

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za

Traditional Tonga Village Opens to the Public in Kosi Mouth



The 28th of February 2025 marked a significant day for the Kosi Mouth community as the much-anticipated Traditional Tonga Village officially opened its doors to the public. The event brought together local community members, tourism operators, and hospitality industry stakeholders to celebrate the preservation and promotion of Tonga heritage. Preserving Tradition at Kosi Mouth, above, Siya Ngubane, the village guide, shares the history of the ancient fish traps at the newly opened Traditional Tonga Village in Kosi Mouth. Visitors gathered to learn about the centuries-old fishing techniques still used today, celebrating the rich heritage of the Tonga people. More on page 9

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Through my eyes



by Kasia Yoko

Recent global tensions are nothing short of extraordinary. While I avoid mainstream media and its relentless cycle of fear mongering, it's impossible to ignore the fragility of our current socio-political landscape. The world feels like it's unraveling at an alarming rate, and the worst part? Much of it is orchestrated by the very people we entrust with our leadership.

For, as long as we continue to hand over our power to politicians and bureaucrats, we will remain shackled by their doctrines, their self-serving interests, and their hollow promises. They don't know us. They don't care about us. And yet, they dictate our future with decisions that often have little to do with our well-being.

Take, for instance, the latest diplomatic blunder by South African Ambassador to the U.S., Ebrahim Rasool. His reckless and undiplomatic stance has not only embarrassed South Africa on the global stage but has also exposed the dangers of

having government officials who put personal politics ahead of national interest. A public servant

should embody integrity and professionalism, not recklessly engage in rhetoric that deepens

Love Needs Action, Trust Needs Proof, Sorry Needs Change



division. Our leaders, who enjoy generous salaries funded by our taxes, should be symbols of goodwill and civility, not provocateurs of conflict.

For the first time in my life, I fear for the future. We are divided over issues that should be non-negotiable for any rational and ethical human being—peace, human rights, clean water, safe communities, and respect for all races, religions, and social classes. These should not be political talking points; they should be fundamental principles guiding every society. And yet, here we are, watching the world burn while those in power play their games.

But here's the thing: real change does not start in parliament or presidential offices. It starts with us. It starts in our homes, in our neighbourhoods; in the way we treat one another. Love means nothing without action. Trust is meaningless without proof. And apologies are empty without change. If we want a better world, we need to be better people—kinder, more respectful, and more accountable.

The world's problems may be vast, but small acts of decency still matter. A handshake instead of a clenched fist. A conversation instead of an argument. A helping hand instead of indifference. Let's not wait for our leaders to do the right thing. Let's do it ourselves.

Dear Editor,

Re: Information must be shared

As a pensioner and a person who pays their electricity account timeously, I demand under the Freedom of Information Act to have a list published (name and shame) of all the government employees/officials, private sector property owners (landlords), tenants and wealthy individuals who are not paying for electricity or have tampered with their meter. In most instances the culprits are assisted by unscrupulous Ethekwini Municipality Electricity Department employees or subcontractors. Should Eskom and Ethekwini Municipality Electricity Department try to introduce the proposed ridiculous tariff increase the entire country should all refuse to pay for electricity. If we don't unite we will never be treated fairly.

It is bad enough having the poor with illegal connections, we now have the rich seemingly just not having to pay legally. There is an increasing number of households that have bypassed their meters, illegal connections and tampered with their meter which leads to a strain on the grid thus leading to kWh overload at the substation which trips leading to blackouts, load shedding and fatalities. These households have not been paying for electricity they consume for years. Households that are stealing electricity should be disconnected immediately or fined. The issue with stealing electricity is that someone has to pay, it is either through Ethekwini Electricity Department increasing prices higher than they should be.

Example of meter tampering reported to Ethekwini Electricity Department. The tenant reported to the property owner (landlord) that their electricity consumption

is high i.e. 6 months average 750kWh. The property owner took it upon himself to get the meter tampered with and the reading suddenly dropped to 513kWh consumption for 1 month. Once reported an inspection was conducted and the report "Revenue protection inspection form for credit and prepaid meter" clearly reflected that the body seal were broken and the meter reading not advancing with visible tampering. The tampered meter was replaced with a new meter within 2 days. What happens in this case or other perpetrators?

This is sabotage and theft to a critical infrastructure being electricity. The same can also be done to the water infrastructure therefore we are in such a critical situation within the Ethekwini Municipality. United we stand. Divided we fall.

Peekay, Springfield

Dear Ed,

Re : Fatal Bus Crashes/Safe Travels

Recently a bus conveying church members crashed down a steep bank near Mandeni in KZN close to the N2. Unfortunately 9 persons lost their lives and many persons were injured, some critically. A spate of bus accidents sadly followed in various parts of the country with deaths and injuries.

May GOD grant the bereaved comfort, strength and peace in this difficult time. Also may He bring healing, restoration and strength to those injured.

Thanks to all concerned in search and rescue missions, as well as for rendering medical, allied and support services, including relevant government departments and

ministries.

Generally may motorists be patient, courteous, alert and considerate and ensure that their vehicles are roadworthy. Pedestrians also must obey the rules of the road as many accidents involve some of them. In this way collisions and accidents will be greatly reduced, as well as deaths and injuries. It must be noted that the cost to the country with regard to accidents is massive and accidents also puts a huge strain on already stretched miscellaneous resources and personnel. Safe travels to all, especially with Easter approaching. Arrive Alive and Road Safety initiatives are commended. Better be late than dead - or critically injured - on time!

Simon T Dehal Verulam

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND WATER USE AUTHORISATION

Notice is hereby given in terms of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations, 2014 published in Government Notice No. R326 (as amended) in terms of Sections 24 (5) and 44 of the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998, and National Water Act, 1998 (Act 36 of 1998) of SSS 123 Trading intention to establish a Mixed-Use Development on the property described as Portion 50 (of 45) of Farm Lot 72, No. 1526 located within Ward 4 of the KwaDukuza Local Municipality, KZN.
Project Detail: The proposed mixed-use development will entail the construction of an Adventure centre, Retail development, Automotive/fitment centre, Warehousing, Internal roads and Parking bays. In addition, stormwater, sewer and water reticulation pipes will be laid. Furthermore, the development will involve the infilling of more than 10m3 of material within a wetland area. The total extent of the development is approximately 6.6 hectares. The site is geographically located at the following coordinates: 29°29'8,83"S; 31°12'47,11"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) and a Water Use Authorisation from the Regional Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS).

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 27th March to 30th April 2025 and the Water Use Authorisation Application for a 60-day period from 27th March to 31st May 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 each document will be also be made available at the Shakaskraal Library.

Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) are invited to register by submitting their name, contact information and interest in the project to the Environmental consultants below. 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 March 2025.

Disclaimer: By providing comments to this project, you voluntarily consent to your personal information being processed, collected, used and disclosed in compliance with the Protection of Personal Information Act, 4 of 2013.

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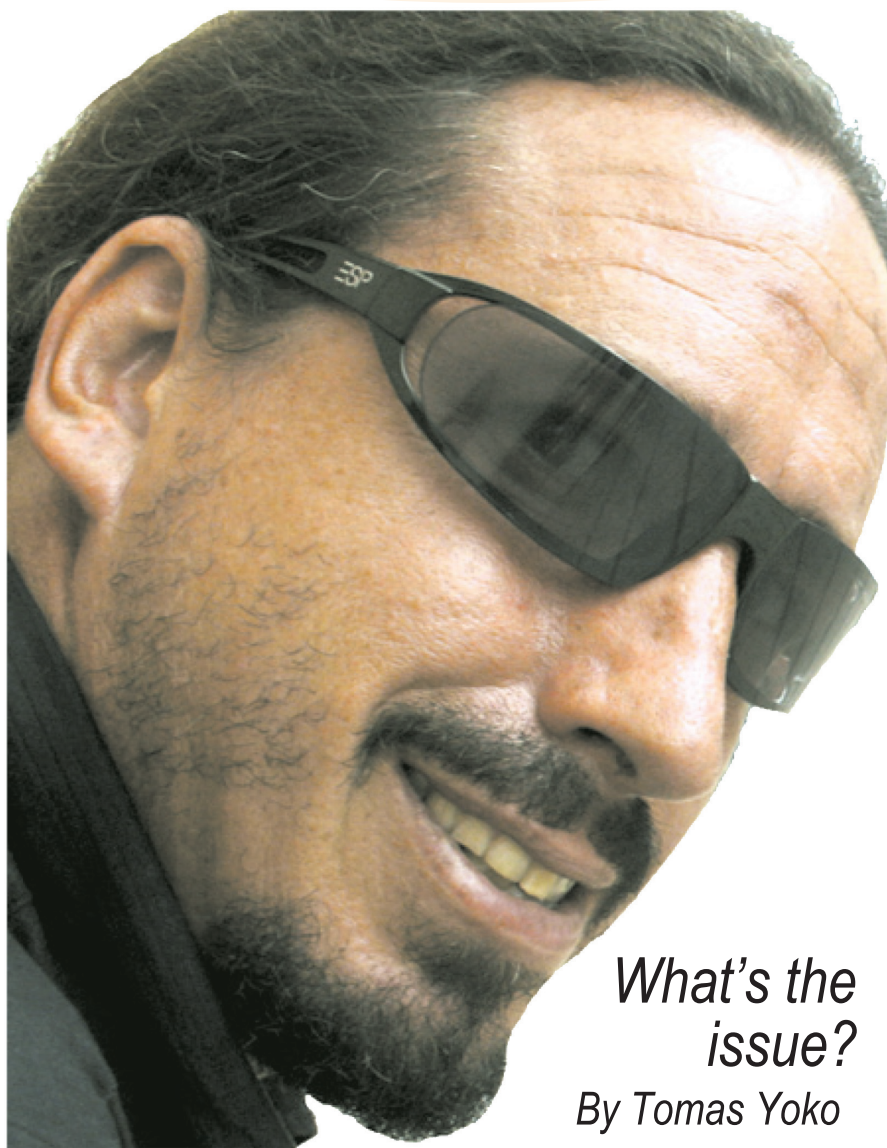
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What's the issue?
By Tomas Yoko

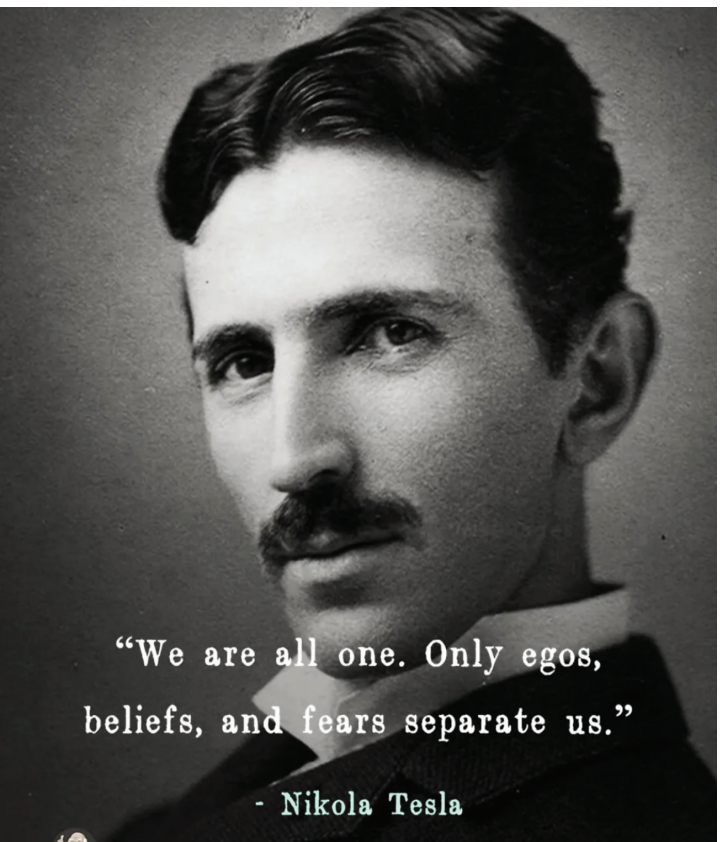
Talk about setting the cat amongst the pigeons, pigeon poop and feathers everywhere. Donald Trump and Elon Musk have sent the left leaning critics of the world into what seems like a dizzy dementia, trashing Tesla cars and resorting to profanities' and name calling. The volume of theft, fraud, corruption and mismanagement in the American economy has me freaking out about what our countries state of administration looks like.

In an era of unprecedented global interconnectedness, world leaders find themselves performing a high-wire act that would make even the most seasoned circus performer break into a cold sweat.

Trump is really taking his time wrapping up the conflict in Ukraine, it should be really simple. Stop arming their depleted and tired military and back away from the third world war erupting under your watch. I suppose it is not that simple when dealing with how heavily entrenched the Americans are in Ukraine.

Zelensky announced that he is looking for younger soldiers to push into the bone crunching meat grinder of this bloody war, while his seemingly delusional comrade, Aleksandr Merezko, called for the US' special envoy to be sacked for stating that the areas under Russian control are Russian.

"They're Russian-speaking. There have been referendums where the



overwhelming majority of the people have indicated that they want to be under Russian rule," said Steve Witkoff, and the cycle starts repeating itself.

Why Trump is bombing Yemen was revealed by JD Vance when he revealed in a text message that they were doing it on behalf of the EU where 40% of their shipping

passes through the Suez Canal. Although I really am impressed by Yemens Houthi spokesperson Yahya Saree's enthusiasm and forcefulness, this nonsense of dropping bombs and delivering rockets has got to stop.

Bibi going ballistic again in Gaza is just so sad and won't help the situation at all. The American complicity in the genocide can only make one despondent. It is encouraging to see the Israeli population coming out in protest against the war.

Talking protests, did you see the Serbian officials allegedly used a sonic weapon against its people. A fist for me, I couldn't believe it, stuff like this has me delving deeper into the Direct Energy Weapon conspiracies and HAARP and DARPA secret weapons stories that make my nightmares seem like fairy stories.

The Serbian Deputy Prime Minister spoke out against US "Deep State" forces and European intelligence agencies, accusing them of trying to overthrow the current Government. Can you believe that?

These days with so much information out there it is hard to know what to believe, one thing is true for sure and that is that we are all one.

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

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

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



By Jo Rushby from Ikes Books and Collectables, Durban

Silence Speaks

What the hell has become of us? This insatiable need to experience everything in a rush. How did this psychology envelop us? My goodly God, the other day I saw a board that read: ‘curry in a hurry’. A cuisine that became a global phenomenon because it allowed spices to linger and mix into a rainbow of colours, is now advertised as cooking at speed. How our eyes light up when we see the sign “Instant”.

But I am happy to report that there is a counter-movement. Encouraging us to slow down. To let our gaze stay for an extra minute, to take in the slide from autumn to winter. To touch a bougainvillea and cook a meal over a fire for a couple of hours.

But crucially, given that I run a bookshop, there is a new craze in town. Believe it or not, it’s called reading. Not so new perhaps. Around the globe, people have started to gather in restaurants, cafes, bookshops and bars, not to socialize, but to sit in silence. Reading. Instead of mooching around a shopping mall, looking for more stuff, readers are coming together in a celebration of communal introversion.

For thousands of years, readers have sat in silence, consumed by pages of prose. Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote that reading was a solitary and private business. “All these books are the majestic expressions of the universal conscience and are more to our daily purpose than this day’s newspaper... Their communications are not to be given or taken with the lips, and the end of the tongue, but out of the glow of the cheek, and with the throbbing heart.” In silence.”

That age disappeared for some. For a while. But it is back. People are reading. Once more. Heads buried. The pages turn your mind into a world. You have a sense of community, but it does not have to be a shouting match, or congeal around a televised soccer match at the local watering hole.

Silent Book Club Durban will take place at Ike’s Books and Collectables, 48a Florida Road at 11am to 1 pm on Sat 12th April.

Come. Walk up the wooden stairs. Turn Left. If you do not possess a book, grab one off the shelf. There is J.M. Coetzee’s classic Waiting for the Barbarians, Violet Bulawayo’s Glory and a First edition Enid Blyton.

There is only one rule; put it back on the shelf, not in your bag. Unless of course you get lucky and get to take Lauren Beukes home. But then you are faced with a conundrum, books can never be one-night stands.



48a Florida Road, Greyville , Durban, Tel: 031 3039214. www.ikesbooks.com



Guest Speaker: Pravisha Dhanapalan, Director at Lifeline Durban

Mindset Matters: Connect & Thrive with KZN Women in Business

Ladies of KZN are invited to join KZN Women in Business for their upcoming April meeting.

TOPIC: ‘Emotional Wellness - Achieving a healthier mindset’

GUEST SPEAKER: Pravisha Dhanapalan, Director at Lifeline Durban

DATE: Wednesday, 2nd April 2025

VENUE: Hellenic Community Centre (6 High Grove, Umgeni Park, Durban, 4065)

TIME: Breakfast served from 08:00am, meeting to start promptly at 08:30 until 10:30am

COST: Members R290, Non-members R395 (includes secure off-road free parking, breakfast, gift, meeting list, networking & guest speaker)

BOOKINGS: www.kznwib.co.za

FURTHER INFORMATION: Please contact the KZNWIB Administrator, Nicci Hosking, on info@kznwib.co.za

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My Version of the Humble Potato Pancake

By Kasia Yoko

Don't let anyone tell you that potatoes are bad for you. The people who spread this heresy are usually the same ones who say, "Eating is cheating." Let's be clear—potatoes are not the enemy. In fact, when prepared right, they're a great source of energy, fiber, and essential nutrients.

This week, I'm bringing you a truly yummy classic: the humble potato pancake. In my home, we grate raw potatoes on the finest grater for a smooth, almost creamy texture. But personally, I like it chunky—more bite, more texture, more soul. It's up to you how you do it. The key here is to make the batter when you want to eat it. Don't let it stand too long, or the potatoes will start to brown and lose their fresh flavour. There's a reason hash browns got their name.

For this recipe, you need good potatoes. I was lucky enough to find a bag of organically grown potatoes on the side of the road in the Eastern Cape. Homegrown just tastes better—there's something about the soil, the sun, and the love put into growing them that makes all the difference.

- Ingredients:**
- 3 large potatoes
 - 1 onion
 - 1 teaspoon chopped fresh garlic
 - 3 tablespoons flour
 - 1 egg
 - Salt and pepper to taste
 - Vegetable oil for frying

Directions:

1. Prep the potatoes – Wash and peel your potatoes. Grate them finely for a smoother texture or coarsely for more crunch. Place them in a clean cloth and squeeze out excess water. This keeps the pancakes

crispy instead of soggy.

2. Prepare the onion and garlic – Finely chop the onion and garlic, then mix them into the grated potatoes. The onion adds sweetness and depth, while garlic gives a subtle kick.

3. Make the batter – In a bowl, combine the potato mixture with flour, egg, salt, and pepper. Mix well. The flour binds it together, while the egg gives it a slight fluffiness.

4. Fry to perfection – Heat vegetable oil in a pan over medium-high heat. Mould the batter into small discs. Fry for about 10–15 minutes on each side or until golden brown and crispy and soft in the middle.

5. Drain and serve – Remove from the pan and place on a paper towel to absorb excess oil. Serve hot with sour cream, yogurt, and a sprinkle of fresh herbs like dill.

The Nutritional Truth About Potatoes

Potatoes often get a bad reputation, but they are a powerhouse of nutrition. They're rich in vitamin C, potassium, and fiber, making them excellent for heart health, digestion, and immune support. The trick is in how you prepare them. Deep-fried? Not the best choice. But lightly fried in good oil or even baked? That's a different story.

Mindful Eating: The Secret Ingredient

Food isn't just fuel; it's an experience. When you eat mindfully, you taste every bite, appreciate every texture, and honour the ingredients that made it to your plate. Instead of rushing through meals or labeling foods as "good" or "bad," try eating with intention. Listen to your body. Eat when you're hungry, stop when you're satisfied, and most importantly—enjoy every bite.

So next time someone tries to tell you that potatoes are bad, serve them a crispy, golden potato pancake and watch them change their mind.



Swishing About In A Swift

Okay, buckle up, because I'm about to tell you about an epic road trip. And let me tell you, the real star of the show wasn't the stunning South African East Coast scenery (though that was really breath taking), it was the brand-spanking-new, dual-tone Suzuki Swift. I'd been itching to hit the open road for ages. Reality had been getting me down! When my friend Ben made the suggestion. He's got this hulking SUV that guzzles petrol like it's going out of style, so he raised an eyebrow when I suggested we take "The Swift? On a proper road trip?" he scoffed. "Are you sure it can handle it?" Oh, Ben, you sweet, skeptical soul. You were in for a surprise.

The first surprise, in fact, came at the petrol station. As I filled her up, Ben just sat there, jaw practically scraping the centre consol. "That's it?" he finally stammered, pointing at the

full tank. "That's less than HALF of what it costs to fill my beast!" I just grinned. "Welcome to the world of Swift efficiency."

And fun it was! The moment we pulled out onto the open road, the Swift felt like it was in its element. The gear changes were so smooth, the manual shift seemed telepathic. The scenery started flitting by. Sixth gear became my new best friend, effortlessly gobbling up the kilometres. The sound system was banging, blasting our favourite tunes, and the infotainment system kept us on track and informed.

Now, the East Coast is known for its massive trucks, and Ben, bless his heart, was a little nervous overtaking them. "Are you sure it's got enough power?" he kept asking, peering nervously at the oncoming traffic. I just winked and waited for the right opportunity. Then, with a confident

downshift and a little tap on the accelerator, the Swift surged forward, passing those lumbering giants with ease. Ben let out a whoop of delight. "Okay," he admitted, "I'm officially impressed!"

This road trip wasn't just about getting from point A to point B. It was about the journey itself. It was about laughter, adventure, and the sheer joy of exploring a beautiful part of the world in a car that was as fun and reliable as it was stylish. So, thank you, Suzuki Swift, for making this road trip one for the books. And thank you, Ben, for being the perfect co-pilot (even if you were initially a little skeptical!). Now, where to next? I'm already itching for another adventure!

If you're looking for a Suzuki Swift, contact Nathi on 078 772 7968 or visit CMH Suzuki Ballito at 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito



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MG's current promotion is nothing short of spectacular – a chance to win R200,000 off the price of a brand new

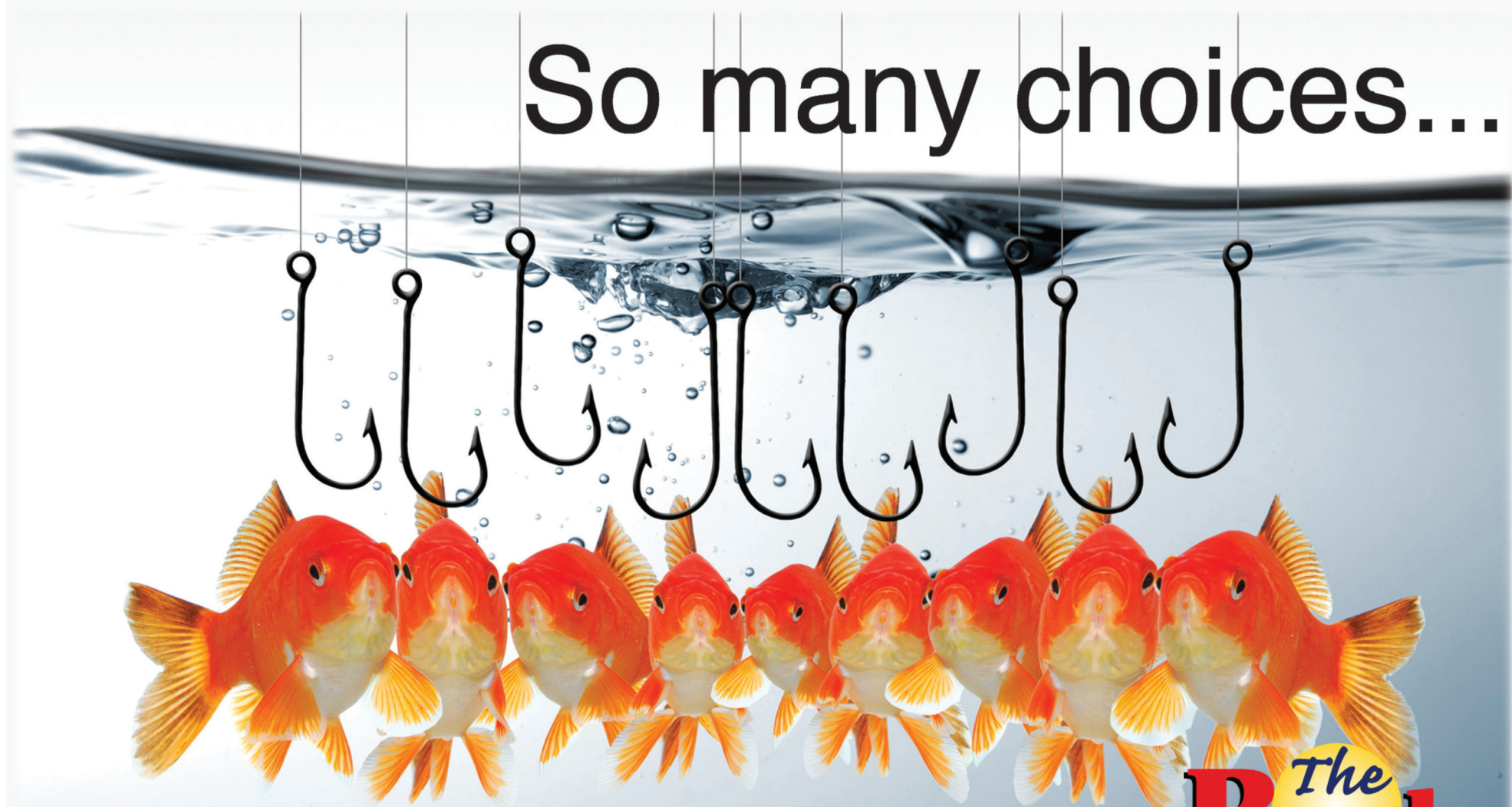
MG when financed through MG Finance. This is not a cash payout, but an incredible direct discount that could substantially reduce your vehicle investment. One lucky entrant will have the opportunity to slash their new MG's price tag by a remarkable R200,000, making luxury and innovation more accessible than ever before.

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"When I'm not feeling my best, I ask myself, 'What are you gonna do about it?' I use the negativity to fuel the transformation into a better me," Beyonce



Property Talk

By:
Andreas Wassenaar

Vacant land and the real value



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As a property professional and close to all aspects of the real estate market in South Africa, I often ask hard questions and try to find reasonable answers. What has become increasingly apparent is the difficulty over the past three to five years in selling vacant land in certain estates and areas.

In some municipal areas such as eThekweni, the dramatic and sudden exponential increase in rates payable on vacant land within the Metro had a direct and immediate impact on many property owners of vacant land. Their values dropped, as the market would not accept the pricing and the high monthly rates liability associated with owning the land.

Large-scale developers of vacant land had to try their best to negotiate temporary relief while they prepared the land for sale and transfer. The new owners however were faced with large municipal rates liabilities going forward. Demand for vacant land evaporates in the face of unacceptably high rates. The Laffer Curve is a beautiful theoretical economic model that shows that as tax rates increase on any good or service it reaches a peak in revenue after which tax revenue decreases as tax rates increase beyond an acceptable threshold.

In some instances, while there are existing large-scale developments in progress that cannot be reversed, tax revenue may increase for a short while as these new sites are transferred. Still, the new capital will depart from that area and seek returns in more favourable jurisdictions. Hopefully, high tax rates on vacant land in eThekweni will be amended in the future.

In areas such as KwaDukuza, where rates on vacant land have only increased annually by lower more reasonable levels, certain areas such as Zimbali and Simbithi as the historical powerhouses of growth have had their historical run on vacant land with pricing in each estate growing rapidly for a period, then reaching a plateau for a period and then declining for a period.

Zimbali has gone through this cycle with declining vacant land pricing and anybody active in this market would have witnessed this firsthand. Smaller estates such as Port Zimbali Estate, Hilltop Estate, and Lazuli Estate are lumped together with Zimbali.

New emerging estates such as Zimbali Lakes Resort have battled this downward pressure on vacant land and to some extent managed to generate sales with the promise of a new cutting-edge lifestyle environment self-sufficient in terms of electricity and water, modern architecture and a flagship branded golf course.

Other new estates such as Zululami and Seaton have bucked the trend with enormous success of vacant land sales by showing completed amenities and infrastructure rather than promising these, and have gained the confidence of both end-users and investor buyers.

Simbithi is now in its vacant land cycle where Zimbali was five to ten years ago. Pricing has run too far ahead and the pullback is inevitable. Sellers of vacant land will eventually be disciplined by the market if they get to a point of sale as they realize the demand is no longer the same.

The significant increase in building costs over the past four years has increased the gap between the cost of new versus existing making potential buyers elect to secure an older home and renovate rather than build new on vacant land. The remaining prime sites in Simbithi will be the least impacted but the typical average site will feel the downward pressure in market pricing.

LEGAL TALK

by Fawzia Khan



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PARENT ALERT!!

All forms of corporal punishment are banned

As a parent you are not allowed to use any form of corporal punishment as a disciplinary tool on your children. Even "reasonable and moderate chastisement" is considered unconstitutional and therefore illegal.

A parent who defies this law, can be criminally charged with assault. The rationale for this lies in our Constitution which talks of the best interests of the child being paramount. Corporal punishment is seen as a violation of a child's right to dignity and the right to be free from all forms of violence.

The issue of a parent meting out physical chastisement to his minor child took centre stage in a High Court application in Gauteng recently. The mother of a 5-year-old child brought an urgent application against the father, saying that the father's conduct on 30 January 2025, when he allegedly struck the 5-year child "forcefully on the buttocks" as a form of chastisement, constituted abuse.

The couple are presently going through a divorce and in terms of

an interim court order, the father was awarded primary residency of their two minor children, a 5-year-old boy and a 10-year-old girl. The mother also instituted criminal charges of assault against the father.

She said that as the child feared returning back to the father's care, she wanted an independent psychologist to conduct a forensic assessment of the child and recommend whether the child should remain in the father's care or not.

The father's defence was that the mother's claim of assault and abuse was an "absurdity and a fabrication" and that it was simply a means for his ex to wrest primary residency of the children away from him.

However this defence was seen by the court simply a bare denial of the incident. He failed to provide more details about what actually transpired. Because of this, the court said it was left with the version of the mother.

The child's nanny who was

present on the day said that the two children were arguing, and the father went to the room picked up the boy and took him to his room and she (the nanny) went into her room.

Thus she was unable to say what happened thereafter. The court said because of the lack of proper clarity of what actually happened, the overarching legal basis under which it was required to consider the case was set out in the Constitution, i.e. rule regarding the best interests being paramount in every matter concerning the child.

This meant that the court was bound to do what was in the child's best interests and ruled that pending a recommendation by a forensic psychologist, the mother be granted primary residency of both children, and the father be given reasonable rights of supervised contact.

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Local community dance groups displayed their talent for the invited guests at the launch of the Traditional Tonga Village in Kosi Mouth

Tonga Village Opens in Kosi Mouth

By Kasia Yoko



Tonga Nation on display at the recent launch of the Traditional Tonga Village

The 28th of February 2025 marked a significant day for the Kosi Mouth community as the much-anticipated Traditional Tonga Village officially opened its doors to the public. The event brought together local community members, tourism operators, and hospitality industry stakeholders to celebrate the preservation and promotion of Tonga heritage.

Enoch Tembe, manager of Utshwayelo Community Camp, emphasized the importance of keeping the Tonga traditions alive and sharing them with visitors. "We gathered here today to celebrate the opening of this Traditional Tonga Village," said Tembe. "We are proud of everything we stand for and are keen to introduce visitors to our traditions and way of life."

The opening event was nothing short of spectacular. Johdi O'Brien, owner of Kosi Bay Casitas, was among the attendees and shared her experience. "The opening of the cultural village was grand

indeed! We were treated to cultural dancing by the women and children of the community, and we explored the traditional homesteads, learning fascinating details about family life and cultural beliefs."

One of the highlights of the village is a life-sized replica of a traditional fish trap, showcasing the age-old fishing methods of the Tonga people. Visitors can also browse a small curio shop offering handcrafted local goods, providing an opportunity to support the community's artisans.

The event ended with an exquisite feast featuring a variety of local dishes, including venison stew, peanut chicken, and an assortment of fresh vegetables and salads.

Beyond offering an immersive cultural experience, the Traditional Tonga Village is expected to boost tourism in the region. Lodges and guesthouses are encouraged to promote the village as an attraction, particularly to international visitors who often seek

cultural tours. O'Brien noted that while international guests frequently request such experiences, there is still a need to raise awareness among South African tourists.

"This project will provide our local community with jobs and instill pride in the traditional ways of life and the cultural history of the area," O'Brien added. "As a lodge owner, I will do my best to encourage guests to book a cultural tour and gain insight into the Tembe people of Kosi Bay."

With its authentic representation of Tonga traditions and its potential to support local livelihoods, the Traditional Tonga Village stands as a beacon of cultural preservation and sustainable tourism in Kosi Mouth. Visitors now have a unique opportunity to step into the world of the Tonga people, experience their customs first hand, and contribute to a meaningful community initiative.



Enoch Tembe welcomed the guests and introduced them to the life and customs of the Tonga Nation



Traditional Tonga Village is expected to boost tourism in the region. Lodges and guesthouses are encouraged to promote the village as an attraction



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A journey through the St Francis canals, a mindful experience



The water on the canal was fragrant and pristine, emerald green



One of the most fascinating aspects of St Francis Bay is its Chokka fishing industry



Eric, Chokka fisherman we met on our explorations, he enlightened us about the Chokka fishing and the life on the water



Our stay at the Sea Bell Hotel, perched in the small harbour, gave us the perfect vantage point to soak in the tranquil beauty of this coastal gem

St Francis Bay: A Place of Magical Splendour

By Kasia Yoko

Earlier this month, we made the long journey through mountains and rivers to the breathtaking South African coastline, arriving in the serene town of St Francis Bay. The reason for our visit was bittersweet—a benefit concert at the St Francis Brew House for my husband Tomas' army friend, who is battling a rare form of leukaemia. Friends and family traveled from near and far to support him, creating a powerful sense of unity and love.

Despite the underlying sadness of the occasion, we were fortunate to experience St Francis Bay in all its glory. The weather was perfect—an autumn

breeze offering a welcome escape from the humidity of KwaZulu-Natal. Our stay at the Sea Bell Hotel, perched in the small harbour, gave us the perfect vantage point to soak in the tranquil beauty of this coastal gem.

A Town Steeped in Character and Charm...

One of the most fascinating aspects of St Francis Bay is its Chokka fishing industry. We met local fishermen who shared the challenges of their demanding profession, from unpredictable seas to fluctuating market demands. It was eye-opening to see the resilience and passion that fuel this trade.

As we explored the town, we were embraced by the warm and vibrant local community. The people of St Francis Bay know how to celebrate life—they love to gather, share stories, and enjoy a good drink. This spirit was evident at the benefit concert, which was a tremendous success, raising over R22,000 to support a friend in need.

A Journey Through the St Francis Canals...

The highlight of our trip was reconnecting with an old colleague, Bridget Christy, who moved to St Francis Bay over 15 years ago. She and her husband now run St Francis Safaris, the

only licensed operator offering charter cruises, eco-tours, and whale watching in the area.

Bridget invited us on a canal cruise, and it was nothing short of magical. The water was a pristine emerald green, carrying a fresh, organic scent that reminded us of nature's purity. The canals themselves were immaculately maintained, lined with charming homes and friendly faces. Locals waved as we passed, reinforcing the town's close-knit and welcoming atmosphere.

What makes this experience even more special is the minimal tourism footprint—the balance between

preservation and enjoyment is carefully maintained, ensuring that the natural beauty of the canals remains untouched for future generations.

A Place to Return To...

St Francis Bay left an undeniable mark on my heart. From the warm-hearted community to the stunning natural scenery and the tranquil experience of St Francis Safaris, this town offers a unique blend of adventure and relaxation.

I can't wait to return—perhaps next time for a longer stay, where I can truly immerse myself in the magic of the canals once more.



It feels so good to be a tourist in your own country



After 17 years Bridget and I had a lot of catching up to do



St Francis canal life has so much to offer

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"The only person you are destined to become is the person you decide to be." — Ralph Waldo Emerson



Meeting in the community gardens, tour of the sustainable garden which encourages local community to plant and share the bounty



Community members as well as the students work together to create a sustainable environment, knowledge is shared and experiences are valuable



Water is a very important food source, here we learn about how to transmit water frequency and use it to clean the community pond



One of the highlights of the day was meeting the patients at the Veterinary Academic Hospital



Introduction to the, renowned Veterinary Academic Hospital—the only one of its kind in South Africa



The journalists were given a tour of the state of the art veterinary hospital where animals big and small are treated

100 Years of Excellence: University of Pretoria Welcomes New Vice-Chancellor

By Kasia Yoko

The University of Pretoria (UP), a beacon of academic excellence and innovation, recently celebrated a milestone with the inauguration of its new Vice-Chancellor and Principal, Professor Francis Petersen. Appointed to his role on October 1, 2024, Professor Petersen now leads the institution into its next century, overseeing its management and administration while upholding its legacy of groundbreaking research and education.

To mark this occasion, a select group of journalists embarked on an exclusive three-day tour of UP's faculties. This immersive experience highlighted the university's unparalleled tuition and innovation, including a private tour of its renowned Veterinary Academic Hospital—the only one of its kind in South Africa.

A Legacy of Academic Excellence UP has firmly established itself as a leader in higher education. According to the latest rankings, it holds the top position in South Africa in several disciplines, including:

- Accounting and

Finance

- Economics and Econometrics
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Law
- Mathematics
- Mechanical Engineering
- Veterinary Science

Beyond excelling in individual fields, the university

boasts the widest variety of research and study opportunities in South Africa. In a significant achievement, UP was the only South African university to be ranked in the 2023 World University Rankings for Innovation—solidifying its reputation as a forward-thinking institution.

UP is also recognized as a

top-tier traditional university, with an impressive 73% of its academic staff holding PhDs. This commitment to academic rigor, combined with a progressive approach to research, makes the institution a powerhouse in Africa's educational landscape.

A Hub for Research and Social Impact The University of Pretoria is home to Africa's first nuclear medicine facility, emphasizing its role in pioneering medical

advancements. Additionally, the institution is renowned for its work in poverty research. "The University of Pretoria is rated as the global leader in its research on poverty issues, its support for underprivileged students, and how effectively it promotes employment opportunities and drives economic growth," said Professor Petersen during a visit to the communal gardens on campus.

These gardens serve as more than just green spaces—they are part of a community upliftment project aimed at providing food for local communities. "UP is a very special space. 24,357 of our students are involved in community work through 233 modules that include compulsory community engagement," Professor Petersen added.

Beyond academics, the university is home to a century-old botanical garden, a tranquil space filled with indigenous and non-indigenous species. Managed by a dedicated team, the garden is envisioned as a place of reflection and calm, reinforcing the university's commitment to holistic development.

As UP embarks on its next century, its legacy of excellence, innovation, and social responsibility remains stronger than ever. Under the leadership of Professor Petersen, the university continues to shape the future of education in South Africa and beyond.



University of Pretoria Welcomes New Vice-Chancellor. Prof Francis Petersen



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Renault

Lets Loose The New Duster

By: Tomas Yoko

I recently attended the glamorous launch of the latest Renault Duster, that just landed in Cape Town.

Already a very popular model with the South African motorist, the new Duster has been crammed with tech, safety, luxury and sporting even more efficient engines and gearboxes.

We put the Duster to the test with some gruelling dust roads around the wine farms of the Western Cape. No time to stop and sample the subtle aromas, the Duster was quite at home on the bumpy dirt road. However when we took the Duster to the soft

white sands of Atlantis dunes, the Duster really came to life.

With its stylish new body, high tech drive modes and economical consumption levels, the robust and practical new Renault Duster is going to be winning even more of the hearts and minds of South African motorists.

We tested the new 1.2 litre turbo charged Mild-Hybrid and I had such fun in the soft white sands of Atlantis. The Duster gave me a lot of confidence, all the tech supported the conditions and I can't wait to take this car for a proper road test in the near future.



Super comfortable in the soft white sands of Atlantis, the new Renault Duster has a lot to offer, check it out

GWM P300:

The Ultimate All-Terrain Champion



The much anticipated new Double Cab from GWM, the amazing new P300 bakkie, setting new standards in sophistication and ruggedness, one time

The Double Cab world has a new contender as NMI GWM Umhlanga welcomes the highly anticipated new P300 bakkie, hot on the heels of their award-winning P500. This powerhouse vehicle is set to redefine expectations in the segment, combining rugged capability with unexpected refinement.

At the heart of the P300 beats a formidable 2.4L Turbo Diesel engine delivering 135kW and 480Nm of torque, paired with an advanced 9-Speed Automatic Transmission. The intelligent 4WD system with electronic differential locks ensures mastery over the most challenging terrains.

"The P300 is built for those who demand more," says Floyd Ramabulana, Head of Marketing at GWM South Africa. This philosophy extends beyond raw power to a towing capacity of 3.5 tonnes, making it ideal for hauling heavy equipment or recreational vehicles.

Inside, cutting-edge technology transforms the cabin into a command center with a 12.3-inch touchscreen, 7-inch digital instrument cluster, and wireless charging capabilities. Premium touches include heated and ventilated leather seats and ambient lighting.

Safety remains paramount with comprehensive features including automatic emergency braking, lane keeping assist, and 360° panoramic camera system.

GWM backs this all-terrain champion with impressive coverage: a 7-year/200,000km warranty, unlimited roadside assistance, and a 75,000km service plan.

With its bold styling and industry-first sunroof, the P300 isn't just built to perform—it's designed to impress, ready to take on whatever challenges come its way.

Contact NMI GWM Umhlanga on 031 576 1500 or visit their showroom at 2 Canegate Road, La Lucia Ridge.

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"Say something positive, and you'll see something positive." Jim Thompson

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The amazing Miler from CMH Foton Ballito offers such versatility to the transport industry, contact them on 032 946 5820 or visit their showroom at 35 Moffat drive Ballito



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In the competitive world of commercial vehicles, the Foton Miler from CMH Foton Ballito, emerges as a standout performer, offering unprecedented flexibility and reliability for businesses across various sectors. This robust workhorse demonstrates why it's quickly becoming the "go-to choice" for entrepreneurs and fleet managers seeking a dependable transportation solution.

The Foton Miler's true strength lies in its remarkable versatility. CMH Foton Ballito offers multiple body derivatives to suit virtually every professional requirement. From a chassis cab to standard cargo vans and dropside configurations, to closed-body and refrigerated trucks or specialized utility vehicles, the Miler adapts seamlessly to diverse operational demands. Whether you're a small contractor, a logistics company, or a service provider, there's a Miler configuration precisely tailored to your needs.

The 2 litre turbodiesel engines producing 92kW of power and 320 Newton meters of torque with a robust and durable manual transmission designed for the heavy load workhorse.

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When selecting your ideal Miler, consider key factors: anticipated cargo volume, typical load weights, operational terrain, and frequency of use. CMH Foton Ballito's expert consultants stand ready to guide you through selecting the perfect vehicle configuration. Call them on 032 946 5820 or visit their showroom at 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito.



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

A Window Onto Nature's World



By Environmentalist and Green Campaigner Jill Theunissen

Nature's Gifts For Security, Screening And Shade

When "Undisturbed" or "Modified" by man, or extreme weather conditions, the "World of the Maker" has the unique ability to embrace the needs of an area, or specific region and all its inhabitants.

In the Majete Game Park, in Southern Malawi, the common tree species include Marula, Wild Mango and the giant Baobabs. The photo shows the rewarding tree "CANOPY", with cooling effect for the young giraffe. Conversely, where temperatures are rising in Namaqualand the Research Team monitor the devastating decline of the Common Quiver Tree with expansion of arid desert conditions.

Since conception from 1996 the Coastal Estates have endeavoured to guard their Indigenous Heritage. Existing trees in a Lot are surveyed and incorporated at 'Point of Sale'. The concept offers the Owner(s) the advantages of Boundary Screening, protection from off-shore winds, privacy from neighbours and roadways. The timesaving mature trees already present a spreading canopy for SHADE. Time equals money!!

Security is a Key Issue for any homeowner with the recorded

increase in Crime! The indigenous species with thorns, spines and prickles are positive deterrents to intruders. Succulent Aloes in groups or clusters form a barrier, then interplant with bushes of Large Num-num (Martingulu), Coast Kei Apple, or Sourplum, all with edible juicy fruits. Additional shrubs such as Blue Plumbago and Ribbon Bush for butterflies, and the Plectranthus family in semi shade will add flowering colour. Emerald Fern offers a prickly groundcover with spreading fronds.

For Privacy and Screening, for example the Verge Boundary, the space available may be critical. The Estate or Town Planning layout may allow 5.0M width, or a 3.0M width linked with the adjacent property which forms 6.0M. (The Bushbuck Corridor!) At the Planning Stage check the expected extent of tree canopy at maturity to make sure the selection will have space to GROW! Then ascertain the availability with medium and large trees in not less than a 20lt bag size, at about 1.5M in height.

For bushy species entertain the Pavetta Family with white star clusters and berries for birds, also Black Bird-berry with evergreen

leaves and yellow flower heads. The Narrow-leaf Sand-olive makes a show with bunches of coppery wing-shaped capsules. For increased height add the Tassel-berry, White-pear, the Cross-berry with pink star flowers, Wild Laburnum with yellow hanging racemes and Tree Fushia with orange tubular flowers attracting birds, and Scented-pod Thorn to add dimension and bio-diversity.

The "View to the Sea" is always a priority however close to the shoreline, or even far away. The harmonious rolling of the waves is restful so CARE is essential with the positioning of medium or larger trees. Leave "windows" between the Coral Trees and groups of Forest Toad Trees. The Pigeonwood thrives on forest margins and the 'Protected' Milkwoods, (Mimusops caffra) which grow large with age present canopy shade, but need careful placement together with their Permit from DAFF.

Large evergreen trees such as Natal Mahogany offer excellent parking shade. Near the Pool ensure a set-back position to allow for root establishment. Fig trees are not ideal near to a Pool or Water Feature due to their natural habit where the roots

seek out moisture. Our spreading Flatcrown is not a good candidate, when annually discarding a myriad of tiny leaves. Another Reminder: DO NOT PLANT THE FEVER TREE south of the Tugela River, with again highly invasive roots seeking swampy water.

Responsibility rests with the Estates, Complexes, Commercial and Industrial Parks, and Parks Departments to ensure that Indigenous Tree and Species Lists are available at all times and up-dated regularly. For the new Site or Project Area the Environmental Procedure should first arrange for a Consultant to make a thorough Assessment with correct lists and Tree marking. The Consultant to preferably hold Dendrology Certification..

Awareness reinforced by personal reference is always rewarding. "Pooley's - TREES of Eastern South Africa. A Complete Guide. by Richard Boon presents a comprehensive publication available. Enjoy discovering your trees.

Acknowledgement for Chris Small of Westbrook for his introduction to "Majete". Acknowledgement to the Mongabay Research information dated 20/3/25.



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The sherpas will always remain an integral part of climbing Mt Everest

Sherpas' Future Uncertain

A sad day. Plans to replace sherpas on Mt Everest with heavy lifting drones have been called "idiotic" by some in Nepal who are worried it'll take away the livelihoods of many who rely on the mountaineering season for their annual income.

The pilot programme will see drones carry loads of up to 15kg from Everest Base Camp (5364m) past the deadly Khumbu Icefall to Camp 1 (6065m) reducing the risk of

exposure to a dangerous part of the ascent.

The sherpas will always remain an integral part of climbing Mt Everest.

The Tibetans named the peak Chomolungma meaning 'Mother of the World'.

The Nepalese christened their peak Sagarmatha, which means 'Goddess of the Sky' in Sanskrit. Eons before some British explorers claims to have 'discovered' it.

The Next-Gen Ford Everest: Built for the South African Family Adventure at CMH Ford Ballito

The next-generation Ford Everest continues making waves, and for good reason. This impressive SUV, available at CMH Ford Ballito, has captured the hearts of South African families, recently earning a commendable second place in the prestigious South African Car-Of-The-Year competition.

The Ford Everest perfectly dovetails with the South African

lifestyle. Its robust design and impressive capabilities make it ideal for families who embrace the outdoors. Whether it's tackling rugged terrain on a weekend getaway or simply navigating the urban jungle, the Everest offers unmatched versatility. The spacious interior comfortably accommodates passengers and cargo, (school bags and sports kit) allowing you to bring

everything you need for the ultimate family adventure.

Beyond its impressive features, the Everest also embodies the spirit of community. Much like the vehicle itself, CMH Ford Ballito is deeply rooted in the local area. They are actively involved in various community initiatives, demonstrating their commitment to supporting and uplifting the people

they serve. Choosing the Ford Everest from CMH Ford Ballito is not just about buying a car; it's about investing in a brand that values community and understands the needs of the South African family. Visit CMH Ford Ballito today and experience the next-generation Everest first hand. 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito. Call them on 087 723 9278 and get the details.



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

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.

KZNSB offers a dynamic audio -visual presentation. Although the 26 minutes presentation is designed to entertain, it is also educational, providing information on subjects such as the sensory biology of sharks and their role as top predators in the marine environment. The show is followed by a shark dissection where you can see the internal anatomy of one of the ocean's most feared predators. "SHARK"

SHOW TIMES Tuesday to Thursday: 09h00am and 14h00pm, First Sunday of the month: 14:00pm

BOAT TRIPS

There are also boat trips to venture out to sea to watch the shark safety gear off Durban's Golden Mile. Boat trips lasting for an estimated two hours, leave Wilson's Wharf at 06:30 and they include opportunistic viewing of marine life including seabirds and get to see the beautiful, magnificent Moses Mabhida Stadium.

SHARK MUSEUM They get a chance to view the large variety of life-like replicas of sharks, as well as other marine animals.

CURIO SHOP You can browse around the Curio Shop where a treasure chest of unusual and stylish gifts awaits you, including handcrafted ornaments, T-shirts, Caps, leather goods and jewellery and shark tooth necklaces etc.

VENUE HIRE

The KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board Maritime Centre of Excellence is in the affluent residential, commercial and resort town of Umhlanga in the north of Durban. This venue is not too far from the King Shaka International Airport. The venue offers a versatile auditorium of 19m x 19m that can accommodate. Reception/ party seating and Minimum of 160 guests and maximum 300 guests. Presentations: Seating cinema style up to 300 people. The hall hire comes standard with:

- ◆ Exclusive use of the venue inside and an exquisite outside location to consider for use at no extra costs
- ◆ Armless chairs
- ◆ Tables
- ◆ Fully equipped kitchen
- ◆ Secure parking
- ◆ Cleaning staff
- ◆ Security
- ◆ We are ideally situated close to the freeway: with access to and from the N2 and M4.

Bookings: (031) 566 0435 for Dissection Shows, 082 403 9206 for Boat Trips, (031) 566 0462 for Hall Hire or visit our website: www.shark.co.za



ALL COVID-19 SAFETY PROTOCOLS OBSERVED.



KWAZULU-NATAL
SHARKS BOARD
Maritime Centre of Excellence

The only organisation of its kind in the world

Boat Trips

Curio Shop

Museum

Dissection Show

Audio-Visual

SHOW TIMES:
Tuesday - Thursday
09h00 & 14h00

Every 1st Sunday
of the month:
14h00 - 16h00

BOAT TRIPS:
Monday - Friday
Contact Number
+2782 403 9206

FOR BOOKINGS
Contact: +2731 566 0435
(closed on recognised
Public Holidays)

031 566 0400

@kznsb

www.shark.co.za