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**UNDERBERG  
OPEN GARDENS  
7 & 8 NOVEMBER**  
Paula and Brian Hein on Ericsberg Farm  
are one of the gardens  
to entice you to visit Underberg




**2<sup>ND</sup> - 4<sup>TH</sup> OCT    UFA AGRI & LIFESTYLE    SHOW 2026**  
**DAILY ENTRY - R20**

**CASE II    CASE    Warrigal CC**  
**CONSTRUCTION**

**Friday Night**  
6pm - John Pooler Happy Hour  
7pm - Sani Round Table Directory Auction  
9pm - Shaun Wulf Band Live  
Followed by DJ Gwynn  
Friday Night entry is Free

**Saturday**  
8am - Underberg School 28.5km Fun Run in Assoc with Spar  
8:50am - Livestock Judging Starts  
9am - Horse Showmanship & Fancy Dress (Main Arena)  
10:30am - Q Magic Show (Main Tent)  
11am - Gymkhana (Top Field)  
11:30am - 1:30pm - The Farmers Challenge (Main Arena)  
2pm - 4pm - That Beer Boat Race (Main Arena)  
3pm - Open Mic (Main Tent)  
6pm - The Phillip Taylor Band Live (Main Tent)  
10pm - Battle of the DJ's (Main Tent)

**Sunday**  
8am - Youth Show - Dog Showmanship (Main Arena) & Unhandled Pets (UFA Hall)  
11am - Pevensey vs Sani Round Table Cricket (Main Arena)  
11:30am - Show Jumping (Top Field)  
**All weekend - Kids Zone, Craft Markets, Food Stalls, Agri Stands, Beer Garden, Live Music, International Polo & So Much more!**

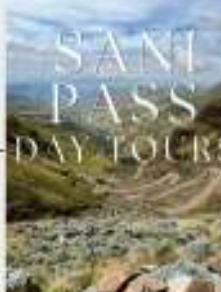
**Halfway**

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| <p>SEPT 18<br/>SEPT 19<br/>SEPT 20<br/>SEPT 26<br/>SEPT 30<br/>OCT 2 - 4<br/>OCT 2 - 4<br/>OCT 3<br/>OCT 10<br/>OCT 10 - 11<br/>OCT 21<br/>OCT 30<br/>NOV 7 - 8<br/>NOV 14<br/>NOV 14<br/>NOV 28<br/>NOV 28<br/>DEC 5<br/>DEC 12</p> | <p><b>Yukon 1000 , The world's longest paddle race</b> @ 6pm UCClub. Craig and Mark Willment will share their challenging adventure</p> <p><b>Rhino Peak Challenge to pledge/payment/entry, please email: rpc@africamassive.co.za</b></p> <p><b>MOTHS young veterans parade</b> @ the Himeville Cenotaph, seated by 10h45, parade starts 11am</p> <p><b>Heritage and Spring Day Market</b> @The Local Collection 9.30am - 13.30 <b>contact Lauren for a stall 0792449601</b></p> <p><b>Quiz Night</b> @ 6pm Underberg Country Club. <b>contact Trish Scott 066 003 3773</b></p> <p><b>2026 UFA Agri &amp; Lifestyle Show!</b> @Underberg Farmers Association Showgrounds <b>contact admin@kznufa.co.za to book a stall</b></p> <p><b>UFA YOUTH SHOW</b> @ Underberg Farmers Association Showgrounds <b>contact Kim Fraser 0826590649</b></p> <p><b>Sani Pass Time Trial visit www.sanipasstt.com to enter</b></p> <p><b>FAB FAIR, live music and market stalls</b> @Spiers Restaurant, Himeville. <b>Contact Michelle Pitman 072486 6895 for a table.</b></p> <p><b>Underberg Polocrosse Sections Tournament</b>@ Underberg Plocrosse grounds <b>Contact Jen Hiltunen 083408 0683</b></p> <p><b>Garden Club Meeting talk on blueberries</b> @ Jane Leppan's blueberry smallholding at the end of the Scotston road.</p> <p><b>Halloween Trick or treat parade</b> <b>contact Trish Scott 066 003 3773</b></p> <p><b>Underberg OPEN GARDENS</b> on Underberg South, and Loopy Lane. <b>Follow us on Facebook for updates</b></p> <p><b>Sani Stagger</b> <b>info@Sanistagger.co.za</b></p> <p><b>Underberg SUPERSPAR food and wine show</b>@ Glencairn Farm 4 - 8pm <b>Tickets R450 can be bought at in store cash office</b></p> <p><b>Himeville Museum Christmas Market</b> @Himeville Museum contact <b>Kitt Du Preez 071 898 7892</b></p> <p><b>Southern Drakensberg Tourism pairs Golf Day</b> @Underberg Country Club EPIC <b>Prizes to be won!!contact 033 701130</b></p> <p><b>Sani Round Table Touch Rugby Tournament</b> <b>contact Matt Hayes 0636828571</b></p> <p><b>Christmas Market</b> @ The Local Collection <b>contact Lauren Perks 079 244 9601</b></p> | <p><b>UNDERBERG<br/>SUPERSPAR<br/>SUPPORTS<br/>COMMUNITY<br/>EVENTS WITH<br/>THIS SPACE</b></p> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|







**SPAR: DAILY    7AM - 7PM**  
**TOPS: MON-FRI    8AM - 7PM**  
**SAT    8AM - 5PM**  
**SUN    10AM - 3:30PM**

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**FAITHWAY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IN HIMEVILLE  
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Faithway College is a small independent school situated in Himeville, in the Southern Drakensberg. It was founded in 1992 by a group of families in the community who wanted a Christian based education for their children. The school is a co-ed primary and secondary school and offers Grades 1 to 12. Faithway College follows the CAPS curriculum; it is accredited with UMALUSI, OISESA and it is a member of ISASA.

**THE SCHOOL THAT PRODUCES  
100% MATRIC PASSES.  
PLEASE SUPPORT FAITHWAY.**



**HIMEVILLE**

**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

**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

**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 Pevensy Ministry Thursday: 18:00 Prayer Meeting Alternate Friday: 06:00 Men's Sunrise coffee (confirm

**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.



**Peta Parker  
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**UNDERBERG R3 900 000**

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**BULWER R7 300 000**

Established, Off Grid Small Holding with Licensed Pub and Dining. Great Income Generating opportunity in the Midlands, with so much to offer. This self sustained, 12.1 hectare small holding is totally off grid, with 27 solar panels and inverter system, generator and 6 x 50 000l water tanks. A licensed bar and restaurant with a stunning view, managers house with 3 bedrooms, a second, 2 bedroom house, a large timber home, another 2 bed cottage and 6 cabins. There is a communal bathroom and laundry for the cabins and electrical points for the camp ground. Several storerooms and workshops.

**UNDERBERG R100 000**

Modern country estate with 2 catch and release dams, a swimming pool, tennis court, and clubhouse, this is the perfect place to build your tranquil home. The Meadows Country Estate has the most spectacular views of the Drakensberg range, and this piece of land sits on 900 sqm, providing the perfect space to build your dream home.



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**Your input is valued!**

**DEADLINE DATE**

**OCTOBER 9**

**DISTRIBUTION DATE**

**OCTOBER 16**



**MOUNTAIN ECHO BASED  
IN UNDERBERG facebook  
page for photos**

**DISCLAIMER**

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# UFA AGRI LIFESTYLE SHOW 2 - 4 OCTOBER

**SHAUN WOLF**

2ND OCTOBER 2026 - UFA GROUNDS  
WE INVITE YOU TO

## UNDERBERG

UFA AGRI & LIFESTYLE SHOW  
FRIDAY NIGHT

6PM - JOHN POOLER HAPPY HOUR  
7PM - SANI ROUND TABLE DIRECTORY AUCTION  
9PM - SHAUN WOLF BAND LIVE

**CASE** CONSTRUCTION  
Warrigal CC  
Halfway TOYOTA HOWICK  
DC ELECTRICAL



View from Ericsberg lawn

## Underberg Himeville Open Gardens 2026 7-8 NOVEMBER

Garden lovers can look forward to a week-end in the countryside as the Underberg Himeville Open Gardens takes place on Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 November 2026. From established English country gardens and rose-filled landscapes to productive farm gardens and spaces shaped around the natural terrain, this year's selection offers plenty of variety against the impressive backdrop of the Southern Drakensberg.

The gardens will be open from 09:00 to 16:00, with tickets priced at R100 per person, giving visitors access to all participating gardens.

Enquiries can be directed to [underberghimevillegardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:underberghimevillegardenclub@gmail.com)

ALL AGES WELCOME

## FUN RUN AT THE UFA SHOW!

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY & BRIGHTER TOMORROW

DATE: 3 October  
VENUE: UFA Showgrounds  
START TIME: 8:00 AM  
ENTRY FEE: R50  
DISTANCE: 2km or 5km

NO SOCKS, NO ENTRY!  
RUN IN YOUR SOCKS!

FREE BACON & EGG ROLL AND JUICE

TICKETS TO PURCHASE FROM MRS STUTTERHEIM

## UNDERBERG YOUTH SHOW

### WEEKEND PROGRAMME

#### SATURDAY, 3RD OCTOBER

- 9:00 AM — Horse Showmanship (Main Arena)
- Followed by: Horse Fancy Dress (Main Arena)

#### SUNDAY, 4TH OCTOBER

- 8:00 AM — Unhandled Pets Judging (UFA Hall)
- 8:00 AM — Dog Showmanship (Main Arena)
- Followed by: Dog Agility (Main Arena)

📍 Venue: UFA Sale Yards 📞 Enquiries: Kim Fraser — 082 659 0649

### Ericksburg

Set on a dairy farm, Paula and Brian Hein's Ericksburg is a sprawling English-style garden overlooking the Drakensberg beyond the Umzimkulu River. The historic pioneer homestead is surrounded by herbaceous borders planted in a mixture of formal and informal styles, with interesting combinations of colour and texture. Visitors can also enjoy a cottage garden, rose garden, formal vegetable courtyard and woodland area

## UNDERBERG PRIMARY SCHOOL

NURTURING TODAY | BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

### 2027 ENROLMENT PROGRESS

Growing young minds for a brighter tomorrow

**1 PRE-PRIMARY | GRADES RRR - RR**  
PLAY | EXPLORE | DISCOVER | BELONG

| Grade     | Progress | Status           |
|-----------|----------|------------------|
| Grade RRR | 40%      | SPACES AVAILABLE |
| Grade RRR | 60%      | SPACES AVAILABLE |
| Grade RR  | 85%      | FILLING FAST     |

**2 JUNIOR PRIMARY | GRADES R - 3**  
STRONG FOUNDATIONS | BRIGHT FUTURES

| Grade   | Progress | Status       |
|---------|----------|--------------|
| Grade R | 95%      | ALMOST FULL  |
| Grade 1 | 85%      | FILLING FAST |
| Grade 2 | 85%      | FILLING FAST |
| Grade 3 | 85%      | FILLING FAST |

**3 SENIOR PRIMARY | GRADES 4 - 7**  
DEVELOPING POTENTIAL | INSPIRING LEADERS

| Grade   | Progress | Status       |
|---------|----------|--------------|
| Grade 4 | 95%      | ALMOST FULL  |
| Grade 5 | 85%      | FILLING FAST |
| Grade 6 | 85%      | FILLING FAST |
| Grade 7 | 95%      | ALMOST FULL  |

A small school... A big difference

CHARACTER  
COMMUNITY  
OPPORTUNITY

secretary@underbergprimaryschool.co.za | LEARN | GROW | BELONG

### 2027 ENROLMENTS ARE FILLING UP!

Planning ahead for 2027? Our classes at Underberg School are already filling up, with several grades nearing capacity!

From our littlest learners in Pre-Primary right through to Grade 7, we're proud to offer a nurturing environment where children can learn, grow and belong.

Take a look at our latest enrolment progress and secure your child's place for 2027.

Enquiries: [secretary@underbergprimaryschool.co.za](mailto:secretary@underbergprimaryschool.co.za)

The school with a vision and a view.

## Peak YAMAHA CFMOTO

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# Thank you!

Our St John's D.S.G. uHambo Adventurers have returned home safely, hearts full and spirits high!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful communities of Underberg and Himeville, and to all the service providers who supported us along the way. Your warmth, generosity and care made all the difference throughout our incredible 21-day journey.







14 NOV 2026

**FOOD & WINE SHOW**

## SAVE THE DATE



**WHAT IT'S ABOUT**  
An unforgettable evening of exceptional food and wines. Enjoy a curated culinary experience in a warm, elegant setting.



**WHEN**  
**14 NOVEMBER 2026**  
**4:00 PM - 8:00 PM**



**WHAT YOU GET**  
Access to an exclusive wine event  
A superb selection of wines to enjoy  
**A complimentary bottle of wine**



**WHERE**  
Glencairn Farm,  
Sani Pass Road



**WHERE TO BUY TICKETS**  
Available at the Underberg Superspar Cash Office



**HOW TO PAY**  
Tickets cost **R450** per person  
Payment can be made at the cash office in-store

Limited tickets available  
**DON'T MISS OUT!**

### GREAT WINE GOOD FOOD MEMORABLE MOMENTS

## The virtual eland trail - (Behind Swiman)

By Ian Davies

Ian Davies and John Michaux on the virtual eland trail



Tired of climbing Swimans and always having to descend down the boulder strewn front of the mountain, tripping over rocks and bashing through long grass, we realised that were missing the best part of the mountain and what was needed was a route across the back of the mountain. So, an expeditionary hike was pioneered by Ansell Matcher, Terry Geddes and Ian Davies.

It started with a steep climb to the neck above the Garden Castle offices. It was a wet and dull day and the hike up the steep grass slope was tough going in wet, long and slippery grass. At the neck we were greeted with a steep drop off to the left and cliffs on the right. Ian noted that there was a faint path under the cliffs above the drop off and suggested that this was an eland route and probably a way through to the top of Swimans. Ansell and Terry were not impressed and Ansell disparagingly named the route "Ian's virtual eland path". Terry was muttering about 'figments of imagination' and "Scottish delusions". Owing to the poor weather conditions, further exploration was abandoned. A second attempt, in better conditions, proved successful. A route was pioneered through the maze of steep grass slopes, rock buttresses and gulleys.

We continued to explore the top of Swimans in the hope of finding a short cut to the easy grass slopes running up from the Scotty dog. No viable route was found without rock climbing gear (which we did not have). In the process, we lost Terry. He went up one gully and came down another. So, whilst Ansell

and I sweated up the gulleys for the third time looking for Terry and shouting as loudly as possible, Terry was greatly taking his ease at bottom of the next dip sitting on a rock like a leprechaun. Some words were exchanged!

On this occasion the descent was again on the front of Swimans, but the full route through to magnificent valley was completed shortly thereafter by a group from the Sani Hiking Club and has become a regular feature on the hiking list. Graded moderate/hard, 20% on path, 700m.  
**By Ian Davies 2026**



## My favourite local hike

I missed my chance to do an Ian Davies **Magnificent Valley hike** but saw the photo's and immediately embarked on an expedition with Helen who had been with him and the Underberg hikers led by Ian.

As a precaution we took a climbing rope. 'There is a tricky section' that was Helens advise and she's not afraid of heights. I phoned Ian and plotted the route on google - he corrected it slightly gave some pointers, suggested that when we got to 'Scotty Dog' it's all downhill from there, but added - 'there's a challenge in that descent'. I observed that Cod's Eye cave was marked on the Southern slope of the valley below. For several years we failed to find it and only finally after a chat with Duane Howell the fishing man in the clock tower, did we locate its. He and Bianca spent a good part of Covid hanging out there - great spot, with morning sun, the trick to it's location - well it's incorrect on the map (well mine anyway). A shallow great cave but no water!

Footnote; I once took a bunch of varsity reunionists on this hike - we got horribly lost in the mist - It's 'off path' - not for the faint hearted.**By Don Guy**



Paul Welch caught **Lauren Canham** (Underberg) and **Brandie Wettstein** (Basel, Switzerland) selling raffle tickets at UNDERBERG SUPERSPAR. The lucky winner and 5 friends will be going to The Mzimkulu Vulture Hide. **The Mzimkulu Vulture Hide re-opened on 1 August 2026**, following a temporary closure implemented as a precautionary response to the regional outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease. In order to complete the RPC the Ambassadors must each complete the 21km course to the summit of the Rhino Peak (3056m) and back. There is no time limit. Fastest Known Times for the RPC is 2hr15min for the men and 2hr45min for the ladies set by Kane Reilly and Holly Page. The **Mzimkulu Vulture Hide**, located 8km outside Underberg is a purpose-built photographic hide offering guests a rare, eye-level encounter with endangered vultures, including Cape and Bearded Vultures. The hide is fitted with one-way glass for disturbance-free photography, comfortable seating for up to six guests, and exquisite mountainous backdrops, making it a photographer and nature lover's paradise. **Kevin Fraser**, a Underberg farmer who volunteers with The Southern Drakensberg Honorary officers has raised R11 501, **Lauren Canham** R25 300 and **Brandie Wettstein** R199700 by 12 September 2026.

For any queries relating to a pledge/payment/entry, please email: [rpc@africamassive.co.za](mailto:rpc@africamassive.co.za) Help them increase their fundraising which has reached R934 171 so far in 2026. Since 2016 almost R5.2m has been raised.

**The Mzimkulu Vulture Hide re-opened on 1 August 2026**



We have mountain bikes available for hire Monday to Sunday from our Lesotho On Track office. There are some really beautiful local cycling routes to explore, perfect for visitors wanting to get outdoors, see a little more of the area and enjoy it all at your own pace.

Downloadable route maps are also available, allowing guests to head out and explore with ease. R500 per person / day Shop 21, Troutwalk Centre 072 900 2304 A shuttle service can also be arranged at an additional cost if needed.

## TROUT FISHING IN UNDERBERG

It is so good to see the rivers and streams flowing very nicely for this time of the year. The late snow and showers we have had has helped allot for some of them. Fishing had some mixed reports come in with some anglers having to fish hard to get fish to the net, while others have had some good sessions on the rivers. The average size of the fishes caught in the lower reaches is good and fish reported to be strong and healthy. Not as many around as we would like, but sure more will join as the river levels stay up. With enough water in the river it is a wise choice to fish the higher sections of them where there is a very healthy population of trout. Reports have come back of good sessions on these upper reaches using dry flies like Adams, Adams parachute and klinkhamers. The warmer weather has also done good for the insects as hatches observed on the river have increased.

The warmer weather has also helped the stillwater fishing and reports of fish being more active have come in. Catches all around has also increased after the little bit of a slump the stillwater had. Some good catches both club and private stillwater being reported with a couple of 55cm+ fish being landed. Fish activity also on the increase as many fish have been seen rising to insect hatches in the warmer afternoons, this makes for good fishing using suspended Midges and other dry flies like Griffiths Gnat. These well in fooling these surface feeding fish. Fishing Bloodworm immitations this time of the year is also a very productive as these larvae stage of the midge becomes more active with the warmer water temperature of Spring and fish key on to this. Fished shallow under a indicator or deep on sinking line both very effective. I hope the fishing keeps on getting better untill the summer heat puts them down again. Enjoy the fishing and tight lines. **By Duane Vaughn Howell**

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





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# Lessons, Laughter, and Long Journeys: Tim Jackson’s Life in Teaching

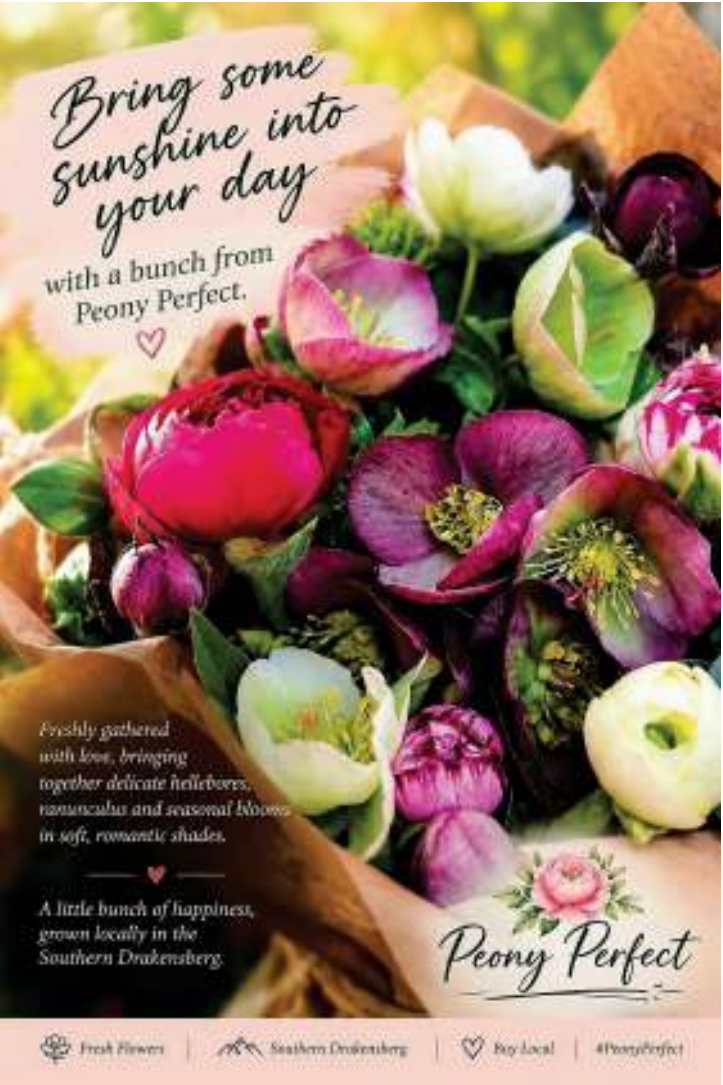
By Reine Combrinck

Members and guests of the local Country Women group gathered on Wednesday, September 2nd, for an afternoon of rich storytelling, heartfelt nostalgia, and plenty of laughter as guest speaker Tim Jackson delivered his talk, titled There and Back Again. A veteran educator with a career spanning over 4 decades across 11 schools, three South African provinces, and multiple foreign countries, Jackson took the audience on a charming voyage through his life in education—a journey that originally began right here in the local district. Jackson opened his talk with lighthearted humour about the passage of time and the unique prospect of addressing a room of discerning local women. "Older ladies can be fierce critics," he joked, before diving into a narrative filled with humour, humility, and deep affection for the teaching profession. Reflecting on his beginnings, Jackson revealed that his initial path to the district was completely accidental. After completing his training at the Natal Teachers Training College 46 years ago, he was



Jane Leppan handing a bottle of red to Tim Jackson to say thank you for a most entertaining talk

promised a post in Pietermaritzburg by the headmaster of Merchiston Preparatory. However, bound by a four-year provincial bursary, the Natal Education Department instead posted the newly qualified 24-year-old to Underberg Primary School in January 1980. Though initially devastated by the assignment, Jackson admitted that those early years reshaped his entire life. "What struck me very soon was how spirited and characterful the children here were," he recalled. "They were funny, down-to-earth, self-contained, and had an innate groundedness about them." He fondly remembered early colleagues who shaped his career—including Victorian-esque professional Dianna Nagy and dedicated deputy head Peta Watson—as well as his very first Standard 3 class, many of whom remain local community figures today. The audience was treated to several hilarious anecdotes from Jackson's early career, including a memorable morning after a local farmers' braai when his attempt to hide a severe hangover from the headmaster backfired, courtesy of a well-meaning parent and an observant young student who innocently noted, "Ah, Mr. Jackson, you're looking so much better! This morning you were white, but now you're pink again!" Beyond the humour, Jackson’s talk highlighted the vast scope of his distinguished career. Having served as headmaster at five different institutions—including a second, five-year stint as headmaster at Underberg Primary starting in 1988—he went on to lead and teach at schools including Pelham Primary, Harburg, Merchiston, Kingswood College Junior, and Waterkloof House Prep. Seeking new horizons after 17 years in headmastering, Jackson and his family spent eight years teaching in Botswana—including remote diamond mining towns in the Kalahari—followed by a stint at international schools in Qatar in the Middle East. Crucially, his early time in Underberg also brought him the ultimate partner for his journey. It was during his first year of teaching that he met Robin, who joined the staff as a young teacher. Though life took them on different paths shortly after, fate intervened years later when Robin randomly purchased the apartment right next door to his in Pietermaritzburg. "Fate doesn't always announce itself with a thunderclap," Jackson reflected warmly. "Sometimes, she just moves into the space next to yours and steals your heart." Supported by Robin and their two sons, Chris and Matt, Jackson’s globetrotting career has ultimately come full circle. His engaging reflection was a wonderful reminder of the lasting impact dedicated teachers have on communities—and the profound impact those same communities leave on the teachers who serve them. Country Women meet at 10am on the first Wednesday of every month. Contact Reine for more information 076 444 4207.



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**Contact Details**  
Rachel: 0740494619  
Nathalie: 0824677505

## HIMEVILLE-UNDERBERG GARDEN CLUB

### Talk on Blueberry Farming

# 21 October

Our next Garden Club meeting will be held on Wednesday 21 October 2026 where the focus will be on Blueberries. Jane Leppan will be our host and speaker, and we look forward to an interesting morning of learning how this healthy and delicious fruit is cultivated and harvested. The meeting at Jane Leppan’s smallholding at the end of the Scotston road 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. Look forward to seeing you there!

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# 7 & 8 NOVEMBER

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## the local collection

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Photo: Paul Welch

The veld is burnt to give new growth to the veld in the Spring. Burning will be until the end of October

## OCTOBER IN THE GARDEN

Since our last chat, we were blessed with snow, rain and more rain. If you have lived in the district for a number of years you will realise how blessed we are to have received this moisture. Remembering very clearly that not so long ago everyone was very concerned about the level of water in the rivers, which is the sole supplier of water to our villages and to our farmers. We can now look forward to a colourful spring which is always a big surprise. One thinks one can remember how stunning and fresh everything looks, then when the time comes and the trees unfold their new leaves overnight, we all gasp and stare! "This is the best spring ever" !!! I must just mention that I think the English Oaks have the most beautiful shade of green, Azaleas show off their colours and Dogwoods open up their bracts.

In the meantime we have to pay attention to the rest of the garden. With Hydrangeas we need to remove the tips that were burnt by frost. Fork deeply around the plants without turning the soil, mulch, feed with compost and give them a sprinkle of 5:1: 5.

If your winter seedlings look tired remove them, prepare the area with compost and then decide what will be going into that space. There is such a choice of plants these days. They don't have to be annuals. Perennials have made a big stride (perennials mean they produce flowers for more than one season) producing flowers all summer. Naturally there are those that flower prolifically during the first half of the summer and those that come into their own later in summer. This means you can have colour throughout the summer months.

To achieve all of this I need to draw your attention to the soil. It is amazing how few folk think of the soil. You cannot achieve a beautiful garden without caring for the soil. Start off by establishing the pH of your soil. Reduce the size of the flowers beds, if necessary, so that you can afford and pay attention to the soil. Most areas in our district have sandy soil, which means that when the summer rain starts, most of the nutrients get diluted or washed away. You will then start to pick up problems with plants. When a plant is under stress it can have an outburst of rust, mildew, aphids etc.

Enjoy all the flowering summer shrubs that will start flowering soon eg Weigela, Viburnum, Kolkwitzia, to mention a few. Once they have finished flowering you can then shape them or reduce their size by pruning out the branches from the inside. Please do not do a trimming

all on the outsides and land up with a round ball. Very, very few shrubs grow like that naturally.

In October you can now plant all your summer vegetables, e.g. Peppers, Brinjal( Eggfruit), Pumpkins, Squash etc. Plant all root vegetable seeds on the wane of the moon.

Fruit trees are in blossom so this is the time to start caring for them. You will have competition from birds and fruit fly soon. You can cover them with nets/shade cloth to keep the birds out. Make a fruitfly bait that you hang in the trees. Mix Lebaycid with a generous amount of sugar, put into jam tins then hang them in the trees. They cannot resist this lovely sweet syrup.

As promised last month I include tips on how to care for your roses on a monthly basis. This will all depend on the amount of rain we get !! Invest in a rain gauge so that you know how much rain you have had. Roses like deep watering. Mark the date on your calendar, one

month you feed each rose bush with a cup of Accelerator, next month e.g.8:1:5 or 5:1:5. If the rain fall is intense you can do this every two weeks. In December after your first flush, apply a tablespoon of Epsom salts ( m a g n e s i u m sulphate) sprinkled around the drip line to help the plant to push out new growth and to improve the quality and size of blooms. Calcium nitrate is another important fertilizer to apply after heavy rain or after pruning. It is a salt and is the most readily available source of calcium for the roses. You can apply a multi feed , either dissolving it in water or applying a dessert spoon full in the drip line of each bush.

We will be starting our Garden club meetings again next month, the third Wednesday 20 October 2021. (Can you believe it, this article was written for the September edition 2021 by Elize Jackson and it was going to be the first meeting after covid. Elize wrote these articles to keep gardener's spirits up.)

Verse: Song of Solomon 2:11-12

'See! The winter is past... flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come!'

- No winter season lasts forever.
- God can bring new life after difficult and barren seasons.
- The appearance of flowers reminds us that change and renewal are possible.
- Believe that a new season of hope and joy can begin in your life.

PRAYER: Lord, thank You that difficult seasons do not last forever. Bring new life, fresh hope, and renewed joy into my life. Help me to embrace the new season You have prepared for me. Amen.

Welcome to September.

Kind Regards

Pastor Andrew W Roebert

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## PEONY SEASON IS AROUND THE CORNER!!!

Spring has sprung and our Peonies are well on their way.



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Kenmo lake at the beginning of spring, 12 September  
Photo: Sam Davies



# TIDY TOWNS

We are well and truly into September and so we have sprung into spring with the grass taking on a lovey green tinge and the oak trees in particular, sprouting their fresh green coats  
There are plenty of s's in my Tidy Town article so take note  
**September work** saw us - clear and fell young gums on the vacant property on the road up to the school  
- plant 18 Freylinia bushes in front of Makhulu store They chose not to build a wall but they requested to plant a hedge so Elize Jackson kindly advised to plant these indigenous bushes with the blue flower which are fast growing and hardy.  
**Signs** there has been a concern from a number of folk re the proliferation of business signs going up on verges right on the roadside. We are going to look into the matter and see what the bylaws are and sensitively address the issue.  
**Storm water catch pit covers** - there has been no response from the municipality despite my many requests to have them attended to. Mr Mark Bunn has intimated he will undertake to see to the Shell garage intersection one. His workman actually spent a lengthy time a while back, digging the contents out of the hole and Tidy Town chaps helped cart it away.



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**WE-10933 KANYE NENGXYENYE 0 WE-LOT FP 377 WE-10934**  
**EDUZE NE-UNDERBERG, UDKT. NKOSAZANA DLAMINI**  
**ZUMA MASIPALA WENDALO, ESIFUNDAZWENI**  
**SAKWAZULU-NATAL (DWS REF: WU..... & WU44923).**

## Isingeniso Sephrojekthi

I-RG Trust ifake isicelo seSicelo Selayisensi Yokusetshenziswa Kwamanzi (i-WULA) ngokweSigaba 22 soMthetho Kazwelonke Wamanzi (uMthetho 36 ka-1998) kanye neMithethonqubo efanele, njengoba ichitshiyelwe. Isicelo esokuqhubeka nemisebenzi yobisi ekhona kanye nemisebenzi ehlobene nayo epulazini elaziwa ngokuthi iLynton Farm. Ngaphezu kwalokhu, umfakisisicelo ofanayo ufake nesicelo semvume yokusebenzisa amanzi kwelinye ipulazi elaziwa ngokuthi iPeakvale farm, ngaphansi kwenhlangano iLynton Trust. Womabili la mapulazi angamapulazi obisi akhona eduze kwase-Underberg nase-Himeville futhi adinga imvume ngokweSigaba 21 (a), (c), (e), (g) kanye (i) soMthetho. IPeakvale Farm itholakala eNgxenyeni 24 yeRiversdale 11287 FS eduze kwaseHimeville, kanti iLynton farm itholakala eNgxenyeni 0 yeLot FP 377 ka-10934 kanye neNgxenyeni 0 yeLot FP 376 ka-10933 eduze kwase-Underberg.

## Inqubo Yokubambiqhaza Komphakathi

Njengengxenywe yeNqubo Yokubamba Iqhaza Komphakathi (i-PPP), njengoba kuhlangozwe esigabeni 24J soMthetho Kazwelonke Wokuphathwa Kwemvelo (uMthetho 107 0 ka-1998) ofundwa kanye nesahluko 6 somthethonqubo we-EIA, mhla ziyi-7 kuMbasa 2017 kanye neSahluko 10 seMithethonqubo Yokusebenzisa Amanzi Yokusebenzisa Amanzi, mhla ziyi-19 kuNhlabathi 2023; noma yimuphi umuntu onentshisekelo futhi othintekayo yiphrojekthi eshiwo lapha uyamenywa ukuba ahlanganyele ngokubhalisa njengeQembu Elinentshisekelo Nelithintekayo (i-I&AP). Sicela ubhalise imininingwane yakho, izintshisekelo, imibono, izinkinga, imibuzo, kanye/noma ukukhathazeka mayelana nephrojekthi ehlongozwayo ngokubhalela uchwepheshe wokuhlola imvelo (i-EAP) ngemininingwane yokuxhumana enikezwe ngezansi. Isikhathi sokubamba iqhaza komphakathi sizoqala ngoLwesihlanu, mhla ziyi-18 kuMandulo 2026, kuze kube uLwesihlanu, mhla zingama-20 kuLwezi 2026 (izinsuku ezingama-60, ngaphandle kwamaholide omphakathi). Lonke ulwazi luzotholakala kusixhumanisi sokwabelana ngefayela se-elektronikhi esizonikezwa bonke abantu abanentshisekelo kanye nabathintekayo lapho bebhala. Kulabo bantu abangenayo izinsizakalo ze-elektronikhi, ikhophi eprintiwe izobekwa e-Underberg Library ku-Old Main road ngesikhathi sokuphawula esishiwo ngenhla. Uma unemibuzo eyengeziwe sicela uxhumane ne-EAP engezansi.

## Imininingwane yokuxhumana Nomsebenzi Wokuhlola Imvelo

Wiesenberg Advisory | Hilton, KwaZulu Natal, 3201  
Mrs. Jeanne-Louise Wiese | Tel: 073 163 6409 | Email: [wiesenbergadvisory@gmail.com](mailto:wiesenbergadvisory@gmail.com)

**Street mechanics**- well I say no more other than bringing it up verbatim

**Soccer field in Himeville** - here too one requests but it certainly is not a priority they wish to attend to.

**Social ills drinking and smoking** - a regular occurrence within the confines of our small village and openly taking place. Mr Tex Turton who goes in weekly to the Underberg Low Cost Village to make his presence felt, sees first-hand the amount of liquor consumed. My very circumspect Frans who lives there and works for us and Tidy Town reiterates how much drinking is taking place. Sadly this habit is seen more and more amongst the women too. Don Guy reckons 'drinking—a cruel curse—add smoking—what has become a socially acceptable way of committing suicide.'

**Sad to see the litter:** A British polo player who comes out regularly said to me 'you do realise you are swimming against the tide'. Mandy Wood expressed her dismay to see the horrendous amount of dumping and litter between Underberg and Himeville. Yes thank you to the municipality who do organise to have the litter ladies pick up the litter in and around the two villages but it is the blatant nonchalant throwing of KFC containers and plastic bottles right down next to the bins that is disheartening. I believe in Uganda or some northern African country where all businesses close for an hour once a month to help attend to the litter problem.

**Service to the community.** There are many who provide voluntarily to many

good causes in our district but I wish to make mention of where it pertains to Tidy Towns. Mr Mark Anderson is passionate about the oak trees between Underberg and Himeville. Hence on the 8<sup>th</sup> September, he duly had 9 holes dug and removed one or two dead tree trunks. He commandeered two Tidy Town chaps to plant the 9 oak saplings. I provided superphosphates which were put in each hole before planting the young trees provided by Mark. So it was a team exercise with Ian Crouch watering them the next day with his bakkie sakkie. Thank you Mark and Ian  
**Sincere thanks** to those who kindly contribute financially to Tidy Towns. This month was Di Sunter and Sunter accommodation, Brian Brandis and also MOTHS who kindly gave R6000 divided in four quarterly instalments - this is much appreciated. Thank you to MOTHS for inviting me to their small awards ceremony at their Shellhole where I was amongst three other fortunate recipients. We were each given the opportunity to say a few words about the activities of our organisations. Thank you to Ron and Arno for helping us fell and clear some of the small gums and debris next to the Police staff quarters and opposite the Himeville church Manse and so helping in my quest to work on the small things to beautify Himeville. Thank you to Kathy Choromanski who gave me a huge amount of flax plants which I divided up and Trish Chapman for the yucca plants—all of which I used all over in the village garden beds and personal gardens too. **So here ends this short and sweet article.**  
**Summer season will soon be upon us and Santa will be sliding down the chimney. By Ruth Crouch**



**NOTICE OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR WATER USE LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF TWO DAIRIES ON PORTION 24 OF RIVERSDALE 11287 FS, PORTION 0 OF LOT FP 376 OF 10933 AND PORTION 0 OF LOT FP 377 OF 10934 NEAR UNDERBERG, DR NKOSAZANA DLAMINI ZUMA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE (DWS REF: WU..... & WU44923).**

## Project Introduction

RG Trust has lodged an application for a Water Use License Application (WULA) in terms of Section 22 of the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) and the relevant Regulations, as amended. The application is for the continuation of an existing dairy and related activities on the farm known as Lynton Farm. In addition to this, the same applicant has also lodged an application for water use authorization on another farm known as Peakvale farm, under the entity Lynton Trust. Both these farms are existing dairy farms near Underberg and Himeville and requires authorization in terms of Section 21 (a), (c), (e), (g) and (i) of the Act. Peakvale Farm is located on Portion 24 of Riversdale 11287 FS near Himeville, and Lynton farm is located on both Portion 0 of Lot FP 377 of 10934 as well as Portion 0 of Lot FP 376 of 10933 near Underberg.

## Public Participation Process

As part of the Public Participation Process (PPP), as contemplated in section 24J of the National Environmental Management Act (Act 107 of 1998) read with chapter 6 of the EIA regulation, 7th April 2017 as well as Chapter 10 of the Water Use Licensing Regulations, 19 May 2023; any person who is interested in and affected by the mentioned project is hereby invited to participate by registering as an Interested and Affected Party (I&AP). Please register your details, interests, comments, issues, questions, and/or concerns regarding the proposed project in writing to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner (EAP) at the contact details given below. The public participation period will take place from Friday, 18 September 2026, through to Friday, 20 November 2026 (60 days, excluding public holidays). All information will be available from an electronic file share link that will be provided to all I&APs upon registration. For those parties who does not have access to electronic services, a hard copy will be placed at the Underberg Library in Old Main road for the commenting period mentioned above. For any additional queries please contact the EAP below.

## Environmental Assessment Practitioner contact details

Wiesenberg Advisory | Hilton, KwaZulu Natal, 3201  
Mrs. Jeanne-Louise Wiese | Tel: 073 163 6409 | Email: [wiesenbergadvisory@gmail.com](mailto:wiesenbergadvisory@gmail.com)

## The MOTH Boot and Saddle Shellhole held our annual recognition awards on 2 SEPTEMBER

The recipient companies were:  
**Underberg Nursing Services** represented by Kathy Knox.

**Underberg Emergency Medical Services** represented by Michelle Pitman and Roelf Le Roux – Operations Manager

**Tidy Towns** represented by Ruth Crouch.

**Pevensy Place** represented by Andy Macallister on behalf of Mark Whitson - Director.



## PEVENSEY FETE A GREAT SUCCESS

We would like to extend heartfelt thanks to all who made the annual Pevensy Fete, held on Saturday 5th September, such a wonderful success.

Thank you to all our friends and families and to the greater Underberg community, and to the local businesses who supported us so generously. The day was thoroughly enjoyed by all our residents, their families and friends, and without your support it would not have been possible.

The atmosphere was one of true community spirit and generosity, and it was a joy to see everyone come together.

A special word of thanks must go to Underberg Primary School for once again affording us the use of their premises as they do every year. Your continued loyalty and support means so much to us.

From all the residents and staff of Pevensy Place – THANK YOU KINDLY

# Therapeutic Hypnosis

Article by Heidi Kyle



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People often ask me what therapeutic hypnosis is and how it can help them? This short series will explain its benefits, clarify how it works in a therapeutic setting, and address some common myths and misconceptions.

Hypnosis is close to my heart. I have seen it help clients work through serious issues, and since relocating to Underberg, I have found it popular locally because it can be effective, quick, and less dependent on endless introspection. I have worked my way through an awful lot of smokers who have quit smoking successfully and painlessly with me in Underberg and surrounding districts.

Many people associate hypnosis with stage shows, where audience volunteers are encouraged to behave in various odd ways for entertainment purposes (jumping around like a chicken comes to mind). I dislike this portrayal because it can embarrass participants and gives a genuinely useful therapeutic tool a bad name. Therapeutic hypnosis is different: it is a focused technique used to support positive change, and I will explain how it works as this series continues.

Therapeutic hypnosis uses specific hypnotic techniques to help clients make positive changes. It can support a wide range of concerns, so the right therapist should be trained to apply hypnosis and some therapists will specialise in one area:

- Smoking cessation, weight loss and bed-wetting
- Fears, phobias, grief, depression and anxiety
- Pain management, dental and medical procedures, and preparation for surgery
- Trauma, deep-seated childhood issues, self-awareness and spiritual journeys
- Performance enhancement such as sports and public speaking

The hypnotic state is difficult to define. Many ethical doctors and therapists acknowledge that they do not fully understand the exact mechanism, even when they can see positive results. Outcomes can vary depending on the therapist’s training and experience, so specialised training is important. In South Africa, the South African Institute of Hypnotism (SAIH) is one of the most specialised training centres and has links with the UK and the USA. I have trained through SAIH and feel the training has set me up for a lot of success with hypnosis and you can read more about these experiences on the testimonial page of my website. One way to understand hypnosis is to think of the

mind in two parts: the conscious mind, which engages with the world around us, and the subconscious mind, which stores memories and emotions outside our usual awareness. We naturally move in and out of focused states during the day. If you have ever watched television or driven somewhere and felt time disappear, you may have experienced a light hypnotic state.

Although hypnosis is hard to define, its results can be striking. Videos show patients undergoing root canal dental surgery using hypnosis as pain relief, and the American Dental Association endorses hypnosis. It can be quite different to see a person having root canal work and talking as well. In fact, many therapists at SAIH have used dental treatment for their final case studies. There have been trials performed for knee replacement surgery using clinical hypnosis with positive results.

In the 1840s, an English doctor in India, James Esdaile, used hypnosis for surgery before anaesthesia was available. The reported mortality rate dropped from 50% to 5%, an extraordinary figure at a time when the shock of surgery itself could be fatal. All this does fit neatly into our 21st century world where we are starting to become more aware of the amazing machines our minds and bodies are. Next month, we will look at the most common therapeutic uses of hypnosis and where it can be especially effective to apply these techniques.

by Heidi Kyle



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### On My Mind by William Meyer

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**G**eopolitical risks and massive market volatility are factors investors need to contend with. At times like this the importance of planning carefully and considering off-shore opportunities and idiosyncratic shares is clear.

It is critical for investors to have an international strategy. Adding an off-shore equity/currency component to a South African portfolio reduces the risk of volatility of the overall portfolio. If any one currency or country enters a bear market, an investor will be protected by a diversified portfolio.

The best countries to invest in have fewer government regulations and interference, less government ownership, fewer trade unions, lower taxes and no foreign exchange controls. A thoughtful allocation of capital that results in an ambivalent attitude towards political risks and currency moves is another way to avoid catastrophe.

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### The bottom line

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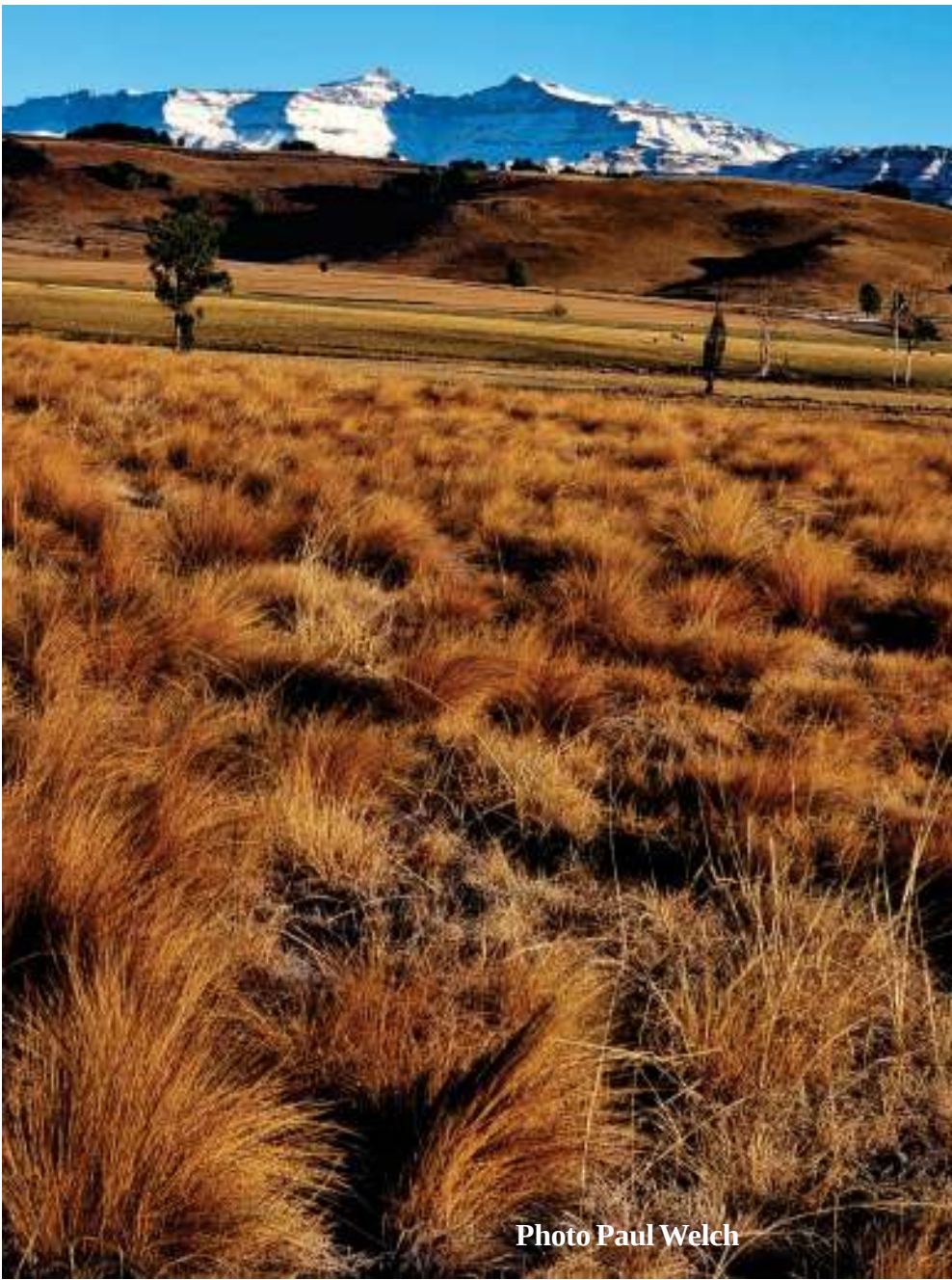


Photo Paul Welch

**The amount of beautiful moments in your life depends on your ability to notice them.** I capture them with my cellphone camera. A walk on your doorstep, Himeville commonage and airstrip. You can see more photos on MOUNTAIN ECHO BASED IN UNDERBERG facebook page



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# SANI COMMUNITY FORUM

By Di Sunter

**“CIVIC PRIDE IS NOT JUST ABOUT CHEERING FOR YOUR TOWN WHEN IT WINS AN AWARD; IT IS ABOUT STANDING UP AND FIXING IT WHEN THE PAINT BEGINS TO PEEL.”**  
**TIDY TOWNS AND SANI COMMUNITY FORUM**  
A town's pride is built over years, but it can be undone quickly when basic services fail. Bloemhof's 2025 Town of the Year victory shows what determined residents can achieve—and why municipal support is essential if that success is to last.

**FROM BLOEMHOF'S CROWN TO UNDERBERG-HIMEVILLE'S OPPORTUNITY**  
Less than a year after Bloemhof was named South Africa's 2025 Town of the Year in kykNET's Kwêla competition, its story offers both inspiration and a warning. National recognition can be won through community spirit, but volunteers cannot permanently compensate for weak public services and neglected infrastructure.

Bloemhof's victory was powered by residents who organised clean-ups, beautified public spaces and told a compelling story of renewal. The award brought valuable recognition and development support, yet the town has continued to face pressures involving water, roads, service delivery and flooding. The lesson is clear: community action can create momentum, but sustained success requires a municipality that performs its basic duties and works alongside its residents. Underberg and Himeville are far smaller than Bloemhof's wider settlement, but size is not the deciding factor. What matters is focus. With a combined population of less than five thousand people, our two towns can organise quickly, build visible support and demonstrate what a committed rural community can achieve when residents, businesses and public officials share one goal.

We already have the foundations of a winning story. Underberg and Himeville are proud farming towns and the gateway to the Southern Drakensberg and Sani Pass. Our scenery, heritage, agriculture, tourism and strong sense of place give us an identity few towns can match. Clean

entrances, cared-for verges, litter-free streets, attractive public spaces and well-maintained facilities would show every visitor—and every resident—that this community believes in its future.

**WHAT WILL IT TAKE TO BRING THE MUNICIPALITY TO THE TABLE?**  
Residents are entitled to ask why Tidy Towns—led by Ruth Crouch with unrivalled determination and devotion—should carry so much of the burden of restoring civic pride, attracting visitors and earning accolades while the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality remains largely absent from the work visible on the ground. Rejuvenating Underberg and Himeville is not a favour to volunteers; it is part of the municipality's

responsibility for service delivery, coordination and local development. This is also an invitation: the municipality now has an opportunity to become a visible partner in a campaign that can benefit the entire area. Every day, weary volunteers give their time and energy to clean streets and improve neighbourhoods that should already receive dependable municipal services. Their work strengthens confidence, supports tourism and can help protect property values - but goodwill is not unlimited. The same small group cannot be expected to sweep, plant, repair and organise forever. More residents must step forward, and the municipality must meet that commitment with equipment, routine services, enforcement and accountable leadership. Civic pride should inspire volunteering, not excuse official inaction.

A practical starting point would be a written rejuvenation compact between Tidy Towns, Sani Community Forum, residents, businesses and the municipality. It should name a municipal liaison, establish a monthly joint operations meeting and set out a public 90-day action plan for refuse removal, verge maintenance, signage, public toilets and by-law enforcement. Each commitment should have a responsible official, a deadline and a simple progress measure. Shared goals and visible results will motivate participation far more effectively than another vague appeal. Consistent enforcement of existing by-laws would provide an immediate, visible start. The municipality's

2024 Integrated Waste Management By-law gives it a clear basis for action against littering and illegal dumping. Other applicable rules should be enforced fairly in cases involving pavement obstruction, unlawful trading locations, public drinking, polluting open fires and disorderly conduct. Enforcement must be even-handed and humane: informal traders need clearly marked, serviced trading areas and workable permit processes, while vulnerable people should be connected with appropriate social and health support. One constructive proposal—to build brightly painted trading stalls in People's Park and host regular market days and evenings—was dismissed. Properly developed, it could support traders, increase their visibility and income, and help clear streets and pavements without excluding livelihoods. Within the first month, municipal officials could join Tidy Towns and residents for a public walkabout of both town centres, map litter and illegal-dumping hot spots, restore a reliable refuse-collection schedule, place bins at priority sites and ensure that they are emptied regularly, and publish weekly progress updates. These are not expensive prestige projects. They are achievable municipal functions that would build trust quickly and show volunteers that they finally have a partner. The aim is not confrontation, but a partnership with clear duties on every side. Tidy Towns can coordinate projects; residents can volunteer time, report problems and care for the spaces outside their properties; businesses can sponsor materials, bins, plants or equipment; schools and tourism operators can broaden participation; and the municipality can supply the services, enforcement and leadership only it is empowered to provide. Where commitments are delayed, the community should use ward structures, council questions, IDP and budget submissions, public progress reports and, if necessary, escalation to COGTA to secure written answers.

Bloemhof proved that a town does not need great wealth to win; it needs residents who believe in it and work together. Underberg and Himeville can tell an equally powerful story—one of two neighbouring towns uniting behind a shared vision, supported by a municipality prepared to do its part. Winning Town of the Year would bring pride and national attention, but the greater prize would be cleaner streets, stronger tourism, improved confidence and a community proud to call these towns home.

Trafalgar on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast has recently recorded property-price growth of more than 30% in a year, according to published Property24 data. Many factors influence property prices, so no clean-up campaign can promise the same result here. Even so, an attractive, well-run town is better placed to draw visitors, buyers and investment—and a stronger property base ultimately benefits the municipality through rates and local economic activity. The case for action is therefore shared by everyone.

Let us begin now. Join a clean-up, adopt a verge, sponsor supplies, report dumping, support local businesses and ask the municipality to commit publicly to the 90-day plan. If residents and officials stand together from today, Underberg and Himeville can compete for the 2027 Town of the Year title—and, more importantly, build the systems and civic pride needed to bring home the trophy and keep it.

Sources consulted: Statistics South Africa's 2011 Census place data; reporting on Bloemhof's 2025 Kwêla Town of the Year award and the April 2025 floods; published Property24 data on Trafalgar's 2026 property market; and the Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality's IDP publications and 2024 Integrated Waste Management By-laws. **By Di Sunter**

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# A road less travelled.

A recent assignment had me delving into the movements of the Hlubi people who were scattered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century because of uShaka disruptions during that time. Our road home to Underberg from Mooiriver was spontaneous and for some part new territory. A first destination was an old family farm ‘ Sheltered Vale’ near Rosetta - in the 1930s a beautiful stone farm house and now a thriving diary with accommodation. It was sold after the boys failed to return from the war. After that we took an unknown road and ran into a hidden valley in the upper Dargle which turned out to be rehabilitated veld and forest Oppenheimer owned, with an Nguni cattle herd and a most pleasant overseer. Scientists use the farmhouse for research - we plan to return. This was in the vicinity of where the cattle were taken, in that pivotal Bushman raid when Trooper Hodgson dyed from a bullet wound near Sani Pass in the early 1860’s. A few twists later en-route to Underberg on the Impendle road just past IVANHOE a huge rural farming enterprise there was suddenly TAR - GOOD TAR. You have a few choices of TAR road here, one which tends toward Bulwer and the other toward Stepmore, which we chose, it takes you to **Kwa Thunzi and Dumisa”s Kraal.**

**Reflections on a Kwa-Thunzi Duma ceremony.**  
**Kwa Thunzi** is the resting place of Chief Dumisa, father of Sakeyetwa. We chanced a spontaneous visit and were cordially received and given a private tour of the remains of the historic kraal. In the process we were invited to a *maiden’s dance* by the current chief’s wife. On the weekend I returned with Paul Welsh and Underberg newcomer Warren Flores. I’d first come this way with my father who 20 years before had organized an Underberg Historical society visit there. My lasting memory is my father handing a local associated dignitary some combed honey as a thank you and me clumesily missing the photo



Photo: Paul Welch

opportunity. In a few months he’d be dead, a Duma contingent attended his funeral in Himeville, I would leave shortly afterwards for New Zealand starting another chapter of my life. **Dumisa’s story** is the oldman’s unwritten book, he died in Bulwer in 1876 of pneumonia. By the 1880’s Kwa Thunzi had been bought by one Stephanus Mini a Kholwa man from Edendale of some wealth, he was familiar with the notion of title

NKOSIBHEKIDUMA

## Museum Snapshots –

**The Settler Room** at the **Himeville Fort and Museum** may be a small room, but it serves as a valuable lens through which to view much valuable information on the first inhabitants of European descent in the area. The space provides detail and photographs of many pioneering individuals and families, with descendants of a large number of these still resident in the community today. The first attempt at settlement was made by Edgar Bucknell in 1865 on the farm Highlands, where he built a sod house with the help of Frank Bucknell and Robert Gold. The first farm to be settled and worked was Fondeling, where Richard Cockerell farmed from 1886 to 1896. The room also provides historical insight into trading stores of the area, the Underberg Farmers Association and the railway, as well as information on Himeville and Bulwer. For anyone interested in the early beginnings of Underberg town and surrounds, a visit to this informative display is recommended. It is springtime, the gardens are looking beautiful and you are encouraged to come and enjoy this treasure of a local museum! **By Anne Young.**



Photo Don Guy

deeds promoted in the 1860’s by Rev. Allison of Edendale fame. Title deeded land in the Stepmore upper Mkomas region is of special fascination to me, it was surveyed in the 1880’s. Of Sakeytwa, Dumisa’s son we have several references. He settled below Hlogoma and became a successful buffer between bushman raiders and settler farmers of the Dargle and Boston Mills, eventually moving to Highflats after negotiating the Riechenau land deal with the trappist monk Frances Pfanner in the mid 1880’s. Ramacua, Sakeytwa’s elder brother, to my knowledge inherited the Mkomas chieftainship which I’m guessing was distributed by the surveying of title deeded land in the Mkomas valley. There are 1880’s records of him applying to settle in the Ndawana area and East Griqualand. **Roll on 2026.** The ceremony was clearly sponsored, a cow donation which fitted into a carbon credit formula and the SAPPI insignia clearly indicated they’d footed a bill. it sort of made sense - way above the kraal on Taylors ridge plantations skirt the horizon. Our visitor status recognized, we were treated with memorable hospitality. The main event the dancing maidans was joyous and recorded for KZN Zulu TV by cameraman Sphiwe Mazibuko shooting it for AMAFA. We’ll be there in October for the big one, with an added intention to be guided to some known rock art in the vicinity. Dumisa a great hunter had a history with the last of the mountain Bushman here, he took sanctuary with them in the early 1800’s and learnt elephant hunting skills from them, some of that story is recorded in a Himeville Museum exhibit.



Photo: Paul Welch

**Don is pictured here with Sphiwe with whom he made 50/50 documentaries for a decade. Don is an artist - filmmaker hiking guide and enviro-history writer for the Mountain Echo. WhatsApp 066 018 6430 for quotes and sharing local stories.**

## From The Saddle of Boot and Saddle

The Boot and Saddle Shellhole held our Annual General meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> July where a new Top Table was elected. The new executive at the Boot and Saddle are:

- Old Bill – Ivan Reynolds,
- Deputy Old Bill – Rod Abbett,
- Pay Bill – Adam Kriel and Adjutant
- Hylton Crouch.



The annual MOTH Fund-Raising Golf Day held on 22 August was a resounding success. For the first time we employed a shotgun start in order accommodate the Bok/All Blacks game. This resulted in the field being fully booked and a number of players missed the opportunity to play. To these golfers we apologise. There were great prizes to be won and an exciting 100 board draw with plenty of prizes and raffles. Items up for auction included a whole sheep, 4 sheep quarters, fabulous holidays at exotic locations, trips up Sani Pass, Microlite and Gyrocopter flights and two tickets to Splashy Fen Music Festival. Our auctioneer for the event was none other than Underberg’s favourite son Gwyn Viljoen who delivered a sublime and mercurial performance. None of this would have been possible if it was not for our benefactors and organisation who support the MOTH in the most generous and fabulous way. From the generous donation of sheep by our local farmers, to sponsorship of holes by local businesses and individuals to the superb prizes and raffles we received, we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. Well-done Underberg!! and last but not least, to my MOTH team and partners, thank you for your efforts in making this an enjoyable and successful event.

We held our Annual Recognition Awards on 1<sup>st</sup> September where the following organisations were recognised for their service to the community and each received a financial donation from the Shellhole:

- Underberg Nursing Services represented by Cathy Knox
- Underberg Emergency Medical Services represented by Michille Pitman and Roelf le Roux
- Tidy Towns represented by Mrs. Underberg herself, Ruth Crouch
- Pevensey Place represented by Andy Macallister on behalf of Mark Whitson

A total of R24 000 was donated to the recipient companies.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> September we were able to donate the equivalent of a sheep in frozen meat to Giant’s Cup Animal Welfare with Viginia MacIntyre and Erica Wiggle receiving the donation.

**The annual Young Veterans Parade will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> September at the Himeville Cenotaph commemorating the Bush War and the wars of our generation.** Fall-in is at 10h30 and the parade will kick-off at 11h00 sharp. We welcome all to attend the parade in commemoration of those who sacrificed their lives in order that we may enjoy what we have now. Should you wish for someone’s name the be read out and be remembered, or to lay a wreath, please contact me or your nearest MOTH. The new wall of remembrance will be in use with the names of the fallen for Underberg and Himeville for WWI, WWII and the Border war and with a wing for the members of Bulwer and Boston Polela Division in WWI. We are excited to announce that the Boot and Saddle MOTH Shellhole will be running one of the food stalls at the upcoming UFA Agricultural Show in October. We will be serving breakfasts egg and bacon rolls, beef burgers, steak Prego rolls, hot dogs for the kiddies and have cold drinks on sale. Our food tent will be open from Friday 12h00 to Sunday 12h00 with down-time from approximately 21h00 to 07h30. Look for the MOTH Boot and Saddle Gazebos, you can’t miss them. Should you wish to get involved with the MOTH, either as a veteran or as a supporter of the Shellhole, please feel free to contact me. Monthly meetings held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 18h00. Ivan Reynolds – Old Bill - Boot and Saddle – 082 5300 935

# BEFORE, AFTER & TODAY in our NECK of the BERG

By Rae Higgins

Some fascinating facts about the inhabitants of this Southern Berg area.

**FIRSTLY**, archeologist **LEN VAN SCHALKWYK**, who recently spent 6 years digging in Lesotho for dam developers, made a telling discovery, in a dig near Makhotlong, in the cave where Chief Langalibalele



had taken refuge and was betrayed. As they dug further and further down, out came arrowhead after arrowhead, fish skeletons, LARGE fish skeletons, wooden evidence of large trees, sea shells, potsherds from different eras. There were most definitely thriving communities here - not only from centuries ago, but from millennia- some up to 8000 years. And the evidence of large fish solved the mystery of the many rock paintings with large fish (fortunately recorded mostly by NUD’s own Pat Vinnecombe) **Don Guy presenting Len with one of his paintings.**

**SECONDLY, TIM JACKSON**, addressing Country Women, included his impressions of Underberg, starting in 1980 at Underberg Primary in his first teaching post.

In that year he met two of the best teachers in his career, Mrs Dianna Nagy (Eirene Flamand’s mother), and Mrs Peta Watson. Of Dianna Nagy (1980 was her last year of teaching) Tim said, “She was a classic old-school professional.” and he is grateful for what he learnt from her.

Of Peta Watson he said she was an exceptional teacher who became his Deputy Head when he returned as Principal to UPS in ‘88. “In my 44years ... in education, (no one) could match Peta’s professionalism, empathy, engaging manner, dedication and patience”

Tim’s first class in 1980 was Std III, and these names came to mind: Debbie Lowe, Corrie-Ann Rattray, Craig de Billot, Sarah Hardingham, Marcus Taylor, Julia Ross, Michael Corfe, Shannon Nicholson, Roger Hogg, Stephen Church, Paul Mulder, Lorraine Colville and Graeme Lundie.

Also that year, on a January week night, invited by friend Chris Beghin to a free braai and drinks at the old farmers hall below the station, Tim was horribly led astray by the “likes of Large Turner, Dave Turner, Nobby Horner and Geoff Taylor, among others”

After a few years at other schools Tim was delighted to return to UPS as headmaster. The school was “blessed with a dynamic and progressive parent body.” And “Jokey Aldous, Tod Collins and Keith Barrow ably served as Chairmen”

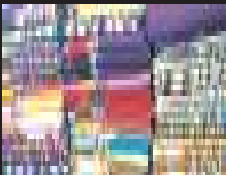
I believe that Underberg Primary’s unique “Outdoor Education”, and the exceptional emphasis on reading and literacy, is a happy legacy of Tim’s 5 years as its head.

**THIRDLY**

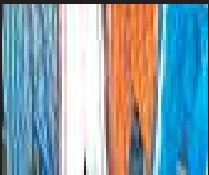


Three valuable Underbergers, golfers **CRUNCHIE CRONJE** (Have you seen his Open Garden roses?), **JACK LUND** (Farmer of Kenmo Lake fame - such a gentleman) and **ANDY DILLON** (delightful musician and singer) celebrated their 80th Birthdays by sponsoring and playing in the SEPTEMBER MEAT DAY which was won by Dave Stevens, Zane Stevens and Ant Palframan.**By Rae Higgins**

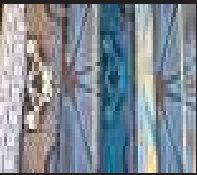
## Sani Curios



Kikois



Kikio Pants &



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## Curios

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# The Palframans of Underberg

One of my most satisfying projects has been my quest to rediscover my family roots. Both my mother, Ruth Ellen Evans (née Nichols), and her mother, Ellen Mary (May) Palframan, died young, and my connection to Underberg was severed. Fortunately, I had an aunt who lived nearby in Howick, Cicely Beukes, who kept the family connection alive.

In my late seventies, I set out to find the descendants of my late grandmother’s brothers and sisters. I managed to trace seventy-eight relatives — second, third and fourth cousins — now recorded on a contact list so we never lose each other again.

Fifty-one of us attended a joyous reunion of the Palframan clan at the Underberg Country Club on 25 May 2024. The following day we gathered at Watermead Farm homestead for lunch on the sprawling lawns, marvelling at the picturesque setting and its old homestead, which has housed four generations.

After the reunion, I was inspired to record our family’s stories, beginning when our Yorkshire ancestors arrived in Port Natal aboard five sailing vessels during the mid-19th century.

Thomas Palframan, my great-grandfather, was born in Townlands, Pietermaritzburg. He married Mary Elizabeth Thurston, and together they trekked by ox wagon with three children into the Polela District. He was the third settler to arrive in Underberg, buying Watermead Farm on the Mzimkhulu River and raising nine children — two boys and seven girls.

What emerged was a 60-page book, printed in glossy magazine format, featuring 90 photographs and four detailed family trees, along with a brief history of the Polela district and the development of the Himeville/ Underberg area. Of the 150 copies printed, about ten remain for sale at the Himeville Museum.

A strong remnant of Thomas and Mary’s descendants still thrives on farms in Underberg today: Palframans, Taylors, Turners and Thurstons.

I am deeply grateful to have found my roots in Underberg, and I hope to return again soon.

Inspiration drives passion. **By Lyn Brodovcky.** Paarl, Western Cape

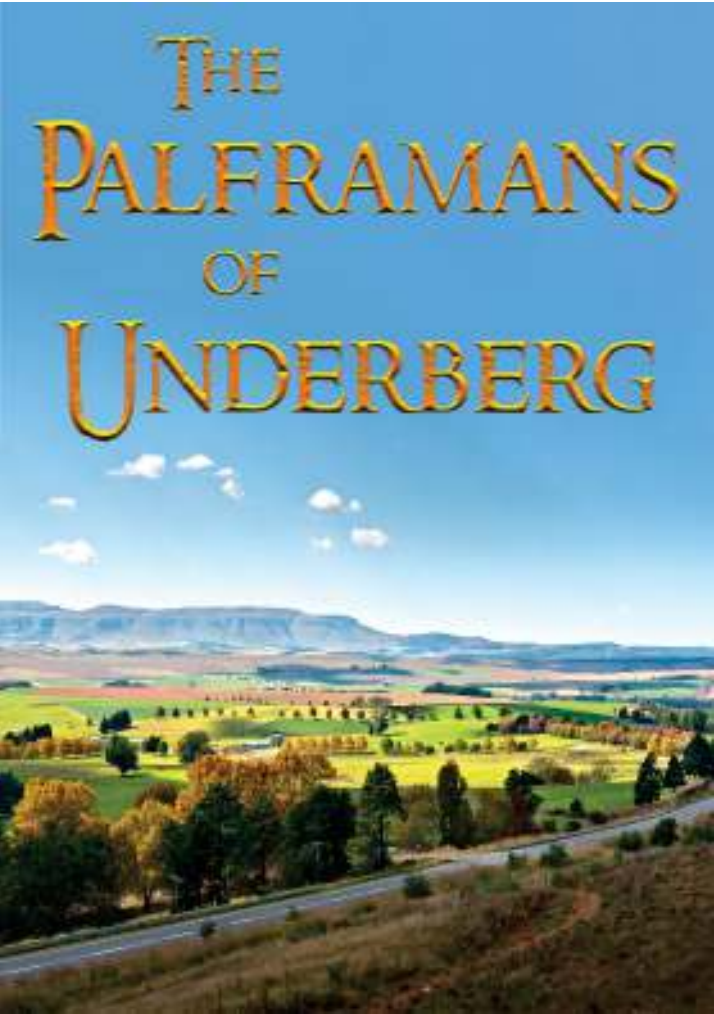
## BOOK REVIEW

I can’t help it, the first thing I do when I enter a new house is to scan the bookcases. That makes me a bit old fashion, a book in the hand has a sort of comfortable feeling about it, so it is when we visit Rosanne Clark at Hilltop, Mike and her books are a feast, just add a cup of tea. I ‘d heard about the ‘Loskop killer’ book and mentioned it in conversation. She had it in her bookcase ,in a minute it was in my eager paws. My interest in the subject came from another chance conversation. It had been summarized by an excited guy who’d been as intrigued as I became. Set between Mooi River and the berg, this was the ‘who -dunnit ’ - serial killer mystery story of it’s time. Between 1929 and 1936 a serial killer plagued mostly Indian store keepers in an effort to ultimately keep multiple wives in a polygamist marriage satisfied with their lot.

The weapon, a shot gun or rather multiple borrowed and stolen shot-guns. The target Indian storekeepers described as Arabs in the book murdered for the cash on hand at their stores located on the periphery of the locations from whence the clientele came, in the Ntabamhlope ‘White mountain’ region near Giants Castle. In the instance of the first crime a european farmer of German missionary descent, Theo Harms was arrested for the crime, he had sold a piece of his land which bordered on the location to the Indian Suliman Ismail Kharwa who commenced trading at Amatamo store bordering a location, the sale had not been concluded at the time of the crime. Harms spent three months in jail before being released on bail, later he was acquitted. His book written and published in novel form some 40 years after the event is backed up by the keen research around the case by John Lucey a photojournalist from Durban. The story was prime reading in the Natal Witness in 1929.

Ultimately confessions of a servant of neighboring farmer a Mr. Ralfe unraveled the story which has all the ingredients of a powerful screenplay and film. Frontier farming, trading, lobola challenges, sangomas and guns! One is tempted to say; What’s changed? I researched the names and geography in the context of our modern world mmmm - Africa is not for sissies.

**Don Guy - Old style Filmmaker - Underberg.**



# FAMILY LITERACY PROJECT

reading for meaning competition



On 17 August 2026, the Family Literacy Project was invited by Underberg Library to participate in a Grade 4 reading for meaning competition held at Jabulani Hall in Himeville. The competition included both isiZulu and English reading.

As part of our support for the children, we donated prizes to the learners who achieved positions 1 to 3. Each winner received a backpack filled with stationery donated by the Family Literacy Project.

We were also given an opportunity to introduce the Family Literacy Project and share information about our Reach Out to Read Programme. We displayed our reading kit and explained how the programme supports children’s literacy development.

While the competition organisers were busy counting the learners’ scores, we had an opportunity to engage with the children through educational games. The children participated well and enjoyed the activities. The teachers also showed a strong interest in our project, particularly the teachers from Somangwe Primary School, who approached us to request more information about the Reach Out to Read programme and how their school could become involved.

The librarians also invited the Family Literacy Project to support their other local reading competitions that will take place at four different levels.

Overall, the event was a valuable opportunity for the Family Literacy Project to promote literacy, engage with children and teachers, and strengthen our relationship with the Underberg Library and local schools.



## The Southern Drakensberg Community Tourism Organisation (SDCTO)

has had another busy month, with several initiatives underway to strengthen tourism marketing, support members and promote the Southern Drakensberg as a year-round destination. Marketing and Fundraising

SDCTO’s Marketing and Fundraising team, led by committee members Lana Jover and Lulu Black, has been working on several initiatives aimed at increasing exposure for the destination and delivering greater value to members.

The organisation recently launched its first newsletter which outlines the SDCTO’s renewed focus on promoting the Southern Drakensberg as a destination throughout the year, rather than relying primarily on peak periods such as December, major events or snowfall.

Among the initiatives being developed are improvements to the SDCTO website, a refreshed logo, new destination marketing opportunities, member value offerings, Joint Ventures and fundraising projects.

The organisation is also preparing for its inaugural SDCTO Golf Day on 28 November 2026. The event will serve both as a networking opportunity and an important fundraiser, with funds raised contributing towards future destination marketing and SDCTO initiatives. Sponsorship, prizes and other forms of support will be welcomed.

The SDCTO encourages members to share their business news and events, update their listings, share SDCTO social media content and provide suggestions on how the organisation can better support the local tourism industry.

Supporting Young Tourism Entrepreneurs

Thalente Tshezi, a local lad who is studying tourism, has become an active behind-the-scenes contributor to the local tourism sector and is representing the Southern Drakensberg at the Tourism Business Council of South Africa (TBCSA) competition in Sun City on 27 and 28 October 2026.

He has also approached the SDCTO for support for Florence’s Grass Heritage Crafts, particularly in accessing incema grass as a raw material and obtaining branded clothing and promotional items. His number, if you want to stock his unique product or find out more, is +27677672922.

Businesses or individuals interested in assisting Thalente can contact her for further information.

Member Only Benefit: Professional Photography

## Good food, good coffee and plenty of choices, right here on our doorstep!

Whether you’re looking for a quick coffee, a family lunch, somewhere special for dinner or a relaxed spot to meet friends, the Southern Drakensberg has a surprisingly diverse food scene — and it’s worth knowing what’s available here on our doorstep. When visitors come to stay, one of the questions locals are often asked is: “Where should we go to eat?”

Fortunately, there is no shortage of answers.

From Underberg and Himeville to the surrounding countryside, the Southern Drakensberg offers a wonderful mix of restaurants, cafés, country venues, farm shops, bars and more casual spots to eat and socialise. And with such a variety, there is something to suit just about every occasion — and every appetite.

Looking for a good cup of coffee and something sweet? Giants Cup Café, Selah and The Olde Duck are among the places to put on the list. Balam River Deck also offers the opportunity to enjoy fabulous coffee in a beautiful riverside setting.

For a relaxed meal with friends or family, there are plenty of choices. The Grind Restaurant and Country Hangar Bar, Hackers Grill @ Underberg Country Club, Pig and Pony and The Whistling Goat each bring their own flavour and atmosphere to the local dining scene.

And if you’re looking for something a little different, Billy’s Shisanyama offers a more informal, social experience, while Mphemba’s Lounge and Restaurant adds another local option for eating and relaxing.

For those occasions when you want to make a meal part of the experience, Malachite Manor Restaurant and Moorcroft Manor Restaurant offer beautiful settings and a more leisurely style of dining. These are the kinds of places that can turn a meal into something worth lingering over — particularly when you’re entertaining out-of-town guests.

Then there is Lemon Tree Farm Shop and Bistro, where a farm-shop stop can easily become part of the outing, and Mr NUD Go Delivery, offering the convenience of having food brought to you.

What is perhaps most enjoyable about the local food scene is the variety. You don’t have to travel far to find somewhere for a morning coffee, a quick bite after a day outdoors, a family get-together, a casual drink with friends or a special dinner. And while we may sometimes take the places around us for granted, they’re also part of what makes the Southern Drakensberg such a lovely place to live.

So, the next time someone asks, “Where can we go for a good meal around here?”, you won’t have to think too hard. Keep this list handy — and share it with your visitors. You might even discover a new local favourite yourself. **ALL ARE MEMBERS OF THE SDCTO. [www.drakensberg.org](http://www.drakensberg.org)**



THE WHISTLING GOAT

As part of its commitment to providing practical benefits to members, TM Photography is offering SDCTO members a professional photography package for R850.

The package includes:

- 10 professionally edited, high-resolution photographs
- A 30–60 minute on-location shoot
- Interior and exterior photography
- Images suitable for websites, social media and tourism listings
- Delivery within five working days

Good-quality photography is an important part of presenting a tourism business professionally. For bookings, contact Taylor Malyon on 062 907 9371. T&Cs apply.

Growing Partnerships Across the District

The SDCTO continues to welcome new members and encourages tourism businesses to join the organisation and contribute to a stronger, more collaborative tourism sector.

From 25 to 27 September 2026, the Harry Gwala Development Agency (HGDA), KZN Tourism and Film (KZNTAFA) and Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality Tourism will host more than 30 marketing and tourism-related guests as part of a programme showcasing the Southern Drakensberg and surrounding areas: Midlands to Berg Experience

A significant achievement is that service providers within the SDCTO area, Bulwer, Underberg and Himeville, have been selected from SDCTO membership for the programme.

Further details on the programme will be shared in the next SDCTO update. **"Tourism is the only job where you get paid to make people forget they have a home." (Unknown)**



MOORCROFT MANOR



THE LEMON TREE BISTRO



BALAM RIVER DECK



GOLD — KZN PAIRS BOWLING CHAMPIONS!  
Karen Hardy & Tara Janse van Rensburg  
Lynwood BC



Lethokuhle Mbelu (Pevensey) is in grade 11 at Howick High School needs R43 500 because he has been selected for the Dubai 7s. Contact his mother Fundisiwe on 081 803 4019 who will send you the Back a buddy link

# SOUTHERN DRAKENSBERG HONORARY OFFICERS

**Save the wattle crane.    Clearing invasive aliens at Himeville nature reserve.    Upgrading thatch on huts at Winterhoek below Garden Castle.    Vultures don't like to eat in cold weather.**

The Southern Drakensberg **Invasive Alien Plant** booklet is still widely available and it is hoped that those who have bought it are following the details on how to control and eradicate these pests that have been introduced into our mountain environment. The booklet offers a comprehensive introduction for the ordinary man in the street to all the methods of controlling and eradicating invasive alien species. One does not need expensive equipment but should have an understanding of herbicide chemicals if these are required. Many chemicals that are available in retail outlets can be dangerous to the environment and the wrong one can have long term negative impacts for humans, animals and water sources like wetlands.

The all-invasive gum tree is found everywhere. There are at least three species under the name of *Eucalyptus*. They are listed as Category 1b species and "must be eradicated/ controlled, with further spread prevented" – check the booklet for more information which can be purchased from retail outlets in Underberg.

Our Honorary Officer Mike Bloom together with Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) successfully caught and ringed a critically endangered Wattle Crane. These birds pair for life and only rear one chick in the winter months. The adults and chick are very vulnerable to fire in their wetland habitat where they make their nests near the edges surrounded by water but fire in the tall dry reeds and sedges is fatal for them. Predators such as jackals, otters, mongoose and stray dogs find the chick, in particular, easy prey. Other dangers are their being caught in barbed wire and electric fences during the

early stages of growing and overhead powerlines once they are airborne. Mike says that **out of seven chicks that hatched** from the pair he has been monitoring **only one has reached maturity** and flown away to join another flock. Please report any Wattle Cranes (dead or alive) to EWT and particularly if you see a ringed bird.

At the time of going to press the Mike Bloom's **Wattle Crane chick got caught up in a fence** and he had to get it to FreeMe Wildlife Centre in Howick to have the wing injuries attended to but it sadly died during the vet's operation.

## ASSISTANCE TO EKZNW

There is ongoing work at **Himeville Nature Reserve** where Pam Kleiman is continually working on **removing invasive coreopsis and other invasive plants**. She also does work cleaning the flower beds and beautifying the entrance gate with indigenous plants. Simon Acutt took a winter swim in the dam to repair and replace pipes to the reserve pump house. It is so disappointing that people who use the refurbished picnic site vandalise the toilet facilities with theft of mirrors and other fittings and also leave them in an unfit state for other people to use. This site was cleared and upgraded at no cost to the community but by voluntary work and time of HO's for the benefit of all users.

The HO's proposed the project of **upgrading the huts at Wintershoek in Garden Castle area**. **Pro Thatch** have done an excellent job of



rethatching these buildings. The site is popular for visitors and as an overnight stop for hikers and looks so much more inviting now.

The International Vulture Day, held every year on the first Saturday in September, took place on a chilly overcast day. Three HO's monitored well-known feeding sites but only 10 Cape Vultures were seen hunkering down among rocks in the cold conditions. On the days leading up to 5<sup>th</sup> September the sites, near Himeville, were very



**Mike Bloom and EWT staff ringing a wattled crane**

active with 40 or more birds seen feeding regularly and in the Bushman's Nek area over 100 birds, but the inclement weather kept them away. We were looking for birds on the ground to count. No vultures that are flying are counted

The popular open-air interpretive centre at the old Good Hope Store site has received a spring clean with Julian Simon and Pam Kleiman weeding out invasive plants and replacing damaged frames to signage. If you wish to know more about what Honorary Officers do and how to join visit the Southern Drakensberg Honorary Officer stand at the upcoming UFA and Lifestyle Show taking place 2 – 4 October.

**By Rosanne Clark**

**For further inquiries about joining the group or offering assistance in any way please contact:- Chairman Julian Simon 0836516777 [southerndrakensberg.chair@ezemveloho.com](mailto:southerndrakensberg.chair@ezemveloho.com) Secretary Cayla Beghin 0824932305 - [southerndrakensberg.secretary@ezemveloho.com](mailto:southerndrakensberg.secretary@ezemveloho.com) or Ezemvelo HOs.**



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COME AND MEET  
THE TEAM AT THE  
**2026 UFA AGRI & LIFESTYLE SHOW!**

2-4 OCTOBER 2026



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## CATCH the GLORIOUS MUSEUM SPRING WALK

**10 October**

The **HIMEVILLE NATURE RESERVE** provides pleasure any time of the year. But on Saturday the 10th of OCTOBER, the new grass will be green, the Blesbok will be blessing- maybe with a baby or two, and the bordering gardens and farmlands will

be alive with an NUD Spring. And the **HIMEVILLE MUSEUM** is treating us to a fundraising walk. Starting and ending at the Museum, the two routes (3.2km and 5km) wend mostly through the reserve. With adults at R100 and U12's at R50, each ticket number stands a chance to win one of the MANY exciting GIFTS. Such a happy opportunity to share in raising funds for our award-winning Museum. Save the date and see you there!!! **By Rae Higgins**



**SPRING**  
Saturday 10th October  
**FUN WALK**

**Himeville Museum Fundraiser**  
Enjoy a beautiful walk around the Himeville Reserve Dam.  
Distance 3.2km or 5km, with a halfway refreshment.  
Starting time 9.30am at the Museum.  
Tickets: Adults R100, children under 12 year R50  
Lucky draw with many prizes  
Tickets available at the museum



**Photo: Paul Welch**

Blesbok playing catch at the Himeville Nature Reserve.  
A beautiful walk right on your doorstep. See more photos of walks in Himeville on **MOUNTAIN ECHO BASED IN UNDERBERG** facebook page

# OOM JANNIE

By llew Evans

Over the years of being in practice you met some lovely people (....and a few you wish had never been born!). One of these was an older Afrikaans man, a retired attorney who had this gift of telling stories – stories that seemed to have no end but went on and on, until the tears ran down your face. Mostly the stories were at his expense but told in this dry, ‘op die stoep ‘, kind of way. (I often thought the waitresses in the coffee shop must have wondered about these two old men laughing their heads off!)

The one I always loved was this one... In his day he had been a great hiker and camper – often heading out when he just needed to clear his head and get rid of his stress.

How many of you remember the Domoina floods of 1984? It seems an awful long time ago now, but they really were catastrophic. The after damage was also horrendous with bridges and roads swept away and even the insurance companies wept. (Can you believe it?) I know I lived in Forest Hills in Kloof at the time and we lived on a ridge. The floods surrounded us, washing away roads and leaving us stranded for several days. The local doctor only managed to get out by bashing his way through the sugar cane in his old Land rover. Thank heavens for the old type vehicles.

Shortly afterwards Jannie decides he really needs to get away. So, he decides to go camping alone at Catalina Bay which is very far up the north coast.

He packs his VW Golf with all his camping gear and essential supplies and sets off. Along the way he stops for petrol and the people in the shop ask him where he is headed. He tells them. They look concerned and say “This is not a good idea. Even the local crocodile farm has been flooded, and all the crocs have escaped.” But Jannie is made of sterner stuff. (Did his forefathers not go barefoot over the Drakensberg mountains??) So, he ignores this and continues his way.

After a few hours the road gets worse and then becomes a dirt road, but he drives on. Huge water filled potholes are everywhere and eventually the Golf tumbles into one and stalls. And won’t start again.

Jannie is alarmed. He gets out- and sees water EVERYWHERE. He sits on a nearby hillock and wonders what to do? So, he has a beer.

## A Big Thank You from GCAW!

GCAW would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our wonderful community for the continued donations to our Thrift Shop. Every donation, big or small, is greatly appreciated and helps us continue the important work we do for the animals in our care.

We do try to personally message each person who donates items to thank them for their generosity. Unfortunately, there are occasionally glitches in the system, and some of these messages may not be received. If you have donated and have not received a message from us, please know that your contribution has certainly not gone unnoticed. We are incredibly grateful to each and every person who supports our Thrift Shop through their donations.

**Exciting Raffle at the UFA Show!**

The UFA Show is taking place on the first weekend of October, and GCAW will be there selling raffle tickets for an exciting prize!

The lucky winner will receive a brand-new Defy 147-litre chest freezer, very generously donated by Sani Round Table. But that’s not all — the freezer will be filled with meat and delicious pre-made meals, making this an incredible prize valued at approximately R6,000!

Raffle tickets are only R100 each, and all proceeds will go towards supporting the animals in the care of GCAW.

Be sure to look out for us at the UFA Show, purchase your ticket, and stand a chance to win this fantastic prize while supporting a wonderful cause.

Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase at our GCAW Thrift Shop, or via our WhatsApp number on 066 127 4192.

**Looking for a Forever Home**

We currently have plenty of sterilised dogs who are looking for loving forever homes. If you are considering welcoming a new four-legged family member into your home, please contact Erica to arrange a meeting and spend some time getting to know the dogs who are patiently waiting for their special someone.

**A Reminder for Pet Owners**

As the weather starts warming up, we are moving into tick and flea season. We would like to remind all pet owners to make sure that their dogs and cats are regularly treated for ticks and fleas. Prevention and regular treatment can go a long way towards keeping our beloved pets healthy, happy and comfortable during the warmer months.

Thank you once again to our amazing community for your continued kindness, generosity and support. We simply could not do what we do without you! **By Kitt Du Preez**



Banking Details

FNB

(BUSINESS ACC)

NAME: GCAW NPC

ACC NO.62902665233

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Just to help him think. Can’t think of a solution so he has another beer and a bit of cheese to go with it. After 6 beers, and some more cheese and some salami, he still has no solution as he is afraid to go wading through the water to find help because of the crocodiles on the loose. He is getting a bit fuzzy headed by now but still has no solution and the light is starting to go. Then he hears a faint “Putt, putt, putt” and an old Land rover chugs into view driven by an old gentleman. He sees Jannie and calls out “Have you got a problem?” Talk about understatement. It is obvious Janie has a big one. The old man continues “I can’t stop but there is a rope in the back of the Land rover. If you can get it out, I can tow you out.”

Salvation!! Even in his semi-inebriated state Jannie managed to tumble into the back of the Land rover. He grabs the rope and falls out the back again. He attaches it to his sunken Golf and the old gentleman who had stopped at the top of the rise managed to pull the car out. Jannie huffed and puffed up to him, opened the door and the water just poured out. With very little hope in his heart, he turned the key – and the car started!! Without any ado he profusely thanked his saviour, leaped (or stumbled) into the car and headed back to Pinetown.

When he got home, he stripped all the carpets out of the car and gave it to his university student son, who happily used it for the next few years. What an advert for the VW Golf.

Now on a different subject and on a sad note, some time ago I wrote about my dog Layla that was burned at the vet. She seemed to get over the experience slowly but then I noticed she was slowing down and seems reluctant to eat or even go for her afternoon walk. When I looked at her gums, they were snow white. As usual we all think immediately of Biliary. I rushed her up to the vet and he tested her. No Biliary. There followed a round of blood tests, scans and x-rays. Nothing showed up. I then took her to a specialist in Hilton. Another round of tests and scans. Still nothing showed up except that she had no blood platelets. So, by exclusion they said she had Idiopathic, thrombocytopenia. What that means is she has no blood platelets, but they have not the foggiest idea why. They put her onto a lot of cortisone and she started to improve. I also went to a homeopathic vet, and she gave me a diet for her and some blood tonic pills. Gradually her energy and appetite came back, and she looked like the dog she had been. We had her blood tested every week and the numbers started climbing back to normal. We were thrilled. Then she



### TWO GINGER BOYS LOOKING FOR LOVING HOMES

These two adorable ginger boys are around 7–8 weeks old and are now ready to find their forever homes.

They are looking for loving families who will give them a safe home, lots of love and plenty of cuddles as they grow. If you think you could give one of these little boys the loving forever home he deserves, please get in touch with GCAW. Come and meet them and see which little ginger boy steals your heart!

Contact Virginia: 082 804 8928

Adoption is subject to an application, home check and GCAW adoption terms.

**UNDERBERG VETERINARY SURGERY WARNING ABOUT BILIARY**

We have had 8 dogs with Biliary so far this season....Please make sure your pet's Tick & Flea prevention is up to date.

11 SEPTEMBER

Bravecto prevents tick infestation for up to 3 months,

Nexgard for 1 month,

Frontline for 1 month.

Prevention is better than cure

died. We just found her in the garden one afternoon after searching for her. Gone to doggy heaven.

We were heartbroken and she left SUCH a gap in our lives. But there were still unanswered questions, so I requested a proper postmortem be done. The pathologist phoned me after a few days to say they had found a bleeding tumour in her heart muscle and the pericard full of blood. So, in the end her heart had failed. What a loss.

Sometimes I wonder about academics. Did you know some Japanese academics have discovered that the sound of a cat’s purring stimulates bone healing? Then I must have the strongest bones in the Universe. My cat is forever lying on my lap and purring while I tickle his tummy or scratch his ears. For this I blame GCAW. Guess where he came from? Some other academics also discovered there is a similarity between human breast cancer and cat breast cancer. I don’t see the importance really and the only trouble is that mammary tumours in cat’s are relatively rare. We see it commonly in dogs but as far as I remember we seldom saw it in cats. The local vets may correct me on this, but cats certainly do get cancers but no real mammary tumours. Strange don’t you think?

By Llew Evans  
retired vet





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| FLA STOCK SALE SEPTEMBER 2026 |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
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| QTY SOLD                      | 174     |
| PERCENTAGE                    | 100%    |
| MAXIMUM PRICE                 | R65 000 |
| MINIMUM PRICE                 | R4 700  |
| AVERAGE PRICE                 | R20 410 |

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## REAL ESTATE UNDERBERG

### FAMILY HOME WITH MOUNTAIN VIEWS



R2 050 000

This attractive off-the-grid home offers 3 bedrooms, a study, open-plan living and a cosy fireplace, complemented by a spacious garden and mountain views. With a full solar system, backup water tank, double garage, and covered patio, it combines comfortable modern living with sustainability and self-sufficiency.

### DRAK GARDENS SMALLHOLDING WITH INCOME GENERATING COTTAGES



R4 950 000

Set on 4.1 hectares with uninterrupted Drakensberg mountain views, Aspen Villa is a spectacular 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom country home offering exceptional lifestyle and investment appeal. Complete with a 2-bedroom cottage, charming 1-bedroom rondavel, newly renovated kitchen, outdoor fireplace, and double garage, this remarkable smallholding is the ultimate mountain retreat with established holiday income potential.

### SUPERB COUNTRY HOME



R2 950 000

Perched in an elevated position with breathtaking 180° mountain views, this immaculate 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom country home offers spacious open-plan living, a designer kitchen, and a self-contained flatlet. Complete with a double automated garage, inverter backup, beautifully maintained gardens, and premium modern conveniences, this is country living at its finest.

### NEWLY RENOVATED 4 BEDROOM HOME



R3 400 000

Beautifully renovated, this 4-bedroom, 3-bathroom Himeville home offers modern comfort and excellent off-grid efficiency. Highlights include a Scott Campbell-designed kitchen, open-plan living with a built-in braai and fireplace, double-glazed doors opening onto a heated pool and garden, plus solar power, a garage, double carport, workshop and staff quarters.

### CONTACT OUR AGENTS

### SCAN FOR MORE LISTINGS

- Poppet Acutt 073 171 9446
- Kathy Abbott 082 925 7983
- Kerry Abbott 076 934 1487
- Lynne Whittle 083 786 0280

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PROPERTIES

## PROPERTY SHOWCASE Underberg



### UNDERBERG - R 2 100 000

3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS | 1 GARAGE

Family home perfectly positioned to capture breathtaking views of the Drakensberg Mountains. Spacious garden with a mountain stream flowing through the grounds.

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### HIMEVILLE - R 3 000 000

3 BEDROOMS | 2 BATHROOMS

Perfect as a weekend retreat or permanent home. Breathtaking sunsets and views to the Southern Drakensberg across a shared dam, teeming with varied birdlife.

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### UNDERBERG - R 5 750 000

3 BEDROOMS | 3 BATHROOMS | 3 GARAGES

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### HIMEVILLE - R 1 395 000

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This property lends itself to both self-catering accommodation or long-term rentals. Four separate units enhance privacy, while offering versatile living arrangements. Level, hedged garden.

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