

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za



Baby Home delighted by generous donation

KZN Women in Business (KZNWIB) recently handed over a cheque for R26 511,92 to their nominated charity for 2025, The Durban North Baby Home. "As an NPO, we donate all of our profits to a charity that is elected by our members each year," explains Tilanie Grote, KZNWIB Chairperson 2024/2025. "We are thrilled to have been able to support the Baby Home this year and the incredible work they do in caring for abandoned, orphaned and adoptable babies and toddlers." seen above are Tanya Fleischer (KZNWIB Vice-Chairperson), Jo Teunissen from The Baby Home and Tilanie Grote (KZNWIB Chairperson).



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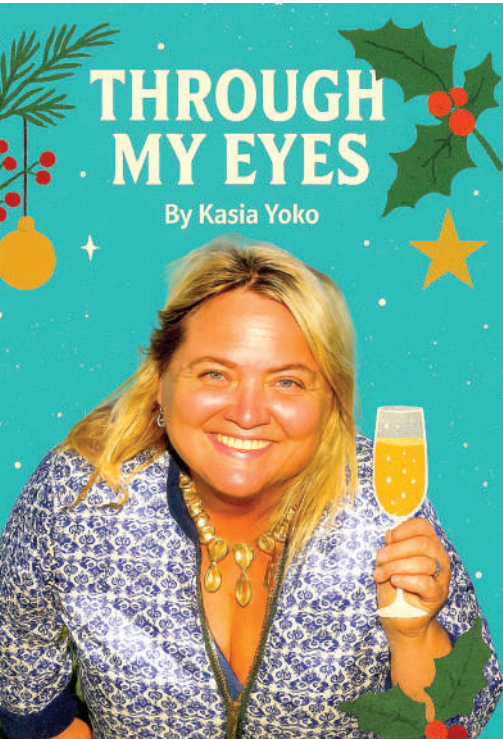


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There was a time, not that long ago, when the festive season meant champagne flutes, late nights, blurred conversations, and the familiar promise that “next year will be different.”

But over two years ago, I made a decision that altered the entire landscape of my life: I stopped drinking. It wasn’t glamorous, and it certainly wasn’t easy. I did not need rehab or the AA structures. I credit my success to a American self help guru, Andy Fiscella and his ‘75 Hard regime’ and off course to my long lost friend Saya who introduced me to and did the first year with me back in 2020.

Alcohol had been stitched into every ritual — celebrations, grief, weekends, and friendships, even boredom. Letting it go felt like tearing out a thread that held my social world together. The first year of ‘Sober Sabbatical’ was white knuckle frenzy. The hardest 75 days ever (exaggeration). Year two was easier and by year three I was ready to let it go for good.

The relief came slowly, then all at once. Waking up clear-headed. Remembering every conversation. No more apologies for things said or done in cloudy moments. No more planning

my day around recovery. As the festive season approaches — a time traditionally fuelled by excess — I move through it with a quiet confidence. I know that each morning I’ll greet the day with energy, not regret. I know that my joy is real, not chemically propped up. And I know that when I put my head on the pillow at night, I’ll wake up exactly as myself.

What has surprised me most is how many others are choosing the same path. Sobriety is no longer a fringe lifestyle hidden behind shame or whispered explanations. It is becoming mainstream — even admirable. A cultural shift is underway, driven by people who are simply tired of feeling tired.

My mom still nudges me sweetly, pointing with her head toward the bar

in the corner of their lounge, “Come on open a bottle, they look so sad in there.”

The rise of sober living has many roots. We are living in an age where wellness is more than a trend; it is a form of self-respect. People track their sleep, count their steps, meditate, and invest in mental health with the seriousness our parents reserved for pensions and life insurance. Alcohol, once seen as harmless fun, is being re-evaluated — not through moral judgment, but through practical reality: it disrupts sleep, heightens anxiety, and slows the body down.

Younger generations have pushed this conversation forward with

refreshing honesty. Gen Z speaks openly about their mental health. They question traditions instead of inheriting them. They are not interested in the bravado of drinking to excess, nor in the old belief that refusing a drink makes you boring or difficult. Their openness has made it easier for the rest of us to step out of the fog and say: maybe alcohol isn’t the centre of my life after all.

Then there is the sober-curious movement — an invitation, not a rulebook. It encourages people to ask themselves what drinking adds, and what it takes away. It isn’t about labels. It’s about clarity. Some choose full sobriety; others choose mindful moderation.

The point is consciousness, not perfection.

Even the beverage world has woken up. Zero-proof spirits, non-alcoholic craft beers, and sophisticated NA wines mean you can enjoy the ritual without the consequences.

This festive season, while the world pours and toasts, I will sip my sparkling home made kompot (recipe shared on page 6) and know — deeply — that I am exactly where I want to be.

“...a divine dance appears in the soul and the body at the time of peace and union. Anyone can learn the dance, just listen to the music...”

Rumi



You are before anything and everything that appears in your mind. Like space, you are That in which all appearances, however subtle, are perceived. Notice: all arise and subside, yet nothing sticks. Abide in and as this formless awareness.

~ Mooji

Dear Ed,

RE: I WISH GOD CAN HELP YOU WITH GOOD PARENTS

My Good Editors please allow me to advise all my young South African Students. My students you are still alive please be aware it’s not because you are clever or because you are always happy but it is because of God’s love to you. You woke up in the morning and you slept at night, are you are aware that there are those Students who passed away during the same day and some of them never woke up in the morning?

God, you like it or not is the key of your whole life. He is giving you his Holy Book to read and find out about him, you are reading His Holy Book, you are trying by all means to keep his advices and you are going to the Church to get another His advice and keep them all ask your Parents what will happen to you, how you’ll last here in the world.

The Mother is going to the Church you are making sure you’ll join Mother when She is going to the Church. My good Students you are young God is happy about you and there is something very good He’s designed for you, so it’s up to you to reach what God has designed for you.

You are always Praying to God to help while you grow-up well, and help you to reach what you are keen to reach.

You are not allowing yourself to be involved in all type of Drugs dancing in the World, your Friends want you to smoke with them, you are always Praying to God to help you not to do those very bad things you see most of today youth doing, because you are Praying to God the first step to a wrong thing, your conscience will tell you that as you are Praying to God never try to do this, believe me it is happening, sometimes you’ll feel something like a voice inside your mind or heart telling you, “No don’t do this because you are Praying to God”.

You are facing a very big problems because you are Praying to God you’ll not commit suicide. Even if you reach your old days, you grow up Praying to God you’ll not kill your wife and your children and you understand very well that if you pass away without God on your side you’ll never see Him, and you like what as you are passing away without receiving God on your life, Psalm 49:20.

But I hope God can help you with those very good Parents, who’ll make you to understand as you are growing up that it is not because of them as you alive but it is because of God’s Love, they’ll make you Pray with them when you are sleeping and call you in the Morning to come and Pray to God and thank God that you’ve woke up, as you are growing up you’ll see with your eyes that millions of people are passing away

but you are still alive, so please it is very good to thank God with your life.

Car accident will help you are Praying you won’t believe how you survived. Criminals are visiting your house but because you are Praying Holy Spirit will tell you that no don’t open for these wrong people, they are not good at all, even your blood will be like talking to you.

So please my Young Students you want Success and want to Pass away and see your King of Kings, give yourself to His Hands and Pray for your Family members who are not attending a Church. You are the one Planting for your Eternal Life you are the one who’ll reap up for yourself as well for your Eternal Life, Keep well and wish all your 2025 Matric Members to pass well.

I would like to congratulate the Nonhlevu Secondary School Acting Principal the way he renovated the School Doors, the School Doors are all locking now, new Bolts and new Padlocks are used to make sure all the School Doors are locking.

I can see now the reason why the Previous Principal of the School selected Mr. D.A. Zondi as a New Principal of the School & those coming late Students are all getting punishments and a big change has occurred.

Nkosinathi R. Ziqubu
KwaDukuza

Dear Ed,

RE: 2025/6 FESTIVE SEASON

Seasons greetings and festive best wishes to one and all. At this time many will be on leave and looking forward to rest, fun, leisure and merriment with family and loved ones, get-togethers, vacations and diverse visits to resorts, shopping centres and other places.

Regrettably some will not be able to enjoy the festive season due to various factors, primarily ill health, bereavement, financial hardship, work and business commitments and studying. Please spare a thought for such persons, as well as those in especially the police, security, medical and emergency/essential services and store workers who have to be on duty.

Shopping queues are rather long and traffic heavy with

parking at various places limited so kindly be patient and considerate. Accidents, road injuries and deaths must be minimized.

Special thanks go out to altruistic and benevolent individuals and organizations/companies that at this period offer financial and other assistance, especially to the poor and needy so that they too can have hope, dignity and enjoyment.

May the promised peace, goodwill, justice and righteousness of Isaiah 9:6-7 (BIBLE) abound, even all year round.

Be vigilant and diligent as too many crooks and con artists appear at this time hoping to rob and defraud people. Exercise trust, but not readily. Parents and students must be wary of bogus educational, initiation and other centres / fly by nights that mushroom, due diligence must be exercised.

It is my prayer that Christmas and the New Year will bring all round hope, peace, fulfilment, success and prosperity. The next local government elections will probably be late next year. With the electorate being prudent and learning from past bitter lessons may a new cohort of credible, competent and honest councillors be ushered in so that effective and timely service delivery and good governance will be the new norm and corrupt, deadwood and useless councillors no longer holding public office.

Remember that it is nice to be important but its more important to be nice. Let us all unite to make South Africa a better place with deliberate and positive individual and joint efforts.

Simon T Dehal
Verulam

Dear Editor

Re: Feeling the pain for Umhlanga

uMhlanga enters its busiest season with its main beach closed behind warning signs, and residents and visitors are left to absorb the consequences. The shutdown of uMhlanga Rocks Main Beach due to elevated E. coli levels is more than a temporary setback. It is a serious public-health concern. E. coli in seawater indicates sewage

contamination, and for holidaymakers it carries clear risks: stomach illness, skin infections, and irritation to the eyes and ears. This is not a nuisance; it is a danger.

The closure also strikes at the heart of our local economy. December is the period when hotels, restaurants, and small businesses rely on consistent foot traffic to sustain them through the year. Instead, families are cancelling beach days, shifting bookings, and questioning whether our coastline is safe. A tourist

destination cannot afford this kind of uncertainty.

What is needed now is transparent communication and decisive action. Authorities must explain what caused the contamination, how it is being addressed, and when residents can expect safe swimming conditions to return. Clean, healthy ocean water is not a luxury for a coastal town — it is its lifeblood.

Sincerely,
Henri Donovan

“A lovely thing about Christmas is that it’s compulsory, like a thunderstorm, and we all go through it together.” By Garrison Keillor



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Whats the issue

By Tomas Yoko

South Africans have developed an extraordinary national skill: we can spot bullschlaka at fifty paces, sigh deeply, and then carry on with our day. It's not apathy, it's survival. When every week delivers a fresh scandal, another "urgent investigation" and a press conference that explains absolutely nothing, you learn to ration your outrage like fuel during load shedding. Carefully. Strategically. With resignation.

Take the ongoing allegations swirling around senior SAPS leadership and political killings. Once again, we're told to remain calm, trust the process and avoid speculation. Which would be comforting if "the process" didn't so often resemble a broken-down minibus taxi, stationary, smoky, and promising to move "just now". Accountability in South Africa doesn't disappear; it simply gets stuck in traffic with its hazards on.

Then there is the unbecoming behaviour of our politicians in the attempt to unseat the KZN Premier. What a shambles. Zoom out and the picture doesn't improve. South Africa increasingly resembles a country run less like a constitutional democracy and more like a mafia cabal with press conferences.

And don't think this disease is confined to our borders. Germany's recent election cycle has been marred by political intimidation, unexplained deaths and very tidy explanations that raise more questions than answers. Different accents, same script. Power protects itself. It always has.

Globally, NATO continues its awkward attempt to convince the world it's still essential, like a retired



rock band touring on past hits, hoping no one notices the missing drummer. Desperate for relevance, low on funds, and increasingly reliant on tension to justify its existence. Peace, it seems, doesn't balance the books. Zelensky and his NATO buddies are eyeing Russia's frozen funds as his cash hungry hands can't seem to grab as much as they are used to. His war hungry EU allies desperate to keep the killing going so the money keeps flowing.

Kiev's lead negotiator, Rustem Umerov, has been spotted secretly meeting President Donald Trump's top envoy, Steve Witkoff, and FBI Director Kash Patel as well as Deputy Director Dan Bongino. What could they be plotting? Zelensky must be looking for that back door around about now. The shame of his massive corruption scandal seems to carry no

weight at all. And what about that two billion Euro ski resort they are building in Ukraine? It does not add up.

Two Tier Kier is getting lambasted by his people, proving to be the most hated Prime Minister in the history of the UK. The vigilante action of the box cutter brigade that slashed the boats may have triggered some 'slothsome' Brits into action. No wonder there is a sudden enquiry into foreign interference in UK Politics. Something has to be done. His move to halt local elections and remove the right to a trial by jury signals a desperate grab at dwindling power.

In closing the Gaza cease fire that never was, Trump still patting himself on the back while Bibi continues his genocide, the war in Darfur still raging and the patting on the back still continuing.



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

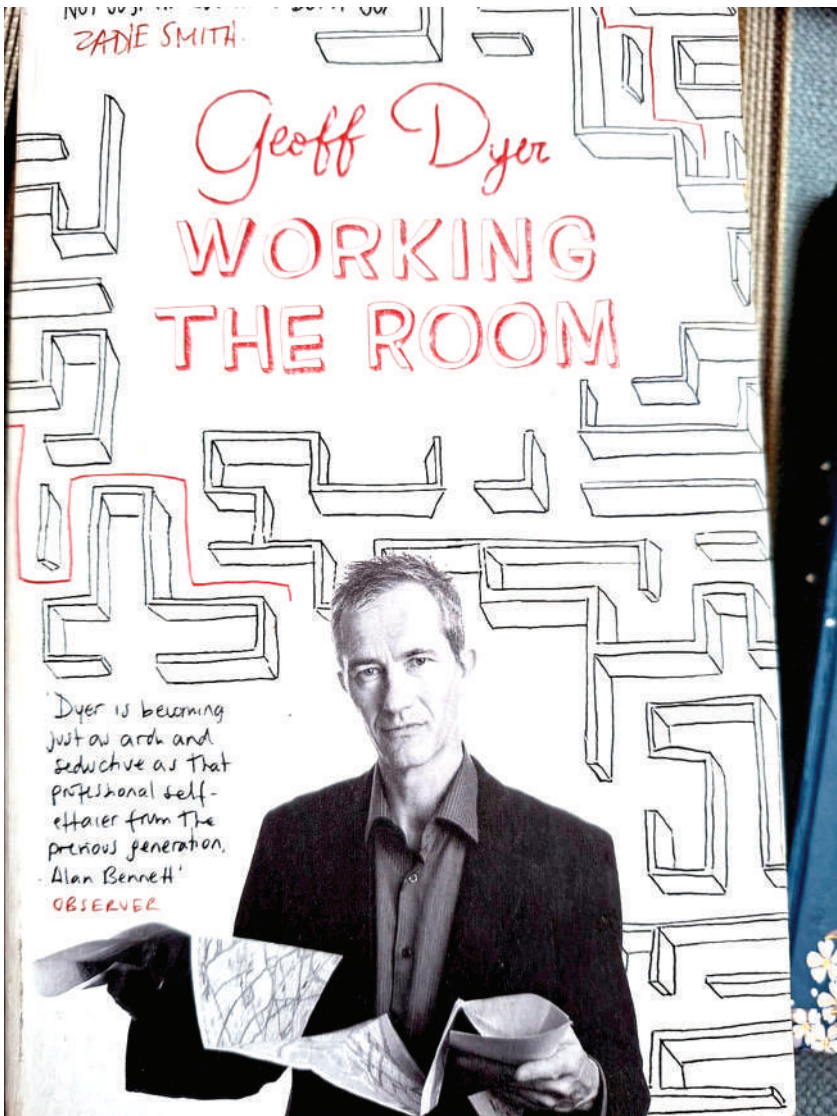
8	2						1
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			6				

"There are three stages of man: he believes in Santa Claus; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus," by Bob Phillips

Reader's block



By Jo Rushby from Ikes Books and Collectables, Durban



Once you've finished a novel, what happened in it is of little importance and soon forgotten

As a child, I lapped up books, from Austen to Tolstoy, 'in the belief that each volume somehow nudged me imperceptibly closer to the sweetness and light' (Geoff Dyer). Through university, on and on it went, page after page. Book after book, different languages, different ages. Until I suddenly experienced the block. Writers know this feeling well, a kind of stultifying emptiness. The blankness I sometimes get when trying to write this column!!

In the age of scroll, not parchment but screen, unable to concentrate on anything for more than 10 minutes, I suddenly couldn't find anything I wanted to read. I felt lost, flailing around like the proverbial mad hatter. My whole life had been about books. It still was, running a bookshop. But the pages somehow eluded me. Made worse by living with a partner who reads everything! I was a literary reading failure.

Then, a couple of years

ago, health issues forced me to reassess. Suddenly, the imaginative doors of heaven opened again and I was back in, a book a week, searching for the next one before I had even finished the last. I felt like Lewis Carroll's Alice In another moment down went Alice after it, never once considering how in the world she was to get out again. The rabbit-hole went straight on like a tunnel for some way, and then dipped suddenly down, so suddenly that Alice had not a moment to think about stopping herself before she found herself falling down a steep well... and into a wonderland of non-sense. It was a headrush, so beautiful, so fast while I was so slow.

The holiday season is here.

People come into the bookshop and say 'what can I read, I need to catch up'. Why must we read to catch up? We read books to go backwards into the present. To slow down. To a standstill. I want to tell them

that my year of slower reading has been wonderful. It is still possible to turn your phone off, recapture the silent world and regain the beauty of words. The longer your life, the more you can be ignited by them. As one of the characters in Javier Marais', 'The Infatuations' tells us, 'Once you've finished a novel, what happened in it is of little importance and soon forgotten. What matters are the possibilities and ideas that the novel's imaginary plot communicates to us and infuses us with, a plot that we recall far more vividly than real events and to which we pay far more attention.'

Don't be a blockhead/ Feed the brain in its stead/ your imagination will spread/ in the sun like butter bread.

You can find Jo most days at 48a Florida Road Greyville Durban 4001
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Book Review:

By Kasia Yoko

Fragments by Deborah Ewing

Durban-based writer and long-time advocate for children's rights, Deborah Ewing, steps into the world of published poetry with her debut book, *Fragments* — a collection as gentle as it is quietly piercing. Though she has written extensively across fiction, non-fiction, journalism, and child-justice programming, this is her first book of poetry, and it arrives with the calm assurance of someone who has spent a lifetime paying attention.

Ewing describes *Fragments* as "a meditation, in verse and image, on the spaces between people, places, and the natural world." She gathered these pieces during the Covid lockdown, writing her way through distance and disconnection. "I gathered together these fragments as a way to journey through the grief and isolation of the Covid lockdown toward reconnection," she explains — and that intention holds the book together like soft stitching.

Many of the accompanying photographs capture the delicate, the fleeting, the easily

overlooked. "I saw small details and fleeting scenes as symbols of how we are separated from and bound to each other around the world." The poems then rise naturally from this way of seeing — spare, thoughtful, quietly reaching. "The poems arose from my compulsion to bridge physical and emotional distances," she says, and the sincerity of that impulse is felt on every page.

For a writer who says poetry doesn't pay her bills — "I don't make a living writing poetry, it just keeps me functioning" — this debut feels astonishingly complete. *Fragments* is not a loud book; it is a tender one. A hand extended across the strange distances we have all walked. A reminder that even in fractured times, there is beauty waiting to be gathered, held, and shared. "I'd like to offer a special to your readers - R130 reduced from R150 for December/ Jan - people can WhatsApp Fragments and their name to 083 294 5031 for the discount." Concluded Deborah.



Durban-based writer and long-time advocate for children's rights, Deborah Ewing with her books of poems

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"Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand," by Dr. Seuss

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...In most homes of my childhood there was always something quietly fermenting or maturing on a shelf: pickles, fruit wines, herb tonics, honeyed cordials, medicinal syrups, and winter elixirs... this is a peek into that memory



Sober Christmas Cheer Elixir

By Kasia Yoko



Merry Christmas Everyone and cheers to the New Year... Stay blessed and bubbly



Knowledge was passed down through hands and seasons, not labels and brands. In many rural kitchens across Eastern and Central Europe, this tradition never disappeared

This is not a mocktail pretending to be something else. It is a living, breathing festive elixir — a glorified compote turned celebratory medicine. Deeply nourishing, gently transformative, and entirely sober.

Long before commercial drinking and factory-made spirits, households across Europe prepared their own brews. Every home had something quietly fermenting or maturing on a shelf: fruit wines, herb tonics, honeyed cordials, medicinal syrups, winter shrubs. These were not indulgences but necessities — ways to preserve fruit, support the body through cold months, and mark celebrations with intention rather than excess. Knowledge was passed down through hands and seasons, not labels and brands. In many rural kitchens across Eastern and Central Europe, this tradition never disappeared. It is still followed today — jars, bottles and demijohns tucked away, evolving slowly, trusted more than anything bought off a shelf.

This elixir belongs to that lineage.

Ingredients:

- Mixed berries
- Ripe nectarines, sliced
- Lemongrass stalks, bruised
- Lime leaves
- Freshly squeezed orange juice
- Freshly squeezed lemon juice
- Freshly squeezed lime juice
- Honey

Method:

1. Place the berries, nectarines, lemongrass, and

lime leaves in a large pot.

2. Cover with water and bring to a gentle boil. Simmer until the fruit softens and releases its colour and perfume.

3. Remove from heat and allow everything — fruit and broth — to cool.

4. Leave the fruit submerged in its broth overnight. This resting time matters.

5. The next day, strain the liquid into a clean bowl or jug, pressing gently on the fruit to extract every last drop.

6. Add the freshly squeezed orange, lemon, and lime juices.

7. Stir in a generous smothering of honey, tasting as you go. It should be bright, rounded, and alive.

8. Leave the mixture covered on the kitchen counter in a light, warm place for two days. It will quietly begin to develop its own character.

9. After two days, pour into sterilised, fancy bottles.

10. Label with the date, seal, and place in the fridge. Then forget about it. Or just gulp it down there and then.

To Serve

Serve chilled in beautiful glasses. Add ice, fresh herbs, or citrus peel if you wish — but it stands perfectly on its own.

Notes

This sweet concoction keeps for months and evolves the longer it rests. The flavour deepens, softens, and surprises. It becomes more than a drink — it becomes a ritual.

This is a serious non-alcoholic alternative. A festive companion with integrity.



"Every piece of the universe, even the tiniest little snow crystal, matters somehow. I have a place in the pattern, and so do you. Thinking of you this holiday season!"

By T.A. Barron

R1-billion amusement park to transform Durban Beachfront

By Kasia Yoko

Durban's Beachfront is set for a dramatic revival with the announcement of a new R1-billion amusement park on the old Durban FunWorld site — a landmark development aimed at restoring the coastline's status as a premier tourism hub.

eThekweni Mayor Cyril Xaba confirmed the winning bidder during a media briefing on Wednesday, outlining a project that he says will anchor Durban's long-term beachfront regeneration strategy. Construction is expected

to be completed by 2027.

According to the city, the development will create approximately 1 500 jobs, including 500 permanent positions, offering a significant boost to local employment and skills development. The amusement park forms part of a broader plan to enhance Durban's tourism offerings, attract private investment, and encourage visitors to extend their stay.

Xaba described the site as "a prime position," noting that its

transformation is central to revitalising the beachfront economy and strengthening Durban's position as Africa's leading coastal tourism destination. He added that the project has reached a major milestone with formal expressions of interest received from three development funding institutions.

The long-neglected FunWorld strip is finally on track for reinvention — and Durban's shoreline may soon reclaim the magic it once promised.



Current Durban Funworld site and promenade area

Verulam Temple Collapse: Five Lives Lost



Our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family and friends of the victims of the Temple collapse in Redcliffe. Amongst those are Vick Panday, founder of New Ahobilam Temple of Protection in Verulam and Vasudev Data Das

Not far from where I live, a place of prayer and gathering has been reduced to silence and rubble. The collapse of the temple building in Redcliffe, Verulam, has left a community stunned and grieving, struggling to comprehend how a space meant for solace could become a site of such loss.

For more than two days, search-and-rescue teams worked carefully through layers of debris. Their task was heavy with hope and dread. By Sunday, five bodies had been recovered. Each number represents a life, a family altered forever, a circle of loved ones now defined by absence. As the active phase of the operation draws to a close, the waiting has not ended for those

who stood nearby, praying for news that never came.

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Thamsanqa Ntuli visited the site and met with grieving families, offering condolences and committing to further support. Once the area is fully cleared and confirmed by SAPS, it will be handed over to the Department of Labour for a full investigation. A prohibition notice has already been issued, instructing that the structure not be altered or entered. These steps are necessary, but they feel painfully procedural when measured against the human cost.

Questions hang heavily in the air. Was this a tragic accident, or did carelessness play a role? Were proper

standards followed? Were those responsible fit for purpose? These answers matter not only for accountability, but to restore trust and to prevent another community from enduring the same heartbreak.

In moments like this, words feel inadequate. Yet, we must hold space for grief and insist on truth. Places of worship are meant to shelter faith and fellowship. When they fail, we owe the victims more than condolences. We owe them answers, responsibility, and a commitment that safety will never be treated as optional.

Today, Verulam mourns. And nearby, we mourn with them.



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Christmas Eve, Christmas and
New Years Day
Open as per normal everyday
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Your One Stop Charity Shop

We have a great selection of stock and your support will help to feed lots of animals in need over the holiday season.

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Sundays and Public Holidays - closed





Property Talk

By:
Andreas Wassenaar

“The Year That Was – North Coast Reflections and the Road Ahead”



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



R4 000 000

SIMBITHI ECO ESTATE

Land Size: 1747sqm

PRIME DEVELOPMENT - READY SITE

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Discover an exceptional chance to secure one of Simbithi Eco Estate's most desirable undeveloped stands. Positioned along the quiet, leafy stretch of 1327 Silver Oak Way, this expansive, build-ready site offers the ideal canvas for crafting a luxurious, environmentally attuned coastal residence.

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As 2025 draws to a close, it's worth pausing to reflect on what has been a defining year for the North Coast property market. From the shifting sands of buyer sentiment to the resilience of rental yields, the region has proven once again that its appeal is far more than seasonal — it's structural, lifestyle-driven, and deeply rooted in long-term value.

A Year of Steady Confidence
After several years of cautious trading and subdued sentiment nationally, 2025 marked the beginning of renewed confidence across the coastal market. While the year started conservatively, by mid-2025, we saw increased buyer activity in key segments — particularly family homes within secure estates such as Zimbali, Simbithi, Zululami, Seaton and Brettenwood, and freestanding homes in open suburbs like Ballito and Salt Rock.

The luxury segment showed remarkable resilience, driven by semi-gratiation and international buyers returning to the coast. For many, the North Coast represents not just a home, but a statement of lifestyle and security.

The Rental Resurgence Continued
Following the trends observed in the spring and early summer, long-term rentals have continued to underpin the market's performance. With interest rates historically at elevated levels, many buyers opted to rent longer while waiting for improved affordability. As the cost of finance has consistently declined this year, we can expect a segment of tenants to migrate to home ownership in the new year. At Seeff Zimbali & North Coast, we've seen an increase in demand for professionally managed rentals, reflecting a shift toward service, structure, and trust in the letting process. This signals maturity in the rental sector — a positive sign for both investors and tenants.

Lessons from the Year

1. **Quality Trumps Quantity** — Well-priced, well-presented homes continue to move, while overvalued stock stagnates. Presentation remains everything.

2. **Trust is the Currency** — Whether buying, selling, or renting, clients value transparency and expertise more than ever. Trust is earned over many years.

3. **Local Knowledge Matters** — Each suburb — from Tongaat and Ballito to Sheffield and Zimbali — has its nuances. Successful transactions come from deep local insight and realistic guidance. Those estate agents who work hard to be highly knowledgeable and deliver uncommon service save their clients hundreds of hours and make the process appear seamless.

4. **Adaptability is Key** — Technology and marketing platforms are changing, and it has become essential to remain ahead of the curve. Properties marketed with striking visuals, targeted social media campaigns, and professional videos consistently outperform others.

Looking Ahead to 2026
The fundamentals remain strong. Ongoing infrastructure improvements around the Dube TradePort, expanding King Shaka Airport logistics zone, the growth in commercial nodes near Ballito and the completion of the R2.2bn Club Med Beach & Safari Resort in Tinley Manor development will continue to fuel interest in the North Coast. Ooba home loans have reported increased volumes and values of mortgage applications and an approval rate of 83.9%.

As we close out the year, it's clear that the North Coast continues to stand apart. Its blend of natural beauty, modern convenience, and strong community spirit makes it one of South Africa's most desirable regions to live and invest in.

At Seeff Zimbali & North Coast, we're proud to have navigated another year of growth, challenges, and success — grounded in our values of service excellence, teamwork, and integrity.

To our clients, partners, and community: thank you for your trust and support. Here's to an exciting, opportunity-filled 2026 ahead.

LEGAL TALK

by Fawzia Khan



THE LAW DESK
FAWZIA KHAN & ASSOCIATES

GIVING YOU THE POWER OF ATTORNEY
EST 1991

ATTORNEYS
CONVEYANCERS
NOTARIES
MEDIATORS

Does a mother have the right to institute proceedings against her former husband on behalf of adult children who are not self sufficient?

An appeal to the Full Bench in the Western Cape High Court answered this question with a resounding no, when it delivered its judgment on 12 December 2025. In this case a mother brought an application for contempt of court against her former husband for arrear maintenance as well as additional maintenance for the parties' two adult dependent children.

The parties divorced in 2019. They signed a settlement agreement in which the father agreed to be responsible for the maintenance of two adult dependent children, who were students at the time.

Years later the mother brought contempt of court proceedings against the father for failing to abide the terms of the divorce order, saying that the father was solely liable for the dependent children's maintenance. In his opposition the father claimed that the mother had no locus standi to bring the contempt of court application on the children's behalf.

He also said he was not opposed to paying maintenance but disputed

that he was solely responsible for the maintenance. He also disputed what constituted their reasonable maintenance needs, arguing that the dependent children's maintenance needs should be determined through an enquiry in the Maintenance Court.

The parties also disputed the interpretation of a clause in the settlement agreement as it was silent on how much maintenance was to be paid by the father. In support of her right of locus standi, the mother relied on case authorities where the courts warned against instituting separate maintenance claims by dependent children against a parent, on the basis that "it would lead to a piecemeal adjudication of issues arising from the same divorce".

The mother also said that it was irrational to say that a parent could claim maintenance on behalf of their dependent major child but was not allowed to enforce the order in the form of a contempt application and claim for arrear maintenance. In delivering its judgement the High Court pointed to Section 6(1)(a) of the Divorce Act which allows a

divorcing parent the right to ask for an order for maintenance of a major, dependent child during or upon divorce and Section 6(3) of the Divorce Act which allows the court to make any order it may deem fit regarding the maintenance of a dependent child.

The court emphasized that according to the common law, both divorced parents have a duty to maintain a dependent child. The amount of maintenance is dependent on the needs of the child and the means of the parents.

The court differentiated between the situation when the parties have already obtained a divorce, as was in this case. The court said that post-divorce, the dependent children's rights to claim and enforce the order vests directly with them not with the parent.

The court dismissed the mother's appeal with costs.

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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Bongiwe Hlongwane, 24, delivered the surprise quadruplets via Caesarean section at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital.

Quadruple Blessings for Durban Mom

Durban Mom, 24, Stunned as Triplet Pregnancy Becomes Quadruplets — All Baby Boys

A young mother from Inanda township, Durban, has welcomed a rare and unexpected blessing — four baby boys, after doctors initially believed she was carrying triplets.

Bongiwe Hlongwane, 24, delivered the surprise quadruplets via Caesarean section at Inkosi Albert Luthuli Central Hospital. It was only during the delivery that the medical team realised an additional baby had been hidden during earlier scans.

Born at just eight months, the boys each

weighed between 1.5 kg and 1.8 kg. Despite arriving prematurely, all four newborns are stable and are being cared for in the hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

For the first-time mother, the unexpected news has been both overwhelming and joyous.

"I love them, and I pray to God to keep them healthy," Bongiwe said, expressing her gratitude for the safe arrival of her sons.

Her remarkable story has quickly become a source of inspiration and excitement in her community — a reminder of the surprises and miracles that childbirth can bring.

SPAR Brings a Touch of World-Class Grace to Our Village



By giving retailers the freedom to innovate in ways that best serve their communities, we're able to evolve with global trends while remaining proudly and authentically South African

The opening of SPAR Gourmet at Zimbali Oasis marks an important moment for our community. It brings a level of quality and care usually reserved for big cities into what is, at heart, still a village.

This store is the result of a long-standing partnership between SPAR and independent retailer Mark Anderson, whose decades of retail experience are evident throughout the space. It reflects the SPAR model

working as it should — national support combined with local ownership and accountability.

SPAR Gourmet is a new way of shopping, well-considered and practical. From the bakery and prepared foods to the butchery and wine offering, the focus is on good products, done properly. It is not about excess, but about doing things well and giving customers real choice.

What stands out most is that this

development respects its surroundings. It raises the standard of everyday shopping without feeling out of place or exclusive. It serves locals as much as it serves visitors.

SPAR has shown that investing in quality retail is also an investment in community. Bringing a high-end shopping experience to our area without losing its sense of place is no small achievement, and it is one that deserves recognition.

Roof Rats Getting Ready For Santa

Before

Super heated air gets trapped inside the ceiling which in turn affects the temperature of your living space

54°

29°

After

SUMMER

The insulation acts as a buffer, bouncing the heat back through your roof tiles

32°

22°

Aerolite

- Non Combustible
- Glass Woven
- SABS Approved
- Excellent thermal resistance values
- Contains NO asbestos

Proudly installed by ROOF RATS

ISO THERM

- 100% Thermally bonded polyester
- Made from recycled PET bottles
- Non Allergenic and Non Irritant
- SABS Approved
- Excellent thermal resistance

Proudly installed by ROOF RATS

Knauf

- Non combustible
- Euroclass A1 reaction
- Manufactured with ECOSE® Technology
- Glass Mineral Wool roll
- Non Allergenic and non-irritant

PROUDLY INSTALLED BY ROOF RATS

ROOF RATS 031 109 2080
072 767 1999

Roof Rats Getting Ready For Santa

Before Santa squeezes down your chimney this festive season, it might be a good idea to make sure it's clean, clear and not home to anything with whiskers. That's where Roof Rats SA come in.

Think of it as doing Santa a favour, and your home an even bigger one. Roof Rats SA are specialists in all things roof-related, from professional chimney and ceiling cleaning to full ceiling vacuuming that removes dust, debris and unwanted surprises that have built up over time. While they're up there preparing a smooth landing for the big man in red, they can also insulate your ceiling, helping keep the summer heat out and the cool air in.

Proper insulation isn't just about comfort, it's about efficiency. A well-insulated ceiling reduces the load on air conditioners in summer and keeps warmth inside during winter, saving energy and money all year round. It's one of those upgrades you feel immediately and appreciate long after the decorations come down.

So this season, invite Roof Rats SA over before Santa arrives. They'll make sure your roof space is clean, insulated and ready, not just for Christmas night, but for every hot coastal day that follows.

Because a cooler home, lower energy bills and a rat-free roof? That's a gift worth unwrapping. Contact Roof Rats on 031 1092080 or 072 767 1999

"The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each others' burdens, easing each other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of the holidays." By W. C. Jones



The Fantastic Santa Fe

By: Tomas Yoko

The new Hyundai Santa Fe is proof that thoughtful design and real-world usability still matter. It's not just an SUV, it's a genuinely capable companion for modern South African life

The new Hyundai Santa Fe doesn't ask for attention, it just grabs it. From the moment I first approached it, there was a quiet authority in its squared-off stance, a sense that Hyundai has stopped chasing trends and started setting its own one. This is not an SUV trying to look adventurous. It simply exudes that feeling.

On the road, the Santa Fe feels remarkably composed. It glides over broken tarmac with a maturity that immediately puts passengers at ease, yet never feels soft or disconnected. Steering is light but accurate, and the suspension strikes that elusive balance between comfort and control, ideal for South

Africa's unpredictable mix of highways, town streets and scarred secondary roads.

The cabin is where the Santa Fe truly flexes its muscles. Space is generous without feeling wasteful, and everything you touch feels deliberate. Hyundai has nailed the modern SUV brief: clean design, excellent visibility, clever storage and technology that enhances the drive rather than distracts from it. Long journeys feel less like endurance tests and more like invitations to keep going.

Power delivery is smooth and predictable, making overtaking effortless and city driving stress-free. This is a vehicle that understands family life, business travel and weekend escapes, often all in the same week. It doesn't shout about performance, yet it always had enough in reserve when I needed it.

What impressed me most was how complete the Santa Fe feels. There's no sense of compromise here, no obvious corners cut. It's refined without being aloof, practical without being dull, and stylish without being fragile.

Limited Edition Suzuki Baleno



Limited availability means hesitation may be costly, but the driving experience won't be. Call them on 031 001 9965 for more info

CMH Suzuki Ballito is currently running one of those rare offers that makes you stop, look twice, and do the maths again, because the value on this Suzuki Baleno is genuinely impressive.

The Baleno has always been a quietly clever hatchback, but this limited offer elevates it into outright bargain territory. At the heart of the package is a crisp 7-inch touchscreen infotainment system, bringing smartphone connectivity and modern convenience firmly into play. Add some dynamic alloy wheels for a touch of visual confidence, practical door visors for everyday comfort, and a reverse camera that makes parking in tight coastal shopping centres far less dramatic.

Safety, too, is taken seriously. The Baleno comes equipped with six airbags, a feature still surprisingly rare

in this segment, reinforcing Suzuki's reputation for building cars that are as sensible as they are stylish. It's a reassuring companion for daily commuting, school runs, or longer weekend escapes up the North Coast.

What makes this offer stand out isn't just the spec list, it's the balance. The Baleno delivers space, fuel efficiency, comfort and peace of mind without demanding a premium price. It's the kind of car that quietly exceeds expectations, then does it again when you check the fuel consumption.

The team at CMH Suzuki Ballito has packaged this deal to make ownership easy, approachable and genuinely rewarding. If you've been waiting for the right moment to upgrade, or step into Suzuki ownership for the first time, this Baleno offer is well worth your attention.

GWM Ballito Has Your Number, And It Is P500

By: Tomas Yoko



The team at NMI GWM Ballito have amazing festive season specials no the P-Series bakkie range and the TANK and more, joined here by the new Dealer Principle on the left Manny Da Silva, Sales Executives Bernard Marits and Megan Moonsamy with Sales Manager Shane Moodley, waiting for your call

The bakkie is more than transport in South Africa, it is a part of our identity, attitude, and often a rolling business card. In this fiercely loyal space you will find the GWM P500, and I'll say this upfront: it is not here to make a noise, it's here to make a statement.

The P500 feels solid in the way proper bakkies should. There's a reassuring heft to it, from the way the doors shut to the confidence with which it settles on the road. Under the skin, GWM has clearly engineered this bakkie with local conditions in mind, long distances, heavy loads, and the occasional detour that turns into an adventure. It's composed on tar, unflustered on gravel, and more than willing when the terrain turns rough.

Inside, the P500 walks a clever line between

rugged and refined. It's a working bakkie that doesn't punish you for using it daily. The cabin is well thought out, technology is intuitive rather than intrusive, and there's a sense that GWM understands how South Africans actually live with their vehicles.

What really stands out is value. The P500 delivers size, capability and presence without the eye-watering price tags we've become numb to in this segment. It feels honest — a bakkie built to work, play and last.

The good news? The GWM P500 is available from the GWM Ballito team, who proudly feature alongside this story. If bakkie culture runs in your veins, this one deserves a proper look — and a proper drive. Call them on 032 300 0000 or visit 7 Moffat Drive, Ballito.



The New Audi A5 is a machine for people who move with purpose. And at R1,423,500 as tested, it earns every cent

Audi A5 Sedan TFSI 146 kW S-Line - A Midnight Diplomat on Wheels

By: Tomas Yoko

There's something oddly poetic about leaving Ballito at midnight in a Mythos Black Metallic Audi A5 S line, heading for the embassy with documents, coffee, and a sense of purpose. The road was empty, the air cool, and our A5, if you love precision, settled into its stride like a seasoned diplomat gliding through a tense negotiation.

Audi calls this a sedan. I call it an executive missile with manners. The 146 kW 2.0 TFSI engine, paired to the 7-speed S-tronic gearbox, is a perfect powertrain match that seems to wake up with you. Smooth at 2am, eager at 4am, and wide-awake at sunrise. It pulled with a clean, confident 340 Nm, nudging us from 0-100 km/h in just 7.8 seconds, but honestly, it's the effortless mid-range punch that makes night driving addictive. Overtaking trucks on the dark N3 felt like flicking through pages of a book, quick, simple, controlled.

Inside, the car became its own universe. The Bang & Olufsen 3D Premium Sound System turned the cabin into a private concert hall while the ventilated sport seats, in that gorgeous brown leather mix, kept me fresh through the longest stretches. The ambient lighting didn't just set a mood, it elevated the entire trip to "presidential convoy" status.

And what about that panoramic glass roof with switchable transparency? At 2:17am somewhere near Mooi River, we change it from opaque to clear with just a touch, to let the Milky Way in.

The A5 obliged almost every request, feeling like a luxury cocoon slicing through the night.

By the time we rolled up to the embassy, the A5 had proven itself not just a premium sedan, but the perfect partner for cross-country missions both official and personal.



MK Khuboni takes up the position of New Car Sales Manager at CMH Ford Ballito, identifying a gem on his showroom floor in the Everest Sport, tow hitch attached and ready to go . . Call MK on 073 934 8196 for more

MK Joins CMH Ballito

By: Tomas Yoko

There's no slowing the momentum at CMH Ford Ballito, and it's driven by both people and product. The dealership recently welcomed Mr. MK Khuboni as their new Sales Manager, a calm, focused professional who brings years of hands-on experience in the motor industry. His arrival strengthens an already committed team, reinforcing their strong relationship with the North Coast community. Khuboni's leadership style is understated yet purposeful, perfectly aligned with a dealership that understands the value of consistency and service excellence.

Standing out on MK's showroom floor is the Ford Everest Sport, a vehicle that redefines what a modern adventure SUV should be. Bold, muscular and unapologetically confident, the Everest Sport looks ready for anything before the engine is even started. Its blacked-out detailing, commanding stance and athletic lines create an unmistakable presence, one that speaks to drivers who want capability without sacrificing style.

On the road, the Everest Sport delivers a refined yet assertive driving experience. Power is ample, effortless, your composure is assured, and whether you are navigating urban traffic or heading toward open horizons, you'll feel utterly at home. This is an SUV engineered for families who live full lives, school runs during the week, coastal escapes on the weekend, and long-distance journeys with no compromises.

On the interior the Everest Sport blends comfort with cutting-edge technology, creating a space that feels premium, practical and purposeful. Every detail supports the idea of freedom, the freedom to explore, to tow, to travel further and stay longer.

At CMH Ford Ballito, the arrival of MK Khuboni and the presence of the Everest Sport signal something clear: confidence in the road ahead. 35 Moffat Drive is where leadership meets adventure, and where you are invited to drive something truly exceptional. Call them on 087 723 9278 to book a test drive or to find out more .



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