

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

A Legacy in Bloom

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za



Sarika and Vishal Kamlall from Esenembe carry on a four-generation farming tradition. From their marigold fields to their struggles in a changing world, their story is one of resilience, devotion, and heritage. As Kavady approaches, their flowers will grace temples and chariots. Read their inspiring journey on Page 3

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Through my eyes



by Kasia Yoko

Lately, the world feels heavier. The weight of division, misunderstanding, and fear has seeped into our daily lives in ways we never imagined possible. The global stage, once distant and abstract, now feels deeply personal. Political rhetoric and ideological clashes have become so intense that they reach into our friendships, our communities, and even our own hearts. The conversations that once brought us together now seem to push us apart.

With the U.S. president setting his sights on South Africa, our country is swept into a storm of uncertainty. His motivations are unclear, but what is undeniable is the hysteria, the polarizing narratives, and the growing sense of unease. I have watched as lifelong friends take hard stances, often without space for dialogue. I, too, have felt the sting of rejection—recently being labelled as something I am not, simply for expressing an opinion. A close friend has vanished from my life, possibly erasing my presence from her digital world as well. Another, dear to my heart, broke down in tears simply because I mentioned a podcaster I admire.

The fear of ideological contamination has grown so strong that even the mention of differing perspectives is met with panic. This is not the world I want to live in. And I know I am not alone in feeling this way. Deep down, we all long for connection, for

determined to fracture us further? Dr. Viktor Frankl, a man who endured unimaginable suffering and yet emerged with profound wisdom, reminds us: “Everything can be taken from a man but... the last of the human freedoms—to choose

over fear. He also offers us another invaluable insight: “Between stimulus and response, there is a space. In that space lies our freedom and our power to choose our response. In our response lies our growth and our happiness.” How often do we forget this? How often do we react rather than reflect?

Perhaps this is where healing begins—with the choice to pause, to breathe, to listen. Growth requires change, but change does not have to mean loss. We can grow towards each other instead of apart. We can make space for conversations that challenge us rather than fearing them. We can acknowledge our differences without turning them into weapons.

We only have one life. One chance to love, to learn, to extend a hand instead of raising a fist. What if, instead of retreating in fear, we leaned in with hope? What if we made room for grace? Perhaps then, amidst the noise and division, we might rediscover what truly binds us together. Perhaps then, we might find peace—not just in the world, but within ourselves.

What a wild time to be alive. One side thinks it's the golden age, and the other is convinced it's a dark age. It really makes you see how we can live in completely different realities depending on how we perceive the world. Our mind truly creates the world.

understanding, for kindness. We want to feel safe, not just in our physical spaces, but in our thoughts and words as well. But how do we reclaim that sense of unity when the world around us seems

one's attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one's way.” In the face of hardship, we still have the power to choose grace over resentment, dialogue over silence, and love

Dear Editor,

Re: Load shedding chaos

I am writing to express my deep frustration regarding the ongoing electricity and water shortages in Ballito, KZN. How are we expected to run our businesses and homes under these dire conditions? Life is falling apart around us, and every day feels like a battle for basic necessities.

Our investors are losing confidence, and our electrical appliances are failing due to the constant power dips and surges. These interruptions not only affect our daily lives but also place an

enormous strain on local businesses trying to stay afloat. How can we continue as normal when everything around us is crumbling?

What is the solution to this never-ending saga? We hear promises, yet the situation only seems to worsen. The people of Ballito deserve clear answers and urgent action from those in charge.

Despite these challenges, I want to commend The Bugle for keeping us informed. We may only get it once a month, but it remains a valued voice in our community. Keep up the good work!

Regards,
Peter Solomon

Dear Editor,

Re: E. coli in Our Ocean

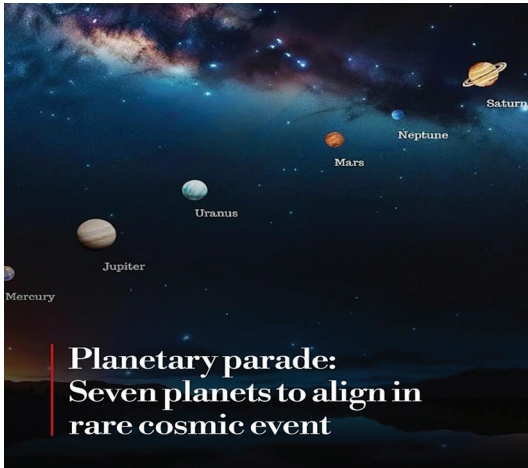
Ballito and the North Coast of KZN used to be a pristine holiday destination, known for its beautiful beaches and crystal-clear waters. We took pride in our coastline, but sadly, that is no longer the case.

I now fear stepping into the ocean, as the last few times I did, I experienced adverse

reactions—likely due to bacteria in the water. How have we allowed this to happen? Is there truly nowhere we can ensure clean and safe ocean water?

This is heartbreaking, not just for residents but for the future of tourism and marine life. Something needs to be done before we lose what made our coastline so special.

Anonymous
Ballito



A spectacular celestial event is set to occur as seven planets align in the sky, offering a rare "planetary parade" visible from Earth. This alignment, featuring Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune, is a phenomenon that won't happen again until 2040. While the alignment will begin on February 28, 2025, for viewers in India, the best time to witness this alignment will be around March 3, 2025.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR ENVIORNMENTAL AUTHORISATION

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 (as amended) published in Government Notice No. R326 in terms of Sections 24 (5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998, of SSS 123 Trading (Pty) Ltd intention to expand the Umhlali Total Energies fuel station and develop a fast-food outlet drive-thru, KwaDukuza Local Municipality, iLembe District Municipality, KZN.

Project Detail: The uMhlali Total Energies Fuel Station was established on the property described as Portion 16 of Lot 72 No.1526 UMhlali in May 2022. Due to an increase in urban expansion within the project area, the applicant intends to increase the total combined capacity of the current fuel station from 79m² to 119m², a total increase of 40m². The expansion will include 1 x 20m² underground diesel tank and 1 x 20m² underground petrol tank. In addition to the expansion, a fast-food drive-thru will also be established adjacent to the fuel station. The site is geographically located at the following co-ordinates: 29°29'4.80"S; 31°12'48.57"E

In respect of the above, a Basic Assessment Process is being applied for in order to attain Environmental Authorisation from the KwaZulu – Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

As part of the Public Participation Process, you are invited to review and comment on the Draft Basic Assessment Report which will be available for a 30-day period from 21 February 2025 to 26 March 2025. You may download a copy of the report from Wallace and Green's website: www.wallaceandgreen.co.za or alternatively, an electronic copy can be made available upon request. A hardcopy of the Draft Basic Assessment Report will also be made available at the Shakaskraal Library.

Contact Details: Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register by submitting their name, contact information and interest in the project to the Environmental Assessment Practitioner below by the 26 of March 2025 Further information may be obtained, and comments may be submitted using these same contact details.

Ms. Sphelele Mhlongo, Wallace & Green (Pty) Ltd, Suite 4, 11 Cranbrook Crescent, La Lucia Ridge, 4051, Tel 031 563 4466, Fax 086 613 8535, E-mail sphelele@wallaceandgreen.co.za



Date of advertisement: 26 February 2025.

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"They muddy the water to make it seem deep." Nietzsche



Amid Esenembe’s rolling hills, Sarika and Vishal Kamlall nurture a four-generation farming legacy. Their land blooms with marigolds, heritage, and sacrifice—but as challenges mount, can their traditions endure?

Marigold Farmers of Esenembe

By Kasia Yoko



Their family home, built by Vishal’s late grandfather, Harichand Roopnarian, holds memories of both joy and sorrow

Nestled in the rolling hills of Esenembe, just 30 kilometres from Ballito, Sarika and Vishal Kamlall continue a farming legacy that spans four generations. Their family home, built by Vishal’s late grandfather, Harichand Roopnarian, holds memories of both joy and sorrow.

“It was right here on the dining room floor where my grandfather passed away over fifty years ago, surrounded by his loving family. I was only five years old, but I still remember the sorrow and anguish as we watched him take his last breath,” Vishal recalls.

As we sit down for an early lunch,

the walls around us tell the story of those who came before. Family photographs, a small altar in the corner, and the aroma of home-cooked food create an atmosphere of deep-rooted tradition. The meal, prepared with fresh vegetables from their farm, is a feast of flavours. We eat with our hands, discussing the indentured Indian labourers who once tilled these lands—so little is known about their journey, their struggles, and why they settled here in Esenembe.

Sarika and Vishal have spent their married life on this farm, cultivating the land that has sustained their family

for generations. I first met them years ago at their small produce stand in Tongaat, where they sold fresh vegetables under a tarpaulin tent. The stand became a familiar sight on the main road until COVID-19 forced them to close. Now, they sell directly to their customers and at the Verulam market every Saturday.

But life as farmers has only grown more difficult. Their children, like many of their generation, will choose a different path, education is a top priority in the Kamlall household. The couple worries about the future of the farm, wondering how long they can

continue this labour-intensive work on their own.

Walking through their fields, I am struck by the golden glow of marigolds stretching as far as the eye can see. The air is thick with the scent of blooming flowers, herbs, and fruit trees. It’s a breathtaking sight, but behind its beauty lies the reality of farming—long hours, rising costs, and the relentless demands of the land.

With Aways approaching, the Kamlalls hope for a good season. The marigolds, used in religious offerings, will soon adorn chariots and temples across the region. Despite setting their

prices lower than market rates, they see this as an act of seva—a selfless service to their Hindu community.

Farming in KwaZulu-Natal’s north coast is no easy task. It demands resilience, dedication, and a deep respect for the land. Sarika and Vishal embody all of these qualities. They are not just farmers; they are caretakers of a legacy, ensuring that the traditions of their ancestors live on—even as the future of their farm remains uncertain.

If You would like to support Sarika and Vishal Kamlall by buying their marigold contact them direct on 0728840124.



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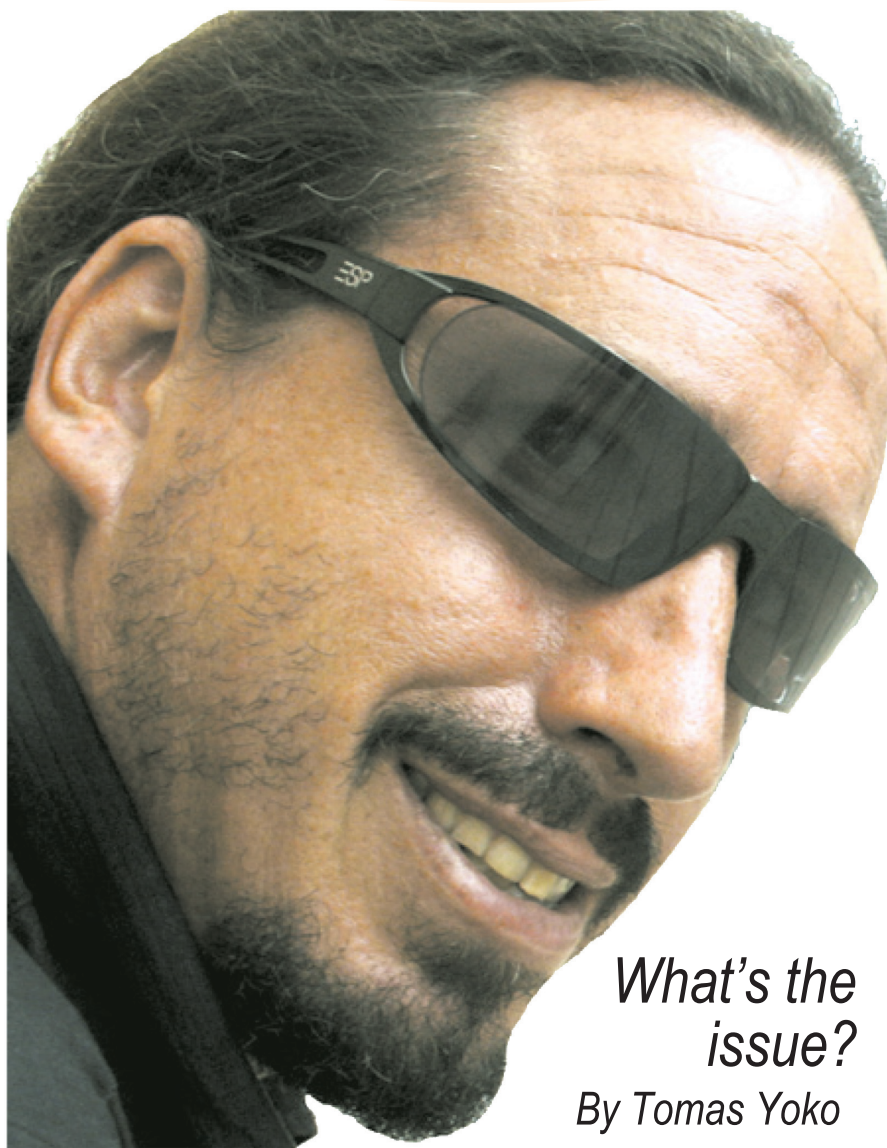
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Be Grateful that you slipped through the hands of people that had no clue on how to hold you.” Joy Fuller



What's the issue?
By Tomas Yoko

Talk about setting the cat amongst the pigeons, Donald Trump deploying Elon and his minions saw feathers flying in every direction. The more really unpopular lefties cry and bemoan their fate, the more Elon and his backpack wearing, skateboard toting, Big Balls bravado team seemed to increase their pain and suffering.

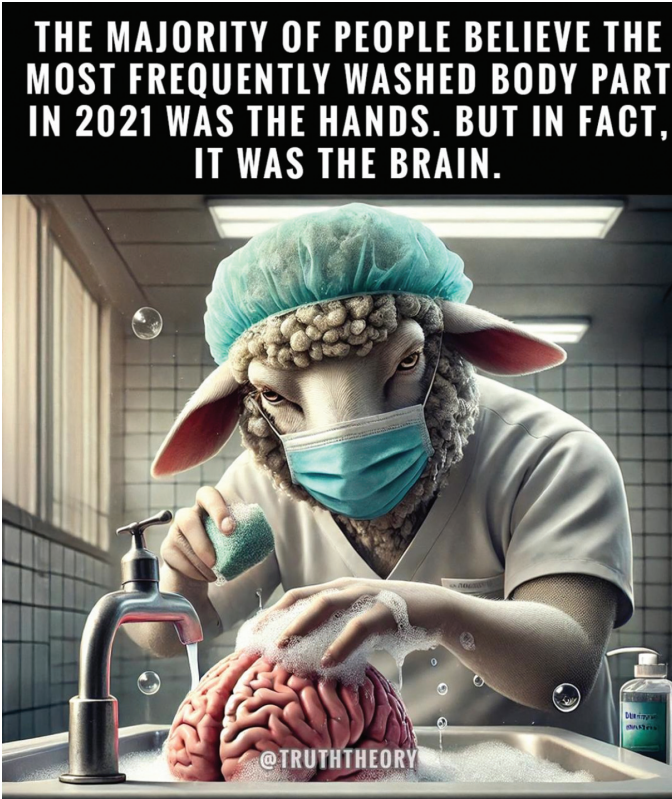
One observer pointed out that the people complaining were the ones most likely to be charged with criminal activity due to fraud and wasteful expenditure. I was wondering if Elon could come home for a few months and do the same for us with our political nightmare.

The whirlwind effects of Donald's first few weeks seem to have caught a few people off guard, Zelensky is losing his temper in meetings, he is so illegitimate, a mediocre comedian and a bad dictator. He will have to change his olive green T-shirt soon, hopefully for a prison uniform.

Trump kicked the hornet's nest in the Middle East causing much excitement about the Gaza strip's development potential. A few surrounding states seemed to sit up and take notice of that idea.

In the meantime Bibi continues to act with impunity in his signature disingenuous way, reneging on his ceasefire promises, something we all expected of him.

Wherever you look, leftist ideology is being abandoned like an immigrant's life vest on Dover beach. Countries are fleeing from the tarnished and tainted WHO, and



the seat of all the most evil organizations of the world, Geneva, now looks more like the portal of Satan with the WEF, GAVI, WHO, CDC all snuggled in their immunity provided by the Swiss Government.

It seems that with the deep state elitist globalist stranglehold on the world being pried loose by the hands of the Trump administration, even climate activists are now

bellowing about the climate crisis hoax and the new green deal slowly dies an illogical death and is shoved aside like so much tripe.

The choke hold left leaning elitists had on mainstream media has seemingly removed the brainwashing ability it used so liberally in recent years. Now limping off to lick its wounds, podcasters and independent media outlets are crowing the truth we have all been denied for some years now. Even BP is moving back to fossil fuels and abandoning its renewable energy agenda. The climate crisis hoax is being debunked one lie at a time and a path to peace seems to be appearing in the quagmire of mass immigration and war for profit.

Left leaning journo's are crying in their pretzels having been left stranded by the ideology they had committed their lives and everything else to. A fresh new perspective might just be available to 'we the people' some day soon.

In the meantime the captured look of the UK and France's governments still leaves worried frowns on some people's faces. Here at home our leaders are divided, our lives in the balance as they play party politics with our futures.

With the G20 summit in SA, we can only hope something good comes of it for SA.

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8						1	
			6	4	8		
3	9			5			
				9		2	1
	3						
						8	6
2	4						3

	3		2	7		1	
8		6				5	
				1			9
4							
	7			6	1		5
5		2					
			4	5			
					8		
	5					3	1

"You can start late, look different, be uncertain and still succeed." Yoko Mahada



By Jo Rushby from Ikes Books and Collectables, Durban

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Thick forest embraces the gorge, hot, humid and damp. We are hiking in the Annapurna region of Nepal. At the lake, we spot them. Ropes coiled around their bodies, they move quietly and stealthily up the pathway. Their aim, high up in the cliffs. Honey so potent, it is said to be hallucinatory.

The party of four are reluctant to share information about the source. They spurn our offers of modern carabiners and harnesses, wary of so-called modernity, sure of their own ways. Bamboo handmade ladders are swung over the rock face, baskets placed carefully on the ground far below.

Sweet holes in the cliff proffering bounty, as bees swarm.

Smoking them out of their hives, the honey gatherers drop huge silky slabs of honeycomb into the baskets. This is precarious work, and the honey harvesting Gurung community regularly pray to the animals and forest gods to protect the bees and the climbers!

The honey is not sold, rather bartered for tobacco or alcohol, sweeter addictions for some. It is a wonder to see this interaction, high up in the mountains, 'floating like butterflies and stinging like bees' as the altitude snatches one's breath and makes one higher still.

But are we the last to see this amazing phenomenon? As demand grows, harvesting increases. Honey must be packaged and spun across

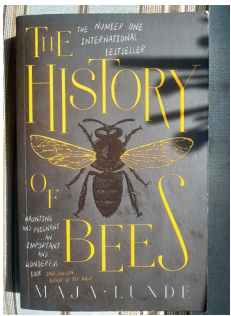
the oceans.

The barter system is under threat. Big companies hover around the hive. The bees cannot keep up with the work hours. So much is at stake. Bees pollinate life around them. With their demise, the landscape will atrophy and become a giant crematorium.

In the beautifully written "The History of Bees", the year is 2098 and people have to hand pollinate the trees. All the bees died in The Collapse of 2037.

It is an irony of history that countries like Nepal are seen as backward, needing to be modernized. But, right now, the calendar year in Nepal is 2081, and in many ways, given the interaction

between people and nature, their beliefs, they are not behind, but half a decade ahead of US. As the honeycombs dry up, bees worn out on a perpetual treadmill, the world is ruled by a Queen with orange hair.



weFEEDsa - Team Tongaat: - A Beacon of Hope for Tongaat



Thanks to training provided by Phoenix-based company Alabaster, volunteers receive education in entrepreneurship, business, and hospitality



Pravesh Maharaj

In a world where self-interest often overshadows community spirit, it is heartening to witness a grassroots movement like weFEEDsa's Project CommUNITY (an initiative of the Social Employment Fund) with their team in Tongaat, led by the humble yet resolute Pravesh Maharaj. Once a deputy director of information technology at a local government in Gauteng, Pravesh has traded

boardrooms and bureaucratic systems for boots on the ground, working tirelessly to uplift a community that has seen its fair share of challenges.

At the heart of weFEEDsa is a simple but profound mission: Feed, Empower, Educate with Dignity (FEED). These four pillars serve as the foundation of a movement that is not just about cleaning streets but about rebuilding lives and communities.

With the Tongaat team comprising of 50 dedicated participants, employed for two days a week, weFEEDsa Team Tongaat is bringing hope back to a town that has long struggled with neglect and decay.

The organisation's impact extends beyond just physical labour. Thanks to training provided by Phoenix-based company Alabaster, volunteers receive education in entrepreneurship, business, and hospitality. The training company equips participants with skills that create pathways to long-term employment, proving that weFEEDsa is not a mere charity—it's a stepping stone to a better future.

Operating from the Vishwaroop Temple, where volunteers and participants also ensure cleanliness

and upkeep, the initiative is structured and accountable. Divided into three teams covering the central business district, the northern sector, and the southern sector, they are restoring pride to public spaces and fostering a renewed sense of community ownership.

For too long, Tongaat has been a town in decline, but Pravesh and his team are proving that change is possible—one street, one lesson, and one act of kindness at a time. And for those who may question the integrity of such efforts, Pravesh offers full transparency: "We are fully vetted. The CEO of weFEEDsa is a chartered accountant, and every cent is accounted for."

There is, indeed, light at the end of the tunnel. As Pravesh himself says, weFEEDsa Team Tongaat is committed to restoring the town to its former glory. But they cannot do it alone. This is a call to action for businesses, residents, and anyone who believes in the power of community. Support them, stand with them, and be a part of the change. That is where true transformation begins.

Should you wish to obtain more information please contact weFEEDsa at info@wefeedsa.org

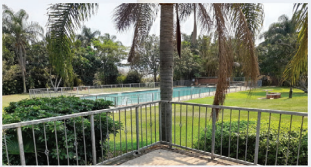


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Kasia's Indulgent Mushroom Pâté

A luxurious, earthy spread best enjoyed on thick sourdough with juicy tomato slices



By Kasia Yoko



This is not your average pâté. It's a deep, velvety, umami-packed spread that tastes like a walk through a damp, mossy forest. The secret? A rich combination of butter, caramelized onions, garlic, fresh herbs, and the magic of wild mushrooms.

If you have dried wild mushrooms—lucky you! Their intense, earthy flavour takes this pâté to another level. If not, a good mix of fresh mushrooms (or even just giant button mushrooms) will still make something wonderful.

It's not just for toast—swirl it into pasta, spoon it over grilled meats, stir it into soup, or eat it straight from the jar with a spoon. I won't judge.

Ingredients

- 1 kg mixed mushrooms (wild, button, portobello—whatever you can find)
- 2 large onions, roughly chopped
- 1 head of garlic, cloves peeled and smashed

- 200 g butter (yes, the whole lot — don't hold back!)
- 250 g mascarpone cheese (for a creamy, dreamy texture)
- A handful of each: fresh sage, parsley, dill, thyme, and chives
- 2 tbsp rosemary (chopped finely)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 splash of brandy or dry white wine (optional but heavenly)
- A pinch of nutmeg (trust me on this)
- Salt and freshly cracked black pepper, to taste
- Melted butter, for sealing
- Rehydrated dried wild mushrooms (plus their soaking water for extra depth)

Directions

1. Preheat your oven to 175°C.
2. Clean the mushrooms and roughly chop the onions and garlic.
3. In a large ovenproof dish, toss together the mushrooms, onions, garlic, butter, olive oil,

- and all the herbs. Drizzle with brandy or wine if using. Cover with foil and bake for 2 hours, then uncover and bake for another 30 minutes until golden and caramelized.
4. Transfer everything to a blender, add the rehydrated wild mushrooms along with their soaking water, and blend until silky smooth. Stir in the mascarpone cheese, a pinch of nutmeg, and season generously with salt and freshly cracked black pepper.
 5. Pour the mixture into an ovenproof dish and bake for another 45 minutes, allowing the flavors to deepen and intensify.
 6. Let it cool slightly before spooning into sterilized glass jars, leaving some space on top.
 7. Seal with melted butter, refrigerate, and let it work its magic.
- Serving suggestion: Slather on toasted sourdough, top with fresh tomato slices, or pair with a crisp glass of wine. You deserve it.*

"It's embarrassing that after 45 years of research and study, the best advice I can give to people is to be a little kinder to each other." Aldous Huxley

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Hyundai's popular Creta SUV has received a stylish mid-life refresh, with the standout addition being the new Matte Edition. Available in Midnight Black, Magnetic Silver, or Optic White matte finishes, these special versions feature glossy black 17-inch rims, high-gloss black A and C pillars, and matching black accents throughout.

Powered by Hyundai's familiar 1.5-liter naturally aspirated petrol engine producing 84kW and 144Nm, which is paired with either a 6-speed manual or the Intelligent Variable Transmission, features in the choice between Premium or Executive trim.

The Creta continues to impress with its ride quality,

handling both city streets and gravel roads with comfortable confidence. With its 20cm ground clearance, weekend adventures are definitely on the cards.

Tech features include an 8-inch touchscreen with smartphone integration, while safety is comprehensive in Executive trim with the Smart Sense Safety package offering blind spot assistance, lane departure warning, and collision avoidance systems.

The best news is prices for certain models have actually dropped, making this well-equipped medium SUV even more appealing. For families seeking style, space and value, the refreshed Hyundai Creta deserves a spot on your test drive list.



Brighten your day with a bunch of fresh flowers, available only from Fabrica at Sunningdale Centre in Durban North

St John Eye Care Initiative



Malwande Zakwe with St John Director of Eye Care, Fatima Hoosen

The South Africa Medical Journal states: "Historically, refractive care has been a private sector-dominated service in SA. More than 80% of the population is dependent on public health services, yet only a small percentage of optometrists practice in the public health sector, mainly owing to lack of available posts in most provinces.

As a consequence, there is insufficient coverage of refractive services nationally, leaving most medically uninsured citizens without access to the basic refractive services required to correct their vision and improve their quality of life. This lack of access to refractive services imposes an unnecessary burden of visual impairment on the country, which in some cases could even lead to preventable blindness".

St John has been working to change that and offers free eye screenings at nine centres across South Africa- Durban, Chris Hani Baragwanath, Braamfontein, Bloemfontein, Woodstock, Fish Hoek, Somerset West, East London, Gqeberha.

The goal at St John is to provide impact, with a focus on vulnerable communities in the area of eye care, occupational health training and community development projects.

In 2024, St John were thrilled to partner

with Woza Moya, in Hillcrest on the outskirts of Durban.

The Woza Moya project consists of approximately 180 crafters, mostly women, who earn a modest regular income by making craft. In many instances these women are the sole breadwinners in their families. Very often their connection with Woza Moya is because they have family members living with HIV/ AIDS at the Hillcrest AIDS Centre.

Many of these women were approaching the stage in their lives when their eyesight is deteriorating – especially when doing long hours of detailed beadwork and craft making. Restoring optimal sight to the crafters in need was life changing for them, for their families and for their community. It allowed them to work comfortably to continue to make world-class art and craft products and continue to bring in wages into their homes.

St John are offering free eye tests worth R170 at any of their centres in South Africa (Durban, Chris Hani Baragwanath, Braamfontein, Bloemfontein, Woodstock, Fish Hoek, Somerset West, East London, Gqeberha)

There are no restrictions, but you must make an appointment. Just have a pic or screenshot of the digital voucher on your phone.

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#Save lives

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Foundation**
**Venue: Vishwaroop Temple
(Behind Tongaat Mall)**
Saturday: 01st March 2025
09:00 – 15:00
Address : 10 Plein Street



"Nothing tests your patience like the seed you just planted five seconds ago." Gabriela Ferrera

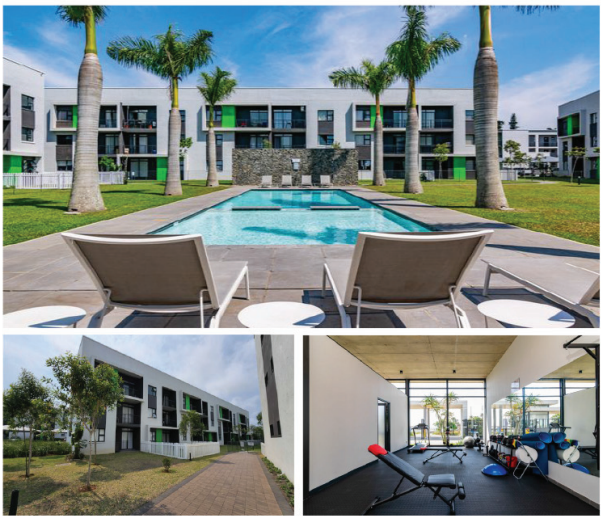
Property Talk

By:
Andreas Wassenaar

Latest stats for Tenants and Landlords



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If you are a Tenant, Landlord, or aspiring property investor, the state of the rental market and the returns provided are of interest. The quarterly Payprop Rental Index report provides an excellent national overview of rental returns and tenant behaviour and provides insight into the high-demand areas in the country and the price brackets that are performing best.

The Payprop report highlights show that the average rent paid in South Africa is R9,051 p.m., the average national rental growth is 5,2% year-on-year and Limpopo is the province currently experiencing the fastest rental growth.

The rental growth rate of 5,4% represents a recovery in the rental market and is the highest rental growth rate recorded since December 2017. At the same time, our national CPI inflation rate has been recorded at 3% showing real rental growth at 2,4%. Some Economists are anticipating a further two interest rate cuts for 2025 which will further relieve the financial pressure on debt repayments in the economy. With less money spent on servicing debt, tenants have more money to spend on rental and shift into higher-priced properties at higher rental rates. Although the largest group of tenants in the country pay between R5k to R7,5k p.m. this group has shrunk from 31,2% to 28,9% of tenants with the rental categories above all growing. The R7,5k to R10k p.m. bracket grew to 22,7%, the R10k to R15k p.m. to 17,1% and the R15k and above category grew to 11,6%. In KZN, which reflects the national average the strongest growth has been in the top tier of the rental market.

The number of tenants in arrears nationally is 17,1% and the average rental owing is currently 77,1% of one month's rental. For KZN the tenants in arrears are a little higher at 19,4% and these tenants owe on average 71,7% of one month's rent. Interestingly the deposits demanded by Landlords are tending to increase, with the average deposit currently at 1,31 times the average rent nationally, and 1,2 times the average rent in KZN. It is not unusual for Landlords to insist on 1,5 to 2 times the monthly rent as a deposit.

The analysis of tenant income and spending shows that tenants spend as much as 44,1% of their income on debt repayments, and 28,7% on rent with 27,2% on average as disposable income. This is useful information for a Landlord as a tenant application showing rental being above 30% of income would raise a red flag. The risk classification of tenants as measured by Payprop shows that 40,8% of tenants are in the "minimum risk" category, with 19,7% in the "low risk" category, 13,8% in the "medium risk" definition and 25,8% classified as high risk. For 1 out of 4 prospective tenants being "high-risk" a Landlord would be well-advised to use rental agents that apply rigorous credit checks and screening to mitigate this serious risk.

LEGAL TALK

by Fawzia Khan



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- ATTORNEYS
- CONVEYANCERS
- NOTARIES
- MEDIATORS

Unpacking the CCMA process

If you find yourself unfairly in the 'firing line' in your workplace, it could be an overwhelming experience with you trying to navigate through the quagmire of the legal processes and to keep your emotions in check with a calm mind. If you believe that your dismissal was unfair or that your employer committed an unfair labour practice towards you, it's important that you act quickly to lodge your dispute with the CCMA, as there are tight timelines which must be adhered to.

The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration ("CCMA") is an organisation that works to try to resolve labour disputes between employees and employers under the Labour Relations Act. The first thing you need to do is submit a "Referral Form", which you can download from the CCMA website.

There are no fees payable to the CCMA. The Referral Form must be delivered to your employer by email, faxing, hand delivery, or registered post. Make sure you have the proof of service as this would need to be shown to the commissioner. This must be lodged within 30 days from the date on which the dispute arose. However if the dispute involved discrimination, the period is extended to 6 months.

The CCMA will notify you and the employer as to when and where the matter will be heard. The first

meeting would normally be a "conciliation". This is a forum in which no legal representations are allowed and where the Commissioner will try to see if the matter can reach some agreement.

A conciliation does not involve any evidence being led and the process is not recorded and what is stated at conciliation remains confidential. If the parties are unable to settle the matter, the Commissioner will issue a certificate saying that the dispute was not capable of being resolved. If the matter is set down for a "con/arb" process, it means that after conciliation, the matter will immediately proceed to arbitration.

Once you have the certificate of no resolution and depending on what the dispute is about, you could either approach the Labour Court or proceed to arbitration. Oftentimes, and if directed to do so, the parties will be required to convene "a Pre-Arbitration Conference".

This is a conference where both parties will meet and would need to cover certain aspects of the dispute and see what issues can be resolved. These would include determining what facts which are in dispute, what facts are agreed upon and also which issues the Commission is required to decide on.

At arbitration hearings you are allowed to have legal representation. The process is similar to a civil trial

where each party produces evidence and witnesses in support of their respective case, have the right to cross examine witnesses etc.

These proceedings are recorded. Once all the evidence has been led, the Commissioner will make the award and will issue the award normally within 14 days of the hearing. The effect of this award is that it's a final and binding order. Armed with that award, you could approach the Labour Court to convert the arbitration award into an Order of Court.

This means that in the event that the employer fails to abide by the order you will be able to instruct the Sheriff to execute on the Order. It goes without saying that during this time you need to have a legal team that can offer efficient and competent legal services, both in guiding you what you can expect at conciliation and more importantly at the arbitration process itself.

The Law Desk of Fawzia Khan and Associates are here to offer you that legal representation. We will help you to get over the finish line and use our best endeavours to obtain a successful outcome for your labour dispute.

The Law Desk of Fawzia Khan & Associates. Giving YOU the Power of Attorney. Email us on fawzia@thelawdesk.co.za or call 031-5025670 for legal assistance at competitive rates.



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A Journey with the Volkswagen Tiguan R-Line

By: Tomas Yoko



The morning sunlight caught the Persimmon Red Metallic paint of the brand-new Volkswagen Tiguan 1.4 TSI R-Line, promising to transform an ordinary commute into something extraordinary

The morning sunlight caught the Persimmon Red Metallic paint of the brand-new Volkswagen Tiguan 1.4 TSI R-Line, promising to transform an ordinary commute into something extraordinary. The confident curves in the body lines set the Tiguan apart from the gaggle of crossovers out there – this is a vehicle with

of possibility to fill. A 5-year 90 thousand km service plan and 3-year 120 thousand km warranty aren't just promises – they're a commitment to companionship.

The new Volkswagen Tiguan isn't just a vehicle. It's a life partner waiting to transform your ordinary into something remarkable.

stories to tell.

Power is provided by a 1.4-liter TSI engine, which breathed with purpose, producing 110 kilowatts of power, while 250 Newton meters of torque stood ready from as low as 1 500 rpm. The 7-speed DSG transmission shifted like a virtuoso, making even maddening traffic feel effortless.

The Tiguan zips from standstill to 100 kilometres per hour arrives in 9.2 seconds – not a race car, but a definitely precision instrument. Capped at a top speed of 207 km/h and producing a remarkably fuel efficient 7.6 L/100km.

R-Line package on the new Tiguan speaks to those who appreciate nuance. Those 20-inch Leeds alloy wheels aren't just wheels – they're a statement. The panoramic sunroof isn't just glass – it's an inspiration to adventure. The mechanical trailer hitch provides added versatility, while the advanced safety systems like Adaptive cruise control with Forward collision warning and braking reaction to vehicles provide protection.

Practicality meets passion in the cabin. Fold down the seats, and you've got 1,650 litres of possibility to fill. A 5-year 90 thousand km service plan and 3-year 120 thousand km warranty aren't just promises – they're a commitment to companionship.

The new Volkswagen Tiguan isn't just a vehicle. It's a life partner waiting to transform your ordinary into something remarkable.



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#feeliconic @ CMH Suzuki Ballito With the New Swift

Talking about iconic? The new Suzuki Swift isn't just another car – the dual tone options are now available and the Swift is being noticed, winning awards for days like; Most Swift models sold in a single month – ever and; South Africa's overall best-selling model.

The new Swift, it's a vibe on wheels that's got everyone talking, but let's get real about what matters: this Swift is a total budget-bestie when it comes to fuel consumption. While your friends are constantly hunting for petrol money, you'll be planning your next road trip thanks to its seriously impressive fuel efficiency. More cash for weekend fun? Yes, please!

The glow-up is real with this one. The new Swift rocks a fresh look that screams main character energy, with sharp lines and that iconic stance that makes it instantly Instagram-worthy. But don't let its good looks fool you – this ride is smart too. The tech game is strong, with a touchscreen that connects to your phone faster than your last social media refresh.

Safety? It's packed with features that'll have your parents



The new dual tone Suzuki Swift turning heads, certainly played its part in Suzuki Auto SA setting a new overall sales record, while being SA's overall best selling model.

breathing easier, but let's be honest – you'll love them too. Multiple airbags, stability control that keeps you confident in the corners, and driver assists that feel like having a tech-savvy co-pilot.

Performance? The Swift brings that perfect mix of zip and efficiency that'll have you volunteering to be the designated driver on every squad outing. It handles city streets like a pro and has enough pep to make highway merging feel like adding a perfect transition to your latest video edit.

Inside, it's like your favourite

hangout spot got an upgrade. Premium touches everywhere, seats that keep you comfy during long drives, and enough space for your crew and their gear. Whether you're doing a coffee run or heading to the beach, the Swift fits your life like your favourite playlist.

Time to #feeliconic and join the revolution that's taking over South African streets everywhere. Call CMH Suzuki Ballito on 031 001 9965 or reach out to Nathi on 078 772 7968 and be Swift.

MG Is Back In Umhlanga

By: Tomas Yoko

The iconic MG brand has made a spectacular return to South African shores, bringing with it a lineup that perfectly balances innovation, style, and remarkable value. While the head-turning Cyberster represents MG's bold vision for the future, it's the HS and ZS SUV ranges that are truly capturing the hearts of South African motorists.

At NMI MG Umhlanga, the ZS and HS models are redefining what buyers can expect from a modern SUV. Starting from

an incredibly competitive R289,900, these vehicles deliver a level of sophistication and list of features that typically command a much higher price tag. The surge in popularity of these models isn't just about attractive pricing – it's about the complete package they offer.

The ZS, MG's compact SUV offering, combines urban agility with surprising spaciousness. Its refined interior features premium materials and contemporary technology commonly found in luxury

vehicles costing significantly more. The attention to detail in the cabin design, coupled with comprehensive safety features, makes either the MG HS or MG ZS model an ideal choice for both young families and urban professionals.

Step up to the HS, and you'll find MG's commitment to value proposition continues with even more space, power, and premium features. The HS stands toe-to-toe with established players in the segment, offering advanced driver

assistance systems, panoramic sunroof options, and sophisticated styling that will keep you in the style that you have become accustomed.

What's particularly noteworthy is how quickly the MG brand is gaining traction in our market. The combination of British heritage, modern Chinese engineering, and exceptional value has struck a chord with South African buyers. The growing number of MGs on our roads speaks volumes about the trust consumers are

placing in these vehicles.

For anyone in the market for a new SUV, the message is clear: visit NMI MG Umhlanga to experience first-hand why these vehicles are becoming the smart choice for discerning buyers. With such compelling value and features, there's never been a better time to become part of the MG story. Contact MG Umhlanga on 031 576 1200 or visit their showroom at 2 Canegate Road, Umhlanga Ridge and take the latest MG for a test drive.



The return of a motoring icon, MG Umhlanga are offering a brand-new SUV for under R290 000. Call them on 031 576 1200 for more info



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A Window Onto Nature's World



By Environmentalist and Green Campaigner Jill Theunissen

Nature's Natural "Carpet" – With 'No Place To Hide'!

The time has come to reflect on a Pre-COVID-19 era when the Durban Department for "Keep Durban Beautiful" under the Principle, Nana Ndlovu and her diligent team, were forging ahead with the "Adopt-A-Spot" Concept. Many run-down verges and neglected Park areas were "Adopted" by residents and property owners, often at considerable personal effort, initial costs and on-going maintenance and 'Establishment'.

The Concept generated competition with categories for presentation and Awards given at a special function. One enterprising lady meticulously collected plastic litter in her area. When washed and cleaned the material was carefully woven into mats.

Around a prominent inter-section in Pinetown, originally and inappropriately planted with Fever Trees, the Park and surrounding verges were given extensive Rehabilitation and Indigenous "Up-Grade". The Fever Trees should NOT BE PLANTED SOUTH OF THE TUGELA RIVER, and belong naturally to the swamp forests of northern Zululand. When dying these trees present blackened branches, which may break off presenting a traffic hazard. The final removal included the expensive extraction of 5M long lateral roots seeking water!

The infrastructure of Traffic Circles and Islands require regular professional Reassessment and Maintenance due to increase in traffic flow volumes, also the very heavy double-tandem reticulated lorries, which cause random damage to concrete structures and pathways.

The Rehabilitation in 2013 commenced with the removal of 1000M sq. of scruffy grass. The Soil Quality Improvement included the introduction of top quality Organic compost, Dolomitic lime, together with "additives" to be incorporated and raked level before laying and rolling the new Buffalo turf. In conjunction with the Roads Department Manager, Mr. Ziggy Muller, provision was agreed for linked grassed verge sections. A large internal Border to "block-off" traffic incursion, introduced the absent Bio-diversity. The Landscape based on the original Zimbali criteria with a minimum 75 indigenous species allowed for shrubs, ferns, succulents, and ground-covers. It is not surprising that the Sponsor received a well-deserved "Adopt-A-Spot" Award.

COVID-19 in 2020 with 'Lock-down' heralded the undesirable "Transformation" with vagrants and hobos arriving with their cardboard mats, hiding in the bushy undergrowth. The nearby bridges hosted encampment with increase in litter, discarded garments and rotting food. The Litter bins nearby proved totally inadequate to accommodate the Waste volumes. 'Extra' buff bags needed for daily collection were gratefully received from the Waste Manager, Mr. Guy Caws. Inevitably, without adequate Policing the criminal activities increased with violent incidents recorded. Drastic steps have been necessary to totally remove the 10 years of natural indigenous growth. A "desert" vista remains under the larger trees. Gaunt poles remain, a testimony to timber theft of the cross-poles. It is necessary to emphasize that Buffalo

grass prefers a full-sun aspect, so the disturbed areas in shade now invite weeds and increase Soil Erosion.

The present challenge is to Restore : "Nature's Carpet" on level and slightly sloping land.

A new Layout Design to scale, will enable the introduction of low-growing herbal species, succulents for sun, ferns and selected ground-covers to suit the habitat. Planting borders with bright yellow Bulbines, White Osteospermum daisies, and Silver-leaf Gazanias will give edging definition. Swathes of Wild Garlic linked with Weeping Anthericum create restful patterns. Fronds of Emerald Fern with small prickles deter the predator. Low-growing Forest fern tendrils will lattice the soil where the tree canopy presents deep shade, with Digitaria diversinervis (Forest Grass) also achieving dense coverage. The hardy Crassula plants, including Multicava and Sarmentosa are reliable with succulents Aptenia, Delosperma linaere and tradescantioides with solitary flowers and wide colour range. The "Site Specific" locality may call for Becium (Cat's Whiskers), spreading Plectranthus (Money Plant), and feature groups of Scadoxus (Snake Lily) and Clivia miniata (Bush Lily). The Final effect will be Nature's Carpet with species up to 35cms, AND - NO PLACE TO HIDE!!

For Nana Ndlovu, for all her enthusiasm and guidance with the "Adopt-A-Spot" challenges over many years, a Most Sincere "Thank you" and sincere Best Wishes on your retirement.

First conviction of 2025

Durban man convicted of animal cruelty in the Durban Magistrate Court

On 17 February 2025, a man accused of dumping two young cats at the side of a busy road in Morningside was convicted of animal cruelty in the Durban Magistrate's Court.

Ali Danka was fined R1 000 or one month's imprisonment. Although he initially denied his involvement, the entire incident – including the licence plate of the car – was captured by a nearby security camera. Danka is

seen pulling up next to the curb, before heartlessly throwing the cats out of a basket into the gutter and driving off.

Fortunately, the terrified animals ran away from the busy road and into a store, where they were saved and brought to our SPCA. After a thorough veterinary check, they were found to be in good health and were successfully rehomed not long afterwards.

Although the sentence was lenient,

Inspectorate Manager, Candice Sadayan, confirmed that Danka now has a criminal record.

We pursued the case because treating animals in this manner is unacceptable, and this happened less than 8km away from our SPCA where the cats could've been handed over responsibly.

Thank you to our wonderful circle of supporters for helping us stand up for the rights of voiceless animals.



Seen above: The rescued cats recovering at the SPCA last year

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After

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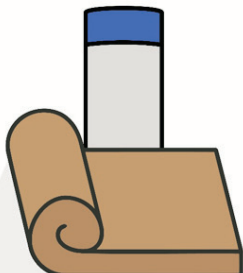
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"If you can stay positive in a negative situation, you win." Unknown



The impressive line up of vehicles at the disposal of Durban Lifesaving Club, provided by CMH Ford Ballito for their life saving efforts at the Midmar Mile

CMH Ford Ballito Has Got Your Territory

CMH Ford Ballito continues to prove itself as more than just a dealership – it's a cornerstone of our local community. Their recent support of the Durban Life Saving Club, with the transportation of their boats and Jet Skis to the Midmar Mile, exemplifies their commitment to nurturing local talent and supporting meaningful initiatives. "A huge thank you to the team for allowing us to be part of such an incredible adventure. We're proud to support such a fantastic cause and be part of the action!" said Greg Massey-Hicks New Car Sales Manager at CMH Ford Ballito.

This community-minded

approach extends seamlessly into the CMH Ford Ballito showroom, where the latest addition to their lineup, the Ford Territory, is waiting for you. This compact SUV represents exceptional value, combining versatility with modern elegance. Whether you're a family seeking spacious comfort for daily adventures or an outdoor enthusiast yearning for weekend escapes, the Territory delivers on all fronts with its impressive features and competitive pricing.

What truly sets CMH Ford Ballito apart is their exceptional team. The sales staff's approach goes beyond mere transactions – they invest time in understanding each customer's

unique needs, ensuring you drive away in the perfect vehicle for your lifestyle. This customer-first philosophy continues into their workshop, where their skilled technicians provide comprehensive after-sales support, keeping your Ford in peak condition.

The moment you step onto their showroom floor, you'll experience the warmth and professionalism that has become synonymous with the CMH Ford Ballito name. Whether you're in the market for the exciting new Territory or any other vehicle in Ford's impressive line-up, there's never been a better time to visit. Stop by today and take that test drive – your dream Ford awaits.



The younger brother to the two Car-Of-The-Year winners, the Ford Ranger and Ford Everest, the Ford Territory presents an amazing offer in the compact SUV segment.



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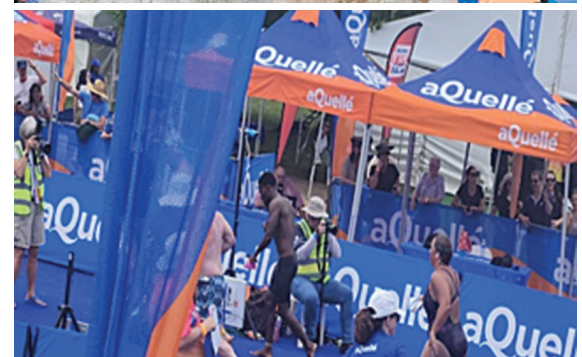
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"Only in the darkness can you see the stars," Martin Luther King, Jr.



KZN Sharks Board Maritime Centre of Excellence was part of Midmar Mile Dam 2025



The aQuellé Midmar Mile, renowned as the world's largest open water swimming event, took place on 8 February 2025

The KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board Maritime Centre of Excellence (KZNSB) was established in 1964, strives to be a leader in environmentally sensitive protection of bathers against sharks and capacity building in the maritime sector. KZNSB safeguards 37 beaches on the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) coastline with shark safety gear owned and maintained by the KZNSB. The organisation positions itself as "The Only Organisation of Its Kind in the World". The organisation has achieved distinguished accomplishments in its existence, defining the organisations successes towards achieving its' mission.

The aQuellé Midmar Mile 2025, held on February 08 is not just an iconic swimming event but a festival of camaraderie, athleticism, and community spirit that transforms Midmar Dam into a lively hub of excitement and support. It's celebrated as the world's largest open water swimming race, attracting thousands of competitors and spectators every year, and the 2025 edition lived up to this extraordinary legacy. The aQuellé Midmar Mile, renowned as the world's largest open water swimming event, took place on February 8, 2025, at Midmar Dam near Howick in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

KwaZulu Natal Sharks Board operations team represented the KwaZulu Natal Sharks Board in participating in Midmar mile 2025. The atmosphere at the Midmar Mile is unparalleled. From the early morning, the excitement is palpable. The sound of waves, chatter, and the distinct energy of swimmers preparing for their event fills the air. On the shore, there's an ongoing buzz as families, friends, and competitors from all walks of life gather to celebrate their love for swimming, share stories, and support each other.

There's something for everyone at Midmar Mile—whether you're an elite swimmer or a first-time participant. The diverse range of swimmers, from seasoned professionals to amateur enthusiasts, creates a sense of inclusion, where everyone's achievements are celebrated.

The race is also a chance for people to break personal records and challenge their limits. The competition is fierce, but the camaraderie and support from fellow swimmers make the event unique. Whether it's the high energy Elite Races or the more relaxed but equally inspiring fun swims, everyone has a chance to be a part of something extraordinary.

Bookings: (031) 5660435 for Dissection Shows, 0824039206 for Boat Trips, (031) 5660462 for Hall Hire or visit our website: www.shark.co.za



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