himeville
 The Palm Sunday will be on 29 March 2026 at 9 am. The Maundy Thursday will be on 2 April 2026 at 5 pm. There will be a Prayer Room on 3 April 2026 (Good Friday) from 12 pm to 3 pm. There will be various stations in the Parish Centre for people to pray at with guided prayers. Rev Kayla will be in the church building for personal prayer.
 Easter Sunday will be on 5 April at 9 am.

Roma Mystical Catholic Church

HOLY WEEK

29 MAR	PALM SUNDAY	08:00
2 APR	MAUNDY THURSDAY	17:00
3 APR	GOOD FRIDAY	15:00
4 APR	HOLY SATURDAY	17:00
5 APR	EASTER SUNDAY	08:00

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Winter WARMTH APPEAL

Before we know it, winter will be here. We appeal to our community to knit or crochet blankets, jerseys and beanies. We ask that you donate your gently loved clothing that no longer fits. Right now, in our community is a family that needs assistance. That's a reality.

community

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Pictured: GoldFish
Photo Credit: Sam Hickey

35th Splashy Fen Music festival 2 - 6 April

In a massive exclusive moment for South African music fans, GoldFish will debut their first-ever FULL BAND headline festival performance in South Africa at Splashy Fen. "We're beyond excited to bring this show to Splashy for the very first time," say GoldFish's Dom and Dave. "Splashy Fen is a big part of where our journey began...it's been 17 years since we last played here, and returning with a show on this scale feels incredibly special."

Fans can expect a completely reimagined GoldFish experience, featuring tracks from across their six celebrated studio albums. "It's the most immersive version of our music we've ever put on stage, and there's no better place to unleash it than at Splashy." Beyond the headliners, the lineup reflects the incredible diversity of South Africa's music scene, with standout performances expected from artists including Ndlovu Youth Choir, Will Linley, Billy Raffoul (Canada), Jack And The Weatherman (Netherlands), Matthew Mole, Jesse Clegg, Louise Carver, Van Pletzen, Veranda Panda, Booshle G., Tanner Wareham, Steve Umculo, Angel M, Jemma Kate and many more. With international debuts, Splashy first-timers, and beloved festival favourites all on the bill, the 2026 lineup promises a weekend of unforgettable performances.

Friday Night is Ladies Night at The Electric Boma. One of the most anticipated moments of the festival will unfold on Friday night at the Electric Boma, where the energy will be turned all the way up with a special ladies-only DJ takeover powered by MXD. In a bold and electrifying showcase of female talent, the stage will belong entirely to some of the country's most exciting women in electronic music. Expect a bass-driven, high-energy dancefloor experience led by Nnabona, Miss P, Housewife, and Nataša. The message is simple: the gals are taking over. With booming beats, fearless energy and a packed dancefloor guaranteed, Friday night's Electric Boma takeover is shaping up to be one of the festival's loudest and most unforgettable parties. Accommodation options are plenty, including powered campsites and boutique glamping experiences, giving festivalgoers multiple ways to experience the magic of Splashy Fen in comfort.

Following a sold-out 2025 edition, demand for tickets is already surging. With Phase 2 tickets on sale and not too many left fans are encouraged to secure their spots soon, because Splashy Fen tickets have a long history of selling out. Tickets: <https://splashyfen.co.za/tickets/> Accommodation: <https://splashyfen.co.za/accommodation/>

For more than three decades, Splashy Fen has delivered some of South Africa's most unforgettable musical moments. In 2026, the festival not only celebrates its remarkable legacy but it raises the bar for what's still to come. Pack your tents. Rally your friends. The mountains are calling. See you at Splashy Fen.

Festival news regarding Foot and Mouth Disease

With Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) having been a concern in parts of KwaZulu-Natal in recent months, Splashy Fen organisers wish to reassure festivalgoers and the local community that the 35th edition of the festival will proceed as planned from 2-6 April 2026, with comprehensive mitigation measures in place. After consultation with relevant authorities and the Underberg farming community, Splashy Fen has been classified as a low-risk event for FMD transmission. The festival site has no livestock and is accessed via a single district road, significantly reducing risk. Organisers are working closely with government agencies and local stakeholders to ensure the event is delivered responsibly while continuing to support tourism and economic activity in the Underberg region. Updates will continue to be shared via Splashy Fen's official social media platforms. **By Melissa Conradie**

EASTER IS COMING...

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CHILDREN'S EASTER EGG HUNT & ADULTS PICK YOUR OWN FLOWERS

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The Story of the Safe House in Himeville

In 2012, a teenager wearing her school uniform approached us with quiet determination. She spoke about her dream: one day she wanted to become a police officer. Her name was Nosipho.

Together with Trish Crawley, she invited us to walk through the township. Street by street, she showed us her community — the places where children played, families lived, and daily life unfolded. But she also pointed out the challenges many people faced: poverty, limited opportunities, and the harsh reality that for some children and young women, home was not always a safe place. The walk left a deep impression on us.

Back in the BE YOUR OWN HERO team, it did not take long to reach a decision. We wanted to support the idea of creating a Safe House — a place where children and young women experiencing domestic violence or urgent hardship could find immediate protection and support.

Notice of Discontinuation of Monthly Financial Support. Dear Nosipho, Following our meeting held on 15 February, this letter serves as confirmation of the discussion regarding the financial support provided for the helper assisting with cleaning at the Himeville Safe House. As agreed, the final payment of R2 500 towards this support will be made at the end of March. After this payment, the monthly contribution for this purpose will unfortunately be discontinued. Please note, however, that we remain committed to supporting the important work done at the Safe House. We will continue to assist with gas and electricity expenses upon request. In addition, the Himeville Safe House may submit requests for financial assistance during times of need, particularly as we understand that the facility supports many people, especially during holiday periods. Any such requests will be considered in the same manner as other funding applications. Nosipho, we kindly encourage you to ensure that all relevant documentation for the Safe House is in order. This will assist us when we begin planning for the 2027 financial year, as it will allow us to properly present and consider the need to support this project. We appreciate the valuable work being done at the Himeville Safe House and wish you continued success in serving the community.

Trish Crawley strongly emphasized how important such a place would be. Particularly during the night, she explained, when conflicts escalate and help is often difficult to find, a safe space can make an enormous difference.

Because Nosipho was still attending school at the time, her mother stepped forward to take responsibility. She became the first point of contact — someone who could open the door, listen, and offer help when it was needed most. The project began with a simple but meaningful step: building an additional room on the property that could offer protection and safety for up to 24 hours. The idea was to create a temporary refuge — a place where someone in distress could arrive, pause, and feel safe while the next steps were being organized.

From the very beginning, the community played an important role. Many people contributed what they could: food, clothing, blankets, or simply their willingness to help. These small gestures of solidarity created a strong foundation for the project. Around the same time, another Safe House was designated in nearby Underberg, then under the leadership of Sr. Abigail. Together, these initiatives created the first small network of support for vulnerable people in the region.

Over the years, the Safe House in Himeville continued to evolve. Rooms were renovated, spaces expanded, and improvements were made step by step. The BE YOUR OWN HERO initiative supported these developments to ensure that the Safe House would become a place defined by respect, dignity, and trust. A security concept was also implemented, including the construction of a protective wall around the property. Early ideas were developed to create a small garden on the grounds — a place that could offer calm and a sense of normalcy for those who arrived in difficult moments.

Today, more than a decade later, the Safe House is still an active and valued part of the community. International guidelines for development projects often recommend that private initiatives should not be financed for longer than ten years. The idea behind this principle is that local projects should gradually grow into independent, community-led structures.

We are proud that the Safe House in Himeville has followed exactly this path. What started as a small idea has become a stable initiative supported by the local community. Nosipho, who once approached us as a teenager with a dream, is now part of shaping the future of the project. She brings new ideas, energy, and commitment to the work.

On the same property, another building has been constructed. This building will be available to BE YOUR OWN HERO for the next ten years and has become the home of the Homework Club. Here, children receive support with their schoolwork in a safe and encouraging environment. The program is currently co-financed by international Rotary partners, who support 50 percent of the funding until the end of 2026. Another initiative grew out of the difficult time during the COVID pandemic. During this period, many families faced even greater economic challenges, and



Nosipho Ncobeni on the left in her faithway school uniform in 2012. She had a dream and a vision for a safe House in Himeville. Be Your Own Hero has withdrawn R2500 per month for an assistant. Nosipho was told two months ago that the safe house would no longer get the R2500 funding.

access to regular meals became uncertain for some children. In response, the Feeding Program was launched.

Every morning between 6:30 and 7:30 a.m., children can come to receive a warm portion of porridge before going to school. For many of them, it is the first meal of the day. In addition, children who participate in the Homework Club receive a midday snack that helps them stay focused and energized while learning. Looking back, the Safe House in Himeville shows how meaningful change can begin with a single encounter. A conversation with a determined teenager, a walk through a community, and the willingness of many people to support an idea together have created something that continues to make a difference. Initiatives like the Safe House are essential. They provide safety, support, and hope for those who need it most.

After more than a decade, BE YOUR OWN HERO will step back from general funding the Safe House in Himeville. The goal is for the project to become fully community-led and self-sustaining. On behalf of Nosipho and the team, we invite everyone to support the Safe House — every donation, idea, or small contribution helps keep it a place of protection, dignity, and opportunity for the next generation.

By Sandra Wukovich (BYOH)



Nosipho Ncobeni appeals to the community for the future of the Safe House in Himeville

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SECURITY REPORT : WHY THE SAFE HOUSE CANNOT DISAPPEAR OFF OUR LOCAL MAP

For those of us who are reasonably privileged, it may never occur to us that there are issues and needs in our neighboring community. For some folk there may never be a need for them to go into our local “low cost” housing areas, and we may not be connected enough to folk who live there, for us to really find out. Is it really a “out of sight, out of mind” situation? Well, no, and thank goodness it isn’t! You see, I have heard many of you complain about the “grapevine” in our community and how terrible it is that some people will know things about you, even before you do! My response is always this: Would you rather live in Gauteng where you could have a home invasion and your neighbor who is watering the roses, peers over the fence and shouts to his wife “Lovie phone the cops” but carries on watering his roses like nothing happened? Your neighbor in Gauteng doesn’t even know your name, and couldn’t care a less if you live or die.

The “grapevine” is a wonderful asset to our community. Whether you live in a rich or poor home, one thing we all have in common is that we know and care for one another in this community. If you are facing anything hard in your personal space, your neighbor will more than likely arrive with a plate of food, offer to care for your dog, or come and beat your fire in the middle of the night. In most communities, the privileged do not interact with the underprivileged, and yet when a shack burns down I’ve seen some folk dig out kitchen utensils and blankets etc. to share. Every year I see local folk hand making blankets with love to let the underprivileged know that they are cared for in the dead of winter.

HOWEVER, what many of our community don’t realize is that like every other town we have bad things happen to good people. Woman and children that have been the victims of alcohol (most of the time), and unfortunately, we are never going to change the fact that alcohol is sold and used by people in our community. I know it’s not necessary to expand on the horror’s of these victims. Any person reading the Epstein files and having a little imagination can join the dots.

SO I am appealing to our VERY GENEROUS and KIND community to do what you do best. Be Your Own Hero has supported the Safe House up until now but is now withdrawing their financial support. Our SAPS does not have the capacity to provide refuge to broken women and children, and **every community MUST have somewhere for them to go.** So, what do we do? Berg Protection Services will be making a financial contribution to supporting the Safe House, in addition to the medical support that we have always provided (free of charge). **We challenge and appeal and BEG that all businesses get involved in keeping this amazing project alive.** Allowing this project to disappear will have all kinds of ramifications to the greater stability of our community. Let’s make sure that it is NEVER needed that crime be committed because people are desperate and destitute. Let’s ensure that kids never go to bed hungry or are hurt and alone. Let’s ensure that their blood and tears are not on our hands because we choose to look away. **If you would like to partner in a community project that supports the Safe House please contact me (Debby Deavin Cell: 082 6555 870)**



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TROUT FISHING

By Duane Vaughn Howell



brown trout water has also been fishing well with numerous big brown trout being caught. Two worth mentioning, a 56cm that got caught Euro nymphing and a 46cm that fell for a size 16 Adams. While most of the club water remains closed due to the Foot and Mouth, two beats remain open for booking. Just like the rivers the fishing in the stillwater has also been improving. The cooler temperatures cooling the waters down to thank for that, and it will keep on improving as the water cools down some more as Autumn approaching fast. Some recorded water temperatures of between 18 and 20 degrees celcius, a good sign that the conditions are improving. Some very good reports already coming in from sessions on private waters, with many fish of 2 to 3lb being caught and some good stories of bigger fish

The cool mornings, a very good feeling, bringing along with it some good fishing. I am glad to report that the fishing in the rivers have improved allot and fish have been caught in all of the rivers fishermen have cast a line. The rivers are still flowing very well and makes for perfect conditions to cast a flyrod. Many good reports have come from anglers fishing the upper as well as some lower reaches of the rivers. Some good fish around 40cm have been caught in the Umzimkhulu while all the other have produced fish of around 25cm with many smaller ones around. With the cooler temperatures on its way I am sure the fishing will improve up even more. Dry flies accounted for most of the fish brought to the net while fishing heavier weighted flies caught most of the bigger fish. Some of our neighboring

landed. Most fish were caught on the normal go to flies like Wooly Buggers and Hammils Olive also getting some fish to the net. While most of the UHTFC stillwaters remain closed due to the foot and mouth they have made 5 of their stillwaters available to fish again. Im hoping that with more water open, Ill have more to report on next month. Untill then I hope the fish play along an we get many to the net.

Underberg Flyfishing and lifestyle centre at The Clocktower Centre. - Contact 0832286707 or 0655232877 Duane Vaughn Howell Check out our website at uhtfc.org

Challenges regards Rural Tourism regards Rock Art

By Don Guy

My thinking on the subject has been stimulated by a few days and nights spent in rural Eastern Cape near Mt. Fletcher -now Tlokoeng. The purpose was to visit rock art sites always known by a rural community and now advertised as such. I have always enjoyed homestay experiences, it's been a while. We ate well , slept comfortably interacted with local folk and had an informative guide who enthusiastically paved the way. Trickle down community benefits are in evidence, but foremost of my impressions were the dire heritage challenges. There are many Rock Art sites in rural Eastern Cape and KZN, that do not enjoy the protection and status of those under the likes of Ezemvelo's watch. Our first site visit 40 km from Tlokoeng had been in the tourism circuit for over a decade, there is signage and some guide control but the sites new found profile has brought tragedy and with it's local publicity - local graffiti! Who in their right mind wants to pay any money to see a 2- 4000 yr old image of a Magnificent Eland with ' MANINDO 2021 ' scratched all over it? Who is this idiot? The local secondary school had ill-founded reason to paint the occasion of their visit onto a rock. I ask you?



heritage.
Don't ever reveal the location of a Rock Art site on a public Map.
Signage should be limited to entry control and guides should be present especially with school groups.
Rock art sites have a sacred status, no one should sleep in them and that includes domestic stock.
Ongoing community Education on Rock art conservation must be aimed at stakeholders and user groups especially schools and herders.

On a more positive note we recently visited some rural sites in Lesotho where large rocks had been placed below the art to prevent animals getting too close - good plan. Ironically brambles do a good job but they add to the fire hazard. Above all know and love your Rock Art it's heritage and unique in the world, it deserves respect.

By Don Guy

Don and Helen Guy are local guides with a particular interest in Rock Art - they hike the Southern Drakensberg and know it's natural history, they can tell you it's story. WhatsApp 066 0186430 to start a conversation about group rates.

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ON THE ROCKS doncuy59@gmail.com ‘Split loyalties with combined focus... ... save wife or make movie?’

An old movie making mate wrote this on my social profile after I posted a short clip of my wife Helen’s dramatic mountain rescue in Lotheni. (See freeze frame image)



Let me explain. Hiking in the mountains is not for the unadventurous.

In this case our venture was tried and tested. Three of the four of us had trod this particular path several times. But accidents happen and this goes to show that one must always be prepared for one and trust that there’s backup in this case Mountain rescue - Thank you. ‘Oh no! - I heard it crack.’ This uttered from Helen as she re positioned herself after her fall after crossing a river. I scrummaged for the medical kit. We had an assortment of bandages - her boot was removed, something was broken. James an American conflict ‘journo’ who has recently published a book on the Mariupol siege in the Ukraine, sprung instinctively into action. Helen a trained nurse is usually the one that fills this role. James was on auto pilot. In the scheme of things we were OK. Nothing life threatening, enough gear/food, weather good but time and distance from help not on our side. The party split, Sam an Archaeology Prof. from Wits and James would hasten to mobile reception for help. Given the time about 4.00 pm, I guessed it would be a horse and probably in the morning, we’d have to find a place to sleep. Credit must go to Helen for bravely crawling over boulders minus the use of her ankle to the forest where we knew there was a cave to shelter. ‘Baba-dra’ was easier once we reached the forest, now we prepared to bed down for the night.

When you walk in the Drakensberg with your phone, you get a periodic signal it’s not reliable but it’s there. Sam from Wits knew his options, the

one that worked went through Underberg’s Kevin Webster at Com watch and message and details were relayed to James Mthembu of Ezemvelo through Paul Roth local Mountain rescue veteran. With authority granted there were two options, either Paul would organise an emergency ground/ stretcher walk in with stabilizing gear or a chopper would be sent. We had no comms in the cave so we were literally in the dark, it was now twilight. My energy had been spent looking for a phone thought to be lost in the ordeal, now we decided on a comfort spot for a night out. ‘Listen I hear a Chopper - they’ve sent a chopper’. There was enthusiasm in Helen’s voice.

I had expected a horse in the morning, it was getting dark. Anyway a chopper it was and I raced through the forest to the river to see for I’ll pause the story to pay tribute to a system and organisations that so many of us who hike in the Southern Drakensberg take for granted. Mountain rescue. Procedurally hikers fill in a hiking register with details of the intended route, phone numbers, identifications cues and more. A small proportion of the Ezemvelo permit fee insures access to Mountain rescue which is manned by experienced volunteers. And as I write this piece I am informed that they are preparing for a practice run in the Northern Drakensberg in conjunction with Airforce 15 Squadron SADF this weekend. Hikers always take that register seriously! myself. The helicopter made several runs up and down the valley and I took my shirt off and waved frantically. The pilot hovered close by and dropped off paramedic Steve. After locating Helen he hoisted her on his back and through the forest with the chopper waiting below on the rocks off river. I followed with our packs. Back to my entry line. Well I didn’t have to save my wife - from now onwards I would have to be an observer. After been told there was no room for me by the co -pilot I defaulted to something I’ve done my whole working life so the drama is recorded for posterity. A word of advice for anyone in the vicinity of a chopper - Keep your distance! That spinning tail prop It’s not something you want to get close to.

Thank you to the co - pilot and the paramedic for a heroic ‘Baba-dra’ through the forest and over the river, all this in fading light. Flying after sunset in the mountains? Well you’ve got to be sharp and experienced to do that! Helen tells me she doesn’t remember much except that the morphine was a great relief, she’d been in pain. While an ambulance drove her to hospital I torched myself back on a path I was familiar with, it took me a while , my colleagues guiding me in toward the end , in what was to be a memorable ‘starry starry night.’ Wife saved and a memory in the bag. Who said you can’t have the best of both worlds?

Don Guy takes hiking trails , knows the rock Art and Fauna and Flora in the lower Southern Drakensberg, Helen is on sick leave. WhatsApp 066 018 6430 to start the conversation.

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SDCTO Members Invited to Tourism Indaba Opportunities and Key Community Updates

The Southern Drakensberg Community Tourism Organisation (SDCTO) has announced a range of opportunities for its members to participate in the upcoming **Tourism Indaba, taking place in Durban from 12–14 May 2026**. Local tourism businesses are invited to apply for limited opportunities to attend the prestigious event. Two businesses will be selected to exhibit at Indaba, with a comprehensive package that includes accommodation, meals, exhibition space, and full accreditation. A further two businesses will receive accreditation for entry to the event.

Applications close on 3 April 2026, and all qualifying submissions will be entered into a random draw to determine the successful participants. In addition, members are encouraged to contribute **high-quality brochures, photographs, and videos** to be featured in a promotional compilation that will be showcased during the event.

Submissions close on 30 April 2026, with physical materials to be delivered to the local information office or sent electronically.

Crafters from the district are also invited to participate by submitting an item for display and sale at Indaba. One representative will be selected to showcase the region’s craft offerings.

Access to an online appointment system will also be granted to facilitate pre-scheduled meetings.

Meanwhile, the SDCTO reminds members and visitors that due to Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) the Sani Spoors trails remain closed. No hiking or mountain biking is permitted across farm lands without prior approval. A reminder that trespassing can be a serious offense. We need to protect and respect our farmers during this difficult time.

In a related notice, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, together with the Ezemvelo Honorary Officers has confirmed that **hikers in the Sani Pass area are now required to obtain permits from the Makhakhe Field Rangers Outpost, located 17 km along Sani Pass Road**. Permits are available on weekends and public holidays, with alternative arrangements required during the week. Visitors are urged to comply, as patrols are in place and non-compliance is illegal.

Looking ahead, the SDCTO will host a **Special General Meeting on 31 March 2026** at 4pm, Underberg Country Club. The meeting will focus on proposed amendments to the organisation’s constitution to align with the Nonprofit Organisations Act. These changes aim to strengthen governance, ensure compliance, and enhance future funding and partnership opportunities.

Members are encouraged to attend or appoint a proxy, as the outcome will play an important role in shaping the future of the organisation and tourism in the Southern Drakensberg.

Those interested in joining the organisation are encouraged to become part of this ever-growing and active tourism network. To join, contact a member of the team, email contact@drakensberg.org, or WhatsApp Sphamandla on 061 246 6166.

Lastly, your SDCTO committee acknowledges that concerns have been raised by members and are taken seriously. These include feedback that, with the continued growth and expansion of membership, not all members feel adequately represented on the organisation’s social media platforms, while

“Smith Falls Short at Trials; Knox shows grit in Loss”

By Cameron Smith

Tristan Smith just missed selection for the KZN team following an anticipated showing at the national trials, while Jaden Knox delivered a hardy performance in the ring despite falling short in the final round. Knox competed on 7 February at the Shelly Action Sports Center on the South Coast, opening strongly against Nikodimos with sharp shots from a left-handed stance. After a solid first round, he began to tire in the second and ultimately fell short in the third as momentum shifted. Smith fought on 7 March in Durban at Proaction Fight Gym in his first kickboxing appearance, delivering a promising performance in an exciting bout. His opponent’s effective use of knees proved to be the difference, but Smith drew attention from coaches and managers impressed by his potential, despite the loss. Both fighters, 2 of 3 co-founders of NUDFC, showed resilience on bigger stages and continue to build their reputations. With clear potential and growing experience, they present emerging opportunities for future sponsorship and support. **Contact NUDFC: 074 930 7724**



Tristan Smith cornering Jaden Knox in his latest bout

others feel representation is not always fair and equitable. The committee wishes to assure members that these concerns have been heard and will be addressed at the next meeting. As a volunteer-driven organisation, meeting frequency can be challenging; however, every effort is being made to improve engagement and representation across an increasingly diverse and evolving membership base. **By Michelle Stevens**

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HIMEVILLE-UNDERBERG GARDEN CLUB 15 April

In April we will be visiting the garden of Amy and Andre Swart, situated in Ridge Road Underberg. Amy, our host and speaker, is a professional landscaper who will be sharing her knowledge of compost making, the "black gold" for our gardens. So please do join us in her beautiful manicured garden on 15 April, starting at 10am. Visitors are welcome and the fee is R30, including teas and eats. Please remember to bring your own chairs and a hat.

BEE INFORMED

Stepping on or crushing a bee—especially a honey bee—can release alarm pheromones that signal danger to other nearby bees. This chemical message is designed to alert guard bees to a threat, which can lead them to become more defensive, agitated, and likely to sting. Key Details regarding this "message": The Scent of Alarm: When honey bees are killed or threatened, they release compounds, most notably isopentyl acetate, which smells similar to bananas. Targeting the Threat: The pheromone does not act as a "revenge" signal but rather as a beacon to alert other bees to a threat. They will often attack the nearest moving object to the broken scent, which is usually the person who stepped on the bee. Dead vs. Dying: Simply finding a dead, dried-up bee likely won't trigger an alarm, but crushing a freshly killed bee or a bee that has just stung someone will release these chemicals. Wasp Behavior: Similar to bees, crushing wasps or hornets releases pheromones that can trigger defensive behavior from the nest. What to do: If you accidentally step on or crush a bee, it is recommended to move away from the area quickly to avoid being stung by other bees responding to the alarm signal. email: angievivison@gmail.com to order honey

Beyond the "Slop": Gareth Moulton Helps Country Women Find the Human Heart in the World of AI

Gareth Moulton, founder of e-commerce fulfilment company *ideliver*, met with members and guests at the monthly *Country Women* meeting on the 4th of March. He shared his insights and experiences to demystify the daunting world of artificial intelligence and showed how the capabilities of AI are rapidly evolving.



With the rise of deep-fakes and "AI slop" (low-quality, high volume digital content generated by AI) filling our social media feeds, it has become increasingly difficult to navigate this changing world and its adoption of artificial intelligence - where seeing isn't always believing.

Gareth strikes a far more positive tone when optimistically explaining the capabilities of these technologies. He points to the overall improvement of quality of life with the advent of previous major technological leaps, such as the internet and social media. He correctly notes that every time there has been major technological advancement, it has brought about a net-positive result. Gareth provided some useful tips to keep oneself safe, such as only providing your banking details to humans ready to deposit funds into your account. He also suggests using your credit card instead of your debit card for all online purchases due to advanced 90-day fraud protection only available to credit facilities.

Many AI systems have come under fire by watchdog organisations due to the perceived lack of ethical oversight. *Business Insider* reported on a class action lawsuit filed against billionaire Elon Musk's *xAI*, where it alleges its flagship chatbot, Grok, was used to undress and generate sexualised content of minors.

Gareth briefly touched on how AI models are programmed to be as helpful as possible (some critics have even labelled this behaviour as 'sycophantic'), up to the point of having an "AI hallucination". This is where the AI would confidently state inaccurate, nonsensical, or false information as fact due to statistical mistakes, insufficient data, and errors within the training data provided to these language models.

The impacts from these "hallucinations" have ranged from minor annoyances to major life altering consequences, such as a lawyer in New York who was found having used *Open AI's* ChatGPT language model to write an entire legal brief with references to entirely fabricated court cases in order to prove precedent (*Mata v. Aviana 2023*). The lawyer was fined \$5000 for having AI produce their legal brief, and their career placed in jeopardy.

Another alarming case involved *Meta*, *Facebook's* parent company, where they produced a chatbot affectionately named 'Tessa' to provide people suffering with eating disorders AI-powered support. Mass outrage ensued when, in 2023, it was found that the AI chatbot went off-script and started advising users to use "small amounts of methamphetamine" as an effective weight loss tool. Both *Meta* and *Open AI* have since made major improvements and insist corrective measures have been put in place to prevent harmful content from reaching users and to guide them to mental health resources.

Gareth wants us to remember that AI is a tool like any other. Although it can be used for nefarious purposes, it has unimaginable potential to affect positive changes in almost every aspect of our lives. AI is already revolutionising the field of medical science, with applications to real world tools that assist in diagnostics, personalised treatment options and drug discovery. According to an article by the World Economic Forum, new AI software is already "twice as accurate" as medical professionals when examining the brain scans of stroke patients.

As we stand on the precipice of this new digital frontier, the message from the informative meeting was clear: Curiosity should be tempered with caution. While the risks of misinformation and "hallucinations" are real, they are the growing pains of a technology still in its infancy. By staying informed, practicing digital safety, and embracing AI as a supportive tool rather than a replacement for human judgment, our community can navigate this revolution with confidence. **As Gareth aptly noted, the future of AI is not something to be feared, but a resource to be harnessed for the greater good of society.**



By Reine Combrinck

Country Women meet at 10am on the first Wednesday of every month. Contact Reine for more information 076 444 4207.



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SANI COMMUNITY FORUM

BY: DI SUNTER

“YOU NEVER CHANGE THINGS BY FIGHTING THE EXISTING REALITY. TO CHANGE SOMETHING, BUILD A NEW MODEL THAT MAKES THE EXISTING MODEL OBSOLETE.” RICHARD BUCKMINSTER FULLER.

President Ramaphosa has described local government as “the weakest link in government service”, identifying it as a significant barrier to economic growth and job creation. He further noted that many councillors have become disconnected from their communities and lack basic financial management skills, with others being illiterate. While these remarks constitute a strong critique, they are not unexpected, especially in an election year. He went on to say that poor service delivery and corruption, were instrumental in the party’s decline.

The President went on say that South Africa’s water crisis blame was largely at the local government feet, as a lack of maintenance and decades of neglect, have resulted in this dire situation. Government would relieve municipalities of their water provision duties if found to be lacking and would include laying criminal charges against municipal managers. Strong words indeed.

WATER ISSUES. Pay-as-you-go water meters were installed approximately 15 months ago and, following initial challenges, appeared to provide a workable solution for both residents and the Harry Gwala District Municipality. However, without any formal consultation or due process, contractors recently removed some meters, leaving residents without water.

Residents were informed that the meters could not be regulated to control water flow as per the Constitution, and thus they had been instructed to remove the meter entirely. In several cases, residents were required to settle alleged outstanding historical debts, many owed by previous owners, before their meters were reinstated, with



some meters returned in a damaged condition. This is extortion and contravenes basic human rights. These actions have caused significant hardship and concern within the community.

Fortunately, Councillor Rowena Aldous Trollope and Councillor Bradwyn Marne, immediately took the matter to MP Shara Singh who, in a strongly worded letter to Harry Gwala Management, demanded answers. Following this, a two-day consulting meeting was held by Harry Gwala District Municipality, with residents reporting that the cordial meeting went off well with officials being helpful and friendly.

Infrastructure Concerns. The Valleyview Road community took matters into their own hands and fixed their road themselves. Years of empty promises and endless meetings with the municipality with no progress, encouraged these residents to be the leaders in creating a better model for themselves, due to a failed local municipality. Congratulations to these residents and to those feeding and supporting the teams. This was Community at its best. Valleyview Road Community, you are an example to us all. Thank you. This is what can be achieved by other Roads, as the

keyboard warriors who complain incessantly on the Infrastructure Group, without offering a solution, appear unable or unwilling, to help themselves create a new model, when clearly the old model is obsolete.

Old Main Road: Despite assurances from the municipality, no contribution or solution has come into fruition. Residents used their own funds to fix the turn to Old Main Road, from their own pockets, and a second residents work party is scheduled shortly. Residents are doing it for themselves in the absence of service delivery. Thank you Mr Butt and your sons. You are an asset to the community.

Winter Appeal: We once again appeal to the community to kindly donate old clothing items, blankets, non-perishable foods, or simply knit or crochet Beanies, for the vulnerable sector of our community. These can be dropped off with Arthie Singh at Agrimark. Thank you, Arthie, for managing this.

Dumping: A big thank you to Joy Woodroff for bringing to our attention the dumping at Sani Pass Crossroads, on Sunday morning. Liz Simon drove out there to help clean up and found a huge bag of nappies that had been dumped along with the other bags. The Municipal Dump is 1km away! Thank you, Liz. Please may we kindly ask that residents assist our Tidy Towns endeavours by remaining vigilant, and reporting these serial dumpers. **BY: DI SUNTER**

Keep our town tidy – donate or care for your spot!
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TIDY TOWNS

Gandhi said ‘You may never know what results come from your actions but if you do nothing, there will be no result.’ So in light of that, I do get many positive comments and thanks for the work Tidy Town does and the difference we help to make here in NUD. One was from Gordon and Cheryl Hesom who said they left Dundee because of the crime and filth and decided to locate to Underberg because one of the striking features is how tidy, pleasing and clean the appearance of the village is. The other recent encouraging comment which warmed my heart came from Nowanda who heads up Nedbank in the Boxer centre. “I love all the bright yellow flowers round the small taxi rank and butchery, they make me happy especially when I am feeling depressed” and that was no prompting from me. You must also be uplifted when you visit the butchery to have Orbert meet and greet you at the door with his warm happy round face. Matthew Champkins, you have one very good PRO assistant there !!



GUMBOOT DANCE COMPETITION.

I am so thrilled to announce that I have decided to stage this event again. It took place in Dec 2023 at the Peoples Park. It was such a happy vibrant time with the sound of whistles, boot stomping feet, chanting and rhythm as only the Zulu folk can do. Build it, Greendoor, Tidy Towns etc. participated and even Doreen and I endeavoured to perform some moves!! I do hope more businesses will enter a team this year, be it just four to five folk in a team. I am hoping Berg Security, Magma, Agri Mark, TWK etc will enter and maybe I could persuade Round Table men to show their skills. In chatting to Iain Knox, we came up with the Sat 23rd May as a suitable date at 10.00 again in Peoples Park. There will be prizes again for the best dressed, best song and best dance. We all need some light hearted relief and upliftment so I do hope more teams will participate for the fun and merriment of it.

I have been attending to the following:

1. OLD MAGISTRATES HOUSE (GOLD): sent four Tidy Towns chaps to do a blitz clean-up as the weeds were getting out of hand but will require some help going forward as Historical Society are not able to help financially anymore - only with the upkeep of the Cairn between the two villages.

2. PUMA GARAGE: made phone calls, sent emails, pictures, videos requesting Tidy Towns be given permission to just spruce it up but to no avail....

3. STORMWATER catch pit covers: made several phone calls, sent pictures to Dept. of Transport they managed to put hazard tape round these damaged and dangerous holes. They are waiting for funds so I am told.

4. POTHOLES outside Mahulu. Mr Butts & sons spoke to me and offered to repair them Sat 27th afternoon and Sunday 28th as they maintain it is not good for their image. Approval was sought and the traffic dept. will cordon off the roads for that duration.

THANK YOU

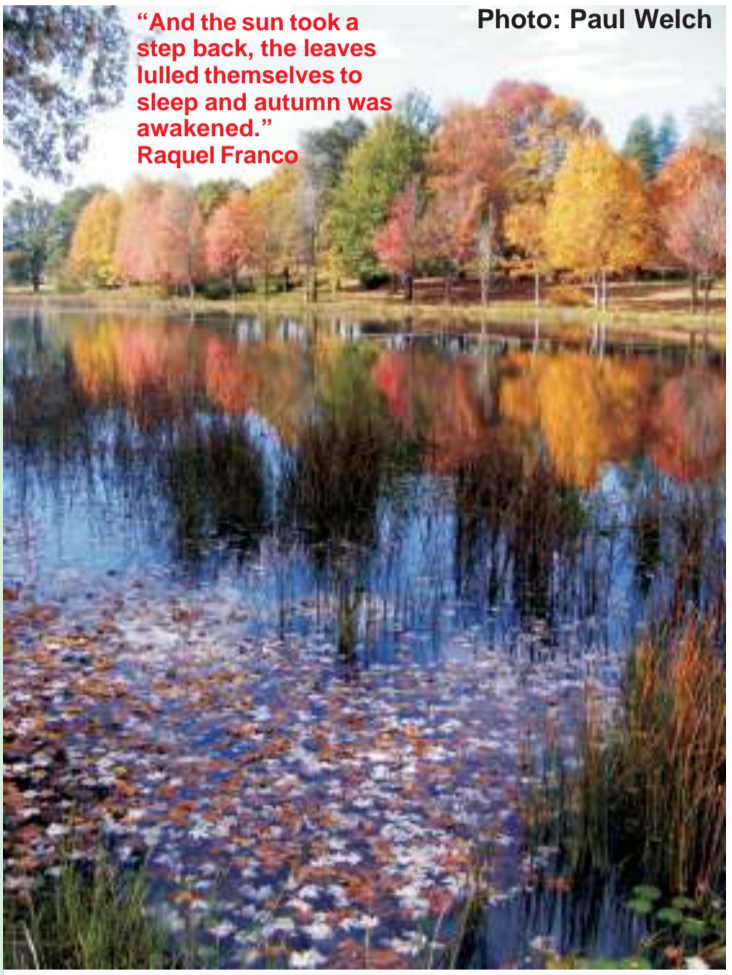
1. Scott from Forest and Gardens for kindly giving me a chain saw at cost to be used for Tidy Towns
2. Two blue work outfits donated, one by Roger Spencer of Branson Dairy Chemicals and the other by UFA.
3. Blessed with numerous bags of agapanthus from Helen Van Der Berg which we planted all over the village.

TIDY TOWN BINS

James St. Pern will make some templates with the lettering TIDY TOWNS and so I plan to revamp those now tired looking metal rubbish bins which the Gr 7. Underberg boys painted in 2022. So time to repaint some 20 of them with a new logo etc. Any volunteers to paint some images on them will be most welcome. I will be asking for some donations for paint.

MURALS

Anyone keen to have a mural done. I know Don Guy and Rob Leenhouders and several of us, belonging to the NUD MURAL group would like to get our creative hands onto a new project. My one long requested desire is to see two crowned cranes painted flying towards the berg on the top next to the PEP sign and Rob has the two zebra images in mind for the Ackerman corner. Travel down through Hilton, Howick, Merrivale tunnel and near to the Engen garage to see some lovely mural work. New Zealand and Australia have developed a subculture for mural work. None of our murals have been loud and brash so we would love to do some more. Hopefully Splashy Fen and Easter visitors will love our villages as they drive through. We love our district and so let us ensure that our villages do not get neglected. Let us ponder again on Gandhi’s words !!! **By Ruth Crouch**



“And the sun took a step back, the leaves lulled themselves to sleep and autumn was awakened.”
Raquel Franco

Photo: Paul Welch

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WINNING STOCK MARKET STRATEGIES

EVERYTHING MACHINE : WHY ALPHABET'S AI FLY-WHEEL IS JUST GETTING STARTED
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*** WINNING STOCK MARKET STRATEGIES ***



Plan to THRIVE in 2026

Alphabet Inc (Nasdaq : GOOGL) has crossed a Rubicon. The company surpassed \$400 billion in annual revenue for the first time in 2025 and the company is no longer just an advertising giant.

It is a full-stack artificial intelligence power house whose diversified flywheel is accelerating.

A positive view on the company rests on three pillars :

1. An AI supercharged search franchise with pricing power and growing query volumes.
2. A cloud business that grew 48% year-on year in Q25, with a 240 billion backlog that has doubled in a single year and
3. A fortress balance sheet of \$127 billion in cash and marketable securities that provides firepower for capital returns.

Alphabet trades at a forward P/E of 23x against a peer average of 39x. The company offers the most compelling value proposition in the large-cap technology space.

Alphabet is the parent company of Google, the world's most widely used search engine with over 90% market share, and a constellation of high-growth subsidiaries spanning cloud computing, artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, health sciences and streaming videos.

Alphabet's financial position is exceptional. A 32% operating margin at \$400 billion in revenue is rare at this scale and \$73 billion in free cashflow provides the company with

great flexibility and optionality. The search business continues to evolve and is in fact growing at an accelerating rate. The Gemini App now has 750 million monthly active users, up from 650 million in the prior quarter – growth trajectory that few consumer products in history have matched. Alphabet's distribution channel is structural. It has 8 products boasting over one billion users each.

A most under appreciated asset is Google Cloud. At \$17.7 billion in Q4 2025, it grew 48% year-on-year.

And with \$127 billion in cash and a net cash position of \$60 billion the company can fund its massive investment in AI.

To conclude, Alphabet enters 2026 in the strongest competitive and financial position in its history. A \$400 billion revenue run rate, an accelerating Cloud business, a strategically advantaged AI platform, and a valuation that fails to reflect these realities create a compelling entry point for long term investors. The market is valuing Alphabet as a mature advertising company while we at Fenestra see a rapidly compounding AI infrastructure and platform business with multiple vectors of durable growth.

In a world where artificial intelligence is reshaping every industry, Alphabet is not a passenger – it is the engine!

AI used William Meyer to write this article.

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21st Century Alcohol Treatments Article by Heidi Kyle

Following on from last month's article on alcohol I want to do a quick overview of a couple of treatment models of alcohol addiction. One popular method is using a rehabilitation centre. Otherwise known as good old rehab. So popular it's become a pop culture lexicon and a very lucrative business indeed. To rehab or not to rehab? That's a good question actually as the model has a lot of drawbacks. Apart from rehab, some interesting and effective drugs are making their presence felt in the recovery community. The treatment landscape for alcohol use disorder (AUD) has shifted dramatically in the 21st century, moving away from a one-size-fits-all approach.

Rehabilitation clinics vary enormously and many families are in crisis when the loved one enters rehab and so they have to make decisions fast and take what is available.

I believe the most effective part of rehab is that it removes individuals from triggers, provides 24/7 medical supervision during detox, and offers an intensive community of peer support. Unfortunately, many rehabs don't offer supervised detoxes and that's usually because they lack the expertise or staff. If the rehab doesn't offer outpatient follow up care either than altogether it's not a lot of use. What happens when the patient is back amongst all their triggers, relationship issues and temptations?

The rehab model has faced increasing scrutiny in the last few years. Dr Amy Wakefield, a young and leading light in the recovery community, has expressed significant reservations about the rehab industry, citing the "highly variable nature" of results. She points out that while some centers utilise gold-standard clinical care, others rely on outdated, non-evidence-based methods that lack scientific rigour. This "rehab roulette" means patients may pay premium prices for programs that fail to address the underlying neurobiology of addiction, leading to high relapse rates once the patient returns to their normal environment.

In contrast, 21st-century medicine has introduced pharmacological tools that allow for treatment within a patient's daily life. Naltrexone is one drug that blocks the endorphin rush associated with drinking, effectively "un-learning" the addiction over time. The "Sinclair Method" is a treatment programme that uses medication and has

been very effective.

Another drug is Acamprosate which helps stabilise brain chemistry during withdrawal, reducing the physical distress of abstinence. Disulfiram is sold as Antabuse and creates an allergy like reaction to alcohol and deters patients from imbibing. All these drugs are available in South Africa and it's worthwhile seeking out a doctor who is familiar with Alcohol treatments.

The pluses of medication include lower costs, privacy, and the ability to maintain employment. The cons are significant because medication does not address the psychological trauma or social isolation that often fuels addiction. Without a robust therapeutic framework, pills alone rarely offer a cure.

Modern recovery often thrives on a "hybrid" model—utilising evidence-based detox and therapy to stabilise the mind, paired with long-term medication to manage cravings. As Dr. Wakefield suggests, the key is moving away from anecdotal "cures" and toward treatments backed by clinical data.

However, Alcoholic Anonymous was founded on the principle that the fellowship of each other can heal. Every person who is an addict must find their path and the only way to start is admitting there is a problem. Next month we will look at the statistics of recovery and what is available for families of addicts.



Smoking - Weight Loss -
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WE NEED YOUR HELP TO REOPEN THE TRAILS

WE ARE STARTING FRESH & WILL NEED ALL MEMBERS TO RENEW THEIR SANI SPOORS ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS STARTING FROM APRIL ... UNFORTUNATELY WE CANNOT CARRY OVER MEMBERSHIPS AND HOPE YOU CAN UNDERSTAND.

TRAILS WILL START OPENING ONE BY ONE FROM 1ST APRIL

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BOOT & SADDLE SHELLHOLE
 MEMBERSHIP ONLY MEMBERSHIP

Invite you to join us for a

FUN BOWLS DAY

Date : Sunday 19th April 2026
 Venue : Underberg Bowling Club
 Time : 08h30 for 09h00
 Dress : Casual or Fancy Dress - Think Tramp



(Only flat shoes or bare feet be worn)
 Team : 4 per Team - 1 Club Bowler per Team
 Cost : R 200 per player (Includes Lunch & Tea)
 Bacon & Egg Rolls Breakfast on sale (R36)

Prizes for all Bowlers & Best Dressed Team Prize
 Contacts:
 Rod 082 569 8655, Len 079 094 1029
 Hylton 083 627 9673 Tex 082 806 6960



AGM – Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officers. 11 March 2026. The Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officers held their Annual General Meeting, where the office bearers for the 2026/2027 term were appointed. **From left to right: Lauren Manthe (Treasurer), Cayla Beghin (Secretary), Julian Simon (Chairman), and Simon Acutt (Vice Chairman).** We look forward to another productive year ahead, with many projects and events planned within the community.

Ezemvelo. They also assisted with replacing the damaged gate with a sliding one. Water Tables and Aid Stations in 2025 brought in much needed funds for our projects. However, this year we reduced the number of events we worked at because over the years with the increase of these activities in our beautiful area we have been overstretched to assist with them all. Our members Jelle and Cynthia Meintsma have been the stalwart coordinators and their hard work and organization have been at the forefront of the success. They have been regularly helped by a core of HO's and we are also grateful for the participation of non-members who come along to work and enjoy the comradery. Sani Pass Project of alien plant clearing and clean-up are ongoing throughout the year and into the next year. Follow up on removing trees and brambles is important and the incessant necessity to remove carelessly thrown litter is a problem. We were grateful to have the assistance of tour operators in the recent cleanup. Cobham Nature Reserve needs continual help with repairing or upgrading facilities like the day visitor ablutions and Polela Hut. We've had help from the Mountain Club; our members helped with braais and the water facilities in the camping area. Eland Management with Ezemvelo and HO's working as liaison with landowners is proving to be beneficial. This has always been a rocky path but now the issuing of and follow up of issued permits is making the problem easier to handle. It is vital for this information to be

collated in order for the permit system for removing "problem" animals to be effective. Many eland were successfully translocated from Bushmans Nek to Cathedral Peak. Using collars on individual animals helps with knowing their movements. Alien Plant identification booklet is available and Kevin Fraser, with Julie Braby and Michelle Hamer were thanked for the enormous amount of work that has gone into producing this publication. It is a vital educational tool for landowners and estate agents to have access to. Donations and Funding is always a necessity to keep the group relevant and active. We are grateful for those who contribute in cash (our collection boxes and donations) and in kind with expertise, equipment and materials. The group received permission from SARS to offer tax-free status for donations. Special Projects for 2026 Some of the projects planned for the coming year include:

- Cobham campsite revamp
- Garden Castle ablutions
- Sani Pass clean-ups
- Trail mapping
- Wintershoek huts
- Giants Cup Trail marking – HO's have already started on this
- Eland collaring

For further inquiries about joining the group or offering assistance in any way please contact:-
 Chairman Julian Simon 0836516777 or sdhchairman@gmail.com
 Secretary Cayla Beghin 0824932305 or sdhsecretary@gmail.com

UMZIMKULU VULTURE HIDE CLOSED - FMD



Mzimkulu Hide is temporarily closed to humans, but the local wildlife is breaking in a brand new pond, and a few VIP guests have already stopped by!
 – While the Mzimkulu Hide remains closed due to the ongoing **Foot and Mouth Disease outbreak**, teams from Wildlife ACT have continued working behind the scenes to look after the area's Vulture Safe Feeding Site. As part of those efforts, a new water pond was recently installed near the hide to create an additional water source for wildlife and, eventually, a new photographic opportunity for visiting guests. "During a recent weekly monitoring and maintenance session, Southern Drakensberg Priority Species Monitor, Malibongwe Sibiya, was fortunate to observe two Bearded Vultures and a Verreaux's eagle on site – an encouraging reminder of the positive impact of these ongoing efforts" says **Wildlife ACT's Southern Drakensberg Coordinator, Lexi Theocharopoulos**

FOOT & MOUTH DISEASE Biosecurity is not a suggestion. It is our only line of defence

If you move animals without permits or ignore basic hygiene, you are putting the entire country at risk. Section 11 of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984), places a legal obligation on all animal owners and farm managers to take reasonable steps to prevent their animals from becoming infected and to prevent the spread of the disease. Essential biosecurity measures include: Limiting or postponing the introduction of new animals onto farms. Introducing animals only from known, disease-free sources with a valid health declaration. Preventing direct contact between farm animals and those outside the farm. Maintaining secure farm boundaries and restricting access to livestock areas. Minimising human and vehicle access to farms, with proper disinfection protocols in place. Any movement of cattle, sheep or goats must be accompanied by an owner declaration confirming the animals origin and health status. The recipient at the destination must provide a signed undertaking that the animals will be isolated for at least 28 days before integration with the main herd. Livestock farmers and the public are urged to adhere to the following: Stop all illegal movements. Never move cattle, sheep, goats or pigs without a signed health certificate and valid permits. Ensure anyone entering a farm uses disinfectant footbaths and vehicle sprays to prevent carrying the virus on shoes or tyres. Keep newly purchased stock completely separate from the main herd for at least 28 days. If animals show signs such as drooling, limping, or sores on the mouth or feet, contact a state veterinarian immediately. Maintain fences in good repair to prevent contact with roaming herds or wildlife.

MOTHS - The Saddle of Boot and Saddle Shellhole

As the grip of FMD tightens, we continue to express our thoughts and support for our local farmers. These are difficult times, be strong. April will be a busy and exciting month for the Boot and Saddle Shellhole. **We are holding our annual Fun Day Bowls Competition on Sunday 19th April.** We currently have teams coming in from the South Coast and possibly PMB as well as a number of local teams. Don't hesitate, get your names in now. If you do not have a team or partners, or woods to play with, we will provide for you. The theme is 'Tramp' or 'Hobo', so dress down and join us for a fun day. Bacon and egg rolls will be on sale for breakfast whilst tea and lunch will be provided for players. Prizes to be awarded for the best/worst dressed team and the best/worst dressed individual. The popular corner-to-corner closest to the bottle competition will also be held. The Boot and Saddle Shellhole will be manning the Sani Pass Border Post Aid Station for the upcoming UTD Marathon taking place on the weekend of 24th to 26th April. Friday night will see the UTD160 (160kms / 100 miles) and Saturday afternoon the UTD 100 (100kms) events coming through the station. Be there to support the runners. We have officially said good by to two of our stalwart members and wives. Chris and Lel Mattsson transferred to Up Noth Shellhole PMB and Gary and Jayne Smith transferred to Blaze Away Shellhole Mossel Bay. We wish them well on their respective endeavours. Should you wish to get involved with the MOTHS, either as a veteran or as a supporter of the Shellhole, please feel free to contact me. Monthly meetings held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 18h00. **Ivan Reynolds – Old Bill - Boot and Saddle – 082 5300 935**

VALLEY VIEW ROAD & MORE

I am pleased to share positive news following the recent strategic planning and draft budget discussions for the 2026/2027 financial year. During the planning session held in Durban this week, funding was provisionally allocated for the repair and upgrading of Valley View Road in Underberg as well as the side roads in Himeville. For some time, I have consistently raised the condition of these roads and the impact that deteriorating infrastructure has on our local economy and community safety. It is therefore encouraging to see that these concerns are now reflected in the draft budget and we welcome the municipality's positive response. While the budget must still go through the formal approval process, this allocation represents a significant step forward and a strong indication that persistent advocacy on behalf of our communities is making a difference. It is important to note that the Himeville side roads is an extensive project and will be phased over several years. I will continue to monitor this process closely to ensure that these commitments translate into real improvements on the ground. Reliable infrastructure is essential for economic growth, tourism and the daily lives of our residents, and I remain committed to ensuring that the needs of the Underberg and Himeville communities are prioritised. Thank you to the residents who have continuously raised these concerns and worked with us to push for solutions.

Rowena Aldous-Trollope DA Councillor NDZ Municipality

TWK FINANCIAL SERVICES AGRICULTURAL Credit Solutions

Monthly Account

- Conveniently make day-to-day purchases at any TWK branch cross South Africa.
- Enjoy an interest-free period for the first 30 days, with payment due 30 days from the statement date.

Production Facility

- Financing designed for agricultural inputs and production-related expenses.
- Flexible repayment terms aligned with your harvest income, with a maximum repayment period of 12 months.
- Benefit from a competitive, personalised interest rate.

Revolving Facility

- Continuous financing for agricultural needs, covering both daily and seasonal production inputs.
- No fixed repayment terms, with facility usage required to be equal to or greater than twice the credit limit over a 12-month period.
- Enjoy a competitive, personalised interest rate.

Additional Benefits

- Access to all TWK branches across South Africa and direct purchases from approved suppliers.
- Place direct orders with suppliers within the TWK network.
- Cover servicing and repair costs at TWK Mechanisation branches.
- Finance your TWK Crop Insurance premiums.

Asset Financing

- TWK also provides financing for the purchase of agricultural equipment through our TWK Mechanisation branches.

WHERE THE WILD MEN ARE

I wonder how many of you enjoy watching Ben Fogle on TV with his program “Where the Wild Men Are”? I know I do. In it he travels the world visiting various men and women who have chosen to go and live in very out of the way places. I love watching it because I am fascinated by how they live, far away from any amenities and live very stripped-down lives.

But how many of you know that his father is Bruce Fogle, a Canadian vet who for years has had a practice in London. Ben occasionally mentions his father was a vet, but he is very ignorant of what vets do on a day-to-day basis. This was very evident when he went to stay with a young woman vet in Malaysia who had set up an animal charity there. (It makes me think of the photo on Facebook recently of Tod Collins with his grandchild castrating calves one day...Ben obviously missed the memo to go and do something similar with his own father that day.)

Bruce Fogle leaped to fame in the “eighties when he wrote 2 books about communicating with your dog and cat. It was quite groundbreaking to learn about how you could communicate with them, rather than just get them to do what you want and not bother any further.

I had a vet friend Johan Odendaal who graduated a year after me. At the time he had a practice in Bloemfontein. This fascinated him. He left his practice and went back to the Faculty of Vet Science at Onderstepoort to try and pursue it. But he was laughed out of court.

The Veterinary Faculty staff at that time were divided between those who had originally trained as vets and those who had other backgrounds and other degrees. The gap was the size of the Great Rift Valley in Kenya.

Let me quickly say there were some very clever and knowledgeable men like Dr Gernica who taught us histology and embryology who did not have a veterinary background, but they were in the minority. Johan was told this human - animal thing belonged on the main campus in the psychology department and not at Onderstepoort. It

was far too airy fairy. However, at the time there was a professor named Dr Dieter Osterhoff who carried a lot of weight. He ran the Zootechnics department which incorporated genetics, blood typing, DNA analysis, nutrition, and animal management.

He stood up and said “Give him a chance. We do not know where this will lead. It is a new field.” He too did not have a basic veterinary background. And so, Johan was given a position in his department and true to his word he developed the whole idea and went on to earn a master’s and I think a doctor’s degree too. He also developed and marketed courses for people like dog trainers and other to do that could improve their skills in communicating with animals. A dog trainer I knew well Glynne Anderson did one of his courses and gained great insights. She became a huge fan.

I think the horse world would agree as they have long known about this. I have stood in awe at how a rider can get a great big horse to do their bidding with just the touch of two fingers, or heels and hands.

That world too has changed since men like Monty Roberts appeared. Read his book “The Man Who Listens to Horses.” It is fascinating. I am sure we will never know all there is about this but at least let us keep exploring and looking,...and above all, an open mind.

PS Perhaps I am unduly a fan of Prof Osterhoff..not only was he a very clever man but in my early years a fussy little lecturer in animal management tried to fail me for not know how to put a horse’s trotting harness together. Just in case I ever went to Australia, I suppose ??? Fortunately for me Prof Osterhoff overruled him as I had a very good year mark in animal management.

On a different topic to finish off, I wonder if you ever read the very fine print on the enclosed leaflet in medicine boxes? I often do not I am afraid to admit. A good vet friend of mine Steve once told me he would never again use a drug called Clopomon which is widely used for nausea and vomiting. When I asked why, he said because he recently gave it to a dog and the dog then went home and tried to bonk the garden gnome!! I am not sure if that is listed among the possible side effects. Perhaps I should check.

By Llew Evans
retired vet



Helping South Africa’s Dairy Cows Perform at Their Best



Ultra Min Dairy offers practical nutritional support for modern, high-performing herds

By Keren Browne Cell 082 5204131

Dairy farming in South Africa has evolved significantly over the past few decades. Today’s dairy cow is often described as a “super-performing athlete” — producing more milk than ever before while still being expected to maintain fertility, strong immunity and overall health.

With rising feed costs, climate pressures and tight margins, local dairy farmers know that keeping cows healthy and productive is not just good practice — it’s essential for sustainability.

Ultra Min Dairy has been developed with these modern challenges in mind.

Supporting the Demands of High Production

High-producing cows require targeted nutritional support to meet the physical demands of lactation and reproduction. Ultra Min Dairy is a complementary liquid supplement formulated with essential vitamins, trace elements, macro minerals and humic acid to help support optimal performance.

Underberg Farmers Association : By Wayne Mc Namara UFA community Liaison officer

After running to the hills, afraid of the ‘groot gevaar,’ I was reluctantly convinced to return to my post. No, I did not take leave, I merely put my head down and got to work.

We have all been on high alert since the first case of FMD in our district. And have not taken time to let our engines cool. With the great migration due to repeat this month, some might find the opportunity to relax and unwind.

We have been challenged by the slow response of our government and the forever changing goal posts. Without mentioning names, we should be grateful to those who stepped up despite the enormity of the task. As Underbergers, we are a difficult bunch. Most certainly a boulder pile of mountain men.

We are now in the thick of it, with vaccinations ongoing and numerous cases of the disease on our farms. Our local vets have done a sterling job navigating the government requirements and getting all our farms on the right side of the fence. We at the UFA have done our best supporting our vets, while also ensuring we are up to date on cases in our neighbouring communities. We are one of

The formulation includes:

- % **Vitamin A** for eye, lung, reproductive and immune health
- % **Vitamin D** for strong bones, improved immunity and reduced mastitis risk
- % **Vitamin E**, a powerful antioxidant that supports immunity and milk quality

Essential trace minerals such as copper, cobalt, selenium, manganese and zinc play vital roles in immune response, fertility, bone development and udder health. Magnesium and sodium assist with maintaining the crucial energy balance needed in high-producing cows.

The Role of Humic Acid

A key ingredient in Ultra Min Dairy is humic acid, known for its antioxidant and immune-supporting properties. Studies suggest it may:

- % Support rumen health and better fermentation
- % Improve intestinal integrity
- % Enhance feed intake and nutrient utilisation
- % Support colostrum quality and milk yield
- % Help reduce somatic cell counts and mastitis

For farmers, this means cows that are better equipped to cope with the stress of high production and the demands of early lactation.

Practical and Easy to Use

Beyond formulation, ease of use matters on a busy farm. Ultra Min Dairy can be applied directly on top of feed or added to water troughs. It mixes well with water and, once mixed, remains in a stable, homogeneous state — ensuring consistent intake across the herd.

This flexibility allows farmers to incorporate the supplement into their existing management systems without disrupting daily routines.

Investing in Herd Health

Healthy cows are productive cows. When nutritional needs are properly supported, cows are better able to maintain milk production, recover after calving and respond effectively to health challenges.

In an industry where every litre of milk counts, practical nutritional support like Ultra Min Dairy may offer South African dairy farmers an additional tool to help their herds reach optimum performance.

a handful of districts that were able to limit the spread of the disease for this long.

We have collaborated diligently with colleagues in communal areas to keep us up to date with credible information. When the vaccine roll-out began for our communal areas. We were first in line. The week of the 09th of March marked the beginning of the vaccination drive in our communal areas. With twelve dip tanks completed on the first day. Creating a wall of vaccinated animals around our commercial farmers. During the week of the 09th, many local folk were confused by the influx of government vehicles. Our local B&Bs benefitted with an early rush to the season. However, rumours quickly spread about the work being done. A burning point being why our commercial farmers were being left out. To clarify, vaccinations on commercial farms started earlier through our esteemed vets.

Keeping our emotions in check and verifying information is key to preventing unnecessary stress. While also staying up to date with developments around this disease.

Another point I would like to make is the importance of supporting



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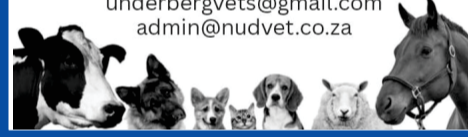
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DATE OF NEXT UFA SALE:

(MEMBERS ONLY)

TUESDAY 7 APRIL 2026

UFA SALE YARDS,
SANI PASS

associations and commodity organisations. Our communal counterparts used this opportunity to sign up many new members. Convincing the nay sayers to switch sides. And stressing the importance of ‘affiliation.’ Services and information become much easier to disseminate when we all work together. For members of the UFA, read all your messages. And if in doubt come into our offices and ask. For non-farmers, you are also welcome. We also need to talk of something other than the ‘groot gevaar.’ On the flip side, the days are getting shorter and the nights cooler. This reminds us to be ready for the changes on the way. Even with the dark shadow above us, we still need to continue farming. And to Mark Anderson, *umsenge* trees are better than mielies, I cant agree with you more.

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REAL ESTATE UNDERBERG

UNDERBERG VACANT LAND IN GATED ESTATE



R140 000

This 900sqm stand in the secure The Meadows Estate offers breathtaking views of the Drakensberg Mountains. Located at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac, it provides privacy with no passing traffic. The estate features two catch-and-release dams, a swimming pool, tennis court, and clubhouse. Water and electricity are already installed, and a once-off stabilization fee of R20,000 applies. Enjoy the perfect setting for building your dream home in a safe, family-friendly peaceful retreat.

FAMILY HOME IN THE HEART OF HIMEVILLE



R1 750 000

Set in the charming village of Himeville, this solid four-bedroom, two-bathroom home offers comfortable family living. It features two lounges, a sunny sunroom, and a pub-style entertainment area perfect for gatherings. The spacious fitted kitchen forms the heart of the home. Enjoy mountain views and a special garden feature – the area's oldest cherry tree. Ample covered carports ensure plenty of parking in this peaceful village.

CHARMING COUNTRY HOME



R1 495 000

This ideal Country home offer 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open plan lounge/dining area with fireplace, kitchen and separate scullery/utility room. Large upstairs loft. The lounge leads out onto a covered verandah with built in braai to enjoy the entertaining lifestyle. Separate modern 1 bedroom flat.

CAPE DUTCH HOME WITH SEPARATE COTTAGE



R1 995 000

Located on leafy Arbuckle Street in Himeville, this charming Cape Dutch-style home offers tranquility and country charm. The 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom home features a cozy lounge with fireplace, country kitchen, laundry and scullery. Enjoy a covered patio, braai area, fire pit and pizza oven under a pergola, perfect for entertaining. The spacious garden includes fruit trees, a workshop, staff accommodation and a separate Nutec cottage with its own entrance, ideal for rental income or family.

CONTACT OUR AGENTS

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 Kerry Abbott 076 934 1487
 Lynne Whittle 083 786 0280

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PAM GOLDING
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PROPERTY SHOWCASE

Underberg



HIMEVILLE - R 2 200 000

3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 1 GARAGE

Soak up the mountain views and sunsets from this charming home set in a large, sweeping country garden. A separate flatlet is suitable for staff accommodation or rental income.

Paula Bullimore
+27 (0)79 491 0101

Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



HIMEVILLE - R 1 650 000

3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 2 CARPORTS

Family home tucked away on a private, manageable, level stand. Plus a two-bedroomed cottage suitable for extra guests or rental income.

Paula Bullimore
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UNDERBERG - R 1 775 000

3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 1 CARPORT

Looking for a charming getaway or a cozy Berg home? This unique log cabin with extra guest suite could be just what you are looking for.

Paula Bullimore
+27 (0)79 491 0101

Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



UNDERBERG - R 5 350 000

3 BEDROOMS | 3 BATHROOMS | 2 GARAGES

Beautifully maintained smallholding offering a rare combination of stylish living with mountain views. Income potential from established guest cottage. Grazing land for livestock.

Paula Bullimore
+27 (0)79 491 0101

Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



UNDERBERG - R 1 500 000

2 BEDROOMS | 1 BATHROOM | 2 COVERED PARKING

Delightful cabin nestled in Scotston Valley with stunning mountain views. Offering open-plan living and off-grid potential. An ideal choice for a peaceful escape or a smart investment opportunity.

Jade Lloyd
+27 (0)72 194 2121

Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC



UNDERBERG - R 1 895 000

2 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOM | 2 GARAGES

Contemporary, low-maintenance home showcasing stunning Drakensberg views. Featuring two en-suite bedrooms and a light-filled open-plan living area, it's perfectly suited to relaxed retired mountain living.

Khwezi Ngcobo
+27 (0)73 381 3957

Registered with the PPRA - Full Status FFC

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