

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za

SA Surfers Make History at World Surfing Competition

In a momentous achievement for South African surfing, veteran surfer Jordy Smith clinched his first World Championship Tour victory in eight years at the Surf City El Salvador Pro.

The 37-year-old Smith triumphed in an all-South African final against compatriot Matthew McGillivray at Punta Roca, showcasing the nation's dominance in the sport. Smith achieved a heat total of 14.26 out of 20, with strong wave scores of 7.33 and 6.93. He dedicated his win to his father and wife, stating, "I've always wanted to ride his board in a final and to win on it, and that dream has come true. I love you Dad." Seen on the right; Jordy Smith and Matthew McGillivray at Punta Roca win



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THROUGH MY EYES

By Kasía Yoko

He Has Risen —And So Must We



He Has Risen
Over 2,000 years ago, Christ miraculously rose from the grave—a divine moment that reshaped the course of humanity and redefined hope. That single act of resurrection sent shockwaves across time, birthing a faith that has since weathered centuries of upheaval, evolution, and questioning.

But what does Easter mean to our world today? Why should an ancient miracle still matter in 2025?

As Christians and Catholics globally mourn the passing of Pope Francis, our collective gaze shifts—once again—to resurrection. While one pontiff is laid to rest, the wheels of Vatican succession begin to turn, preparing to anoint the next spiritual shepherd. It's a striking reminder of the eternal ebb and flow: death, life, and ultimately, rebirth.

This sacred rhythm isn't confined to religion. It echoes through every facet of human life. We rise and fall. We lose and gain. We grieve and begin again.

And yet—today's world feels... heavier. In this so-called "new normal," we are facing an existential crisis. The highest court in the land debates the very

definition of a woman. A crisis of identity. A crisis of truth.

Gratitude is mocked. Life is devalued. And faith? Often replaced by fleeting trends, synthetic comforts, and a craving for instant validation.

Where are we headed as a civilization?

How much more economic suppression can we endure before the soul of society fractures completely?

Can we still rise in a world so eager to keep us numb, angry, and divided?

Easter, in its truest form, is the answer. It's the whisper that says: You will rise again.

It's the promise that darkness never has the final word. That there is always light—if we choose to seek it.

So perhaps this season, we are not merely remembering a historical resurrection—we are called to experience one.

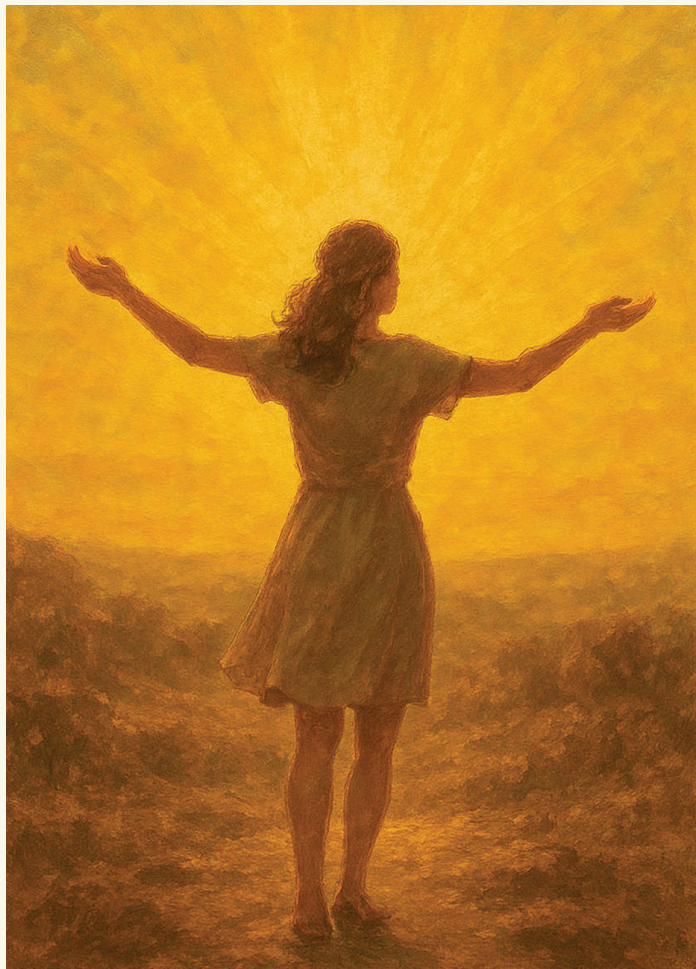
To resurrect our own faith.

To rise above despair.

To believe again—in goodness, in people, in purpose.

Let us not wait for the world to give us direction. Let us become the direction. Let this be the year we live with intentionality. With gratitude. With courage.

Because He has risen.



Dear Ed,

**Re: Crime on the North Coast is
Becoming Unbearable**

Anyone living on the North Coast will tell you—things have gone from bad to terrifying. Even the once-quiet inland townships are now plagued by crime, from theft and kidnapping to cold-blooded murder. Communities are gripped by fear. What used to be peaceful neighbourhoods have turned into zones of anxiety and sleepless nights.

We're watching our towns fall apart, and for what? A collapsing economy, wide-open borders, and a justice system asleep at the wheel. The recent legislation banning private security companies from acting in any policing capacity has only made things worse. With our police force under-resourced, overwhelmed, and—let's be

honest—often invisible, who exactly is meant to protect us?

The results are heartbreaking and inevitable. Frustrated and terrified, ordinary people are taking the law into their own hands. Local thieves and desperate addicts are being killed by vigilante groups. Is this justice? Is this the society we've become?

Meanwhile, instead of tackling real crime, our police seem focused on setting up roadblocks in affluent areas to breathalyse residents on their way home. Harassing taxpayers while ignoring the criminals tearing our communities apart.

Where is the leadership? Where are the solutions? Because right now, the North Coast feels abandoned—and something has to change.

Kind regards,
RC Dlamini

Dear Editor,

**Re: Dangerous Road
Conditions on the M4**

I recently drove from Zimbali along the M4 through Durban, taking the Esplanade and rejoining the M4 southbound. I was shocked by the appalling state of the roads. The lane markings are faded or completely missing in many stretches, and potholes are everywhere — some so deep they feel more like craters. There are also huge dips in the road, making the drive uncomfortable and unsafe.

Driving at night, especially in the rain, is extremely dangerous — even for the most cautious driver. The lack of visibility, combined with poor drainage

and road damage, turns a routine drive into a high-risk experience. Entering Amanzimtoti, I almost aquaplaned due to flooding on the freeway.

Surely SANRAL should recognise that improving road conditions isn't just a matter of comfort — it's about public safety. Better-maintained roads could potentially reduce accidents, injuries, and the growing number of claims for damages. Isn't that a more sustainable solution than dealing with endless payouts?

We pay our taxes and tolls — it's time we saw that investment reflected in safer, well-maintained roads.

Sincerely,
A Concerned Coastal
Driver
Ballito

Dear Ed,

Re: Heads Up, uMdloti Neighbours!

On Workers Day, Thursday, 1st May, the uMdloti Beach Ski Boat Club will be hosting their annual members fishing competition which is open to boats and kayaks. Launching will take place at first light, followed by a prizegiving at 11am and (fingers crossed) a fresh fish braai at the club grounds.

There may be a little extra activity around the beachfront and limited parking, but we'll do our best to keep any disruption to an absolute minimum and contained to the Club's very own little patch of grass, always mindful of our fellow uMdlotian's.

We'd also love to see some friendly local faces popping in so you're more than welcome to swing by and soak up the usual chilled vibe as our guests. And yes, if the fish play along, there'll be something to braai and as a Club we like to share the ocean and the bounty it provides.

Thanks in advance for your patience and support, we really look forward to seeing some of you then.

uMdloti Ski Boat Club Committee

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What's the issue?

By Tomas Yoko

You wake up. You do your stretches. You drink your smoothie. Then your heart says, "Nah, I'm done." Boom—heart attack at 28. Welcome to the Age of Cardiac Roulette. And what's behind it? According to Dr. Evan Levine, a man who presumably sleeps with a defibrillator under his pillow, it's not bad luck, genetics, or that third Red Bull. No, it's a pandemic-era policy nobody read, quietly restricting access to certain anti-inflammatory meds. Less inflammation control = more clotting = young people keeling over at Whole Foods. Turns out the real side effect of public health bureaucracy might be... death.

But let's not linger—Donald Trump is making trade deals again. Yes, him. And no, this isn't a deleted scene from a dystopian Netflix show. He's apparently minutes away from finalizing a "great" trade deal with Britain. Which means British people might soon be legally obligated to accept chicken that's been bleached more than a Hollywood smile. In return, America gets... what? Royal souvenirs and digestive biscuits? Somewhere, Boris Johnson is weeping into his monocle.

Meanwhile, RFK Jr. is on a detox crusade, claiming five household toxins may be triggering autism: aluminum, fluoride, food dyes, GMOs, and vaccines. Basically, if you've ever eaten, drunk, or bathed, you're doomed. He promises to end the "epidemic." How? With science? With law? With a giant dreamcatcher over Washington? He hasn't said. But rest assured, he's got the vibe of a man who once whispered secrets to his toaster.

Maybe I wouldn't have been infected with a **WOKE MIND VIRUS** if more people had worn masks.



Across the pond, Europe's suddenly remembered that Russia still exists. Defence budgets are exploding like fireworks at a dictator's birthday party. Everyone's arming up, investing in tanks, drones, and enough ammo to make Call of Duty look like a water balloon fight. It's not just about NATO anymore—it's about hedge funds eyeing missile manufacturers. Yes, war is bad, but have you seen those Q1 profits?

Ukraine, meanwhile, continues to hold its own—but only because the West is essentially its sugar daddy. Billions in weapons, gear, and cash. It's like crowdfunding a revolution on Patreon. You subscribe, you get updates, maybe a cool patch. Meanwhile, Russia grinds on, and your gas bill doubles.

And while Rome reorganizes, the Catholic Church is still reeling from the legacy of Pope Francis—now the late Pope Francis—a man who shattered conventions, confused conservatives, and possibly made the

Holy See's press office cry on a daily basis. The first Pope in history to be trending for liberalism, climate concerns, and suspiciously socialist vibes. Let the sainthood debates begin.

Back in Brexitland, Macron has dropped his demands in a post-Brexit fish fight. A victory for the UK? Maybe. Or maybe France just decided fish weren't worth another cross-Channel hissy fit. Either way, British defence firms are rubbing their hands—because if there's one thing we've learned, it's that fish equals funding.

And finally, just in case Earth wasn't enough, Trump has set his spray-tanned sights on Canada. Rumours swirl that he wants to make it the 51st state. Why? Because Alaska is lonely, and the current Canadian PM doesn't have enough personality for meme culture. Arctic tensions rise. Polar bears look nervous. And WWII might kick off over syrup, snowmobiles, and the last bottle of maple bourbon.

That's the issue. Good night, and may your arteries be unclogged.

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

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



By Jo Rushby from Ikes Books and Collectables, Durban

The Luxury of Calm



Oh, to be in London. This city that tantalised me. I lived here in the late 1990s. And now, over three decades later, I was back. My heart skipped a beat as I strolled down Charing Cross. Old London was hanging on. A detour into Mayfair, and the stench of extravagance was overwhelming. Chanel. Givenchy. Gucci. Louis Vuitton. My Mr. Price backpack seemed as out of place as a Protestant at the Vatican. Here, the pavements are literally lined with gold and a few Lamborghinis to boot. Where Handel, later Hendrix lived in the same flat, the buildings Georgian, Victorian, arcades steeped in time and feeding a desire for luxury which remains unsated.

But I had learnt the art of walking, by straying. The labyrinths of times past were

everywhere. I snuck down an alleyway, and suddenly Phoenix like, rising before me, was All Saints Church in Margaret Street. It seemed closed. Heavy wooden doors. Open me. I was drawn in. It felt as if somebody had sneaked up behind me and inserted earplugs. Silence. No-one. Pillars stood at oblique angles, light pouring in. An angel flapped its' wings on a marble plinth. And in the distance, a vast stained-glass window shimmered kaleidoscopic light onto the prophets Enoch, Isaiah, and Malachi. The words of Genesis seemed so apt: 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven'.

In a city overwhelmed by the new, there is something so restorative about these sanctuaries of old. This is not the

restoration of Estée Lauder moisturisers or Harley Street Botox. Places like All Saints are where you can dig deep into the interior of one's life as you are trying to flee it. They offer peace from turmoil, a time to reflect, those who have passed, a chance to take a breath.

Oxford Street could well be another country. First occupied in the 18th century, architect William Butterfield began work on All Saints in the mid-19th century. The Organ was built in 1910 and today, the Church stands in all its glory after a 25-year revamp. It is a building of supreme beauty.

Samuel Johnson once rebuked his friend and biographer Boswell with the words; 'When a man is tired of London, he is tired of life'. London can tire you out, but it can also give you light.



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Recipe of the Month
By Kasia Yoko

Zucchini Crisps



Well, maybe not exactly 15cm x 10cm but close enough, believe me no one will care what shape they're made, these zucchini crisps are too yummy to judge

Zucchini Crisps

As the colder days draw in, it's only natural to crave something warm, comforting, and utterly satisfying. Enter my zucchini cheese crisps — a golden, melty, crunchy snack that hits all the right notes. They're gluten-free, low in carbs, and a perfect fit for anyone following a Keto lifestyle.

What makes these crisps extra special is their versatility. Serve them as a moreish side, snack on them straight from the tray, or use them as clever little wraps for your favourite toppings. I like to enjoy mine alongside a tangy homemade mayo and a crisp green salad — it's a textural dream!

Did you know zucchini is considered a "negative-calorie" food. That means your body burns more calories digesting it than the vegetable itself

contains. So, you can nibble away guilt-free!

For the best results, you'll need a mandolin slicer — those zucchini slices must be paper thin to achieve that perfect crispiness.

You will need:

- 4 large zucchini
- 1 cup mature cheddar, grated
- 1 cup mozzarella, grated
- 1 cup mature gouda, grated
- 1/4 cup melted butter
- Garlic salt to taste
- Sesame seeds (optional)

Directions:

1. Preheat your oven to 220°C
2. Prepare a large baking tray and generously butter the surface to prevent sticking.

3. Using a mandolin, slice the zucchini as thinly as possible.

4. On the tray, place half of the cheese mixture into 15cm x 10cm piles — you should end up with about 9 crisps.

5. Layer the zucchini slices over each cheese mound, overlapping slightly to form a cohesive layer.

6. Top with the remaining cheese and a sprinkle of garlic salt and sesame seeds.

7. Bake for 35–45 minutes or until golden brown and irresistibly crispy.

8. Cool slightly, then serve warm — perhaps with a glass of homemade lemonade on the side.

Crispy, cheesy, and just indulgent enough — these zucchini crisps are bound to become your new winter favourite.

By Yogan Naidoo

The morning air in Durban hums with something extraordinary on Good Friday. While churches fill with divine hymns commemorating Good Friday, the streets near Hindu temples ripple with vibrant devotion - the clang of steel pots, the rhythmic chanting of Tamil prayers, and the intoxicating aroma of fermented porridge bubbling in massive cauldrons. This is where my day begins, at the Shree Veeraboga Emperumal Temple, where two worlds gracefully intersect.

As dawn's golden fingers stretch across the temple courtyard, I join the stream of devotees removing our shoes at the entrance. The cool marble soothes my feet as I make my way past intricately carved pillars, pausing to press my palms together before each shrine. The scent of camphor and fresh flowers hangs heavy in the air, mingling with something earthier, richer - the unmistakable promise of a sacred feast being prepared.

Following my nose leads me to the bustling food preparation area, where the real magic unfolds. Here, enormous deks (cauldrons big enough to stand in) simmer over open flames, their contents stirred continuously by volunteers with arms as thick as the aluminium paddles they wield. One vat bubbles with sour porridge, its golden surface glistening with special spices , while another erupts with the peppery aroma of vegetable mixed curry. The rhythmic chop-chop-chop of knives on wooden blocks provides percussion to this symphony of devotion, as mountains of pumpkin, cabbage and drumstick herbs are transformed into offerings fit for the Divine Mother.

My friend Saroj (Exec Member) appears , thrusting cups of hot tea into the hands of the volunteers. As they sipped the fortifying brew, watching the controlled chaos around us, one of the assembled devotees posed the question that's hovered on my lips for years: "So, tell me - how did we end up celebrating Amman on Good Friday of all days?"

The answer, I would discover through dusty academic tomes and oral histories, is as richly layered as the temple mixed curry itself. It begins in the mid-19th century, when British ships disgorged thousands of Tamil-speaking indentured labourers onto Natal's shores. Among the scant possessions they carried was an unshakable devotion to Mother Mariamman, the village goddess who cured fevers, brought rain, and protected against misfortune.

Professor Goolam Vahed's research reveals how these early settlers clung to their traditions under brutal plantation conditions. For Tamil Hindus, he writes, religious practice wasn't just worship - it was resistance. With no fixed date for Mariamman festivals in the traditional calendar, the community seized upon Good Friday's guaranteed holiday as their opportunity for collective worship. The porridge offering, once a simple village ritual, became both sacred rite and survival strategy - nourishing bodies as much as souls.

As the morning sun climbs higher, the temple courtyard transforms into a well-oiled machine. Elderly aunties shape rice flour kolams on the ground while muscular young men haul the dells of prepared meals . The air thrums with a unique energy - part spiritual solemnity, part community carnival.

Paul Younger's ethnographic work captures this duality perfectly: "What appears as syncretism is actually profound cultural resilience," he notes. "The rituals adapted to their new environment without losing their essential character." Indeed, watching the priest prepare the neivedhyam (food offering), I recognize the same meticulous steps my ancestors would have followed in their South Indian villages centuries ago.

By noon, when the first batches of prasadam are ready for distribution, the answer to the devotees question becomes beautifully clear. This Good Friday tradition isn't just about convenience or cultural compromise. It's about how faith, like the perfect pot of porridge , requires constant stirring, adaptation to local conditions, and above all, the willingness to share its nourishment freely with all who come seeking. As I accept my portion of the blessed food, I taste not just the curry and lentils, but the extraordinary story of a community that turned hardship into something holy and nourishing.



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A Sacred Dawn in Durban: When Two Faiths Meet Over Good Friday



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Property Talk

By:
Andreas
Wassenaar

What drives the property market?



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The first quarter of the New Year has firmly placed the property market as a buyer's market with a high availability of excellent options at lower pricing. Estate agents have been surprised at the direction change as the post-GNU formation euphoria provided a boost to consumer and business confidence.

When considering the likely trending direction of any asset market, it is useful to consider the underlying fundamentals that drive that market and if these are moving up, down or sideways. The impact of cutting off USAID funds flow to South Africa and the uncertain political landscape remains to be seen, but the FNB/BER Consumer Confidence Index did drop to -20 in Q1 2025, down from -6 in the previous quarter reflecting how the general consumer market is currently viewing the landscape. Property is by nature a long-term investment and confidence is a determining factor for people deciding to invest.

Our cost of money, measured by the current prime lending rate remains at 11%, which is high considering that our CPI inflation rate is as low as 3.2% and the PPI rate is as low as 1% as measured in February 2025.

Real interest rates at 7.8% would be viewed as excessively high by economists. With producer price inflation well below consumer price inflation, it indicates that the trend remains down for inflation.

High domestic interest rates defend the Rand exchange rate in the short term but have a damaging effect on local production. This is reflected in our GDP growth rates, which averaged 0.6% for 2024 being the slowest growth since 2020. Without economic expansion and the subsequent increase in disposal household income, markets cannot expand, and property prices remain under pressure.

As a seller, when facing a property market characterized by uncertainty and low demand the best advice is not to panic. Although many people can delay the sale of a property and potentially rent the home for the next few years, the general market does need a sale to progress in their lives.

Pricing is the key factor that has to adjust downwards to meet market demand and where a transaction can result. The beautiful thing about a market is that it disciplines all sellers over time and will dictate the level at which a property trades.

Those sellers who are actively watching and managing prices to meet demand will eventually realize a sale. In these markets where buyers are spoilt for choice sellers need to present their properties in the best possible condition.

Clean, neatly presented homes that are uncluttered and filled with natural light will attract the attention of buyers and therefore more likely to trade. Sellers can shape the probability of success in the market by actively working to get and keep their properties in that showroom condition.

Once the home is ready to present to the market, the strategy the seller adopts will result in success or failure. Select the agents you decide to work with carefully with a well-articulated marketing plan.

Base pricing on actual transfer data and not on what was spent on the property, previous offers or the cost of construction as these are largely irrelevant in determining what a willing buyer will pay for a property.

LEGAL TALK

by Fawzia Khan



THE LAW DESK
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- ATTORNEYS
- CONVEYANCERS
- NOTARIES
- MEDIATORS

Does the employer have the right to cancel a fixed term contract for operational reasons ?

In 2018 David Sedumedi, concluded a five-year fixed term contract of employment with a university, where he was appointed as director until 31 September 2023. The University informed him that his position as director would become redundant through the creation of a new position and that he would now have a different subordinate position which would report to the Director: Communications and Marketing.

Sedumedi said he participated in the retrenchment process but expected to be automatically appointed to the newly created position of director. However in August 2021 the University said that he would not be automatically appointed to this position, and began advertising the position for possible incumbents. Sedumedi did not apply for the new position of director. In February 2022, the University gave him a notice of the termination of his services for operational reasons and said that

someone else had been appointed to the position of director and that he was being dismissed as there were no other suitable positions available for him.

Sedumedi challenged this saying that the University had no legal right to terminate his fixed-term contract prior to its natural end date on 31 September 2023. He argued that the notice of termination was a repudiation of his contract of employment and insisted that was entitled to payment of the balance of his contract, which was in excess of R2 million. He based his claim on the common law principle that when an employer concludes a fixed term of contract of employment with the employee, unless the employee breaches a material term of a fixed-term employment contract, or the fixed-term contract otherwise provides for termination on notice, the employer has no right to prematurely terminate a fixed-term contract prior to its natural end date.

The University's argued that one month's notice was sufficient

when the termination of the contract was for operational reasons. The court found that the University's termination policy did not intend to alter any contractual terms contained in the written contracts of employment concluded between the University and its respective employees. The court said that Sedumedi's fixed-term contract did not entitle the University to terminate his employment on notice on the basis of its operational requirements (or indeed on any basis other than his material breach of the contract).

The Labour Court awarded him damages in the sum of R2,063,472.42 for the breach of the contract. Consequently unless a right is specifically agreed to as a contractual term, there is no right to terminate a fixed term contract for operational reasons.

Know your rights! The Law Desk of Fawzia Khan & Associates. Giving You the Power of Attorney. Email fawzia@thelawdesk.co.za or call 031-5025670 for legal assistance at competitive rates.



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The Haval H7: A Game-Changer That Made My Heart Race



Test drive the new GWM Haval H7 at NMI Haval Umhlanga, 2 Canegate Road, uMhlanga Ridge, or call for more info on 031 576 1500

Let me tell you about the new Haval H7 that just landed – and wow, what a machine! I had the thrill of road testing the H7 for a week and I'm still smiling. This SUV punches way above its weight class, piquing the interests of all passers-by. Starting at just R601,000, the H7 feels like someone made a pricing mistake in your favour. Seriously, I was glancing around the cabin thinking, "They're practically giving this away!"

Power options? You've got choices that'll match whatever driving personality you have. The 1.5-liter turbo kicks out a peppery 127 kilowatts and handles daily driving with ease, while the 2.0-liter derivative with 158 kilowatts was downright thrilling when I put my foot down. That engine sings when you need it to, but sips fuel impressively at a reported 8.5L/100km.

However the real magic happens with that 9-speed gearbox. It's butter-smooth and always seems to know exactly what gear I needed before I did. Cruising on the N2 felt like floating, and when I needed to overtake, it dropped gears seamlessly with no fuss. Smooth acceleration, a pure driving joy.

Plush comes to mind when talking about the interior. It wraps around you like your favourite chair, but with tech that made me feel like I had stepped into the future. The touchscreen is intuitive, the materials feel luxurious, and there's space for days. My tall friends in the back seat actually thanked me for the space.

Look, I'm not saying the H7 will change your life... or am I? However it certainly might change how you feel about driving. There's something deeply satisfying about piloting a vehicle that delivers this much while asking so little from your bank account.

When you're ready to feel this joy for yourself (and trust me, you want to), head over to Haval Umhlanga backed by NMI. Sales Manager Mbulelo's team there get it – they're enthusiasts, not just salespeople.

This isn't just transport, it's an invitation to dream bigger about where you could go and what you could do. The H7 doesn't just move you physically – it moves you emotionally.



CMH FORD BALLITO



2023 ISUZU D-MAX 3.0Ddi
V-Cross HR A/T D/C P/U
45 792km FSH

R689 900



2022 SUZUKI JIMNY
1.5 GL Auto
47 215km FSH

R299 800



2023 SUZUKI S-PRESSO
1.0 GL+ AMT
11 947km FSH

R178 000



2024 VOLKSWAGEN POLO
VIVO 1.4 Trendline (5DR)
7000km FSH

R229 900

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The Foton Double Cab is an amazing value proposition, however the Foton Single Cab outperforms in this department. Take them both for a test drive, call Bailey on

The Foton Pickup: Umhlanga's Hidden Gem

There's something unexpected happening at Foton Umhlanga, and it deserves your attention. The Foton double cab pickup isn't just another entry in the crowded utility vehicle market – it's a revelation that challenges everything you thought you knew about value and capability.

Behind the wheel, the Foton immediately impresses with its commanding driving position and responsive handling that belies its rugged frame. The cabin wraps you in surprising comfort, with thoughtful touches and technology that would feel at home in vehicles costing significantly more. But it's when you venture off the beaten path that this machine truly reveals its character – tackling rough terrain with composure and confidence that inspires trust.

Power delivery is smooth yet authoritative, with plenty in reserve for those moments when you need to accelerate out of trouble or haul a substantial load. Speaking of which, the load bay handles everything from weekend adventure gear to serious work equipment with ease.

What truly distinguishes the Foton, however, is its value proposition. While the double cab offers remarkable bang for your buck, the single cab derivative represents perhaps the most compelling value in today's automotive landscape. It delivers the same fundamental engineering excellence and reliability in an even more accessible package.

A visit to Foton Umhlanga isn't just a dealership experience – it's your introduction to a vehicle that could transform your expectations. Whether for work, play, or the perfect blend of both, this pickup deserves your test drive. One hour behind the wheel might just change your perspective on what true value looks like.

CMH Suzuki Ballito's Winner - The New Swift Wins Again

The fourth-generation Suzuki Swift has claimed victory in the Best Budget Car category at the prestigious 2025 Cars.co.za Consumer Awards, continuing Suzuki's remarkable dominance with its fifth win in this segment.

This achievement comes as no surprise to the team at CMH Suzuki Ballito, who have witnessed first-hand the enthusiastic response from local motorists to South Africa's best-selling passenger vehicle.

"We're seeing very enthusiastic interest in the new Swift," says Nathi Mhlongo, Dealer Principle at CMH Suzuki Ballito. "Our customers are drawn to its stylish design, fuel efficiency, and incredible value for money offering, now from just R229,900, but not for long."

The Swift's victory highlights Suzuki's commitment to affordable quality, complemented by strong showings from the Baleno and Fronx



The popular and dynamic Suzuki Swift from CMH Suzuki Ballito, a must to test drive, call them on 031 001 9965

models as runners-up in their respective categories.

Experience the award-winning Swift range at CMH Suzuki Ballito, located at 35 to 37 Moffat Drive, Ballito Business Park. Contact their professional sales team at 031 001 9965 to arrange your test drive and discover why this compact hatchback continues to win both awards and hearts.

My Week With The Hyundai Exter: Not Your Average Compact Crossover



Proving popular with South African motorists, the Hyundai Exter has so much to offer

Let me tell you about my week long fling with the new Hyundai Exter. Spoiler alert: I might be a little smitten.

This little beauty snuck up on me, honestly. At first glance, it was just another compact crossover in a sea of them, right? Wrong. After day one, I was already making excuses to pop to the shop, just to get behind the wheel again.

The 1.2-litre engine isn't going to win any drag races, but that's not the point. What it lacks in brutish power, it makes up for in sipping fuel like my uncle at an open bar – cautiously and making it last. I averaged just over 5.8 litres per hundred, without even trying, which means my wallet wasn't cringing every time I passed a petrol station.

Road clearance on the Exter? Chef's kiss Ample clearance to handle those crater-sized potholes that seem to multiply overnight on our roads. And parking? So easy I could probably do it blindfolded (legal disclaimer: please don't try this).

Inside, it's like a TARDIS – mysteriously bigger than physics should allow. The tech inside doesn't make you feel like you've settled for the budget option either. The infotainment system actually understands what I'm saying, which is more than I can say for some humans I know.

Here's the truth – South Africans love a car that can handle our "interesting" road conditions while not emptying our bank accounts. The Exter ticks those boxes and throws in some personality for good measure.

If you're shopping in this segment, do yourself a favour and test drive the Exter. Just don't blame me when you find yourself making excuses to drive to places you could easily walk to.



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A Window Onto Nature's World



By Environmentalist and Green Campaigner Jill Theunissen

When the Easter celebration draws near, Palm Sunday signifies the day when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. The crowds lining the streets spread fronds from the Judean Date Palm Tree across the route in triumphant acclamation. (Ref. Matthew 21, 1-11).

Our local palm species do not embrace the same religious significance, but recognition is essential to ensure continuity of biodiversity. A remote and now 'rare' palm, *Raphia australis* – Kosi Palm, bears very long leaves creating an ideal nest for the Palmnut Vultures.

Mtunzini is our nearest venue for the nesting vultures, with the palm roots securing the nearby flood plain.

A palm isolated to River banks in Pondoland is *Jubaeopsis caffra* – Pondo Coconut, with its large round hanging bunches of slow maturing coconut-type fruits. More common and scattered, the East Coast hosts *Hyphaene coriacea* – Lala Palm, with attractive long, grey-green fan-shaped leaves. Male and female emerge on different trees with large brown seed bunches appearing in summer. Similarly, our *Phoenix reclinata* –

A CELEBRATION OF THE 'RESURRECTION' OF THE JUDEAN DATE PALM

Wild Date Palm, displays male and female flowering on different trees. The roots are invaluable in anchoring the fine coastal, sandy soils and stream embankments.

The Judean Date Palm – *Phoenix dactylifera* once grew across vast semi dry areas in Israel, but proliferated around the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee, the Jordan Valley and within the city of Jericho. History records that 2000 years ago the ravages and plundering throughout these areas by the aggressive Romans sadly caused extinction of the Judean Date Palm. The Jewish people, in desperation withdrew to the City of Masada, where mass suicide occurred, with their food left in a storeroom as evidence.

2000 years later a team of Archaeologists investigating the site in the 1960's discovered with amazement that seeds from the Judean Date Palm had survived. These were removed and remained in storage. Forty years later, Dr. Sarah Sollon, an expert Medical Scientist managed to persuade the authorities to release a few seeds for re-cultivation. Of course, they

thought she was mad! However, with the extreme scientific expertise of her friend, Dr. Elaine Solowey, (a desert plant expert), the daunting task of rejuvenation had begun. Dr. Solowey under-took a process of re-hydration, fertilizer treatment and extreme caring. Great excitement erupted in July 2005 when one seed sprouted and was planted. The male Date Palm "Methuzelah" had arrived, with pollen gradually evident. This spurred Sarah Sollon to obtain more seeds, with successful germination of new palms appropriately given Biblical names: Judah, Hannah, Judith, Boaz and Adam. The final achievement was the cross-pollination between "Methuzelah" and "Hannah" with the first crop of dates reaped after a period of 2000 years of extinction. The medical expertise of Sarah Sollon also awakened the authorities to the highly beneficial nutritive and medicinal value of the dates. Then by 2020, the new production boosted local food availability and in turn benefitted the economy.

Despite the changes and recorded weather shifts, with the 16th to 19th

Centuries recording cooler conditions, new life can grow again.

The "Resurrection" of the Judean Date Palm is a unique example and indicator that Nature Conservation should remain in the hands of highly qualified Conservationists, linked to similarly qualified scientists and not allowed to fall into the hands of today's Aggressors, often greedy corrupt and creators of waste lands, like the Romans. The plundering of our Natural and highly beneficial Natural Environment is not justified in any era.

Heritage Day may hopefully serve to reinforce that Conservation, Stabilisation, Maintenance and where needed Rehabilitation of all species and creatures, both great and small is paramount.

The Judean Date Palm Tree has "Risen Again" proving the unique resilience of Nature to enjoy a triumphant arrival for the Easter Celebration for all Mankind. Acknowledgement of Information to Mrs. A. Kok (Pharmacist), in Tvl. Reference to : Arawa Institute in Israel. Linked Ref: Dr. Sarah Sollon & Dr. Elaine Solowey.

Savanna SpeakEasy Magic at Bean Bag Jazz Lounge

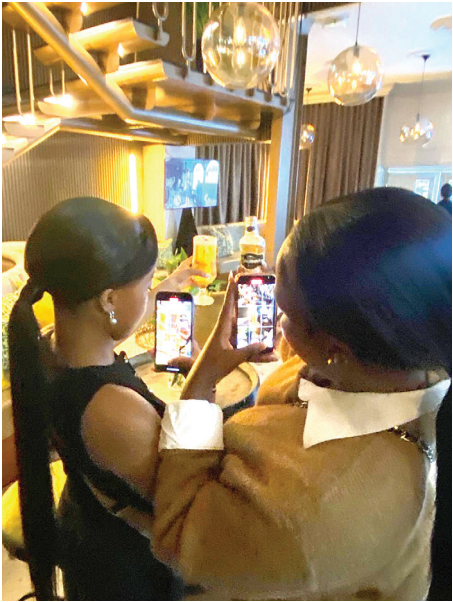
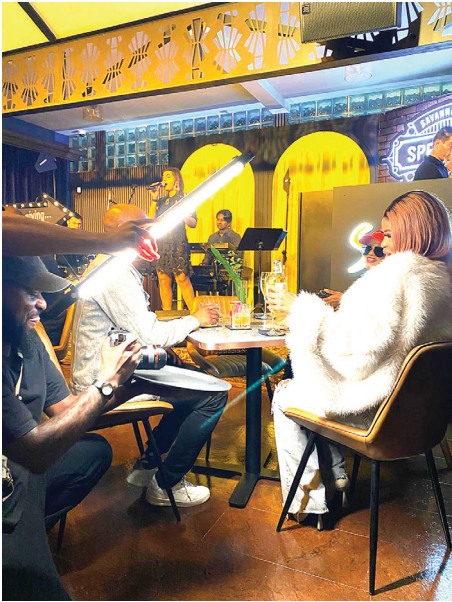


Durban's favourite DJs kept the dance floor alive 'til the early hours, spinning tracks that moved hips and spirits alike

Last Thursday, 17 April, the Bean Bag Jazz Lounge in Durban transformed into a lush, late-night reverie for the Savanna Speakeasy – an unforgettable evening of mystery, rhythm, and divine mischief. Hidden in plain sight, the not-so-secret venue pulsed with electric energy, drawing in those with a taste for the bold and the beautifully bizarre.

With whispers of destiny in the air and citrus signs leading the way, VIP guests, influencers and socialites stepped into an immersive world where vintage soul met modern edge. The legendary Madam Wae held court with her unmistakable presence and sonic sorcery, while Ja Papa Na brought the fire, setting the tone for a night of pure sonic bliss. Durban's favourite DJs kept the dance floor alive 'til the early hours, spinning tracks that moved hips and spirits alike.

The Savanna flowed, the beats dropped, and the vibes were undeniable. If you were there, you know. If you missed it – the lemons will call again.



"The lemons have spoken, the cards are clear – you were destined to be there."

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I hate cats and love you ceiling. Cheese enjoyer

Lives in Your Roof , Gauteng

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CMH FORD BALLITO:

Redefining the Automotive Experience

In the heart of KwaZulu-Natal's North Coast lies an automotive haven that's changing how we think about car dealerships. CMH Ford Ballito has transformed the typically mundane experience of vehicle shopping into something genuinely enjoyable and comprehensive.

This isn't just a place to buy a car—it's a complete automotive ecosystem. The dealership offers an impressive array of services under one roof: a fully-stocked parts department, expert service center, and customizations options that can turn any Ford into a personalized statement. Their finance specialists work tirelessly to secure favourable terms, while their trade-in evaluations consistently exceed expectations.

What really sets CMH Ford Ballito apart is the environment they've created. The showroom feels more like a luxury retail space than a traditional dealership. Customers can browse the latest Ford models while enjoying premium coffee from the on-site café, or even squeeze in a haircut at the salon—practical conveniences that transform car-buying from a chore into a pleasure.

Among their impressive lineup is the new Ford Transit Custom

Sport, which demands special attention. This isn't your ordinary commercial vehicle; it's a statement on wheels. With its updated version of Ford's 2.0-litre Single Turbo EcoBlue diesel four-cylinder engine, producing 125kW of power and an ample 390Nm of torque, stylish alloy wheels, and sport-tuned suspension, the Transit Custom Sport delivers van functionality with hot hatch character. The interior continues this theme with partial leather trim and advanced tech features, creating a mobile workspace that never compromises on comfort or style.

The team at CMH Ford Ballito represents the dealership's greatest asset. From sales consultants to service technicians, there's a palpable commitment to customer satisfaction that can't be faked. This dedication extends beyond their walls, CMH Ford Ballito actively supports their local community initiatives, schools, and sports teams, demonstrating their investment in the area's future.

You will find CMH Ford Ballito at 1 Moffat Drive, Ballito Business Park, welcoming visitors Monday through Saturday. Experience it yourself by calling 087 723 9278 or visiting their impressive



The New Ford Transit Custom Sport adds dynamic flair to Ford's acclaimed range of vans.
Speak to CMH Ford Ballito on 087 723 9278

CMH Ford Ballito

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"You have to believe in yourself when no one else does." By Serena Williams

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



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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

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