

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za

WHEELS, WORS & WINNERS



On Mother's Day, May 11th, CMH Ford Ballito brought the community together for an unforgettable "Ride with the Pros" at Holla Trails. Locals of all ages joined SA cycling champions from Pyga Euro Steel and Safari Essence for a fun 22km ride through Sugar Rush Park. Sponsored by Ford SA, the event included rider gifts, free day passes, boerie rolls, cooldrinks, and lucky draw prizes — celebrating fitness, family, and community spirit in true Ballito style

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THROUGH MY EYES

By Kasia Yoko

WE DIDN'T COME TO TAKE—WE CAME TO BUILD

A personal journey from refugee child to South African citizen—and why no one leaves home without a reason

Happy Mother's Day



This month, we talk about immigration—and my own journey, which began over four decades ago.

You see that little girl on the right? I'm the one on the left in the photo, waving the old South African flag. The girl in front is my cousin Monica, and the others are Polish refugees—children like us—who crossed continents in search of a better life.

That day, we made the front page of The Star newspaper as the first Polish refugees to arrive in South Africa in the early 1980s. We didn't come here to take anything away from South Africans. We weren't here to beg. We arrived with a clear vision: to build a new life.

I was just 11 years old. For me, it started as a wild, exciting adventure—but it didn't stay that way for long. Very quickly, the reality set in. The Afrikaners weren't thrilled to have us here.

We were bullied, sworn at, spat on. We were the "koministe", the "Rooi Gevaar." For years, until we learned to fight back, we were targeted and shamed.

But here's the truth no one should forget:

No one leaves their homeland without a reason.

No one walks away from their family, their friends, the streets they know, the language of their heart—unless they must.

We leave our homes, our grandparents, and everything we love in the hope of survival, in the

dream of a better existence.

So when people condemn South African farmers who've left the country in search of a safer life in America, I see it for what it is—jealousy and cruelty. It is mean-spirited to wish struggle upon those simply trying to live in peace.

And to those who deny the reality of crime in South Africa—who pretend it isn't that bad—please, open your eyes. Follow Reaction SA on Facebook if you must, and see for yourself just how bloody our beloved country has become. So many live in constant fear.

Everyone deserves the right to a safe, happy home where they can thrive.

I love South Africa and I have decided to stay, this is my home, the rocks surrounding Granny's Pool in Ballito is where my ashes will be scattered. But my sons live and work in Europe. My husband's entire family has emigrated—they gave up trying to make it work here.

I know the pain of immigration. I know the grass isn't always greener on the other side. But I also know that for many South Africans—those who live in fear of hijackings, of break-ins, of senseless violence—it's not about greener grass. It's about survival.

Let's remember who we are: a nation built by immigrants. And in that spirit, let us wish those who leave well. May they find the peace they seek.



Front page history: That's me on the left, age 11, waving the old South African flag. Next to me is my cousin Monica, and surrounding us are fellow Polish refugee children—freshly arrived in South Africa in the early '80s. We weren't here to take. We were here to begin again

Dear Ed,

Re: How Safe Is South Africa, Really?

President Cyril Ramaphosa's recent trip to Washington to meet with President Donald Trump wasn't just a diplomatic embarrassment—it was a national insult. But more disturbing than any awkward handshake or fumbling soundbite was our president's casual denial that South Africa has a crime problem.

It's not only laughable—it's terrifying. Every South African knows the truth. We know what it means to sleep with one eye open, to check behind us at traffic lights, to fear walking alone at night—or in broad daylight. We know that hijackings aren't stories. They're statistics with names and families behind them. We bury our friends. We comfort our children. We install more locks, more gates, more fear into our homes. And yet our president, standing in the world's

spotlight, says there's no real problem.

It's beyond tone-deaf. It's reckless.

President Ramaphosa may enjoy presidential security and motorcades, but ordinary South Africans are left to fend for themselves. If our leader doesn't acknowledge the blood on our streets, how can we ever expect him to clean it up?

We don't need speeches. We need sincerity. We need urgency. And we need a president who leads from the ground—not from a jetliner or behind bulletproof glass.

South Africa is not without hope—but we are growing tired. We deserve a government that doesn't gaslight us into silence. We deserve leaders who see the country for what it is, and who have the courage to fight for what it could be.

Sincerely,
James Steward

Dear Ed,

Re: A Nation Held Hostage by Crime

The latest crime statistics are not just alarming—they are a national crisis. In the first three months of 2025 alone, over a thousand murders were recorded in the Eastern Cape, with five precincts in Nelson Mandela Bay among the deadliest in South Africa. Rape, kidnapping, and residential robbery are all on the rise, while organised crime in the Northern Areas continues unchecked.

Behind every statistic is a shattered family. In Helenvale, one father has lost two sons and two employees to gang violence. His plea for military intervention is not a cry for overreach, but a desperate call for survival.

Police Minister Senzo Mchunu assures

the public that efforts are being intensified, but the lived reality on the ground tells a different story—one of overwhelmed police, under-resourced stations, and a populace gripped by fear. Even the Portfolio Committee on Police acknowledges that conventional policing has failed. Intelligence-led operations and strategic innovation are no longer optional; they are essential.

Crime is not confined by class, geography, or ideology. It is the shadow under which we all live. Yet the deeper issue lies not only in enforcement, but in our social fabric—in education, values, and the steady erosion of moral order.

We are not losing the fight against crime. We are surrendering by failing to adapt. That is the real tragedy.

James Merrimack
Durban North

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Driving The Golf 8

By: Tomas Yoko

After spending a week behind the wheel of the new Golf 8, I can confidently say that Volkswagen have delivered their eighth solid rendition of the iconic hatchback. I remember the first one fondly with the gear stick fashioned to look like a golf ball. The exterior – the LED headlights and clean body lines give the new Golf a more contemporary presence without losing that unmistakable Golf DNA.

Inside, the cabin presents genuine premium materials. The digital cockpit is crisp and responsive, though I'll admit the touch-sensitive controls took some getting used to. The build quality remains excellent, with soft-touch materials where they matter most. Rear passengers get adequate space, though taller adults might find headroom slightly compromised.

On the road, the 1.4-liter TSI engine strikes an impressive balance between performance and efficiency. The 110 kilowatt 250Nm engine pulls cleanly from low revs and the 8-speed Tiptronic gearbox feels adequately punchy for daily driving, returning a reported 6.3 litres per hundred.

The chassis tuning is typically Germanic – composed and predictable with enough feedback to keep enthusiastic drivers engaged. Road noise is well-controlled at highway speeds, making longer journeys comfortable. The ride quality is on the firmer side but never feels harsh, more solid and reliable as expected from the brand.

The new Golf 8 doesn't reinvent the wheel, but it refines an already proven formula. For buyers seeking a premium compact hatchback that balances practicality with driving enjoyment, it remains a compelling choice in the passenger car market.



The new Golf VIII delivers beyond expectations as you would expect from Volkswagen. Contact McCarthy Volkswagen Umhlanga on 031 566 9700 for a test drive or to order your next Golf

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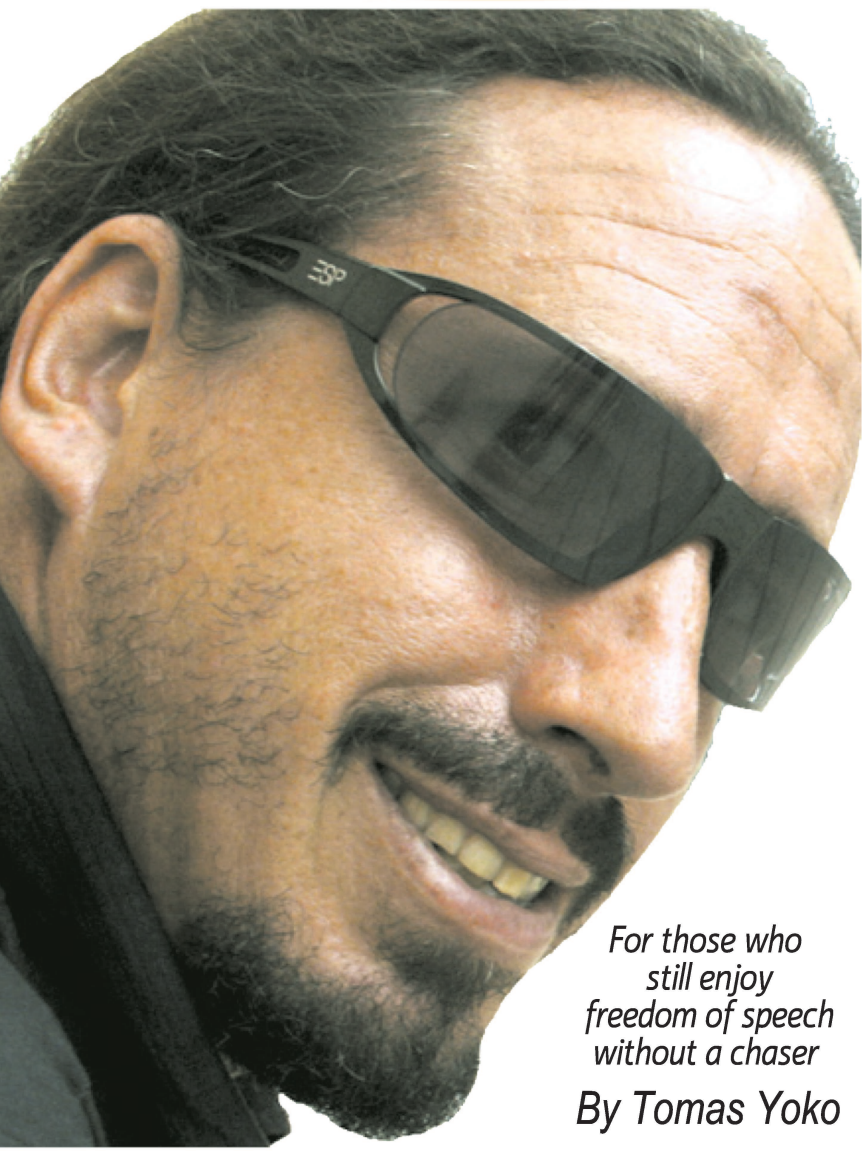


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For those who
still enjoy
freedom of speech
without a chaser
By Tomas Yoko

Let's start at home, South Africa, where the latest earthquake wasn't tectonic, but Tesla-charged. Elon Musk, our most famous export after rooibos tea, and an uncomfortable history lesson, has taken a blowtorch to South Africa's race-based laws. With the subtlety of a chainsaw in a silent retreat, Musk called out BBBEE and its cousins in policy—accusing them of being, you guessed it, racist.

Now, whether you're a free-market fanatic or a socio-political fence-sitter, you must admit: it takes a uniquely South African absurdity to accuse someone of racism for calling a racist law... racist. The ANC, instead of engaging with actual nuance, responded with their usual head-in-the-sand Shakespearean tragedy of "how dare he." Cue the outrage machine. Meanwhile, Eskom flickers on and off like a disco ball, and nobody seems to notice.

But fear not—South Africa isn't the only place where logic goes to die.

Up north, in the land of wine, baguettes, and confusing gender politics, France has gifted us a scene so bizarre it makes French cinema look like a Netflix rom-com. Yes, we're talking about Madame (sic) Brigitte Macron—whose gender identity has been whispered about in poorly lit Telegram groups and now shouted in tabloids and on podcasts. But the real gem? A recent incident in Vietnam caught by hawk-eyed journalists: Brigitte, visibly displeased, grabbed her boy-husband Emmanuel Macron's face like he was a misbehaving schoolboy who forgot his Latin homework.

The French press called it a "playful

moment." Of course they did. And I suppose Marie Antoinette was just "generously sharing her cake." Either way, someone needs to check if the French First Lady has a black belt in emotional judo. Emanuel, Kier and Friedrich were very sheepishly hiding their tissue and plastic spoon, while on the train to meet the Green T Shirt guy in Ukraine, sparking some rather inflammatory insinuations. A quick sidestep from them.

Meanwhile, across the Channel, things in the UK have taken a turn for the spicy. Prime Minister Two Tier Keir Starmer, the man who puts the "meh" in Westminster, found himself the unwilling star of a scandal involving Ukrainian male "models," "actors," "massage artists," and—according to tabloid code—rent boys. Services were allegedly rendered and, rather crucially, not paid for. The fallout? Several of Starmer's properties and a car were mysteriously torched. Eyewitnesses say the arsonists arrived looking more like a boyband reunion than a terrorist

The Billionaire, the First Lady,
and the Guy in the Kremlin

WHAT'S THE ISSUE?

By Tomas Yoko



cell, and the English mainstream media tried to blame it all on Putin, hilarious. A diplomatic incident? Perhaps. A cautionary tale about unpaid services in high places? Undoubtedly. Starmer, true to British tradition, has said absolutely nothing, possibly hoping everyone's attention will shift back to the weather.

And across the pond, Donald J. Trump seems confused, after ambushing Cyril and dividing South African opinions on farm murders and so called genocide, he chided Putin while remaining silent to Bibi's genocidal antics in Gaza.

So, what's the issue?

The issue is that the world has become a reality show—where billionaires rewrite policy, First Ladies audition for WrestleMania, and world leaders behave like unsupervised toddlers. And we, the spectators, are forced to sit through the reruns while pretending it's all perfectly normal.

But hey—at least the popcorn's still affordable.



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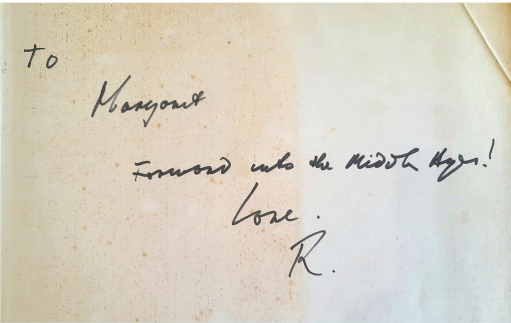
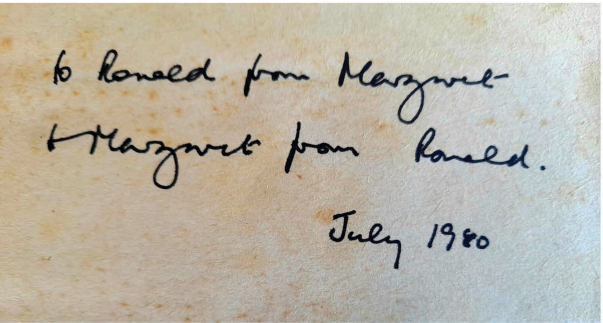
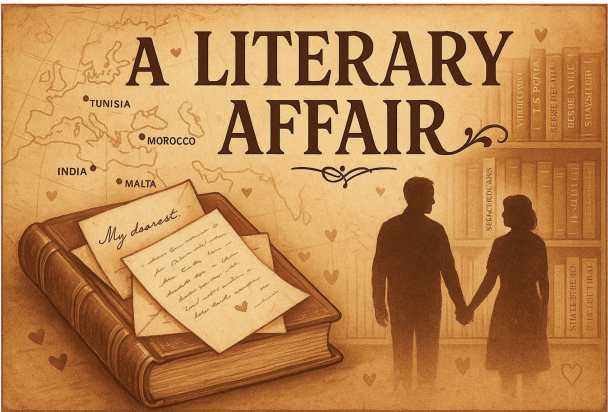
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Sudoku

**Last week's
solution**

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

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



...My heart thumped as I thumbed through the words written in India ink, a sharp nibbed pen, a leaky ballpoint. Notes between them. The sheer depth of feeling made my head spin. And then this sense of oneness was brought together by friends who sent notes to them both...



By Jo Rushby from Ikes Books and Collectables, Durban

I often get requests to look at the libraries of people who have died. It is with dread that I knock on the door. There are no handbooks on assuaging a person's grief. But then I start on my work. To catalogue and package. Just as often, I begin living through the covers, the life of another human being. What were their interests? Why did they collect books on shipwrecks or cricket? I will never know the interior of their lives. But occasionally one gets lucky. An inscription, a birthday wish, a date gives you a clue.

'To Margaret. Foreword into the Middle ages. Love R'. So subtle. I did not get it at first. Middle age is not a time to settle. To love with greater intensity, for time does not stand still. But still love is about what once was, as much as what it still can be.

I have been going through a collection of books. Margaret Daymond. Professor of English at UKZN. She was passionate about Bessie Head, Miriam Tlali, Lauretta Ngcobo as much as she was about Virginia Woolf, T.S. Eliot and Shakespeare.

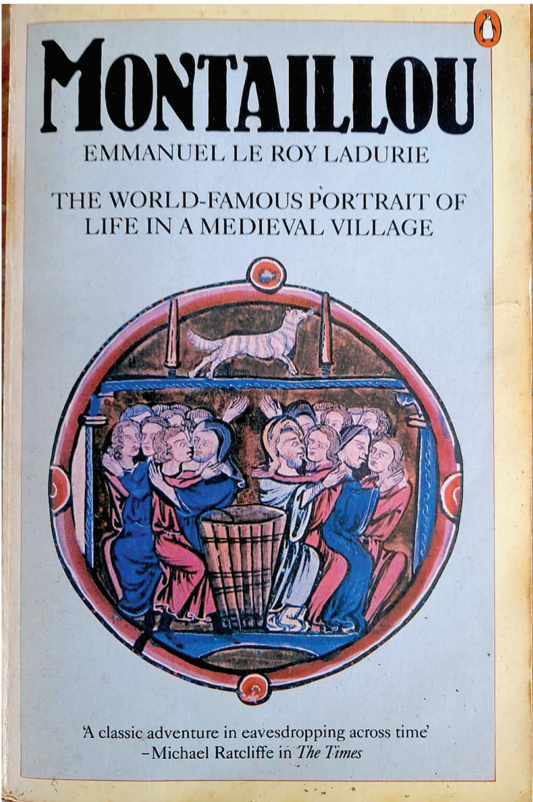
I had met her before she moved to an old-age home (how horrible that sounds). Her love was Ronald Albino, an artist and

psychologist. 37 years Ronald and Margaret shared a Life. How do I know this? For as I opened another book, so the pages of a love story began to take shape. My heart thumped as I thumbed through the words written in India ink, a sharp nibbed pen, a leaky ballpoint. Notes between them. The sheer depth of feeling made my head spin. And then this sense of oneness was brought together by friends who sent notes to them both.

And then I was travelling with them; Tunisia, Morocco, India, Nepal, Syria, Malta. Through the tumultuous 1980s, they found a way to beautifully show that 'love is not time's fool'... In 'Montaillou' is inscribed 'To Ronald from Margaret. To Margaret from Ronald. July 1980.' Folding into each other, separate, together, forever.

Ronald died in 2009. Margaret in 2021. In talking to her, in the memories shared, I knew that "love alters not with his brief hours and weeks, but bears it out to the edge of doom".

Magaret's collection leaves the shelves at Ike's for other homes. Her name carefully inscribed. Somewhere just off the coast of Malta, her heart and Ronald's art are holding hands.



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

Protecting Our Community: Reaction South Africa Steps Up In Verulam CBD



Reaction SA keeping peace in our neighbourhoods with motto Together, we are stronger. Together, we are safer

Last Thursday morning brought more than just the usual market bustle to Verulam's Central Business District. In a bold move to counter rising criminal activity, Reaction Unit South Africa (RUSA) deployed ten elite Reaction Officers into the area—marking a significant step forward in the ongoing mission to keep our region safe.

For weeks now, shoppers and business owners around Ireland Street—particularly near the beloved Verulam Farmers Market—have voiced growing concerns over the rise in vehicle thefts and robberies, especially on busy market days. RUSA has heard them loud and clear.

In collaboration with the Verulam SAPS, Reaction Officers will now maintain a strong, visible presence in the CBD, offering both deterrence and rapid response. These highly trained officers aren't just

patrolling—they're actively engaging in joint operations aimed at dismantling criminal networks and restoring peace of mind to local residents.

"Our presence here is not temporary," a RUSA spokesperson confirmed. "We're committed to partnering with SAPS and the people of Verulam to ensure this area remains vibrant, secure, and welcoming."

With an unwavering dedication to community safety, Reaction South Africa continues to prove why they are more than just a security service—they are the first line of defence for thousands of citizens who simply want to live, work, and shop without fear.

Their presence is not just felt—it's trusted. For emergencies or to report suspicious activity, contact Reaction Unit South Africa's 24-hour operations centre 086 1234 333.



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THIS MONTH'S RECIPE

KETO GOŁĄBKI

A clean and comforting twist on a Polish classic

WINTER WELLNESS EDITION

By Kasia Yoko



Lately, I've taken on a new challenge - 75 HARD, a mental and physical reset program created by American lifestyle guru Andy Frisella. The idea is simple but tough: 75 days of no excuses. Daily exercise. Three litres of water. No alcohol. Read 10 pages of motivational words a day. Stick to a clean, strict diet. No cheat meals.

For me, the hardest part is saying goodbye (for now) to my beloved sourdough bread. That golden, crusty, probiotic-rich loaf has been a cornerstone of my kitchen - and my soul. But I'm in. Fully. So now I'm exploring light, nutritious meals that honour my heritage and still fit the rules.

Enter: Keto Golabki (pronounced go-wump-kee). Traditionally, Polish golabki are made with rice, minced meat, and mushrooms, wrapped in cabbage leaves and baked in a tomato sauce. Comfort food at its finest. But today I'm sharing my vegan, carb-free spin - clean, satisfying, and bursting with flavour.

Ingredients:

- 1 head of cabbage
- 1 head of cauliflower
- 1 large punnet of mushrooms
- 1 large onion
- 1 whole head of garlic
- 1 can (400g) of tomatoes (diced or crushed)
- 1 bunch of green onions (for garnish)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Optional: fresh herbs like dill or parsley

Instructions:

- 1. Prep the cabbage:** Bring a large pot of water to a gentle boil. Carefully place the whole cabbage in and simmer until the outer leaves are tender and pliable - about 10 - 15 minutes. Remove from water and let cool slightly. Gently peel away the leaves, keeping them whole.
- 2. Make the 'rice':** Grate the cauliflower or pulse it in a food processor until it resembles rice. Set aside.
- 3. Cook the filling:** In a large sauté pan, heat a splash of oil (or water for oil-free). Add chopped onion and garlic, and sauté until fragrant and golden. Add chopped mushrooms and cook until soft and slightly browned. Stir in the cauliflower 'rice,' season with salt and pepper, and cook for a few more minutes until everything is well combined. Let the mixture cool slightly.
- 4. Assemble the rolls:** Place a generous spoonful of filling in the centre of each cabbage leaf. Fold in the sides and roll tightly, like a burrito.
- 5. Bake:** In a large baking dish, pour in the canned tomatoes. Season with salt, pepper, and any herbs you love. Nestle the cabbage rolls seam-side down into the sauce. Cover with foil and bake at 180°C for 45-60 minutes, until the cabbage is tender and the flavours have melded.
- 6. Garnish and serve:** Sprinkle with chopped green onions and fresh herbs. Serve warm with a crisp green salad.



By: Kasia Yoko

The Fabulous Opus Team awaits you; Farhan Ali, Amanda Mbatha with Yvonne Naidoo

Nestled in the industrial zone of Tongaat, just off Edmund Morewood Road in Truroland, lies a destination every home-lover should know about: the Opus1 Mooiriver Textiles Factory Shop.

This hidden gem has quietly earned a reputation for offering luxurious, high-quality linen and home accessories at everyday prices. Located right at the factory premises with ample secure parking and clear signage, Opus1 isn't just convenient—it's dependable.

For over 20 years, it has been my personal go-to for all things homeware. In fact, I still use some of the sheets I bought there two decades ago—still soft, still strong, still beautiful. That kind of quality is rare, and it speaks to their commitment to excellence.

Step inside and you'll be warmly welcomed by a trio of passionate women who live and breathe linen. Their knowledge and service make shopping at Opus1 feel less like a transaction and more

like a homecoming.

The product range is vast and thoughtfully curated. You'll find:

- Curtains – lined/unlined, tape or eyelet

- Scatter cushions – in plains and prints (sizes from 45x45 to 60x60)

- Sheeting – in microfibre, polycotton, and 100% cotton

- Duvet covers – plain, printed, and embroidered cotton exclusives

- Duvet & pillow inners, protectors, towels, mats, tablecloths, throws, quilts, and comforters

Their Hotel Collection is tailored for B&Bs and guest houses—offering a professional, elegant look with the long-lasting durability hospitality businesses need.

As winter sets in, now is the perfect time to experience the comfort of their down-alternate duvets—lightweight, breathable, and oh-so-soft. Top it with one of their stylish throws for extra warmth and visual appeal. Whether you're

curling up on the couch or adding texture to your bedroom, these pieces make every room feel a little more like home.

Looking for an instant home refresh? Scatter cushions are an easy, budget-friendly way to add colour and personality to your space. Choose from a range of prints and textures to suit your mood, your style, and your season.

At Opus1, it's not just about decorating—it's about living beautifully. Their products are fit for royalty, yet made for everyday life. And with friendly, expert service guiding you every step of the way, you're guaranteed to leave with something you love—and something that lasts.

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Rachel Dehal Celebrates Her 96th Birthday Surrounded by Family and Love



Birthday Girl, Rachel Dehal Celebrates Her 96th Birthday

On Thursday, 1 May 2025, the Dehal residence in Lotusville, Verulam was filled with warmth and celebration as family and close friends gathered to honour the 96th birthday of Rachel Dehal. The day was made even more special with the presence of her great-grandson, Joshua Brauns, who had travelled from Gauteng to celebrate his 20th birthday alongside his great-grandmother, creating a joyful moment that spanned generations.

The occasion was one of deep family connection, filled with laughter, storytelling, and generous helpings of food Rachel herself had requested—crab curry, Cornish chicken, curried prawns, and grilled prawns. These dishes, lovingly prepared, were a nod to her legendary cooking, which has delighted hundreds over the years. Known for her exceptional culinary skills, Rachel is often described as someone whose food, once tasted, is never forgotten.

Born the fifth child of educator Samson Choonoo and his wife Nellie, Rachel's life began under difficult circumstances. When she was just three months old, her mother tragically drowned while washing her nappies in the Umhloti River. Raised in the absence of her mother, Rachel grew into a woman of strength, humility, and faith. She married Joseph "Joe" Dehal, a respected local tailor who later ran a general dealer business. Their marriage was one of love and partnership until his passing at the age of 60. Rachel was 47 when she was widowed and faced

the challenge of raising their children with quiet determination and grace.

Together, Rachel and Joe had nine children, two of whom passed away in early childhood. Her surviving children—Rene (74), Augustine (73), Lydia (72), Simon (70), Cyril (67), Sherine (64), and Marlene (60)—along with fifteen grandchildren and many great-grandchildren, are a testament to the life she built and nurtured. Remarkably, the combined ages of Rachel and her seven surviving children total 575 years.

Rachel gives thanks to God for the long life she has been granted, for the love of a hardworking husband, and for the devotion of her children, grandchildren, and friends—both near and far. She continues to offer comfort and encouragement to others, even as she watches the changing tides of the world with concern. She often speaks of the crime, injustice, and unrest that trouble her, but she is not fearful. With calm resolve, she points to biblical prophecy and affirms her belief that in time, goodness will prevail.

Her family expresses their deep gratitude to God for her long life and the abundance of blessings she has given them. They speak of her with reverence and love, mindful of the countless sacrifices she has made and the unwavering devotion she continues to show. At 96, Rachel Dehal remains not only the matriarch of a large and loving family but a woman whose life reflects a legacy of faith, strength, and service.

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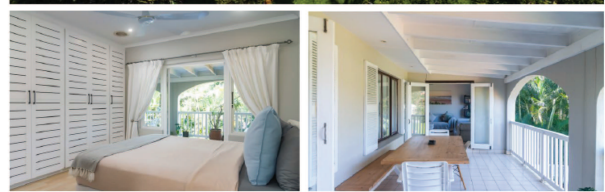
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Andreas Wassenaar



A new era for Buyers, Sellers and Estate Agents



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Is Artificial Intelligence (AI) poised to revolutionise the South African Property Market? Will this be a new era for Buyers, Sellers and Estate Agents? These are the questions asked at our recent national Seeff Convention held in Cape Town where we had one of the worlds leading AI specialists who works for Google address us and provide some insight into the power provided by Gemini – Google’s AI tool.

AI is no longer a futuristic buzzword but a transformative force actively reshaping the South African property landscape. This sophisticated technology is actively infusing our local market with unprecedented efficiency and insight, offering a distinct edge to discerning buyers, sellers, and forward-thinking estate agents in our sought-after coastal paradise.

For buyers eyeing a slice of the North Coast dream – perhaps a Zimbali Villa with specific sea views or a secure Ballito beachfront apartment – AI is revolutionising the search. Imagine describing your ideal property, and an intelligent platform instantly filters listings to match nuanced desires, from architectural styles to proximity to Zimbali’s golf course or Valley of the Pools. AI personalises the property hunt, saving invaluable time for buyers with specific, high-value criteria. Immersive virtual tours, so detailed they mimic an actual walkthrough of a multi-million rand beachfront property, are now standard. This allows international and upcountry buyers to confidently shortlist contenders like a Salt Rock retreat before travelling.

Sellers across the KZN North Coast also gain a significant advantage. AI-driven marketing pinpoints high-net-worth individuals locally and abroad who have shown interest in coastal luxury. An AI can strategically place your new designer R15 million Zululami home before a pre-qualified global audience. This means higher quality leads and quicker sales. AI also crafts compelling property descriptions and can virtually stage homes with high-end décor, vital for the luxury market. Furthermore, AI valuation tools offer swift, data-backed pricing guidance.

The role of KZN North Coast estate agents is evolving, not diminishing. AI automates routine tasks like scheduling and initial enquiry handling via chatbots, freeing agents to focus on what truly matters: bespoke advice, understanding the unique appeal of a Simbithi gem, and skillfully navigating complex negotiations. AI augments agent capabilities, manages data, while agents manage crucial client relationships and offer strategic insights – indispensable when dealing with high-value properties.

Even the thriving North Coast rental market benefits. AI applications, some locally developed, are streamlining tenant vetting, offering landlords rapid, data-rich risk assessments for their investment properties.

Looking ahead, AI’s integration will deepen. Expect more granular predictive analytics for micro-market trends within specific estates from Simbithi to Seaton, and AI identifying off-market opportunities. Smart home technology, often AI-driven, will increasingly influence property desirability.

For KZN North Coast residents and investors, AI is refining the property journey, making it more intelligent and rewarding. The blend of cutting-edge technology with the irreplaceable local expertise of your trusted agent is proving a powerful combination in our vibrant market, ensuring you stay ahead in an evolving landscape.

LEGAL TALK

by Fawzia Khan



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Branches Boundaries and the Law: *When your neighbour’s tree becomes your problem*

Imagine this scenario. You live in a sectional title complex and you notice that your neighbour’s bougainvillea tree planted at the entrance gate right in front of your driveway, has branches which overhangs onto your side of the property and is not only a nuisance but the branches of the tree scratches your car every time you enter or leave your home.

Despite an undertaking to trim the offending tree, your neighbour fails to do so. You then discover that a portion of the neighbour’s driveway actually encroaches on your driveway which is registered as your exclusive use area. This scenario played out in the high court, where AC was the neighbour affected by the bougainvillea tree causing the nuisance.

His neighbour SR, though initially agreeing to trim the offending branches, failed to do so. AC then instructed a land surveyor to survey the extent of the driveway to which he had the right of exclusive use and discovered that his neighbour SR had encroached a portion of his driveway and a portion of the carport. He then proceeded with a court application for the demolition of the encroachment.

When AC purchased his unit about 2 years before the matter went to court, the seller informed him that the boundary lines on his property were incorrect. However AC did not take this issue up with the Body Corporate or with the seller before making his purchase. According to AC, the costs to redo the driveway was quoted in excess of R230 000.00.

The court would be entitled to order the removal of the encroachment, however in the area of neighbour law, the court has a wide discretion to make an award which is equitable, taking into account factors such as reasonableness and fairness.

In this case the court said that the removal of

encroachment would have huge financial implications for the neighbour, and it looked at the alternative namely compensation as opposed to demolition.

The court looked at what it termed “the disproportionality or otherwise between the removal of the encroachment as against the damage or inconvenience suffered by the aggrieved landowner”.

Among the factors which the court considered in this case included the following: SR had undisturbed possession of the property for a period in excess of six years; he received permission from the body corporate to erect the carport and gate; AC was aware of the encroachment as the previous owner informed him of this at the time of him purchasing the property in October 2018 and did nothing about this; the application for demolition only came about following an altercation between the parties.

Given the circumstances of this particular matter, it is just and equitable as well as reasonable for the applicant to be compensated for his loss and the respondent has tendered compensation”.

According to AC’s expert’s valuation report, the market value on the encroachment was placed at R21,400.00, whilst the other neighbour expert assessed it at R11 500.00. The court said that AC’s “insistence on removing the encroachment by demolition and having to reinstate the driveway was opportunistic and the cost of demolition was substantial. The court accepted valuation of SR’s expert and ordered the sum of R11 500,00 to be paid for the encroachment.

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A New Dzire For You



There is a new Dzire in the motoring game, meet the brand new Suzuki Dzire from CMH Suzuki Ballito

CMH Suzuki Ballito expands its lineup with the addition of the brand new fourth-generation Dzire, a sleek compact sedan balancing comfort, practicality, and affordability in the AB-segment arena.

Styled to Stand Out The Dzire features progressive exterior design with a wide front fascia—black on GA models, piano black on GL+ variants with chrome accents. Narrow halogen projector headlamps complement the contemporary styling. The elegant profile showcases electric folding mirrors, shark-fin antenna, and T-shaped LED tail lights. GA models ride on 14-inch steel wheels, while GL+ features 15-inch black alloys. Seven paint options include Alluring Blue Pearl Metallic, Gallant Red Pearl Metallic, and Arctic White Pearl.

Interior Excellence Borrowing architecture from the award-winning Swift, the cabin features wrap-around

dashboard design with beige-black colourway. Standard equipment includes digital air conditioning, USB ports, parking sensors, hill hold control, and central locking. GL+ adds cruise control, 7-inch display audio with wireless Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, reverse camera, and multifunction steering wheel. Boot capacity reaches 378 litres.

Performance and Safety The Z12E 1.2-litre three-cylinder engine delivers 60kW/112Nm with 4.4l/100km fuel consumption. Built on Suzuki's HEARTECT platform, it offers nimble handling and composed ride quality. Safety features include six airbags, ABS with EBD, electronic stability programme, and ISOFIX anchors, earning five-star Global NCAP adult protection rating.

Get down to CMH Suzuki Ballito and meet your new Dzire, call them on 032 0119965 or visit their showroom at 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito.

Some people sell cars. Others drive performance. But every so often, you come across someone who does something greater—someone who embodies leadership, compassion, and unwavering excellence. Nathi Mhlongo, Dealer Principal of Suzuki Ballito, is one of those rare individuals who doesn't just run a showroom—he leads a legacy.

At this year's prestigious CMH Dealer Principal Awards, Nathi was honoured as a Dealer Principal of the Year Finalist and placed seventh nationally in the Dealer of the Year 2025 rankings. These titles are a testament to his strategic brilliance and relentless dedication, but for those who know him well, these accolades only skim the surface of who Nathi truly is.

His awards line the walls of his office—but his real impact lives in the stories people tell. Whether he's explaining engine specs with the fluency of a true petrolhead or helping a nervous first-time buyer feel safe and secure, Nathi leads with grace, empathy, and quiet confidence. He doesn't just know cars—he knows people. And he treats every person with the same respect and dignity, whether they're shopping for their first Suzuki or their fifth.

But perhaps the greatest testament to Nathi's character is how he lives beyond business hours. He is a devoted husband to his beloved Ntombi, a proud and present father to three children, and a deeply grounded

son who regularly returns to Mandini to spend time with and care for his mother. Amid the demands of the dealership, he still finds time for what truly matters—family, community, and personal discipline.

And when it comes to discipline, Nathi is in a league of his own. A brilliant athlete with a runner's soul, he laces up his shoes before dawn and runs nearly 20 kilometres most mornings—before the workday even begins. He's not just a casual jogger—he's an elite competitor, currently preparing to run his third Comrades Marathon, South Africa's most iconic ultramarathon. His dedication to running mirrors his approach to life and leadership: consistent, focused, and quietly powerful. Every stride is a lesson in resilience, every kilometre a reminder that greatness isn't given—it's earned.

Nathi Mhlongo is not just a man of numbers and accolades. He's a man of character, of endurance, of unwavering values. He proves daily that excellence is not a moment—it's a lifestyle. From the marathon route to the showroom floor, from the family home to his Mandini roots, Nathi leads with heart.

So here's to Nathi—not only for being one of the finest in the motor industry, but for being a shining example of what it means to live fully, lead wisely, and love deeply. He's not just a dealer principal. He's the real deal.

Beyond The Showroom: The Heart And Honour Of Nathi Mhlongo

By Kasia Yoko



Nathi Mhlongo, Dealer Principal of Suzuki Ballito, showing his awards

Mahindra XUV 3XO Selling Like Hot Cakes

By: Tomas Yoko

So Mahindra reckons they've built a "disruptor" – and honestly? They might be onto something. The XUV 3XO rocks up to the compact SUV party fashionably late but absolutely steals the show with its bold infinity LED tail lights and that massive panoramic sunroof that'll have your passengers feeling like celebrities.

I popped the hood and found a feisty 1.2-litre turbo that punches well above its weight class. With 82kW and 200Nm on tap, this little beast rockets from 0-60km/h in just 4.6 seconds – making traffic light drag races suddenly very interesting. The six-speed automatic gearbox is smooth as

butter, though I suspect the manual might be more entertaining for weekend mountain passes.

Inside, those twin 10.25-inch screens dominate the dashboard like something from a sci-fi movie. The Harman Kardon sound system thumps beautifully, while wireless charging kept my overworked phone happy. Six airbags come standard – because Mahindra takes safety seriously, even when they're having fun.

On the road, the 3XO feels planted and confident. The suspension soaked up our pothole-riddled roads admirably, while the steering offered enough feedback to keep

me engaged. That commanding driving position made me feel like SUV royalty, even in backed up traffic queues on the M4.

At R254,999 for the entry-level manual, the 3XO delivers serious bang for your buck. Sure, it's not perfect – some interior plastics feel budget – but when you're grinning from ear to ear after every drive, who's counting? No wonder they're selling like hot cakes.

Contact CMH Mahindra Ballito to explore this new SUV, call them on 032 946 5820 or visit their showroom at 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito and experience something amazing.



The increasingly popular new SUV from Mahindra is selling out faster than hot cakes at the fair. Get yours from CMH Mahindra Ballito, call them on 032 946 5820

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A Window Onto Nature's World



By Environmentalist and Green Campaigner Jill Theunissen

Stormwater Capture – Vital Planning Steps To Integrate The Natural And Built Environment

The heavy precipitation along the Dolphin Coast on 1st May is a stark “WAKE-UP CALL” for all parties. Where Storm Conditions continue to cause violent damage, a lack of Comprehensive Planning and appropriate Implementation and on-going Maintenance is evident to both previous areas of Development and New Projects, alike.

“Change of Usage” of Agricultural Land for Residential, and/or Urban Development is granted with legal “Conditions of Authorization” applicable. Where these conditions are overlooked and/or lack Compliance plus on-going Management and Maintenance the ‘Climate Change’ weather patterns are revealing man’s neglect.

Planning Steps for Projects, regardless of size or position, MUST ALLOW for Initial Professional Land Resource Assessments to cover the entire area of Survey. Surveyed contours indicate steep slopes with accuracy, streams, dams, ‘wetlands’ and ephemeral catchments. The existing vegetation composition requires professionally identification into 3 Categories, namely : Indigenous species, Exotic plants and Alien and Invaders. The content indicates the level of “Disturbance and Modification”. Where sugar cane has been cultivated the stolens should only be lifted in Phased Approach, as these deep roots secure the soil.

A Professional Team with a Proven Track Record of not less than 10 years is essential to include a Geo-technical expert and top Engineer

to conduct cone penetrometer tests. The results indicate SAFE foundation depth for new Buildings. On the Umdloti Rear-Dune slopes results revealed “Loose” to “Very Loose” soil conditions with only minimal areas showing “Medium Density”. Necessary under-pinning for a proposed swimming pool showed that these structures would cost more than the Pool!

Previously recognized and accepted Engineered methods appear to be now “Out-of-Date” and leave the Owner and/or Body Corporate “At Risk”. Firstly, the extensive and expensive use of Gabions in now under the spotlight and questionable. The Volume of Rainfall in 24hrs, plus rapid “DELUGE” downpour amalgamates with exposed soils forming a dense, heavy colloidal mass which in turn pushes through the cracks in the rocks in the basket. In no time the lawn on the lower terrace is again covered in thick silt deposit – alas NO Grass!

Stormwater Gutters and Gullies require URGENT REVIEW AND RE-DESIGN with mathematical accuracy in order to “Capture Stormwater ‘AT SOURCE’”. Calculate the roof area then apply a volumetric estimate for new gutters and ground-level gullies. Discharge from gullies requires an accurate estimate by the Engineer, to ensure adequate storage capacity into Soak-away drains, Jo-Jo tanks and/or Reservoir.

Where the Surface Landscape suffers man-made “Disturbance” a “Site Specific” Application to SECURE THE TERRAIN with the appropriate indigenous species to include,

trees, shrubs, succulents, ferns, grasses and groundcovers with a Bio-diversity of not less than 75 species per individual LOT or ERF is possible. Once again a “Specialist” procedure with proven “Methodology” being a critical ingredient, plus ongoing Maintenance and Monitoring for a minimum 5-year period. Another error is the continued use of “Honeycomb” synthetic fabrics under the surface. The artificial fabric negates slope stability in terms of the Coastal Zone categories as the plastic inhibits 3- Dimensional “Rooting Capacity” and at the same time prevents access to the natural underground inhabitants, namely Moles, etc. who naturally aerate and carry material underground. This increases the Humus layer within our Coastal Forests and “D’MOSS” Conservation habitats.

“Water Goes Down! While Fire Goes Up!” It is of paramount importance that Upper Catchment areas receive Professional and Expert Planning steps, including Implementation and Management, otherwise the Lower Catchment Land Resource and residents will continue to suffer the consequences. This is NOT allowed in Law, as the Upper Catchment Land Resource Owner(s) may be held responsible and accountable.

Our Earth is a mobile sphere and all therein are similarly “At Risk: of Upheaval including earthquake, subsidence with cavitations, Stormwater RUN-OFF and at present a RISING Water Table. “Duty of Care” of our cherished Natural Environment is once again paramount.



South African Jordy Smith, surfer number 1 in the world

Jordy Smith Claims Yellow Jersey After Nail-Biting Win

Jordy Smith paddles out in the yellow jersey after a heart-stopping win at Margaret River that pushed him to the top of the world rankings. In a dramatic final marked by powerful turns and nerves of steel, Smith sealed victory with a near-perfect final wave, reminding fans why he’s one of the sport’s most electrifying competitors.

“I trusted my instincts and the ocean delivered,” he said, moments after the heat.

The win marks a defining moment in Smith’s career, elevating him into the world number one spot. The yellow jersey now sits proudly on his back—a symbol of both his current dominance and the weight of expectation.

As the season unfolds, Smith’s consistency, experience, and raw talent make him a serious contender for the world title, a dream he’s chased for years. With rivals close behind and challenging waves ahead, the spotlight is firmly fixed on the man from South Africa, who now leads the pack in the race for surfing’s ultimate prize.

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"In a room where people unanimously maintain a conspiracy of silence, one word of truth sounds like a pistol shot." By Czeslaw Milosz

CMH Ford Ballito - Riding with the Pros: A Mother's Day Celebration of Community and Cycling

By: Tomas Yoko



Professionals and beginners alike eager to get going on the trail in the CMH Ford Ballito fun ride.

On the crisp Sunday morning of May 11th, 2025, Ballito came alive with the whirl of wheels and the spirit of community. CMH Ford Ballito proudly hosted its first ever "Ride with the Pros" event at the scenic Holla Trails, turning an ordinary Mother's Day into an unforgettable adventure.

Cycling enthusiasts—both seasoned riders and excited beginners—gathered at Sugar Rush Park, outside Ballito, to join forces with some of South Africa's top cycling champions. The star-studded line-up included champions like Michael Foster and Philip Buys of Pyga Euro Steel, and the dynamic trio from Safari Essence: Bianca Haw, Pieter du Toit, and Danielle du Toit. These elite riders, all proudly

sponsored by Ford SA, didn't just show up—they rode alongside the community, offering encouragement, posing for photos, and spreading their passion for the sport of cycling.

The event featured two fun loops tailored for all fitness levels, from seasoned riders to kids tagging along with their parents. With the golden autumn sun filtering through the trees, families, cycling clubs, and weekend warriors took to the trails in the spirit of fun, fitness, and connection.

Participants were treated to free day passes, complimentary boerewors rolls, coffee and cooldrinks, thoughtful rider gifts, and a chance to win some exciting lucky draw prizes. Laughter, sweat, and the buzz of camaraderie filled the air

as Ballito residents and visitors united over the shared love of cycling.

This event was more than an outside—it was a celebration of community spirit, healthy living, and the power of local partnerships. "CMH Ford Ballito would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to every rider, supporter, and champion who joined us. You made the day what it was: memorable, meaningful, and full of heart." Said Greg Massey-Hicks, New Car Sales Manager.

Visit CMH Ford Ballito at 35 Moffat Drive where you can avail yourself of their awesome range of Ranger bakkies, Everest and territory SUV's, as well as the Puma and the legendary Mustang. Call them on 087 723 9278 for test drives and anything Ford.



Cycling enthusiast and Dealer Principle at CMH Ford Ballito, Mathew Buck addresses the crowd of cyclists who attended the magical "Ride with the pro's" event



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