

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

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Jobs for locals at Club Med



A breakthrough agreement reached on 21 January 2026 between KwaDukuza Municipality and Club Med South Africa has opened construction job opportunities at the R2 billion Tinley Manor Beach & Safari Resort to all municipal residents. Previously limited to three wards, recruitment will now be expanded across KwaDukuza, with new adverts to be issued via Summit. Existing applicants need not reapply. All operational jobs post-construction will also prioritise local employment ahead of the resort's July 2026 opening. Full story on page 3

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HELLO 2026... GIVE IT ALL YOU GOT!

It's a new year but what, exactly, is new about it?

The world feels like it's revolting. When was the last time that we experienced real peace?

The people are revolting not just in anger, but in awakening.

The people are questioning narratives, shaking off illusions, looking harder at power, truth, and themselves. Something is shifting, even if we don't yet know what shape it will take.

2026 is the Year of the Rat. Clever. Restless. A survivor. The fundamental quality of the rat is its ability to adapt. The rat is also very clever; it finds cracks in the system and slips through them. Perhaps that's our cue.

Who knows what we're capable of? Maybe we can cross the matrix... Maybe we can fly?

But how do we make real change?

How do we unite without losing ourselves?

How do we stop the quiet decline? Not just of economies or the crumbling infrastructure - but of our hearts?

I don't pretend to have the answers. What I do have is this column, this newspaper and the Skyshack.

It takes up this small, sacred space. And here in my Skyshack I create.

I call my home 'Skyshack' because it's a shack high up in the sky.

It's my home filled with everything I love; my soulmate, my quirky Afrikanis and my neighbours.

Skyshack is my place to pause, to breathe, and to observe the world without shouting at it. Just honest, composed and researched observation of the world perched high up in the sky.

Here, I bake. I write. I pray.

These things I do are my saviours. But let us be crystal clear, I am not escaping. I am just anchoring.

These frivolous things I do are my acts of creation in a time obsessed with destruction.

Here in the Skyshack I perform simple rituals that remind me who I am when the noise gets too loud.

Maybe change doesn't always start with grand gestures or viral outrage. Maybe we should not be afraid of the things to come.

2026 is just another number.

Maybe just maybe, peace can be achieved in our kitchens, in our notebooks, in our most sacred moments of stillness, where conscience is allowed to speak.

That's how I see it.

Through my eyes.

And you, what saves you?

Dear Ed,

Re: MATRIC CLASS OF 2025

Well done to the matric class of 2025 on the excellent overall performance. Even some good records were broken. Heartiest congratulations and best wishes for the future.

Learners, educators, parents and others concerned are commended. Special thanks go out to educators who offered learners additional classes free of charge. Hopefully

retired and current educators would follow suit in the spirit of Ubuntu.

Hopefully many learners will proceed to tertiary studies. This is highly recommended. Be wary of bogus institutions and exercise due diligence before registering as there are fraudsters abounding.

All cant and should not be doctors, lawyers and engineers and diverse artisans should also be trained for essential electrical, plumbing and carpentry services. Persons could also venture into business/ self-employment especially as places in

tertiary institutions are limited and financial constraints could prevent one from furthering his/her education at this early stage.

To the class of 2026 and others note that working hard and smart with constant and persistent dedication and sacrifices from the beginning must be practiced. This will ensure that success results for both individual and community benefits.

Simon Verulam

Dear Ed,

Re: Drivers Licences

The recent court decision to set aside the awarding of the multi-million-rand tender for the issuing of drivers licences to a French company is highly lauded.

This was as a result of miscellaneous concerns raised around the matter, including costs and security.

The court ordered that the

tender be re-advertised within 30 days and in the interim Home Affairs would issue such licenses.

The foregoing ensures that the good use of courts and the legal system would result in fairness and justice, noting that state coffers are made up largely of the hard earned moneys of cash strapped and heavily burdened taxpayers.

Simon Verulam

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9-12

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CATCHING UP WITH THE COMMUNITY.



Breakthrough agreement reached on Club Med recruitment process in KwaDukuza

A breakthrough agreement has been reached between the KwaDukuza Municipality and the Club Med South Africa Beach & Safari Resort development team, bringing clarity and calm to a recruitment process that had sparked community concern.

Following a bilateral meeting on 21 January 2026, KwaDukuza Mayor S'duduzo Gumede and Club Med representatives agreed on a more inclusive approach to local employment, after objections were raised over the initial recruitment phase focusing on Wards 12, 20 and 22.

The original approach, which prioritised wards closest to the development site, followed practices used in similar projects. However, the meeting acknowledged the sensitivity of the issue, particularly in a climate of limited job opportunities, and the need for a broader,

more equitable solution that reflects the interests of the entire KwaDukuza community.

The outcome is a significant shift: recruitment will now be expanded to include all residents across the KwaDukuza municipal area.

From next week, a new recruitment advertisement will be published across local print and digital platforms via the appointed recruitment service provider, Summit. This process will follow the standard inclusive recruitment model adopted by the KwaDukuza Council — a framework previously used in other catalytic development projects in the region.

Importantly, residents who have already applied during the initial recruitment phase will not be required to reapply.

Mayor Gumede reaffirmed his commitment to strategic oversight of the project, positioning the resort as a long-

term socio-economic catalyst for the municipality. He highlighted its role in sustainable job creation, skills development, small business growth, tourism expansion, and broader economic inclusion.

The Club Med development team, in turn, confirmed its commitment to working collaboratively with municipal leadership to ensure recruitment processes remain open, fair, transparent, and community-focused.

While current construction-phase employment opportunities remain limited, all post-construction phase positions will be open to bona fide residents of KwaDukuza, reinforcing the project's long-term inclusive development vision.

The Club Med South Africa Beach & Safari Resort is scheduled to launch later this year and continues to be positioned as one of the region's most significant tourism and economic development projects.

A breakthrough agreement reached on 21 January 2026 between KwaDukuza Municipality and Club Med South Africa has opened construction job opportunities at the R2 billion Tinley Manor Beach & Safari Resort to all municipal residents. Previously limited to three wards, recruitment will now be expanded across KwaDukuza



Hanna, 12 years old, is a Gr7 Ashton College pupil who studies dance under Savana Perry and Courtney Koopmans at Studio K in Ballito and has been dancing since the age of three

Mzansi Ballet presents Private Presley – The Ballet, Sean Bovim's powerful reimagining of the life of Elvis Presley, which comes to Durban's Milkwood Theatre from 13–15 February featuring international star Jorge Wade as Elvis, alongside South African Prima Ballerina Angela Revie as Priscilla, in an evocative ballet which offers an emotionally charged tribute to the global cultural icon.

Exploring love, fame, and Presley's

originally created by Sean Bovim offers a fresh and emotionally resonant perspective on the life and legend of Elvis Presley.

The ballet explores the complexities of Presley's personal life, delving into his military service—reflected in the title Private Presley—and his intimate relationships, especially the women who deeply influenced his journey.

International ballet sensation Jorge Wade of Mexico stars in the title role of Elvis Presley,

Ballito dancer to play a lead in national ballet - Sean Bovim's "Private Presley - The Ballet" for Milkwood Theatre, Durban North: 13 - 15 Feb

Don't Miss! Sean Bovim's "Private Presley – The Ballet"

military years, Private Presley takes audiences on a powerful journey through the triumphs, relationships, and tribulations of the King of Rock 'n Roll. This newly reimagined version of the popular ballet

while South African Prima Ballerina Angela Revie brings to life the role of Priscilla Presley with grace and passion. The Mzansi Ballet company will be joined by dancers from Taryn Makaab's studio.

The production features costume design by David Hutt, a long-time collaborator with Mzansi Ballet. Known for his detailed and imaginative work, Hutt has been tasked with capturing the vibrant spirit and style of Elvis's life and times through his costume creations.

"Doing Sean Bovim's Private Presley has been a privilege, and it is a wonderful addition to the Mzansi Ballet repertoire," says Dirk Badenhorst, Director of Mzansi Ballet.

On Saturday morning, 14 February, the regionals for the SA Ballet Competition, will once more be hosted at the Milkwood Theatre.

Tickets are available now at Webtickets. Don't miss this unforgettable tribute to a cultural icon, brought to life through the beauty and power of ballet.



Local dancer, Hanna van den Barselaar-Smith, will play the role of a youthful Lisa Marie Presley in the upcoming touring production of Private Presley, the Ballet, coming to Milkwood over Valentine, weekend. Hanna has also been selected to the finals in Cape Town of the South African Ballet Competition



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What's the issue

By Tomas Yoko

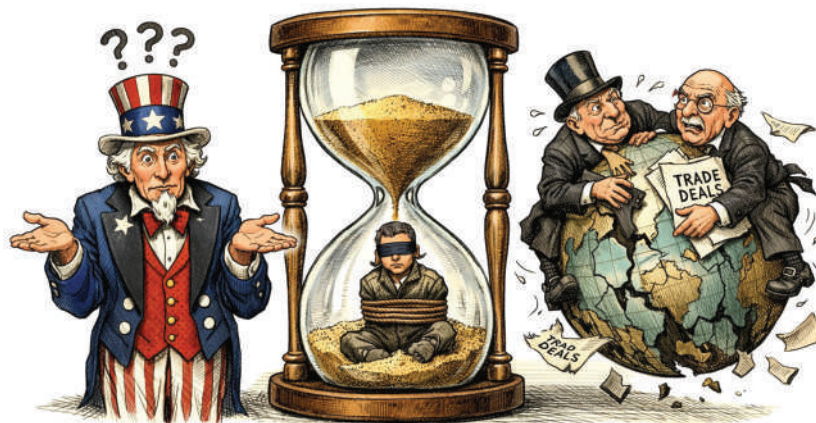
As the world spins out of control, the situation in Gaza stands as a haunting reminder of our collective moral failure. The plight of the people there is not just a regional issue; it is a glaring indictment of our global conscience—or lack thereof. While leaders engage in rhetoric and half-hearted gestures, the suffering of those in Gaza continues unabated. The treatment of these individuals, caught in a cycle of violence and despair, is nothing short of reprehensible. And that is not even mentioning the joke that they call a “cease fire”.

In this context, Donald Trump's recent aspirations to develop the Gaza Strip sound almost laughable. His so-called "Board of Peace" appears to be a thinly veiled attempt to disband the corrupt United Nations, rather than genuinely seeking to foster peace. Who knew that a real estate mogul could solve decades of conflict with a few flashy brochures? If his vision for Gaza is truly meant to benefit its people, one must question the sincerity behind it. But hey, nothing says “I care” quite like a corporate takeover!

Moreover, Trump's proposal concerning Greenland raises eyebrows for another reason. If his intentions are to weaken NATO under the guise of territorial development, it's a stroke of genius—if you consider dismantling global alliances as a brilliant move. This is the kind of “strategic planning” that has us all on the edge of our seats, wondering what the next episode of this geopolitical reality show will bring. Is this the only way he can end the Ukraine war?

As we peer further into Europe,

"Board of Peace" or “Board of Piece” ???



we see the European Union grappling with its own contradictions. The recent vote to ban Russian gas, despite dissenting voices from various member states, illustrates a troubling disconnect. It's adorable how EU leaders think they can dictate energy policy while ignoring the complexities of energy dependence and geopolitical ramifications. Meanwhile, America and Ukraine's alleged involvement in the bombing of the Nord Stream pipeline raises questions about the integrity of our alliances. Because nothing says “we're united” like blowing up each other's resources, right?

Simultaneously, the ongoing Iranian conflict underscores the precarious nature of global diplomacy. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's actions and rhetoric reflect a profound arrogance that threatens to escalate tensions further. The spectre of nuclear aggression looms large, and the treaty designed to prevent such a catastrophe seems

to be fading from the public consciousness, a victim of our media's short attention span. Maybe if we all just ignore it, it will go away. Was that Bibi testing bombs or an actual earthquake?

Even as we turn our gaze to Africa, the narrative grows dimmer. The news surrounding Burkina Faso's strong leadership is being overshadowed, neglected in favour of more sensational stories. Look closer, though, and the pattern gets hard to ignore. The once-mighty architecture of globalisation isn't evolving, it's faltering. NATO isn't a coherent defence alliance anymore; it's a collection of resentments and footnotes. The World Economic Forum's “Great Reset” cheerleaders are losing air, the very concept of a centralised, one-size-fits-all order is cracking under the pressure of big power rivalries and real-world agency. Something fundamental is shifting, and the old scripts aren't working anymore.



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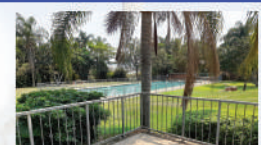


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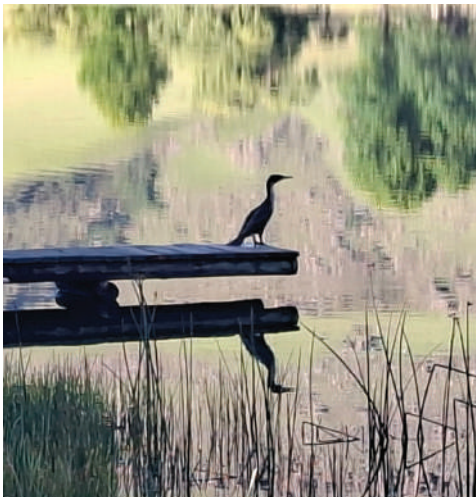


Sudoku

AUGUST'S SOLUTION

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

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



By Jo Rushby from Ikes Books and Collectables, Durban

Dragonfly wings

"Deep in the sun searched growths, the dragonfly hangs like a blue thread loosened from the sky."

(Dante Gabriel Rossetti)

Drakensberg dawns. Curtains drawn. A glow sneaks through the mountains and scatters into glitter. Touching and fleeing the windowpanes. I leave the house to snore peacefully on. I swan around the lake. My feet are dew-soaked within seconds. I marvel at droplets slipping and sliding on leaves but refusing to fall. How much more we listen when the traffic of life is stalled. My pig tails are like antennae, shooting upwards as my eyes cast

down. In the grass. Beckoning. A lacy wonder of gossamer light. A frozen dragonfly! Nervous that I would disturb its' slumber, I lay down in the grass. Edging close enough to see its skeleton, outstretched wings a silvery network of lines. A living, shimmering fossil. Waiting for the sun to warm its body and liberate it into flight. Red-heads roast. Dragonflies roost. Resting their overactive bodies close to water, in reeds or grasses.

"When the dragonfly rests, the lotus blooms" (Thai proverb). Once they wake, a dragonfly is a whirl of perpetual energy. Hovering, diving, mating in mid-air, playing, dunking their male counterparts in the water. Drowning in flirtatious courtship. These 300 million year old creatures symbolise transformation and awakening. I begin to hover near the lake. Entranced. Searching, a flash of malachite, a burst of crimson, they

are everywhere here, skimming and staying still. High above, Rhino Horn stands erect. Waterfalls gush. A cormorant (commonly known as shags) spreads its wings. A huge bee bumbles. 2026 has broken into song. The dragonfly wings spring into life, chasing after me. What is the beginning of a new year but a coquettish wooing of new Life? I tell the snore. Next time. Rhino Horn.

Free rose pruning demo in Assagay on Saturday

Let the new year grow on you!

By Illa Thompson



Pictured getting the roses ready for summer is Magda van Zyl from Ludwig's Star Roses

Start the year with green fingers: Internationally renowned, Pretoria-based rose expert, Ludwig Taschner, is making a rare trip to Durban on Saturday 31 January to run a summer rose pruning demo at Ludwig's Star Roses, 6 Fraser Rd, Assagay, at 10.30am, supported by 1000 Hills Tourism. Roses need a light

pruning every summer so they can cope optimally with the heat and humidity. Roses are really happy with summer conditions – they love sun and damp heat, especially after a gentle pruning, Ludwig will show you how! Entry is free and all garden enthusiasts are welcome!

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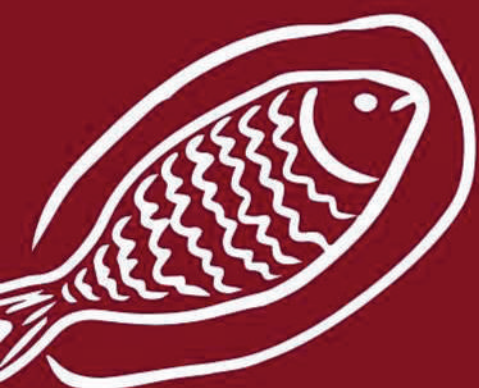
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Ingredients:

- 500 g raw groundnuts (in shell)
- Salt (for cooking and seasoning)
- 1–2 limes, juiced (to taste)
- 1 small garlic clove
- A handful of fresh mint leaves
- 1 small red onion, finely chopped
- A handful of fresh coriander, finely chopped
- 1 fresh green chilli, finely chopped (optional, but encouraged)
- Freshly ground black pepper

Method:

1. Cook the groundnuts in their shells. Wash the groundnuts well. Place them in a pot, cover with water, add a generous pinch of salt and cook gently for about 45 minutes, until tender.
2. Cool and shell. Drain and allow the groundnuts to cool. Remove them from their shells — unhurried, hands-on, almost therapeutic.
3. Blend. Place the shelled groundnuts into a blender. Add lime juice, garlic and fresh mint. Blend briefly until coarse. This chutney should have texture — not silky, not smug.
4. Finish by hand. Spoon the mixture into a bowl. Fold through the red onion, coriander and chilli. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper. Taste and adjust the lime if needed — fresh and bright is the goal.



There is something magical in preparing food from scratch, it gives us full control in what we put in our bodies. These ground nuts are a pure source of protein, perfect nutrients for your body and its not difficult to make just peel, chop and blend

5. Chill. Refrigerate for at least an hour before serving. This is one of those dishes that settles into itself.

To serve:

Best served chilled with warm roti and a cooling yoghurt raita. It also works beautifully as a spread, a dip, or spooned generously next to grilled vegetables. Whether you call it a peanut or a groundnut, this small, unassuming legume has travelled the world quietly doing big things. It's fed families, flavoured stews, thickened sauces, and earned a permanent place in pantries across continents. In KwaZulu-Natal, it becomes something else entirely — fresh, fragrant, and deeply comforting. Think of this as our local

h u m m u s . Familiar, but not trying to be Middle Eastern. Proudly KZN. You start with raw groundnuts. Wash them well then cook them gently in salted water for about 45 minutes, until tender but not falling apart. Drain, allow them to cool, and then comes the slow, meditative part — removing them from their shells. No rushing. This dish rewards patience. Once shelled, add the cooked groundnuts to a blender with fresh lime juice, a clove of garlic, and a handful of fresh mint leaves. Blend briefly — this is not meant to be smooth and polite. Keep it coarse, textured, alive. Transfer to a bowl and fold through finely chopped red onion, fresh coriander, and chopped green chilli. Season with salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste. Adjust the lime if needed — it should be bright, not sharp. The first time I tasted this chutney was in Westbrook, at Logie Naidoo's home. His mother-in-law shared it without ceremony, the way the best recipes are shared — casually, generously, with love. I've been making it ever since. If you love hummus and lean towards fresh, clean flavours, this one is for you. Serve it chilled, alongside warm roti and a cooling yoghurt raita. Simple food. Deeply rooted. Utterly moreish.

One Step at a Time: The Monks Walking the World for Peace

Dressed in simple robes, often barefoot, a small group of Tibetan Buddhist monks has been quietly making its way across continents, one deliberate step at a time, carrying a message that feels both ancient and strangely radical in today's noisy world: peace begins within.

The monks come from Buddhist traditions rooted in Tibet and Southeast Asia, where walking meditation and pilgrimage have long been part of spiritual life. For centuries, monks have walked between monasteries, villages and sacred sites — not to arrive somewhere important, but to practice presence, humility and compassion along the way.

This modern journey began in October 2025 in the United States, where around 19 monks set off on what has become known as a Walk for Peace. Their route stretches thousands of kilometres across multiple states, heading towards Washington, D.C., where they are expected to arrive in early 2026.

Why walk now?

The monks speak quietly of a world frayed by conflict, division and speed. Walking, they say, is their response — a deliberate slowing down in a culture that rarely pauses. Each step is a form of meditation. Each encounter is the point.

Along the road, they stop in small towns and cities, meeting whoever wishes to meet them. There are no sermons. Instead, there are conversations, shared silence, moments of curiosity and kindness. Sometimes they offer simple bracelets as blessings. Sometimes they simply smile and keep moving.

In a detail that has captured hearts

online, a rescue dog named Aloka, recognisable by a heart-shaped marking, has joined them on part of the journey — an accidental mascot who has come to symbolise compassion without borders.

This is not a protest march or a political campaign. The monks are careful about that. Their aim is quieter and perhaps more ambitious: to remind people that peace is not something negotiated only in boardrooms or parliaments, but something practised daily — in how we walk, speak, listen and treat one another.

The journey has not been without difficulty. The monks have faced exhaustion, weather extremes and even a traffic accident early on. Still, they continue, guided by discipline, routine and a shared belief that steady presence can be more powerful than loud outrage.

So will they come to South Africa? For now, there are no confirmed plans for this particular group to walk beyond the United States or to visit South Africa or Durban specifically. These pilgrimages often evolve organically, shaped by invitations, resources and circumstance rather than fixed itineraries.

But perhaps that uncertainty is part of the point.

The monks are not walking to tick countries off a list. They are walking to plant ideas — that peace is possible, that slowness is strength, and that sometimes the most meaningful journeys are the ones without a clear end.

In a world obsessed with speed, their message is clear: Walk carefully. Be present. The path matters as much as the destination.



No protests, no politics, no slogans — just a group of Buddhist monks walking across continents, one mindful step at a time, reminding a restless world that peace doesn't arrive overnight

Defying the Odds

Historic Victory for the Alexforbes Angel Wings in Cape2Rio Race



The crew, led by Skipper Sibusiso Sizatu and First Mate Renaldo Mohale, included Philasande Gwala, Sesona Ntsaluba and Yonela Temela, with reserve sailor Yobanathi Klaas

History has been made on the international sporting stage for a young South African team competing in the Southern Hemisphere's longest continent-to-continent yacht race.

Alexforbes Angel Wings, a youth team with sailors from the Cape Flats representing the Royal Cape Yacht Club (RCYC) Sailing Academy, has claimed first place on handicap in the 2025 Cape2Rio race. In doing so, they have made history as the first such team to earn their place and take victory in the 3,300-nautical mile transatlantic crossing.

The crew, led by Skipper Sibusiso Sizatu and First Mate Renaldo Mohale, included Philasande Gwala, Sesona Ntsaluba and Yonela Temela, with reserve sailor Yobanathi Klaas supporting the team throughout training and preparation. Of note, the three women on board had never crossed the Atlantic before, making this achievement even more remarkable.

On Saturday 10 January, the team faced a major setback when the boom broke during a sailing manoeuvre mid-Atlantic. As a

critical component of the rig, its failure placed the crew in a severely compromised position and would typically force retirement from a race of this nature.

What followed was an extraordinary demonstration of seamanship, leadership and the South African spirit of never giving up. Despite the damage, Alexforbes Angel Wings not only remained competitive but extended their 25-hour lead by several hours, arriving in Rio ahead of their expected finish time — a feat rarely seen in offshore racing at this level. The crew maintained speed, control and composure throughout, without compromising safety, ultimately securing a historic victory against the odds.

Deputy Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Hon. Peace Mabe, congratulated the RCYC Sailing Academy and the Alexforbes Angel Wings team, "This victory is about far more than winning a race. It is about young sailors who were given the platform to apply their training in a real-world environment, make critical decisions in difficult

conditions, and support one another when things did not go according to plan."

Sibu Sizatu, Skipper of Alexforbes Angel Wings, reflected on the journey, "I'm incredibly proud of this crew. They were tested, and the way they stayed calm, solved problems and kept racing was impressive. The support from home and other crews along the way meant a huge amount, and I hope this shows young people in South Africa that with commitment and teamwork, even things that seem impossible can be achieved."

Viresh Maharaj, CEO Retail at Alexforbes, highlighted the broader significance, "Drawn together by a shared love of adventure, our sailors serve as a reminder: with preparation, a growth mindset, and the right team in your corner, the impossible becomes possible."

The Alexforbes Angel Wings team is an example to each of us that if they can cross the social divide from the township to the yacht club, if they can cross the Atlantic and do so as champions ... then, dreams can and do come true.



Entries for the 53rd aQuellé Midmar Mile are now open and everyone is invited

Midmar is for everyone — families, friends, schools, teams. A shared love story that starts in the water. Entries for the 53rd aQuellé Midmar Mile are now open and everyone is invited to dive in and be part of the world's biggest open-water swim event. Whether you're a first-timer, part of a team, or chasing a personal best, there's a place for you at Midmar Dam on 7–8 February 2026. Visit www.midmarmile.com/enter to secure your spot today.

TENDER NOTICE

CONSTRUCTION OF HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL SCHOOL

KVG Consultants hereby invites a reliable contractor to build a fully furnished hospital and medical school.

Bid submission deadline: 31-03-2026

Tender documents available contact Mr. Erias on +256 742 117648 www.kvgconsultants.com



Property Talk

By:
Andreas Wassenaar

Real Estate in 2026: A Year of Steady Confidence and Evolving Demand



PROPERTY OF THE WEEK



R2 995 000
ZIMBALI ESTATE
1564sqm
EXCEPTIONAL VACANT LAND

Situated on the sought-after Yellowwood Drive within the prestigious Zimbali Estate, this exceptional vacant land offers an opportunity to build a bespoke home in one of the North Coast's most established luxury estates. The stand enjoys a prime position surrounded by indigenous vegetation and natural beauty. Zimbali is renowned for providing a tranquil setting that enhances privacy and exclusivity. Remaining close to the estate's many amenities.

Siya Mkhwanazi
063 858 6242
siya.mkhwanazi@seeff.com

WEB REF: RLS 995521
zimbali.seeff.com

032 940 5005 | zimbali@seeff.com



As the first quarter 2026 gains momentum, our North Coast property landscape is settling into a rhythm shaped by wider economic shifts, evolving buyer preferences, and enduring lifestyle trends. Nationally, FNB's Property Barometer reports provide excellent information on average house price growth. The latest recorded figures ending Oct 2025 show house prices growing at 4.9% slightly down from the 5.1% and 5% recorded in the prior two months, but still significantly above the figures recorded between April 2022 through June 2025. This rebound in home prices reflects improvements in sentiment and demand. The RMB/BER business confidence index rose to 44 in Q4 2025 from a one year low of 39 in the previous quarter. Consumer confidence edged up to -9 in Q4 2025 from -13 in the previous period.

The question if house price growth has peaked and will flatten remains to be answered. The market activity so far for 2026 indicates a surge in demand which will hopefully fuel further growth. With CPI inflation recorded at 3.6% in December 2025 the chances of further interest rate reductions can be anticipated.

In this context of renewed optimism, a number of emerging trends are becoming clearer:

1. A Focus on Lifestyle and Coastal Living
Coastal regions — including the KwaZulu-Natal North Coast — are standing out as preferred lifestyle destinations. Across South Africa, buyers are prioritising environments that offer security, natural beauty, and quality of life, whether for permanent residence or long-term investment. Coastal estates, secure developments, and lifestyle communities continue to draw interest, particularly from semigrants and lifestyle buyers.

2. Rental Demand Staying Robust

Another significant development for 2026 is the increasingly important role of rental property in the residential market. With affordability still a challenge for many homebuyers — particularly first-timers — renting remains a long-term choice for a growing number of South Africans. Analysts note rising rental escalations nationally, especially in coastal and secure estate markets where supply is limited and demand continues to outpace stock. This has created opportunities not just for tenants seeking flexibility, but for investors looking for consistent, inflation-beating yields.

3. Estates and Security as Key Drivers
Across South Africa, trends show that sectional title living and secure estates are outperforming some traditional segments. Buyers are drawn to environments that offer lock-up-and-go convenience, controlled access, and predictable maintenance — all features that resonate with the modern lifestyle and growing investor confidence. Sectional title properties, in particular, are attractive to first-time buyers and buy-to-let investors because they are often more affordable and benefit from economies of scale in services and security.

4. Sustainability and Functional Living
In 2026, buyers are increasingly prioritising homes that aren't just beautiful, but functional and resilient.

5. Regional Diversity and Emerging Growth Areas
While national trends provide the big picture, regional variation matters. Our North Coast is showing distinct resilience, driven by lifestyle appeal, comparative affordability relative to other coastal regions. Key development nodes to watch are Zimbali Lakes, Zululami and Seaton.

LEGAL TALK

by Fawzia Khan



THE LAW DESK
FAWZIA KHAN & ASSOCIATES

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ATTORNEYS
CONVEYANCERS
NOTARIES
MEDIATORS

Caught Driving Above 160 Km/H- Now What?

For a driver, being stopped by traffic police for some traffic violation is enough to cause the stress levels to rise sharply. Being stopped and told you have been driving over 160km/h, then promptly arrested and detained at the police station for several hours thereafter, will likely take your stress levels way off the scales.

This is what happened to Hymie Zilwa an attorney who instituted an action for damages against the Department of Transport and Public Works as well as the Minister of Police, for his unlawful and wrongful arrest, which happened on 28 March 2019. Judgement was delivered on 9 January 2026.

Zilwa claimed his arrest and subsequent detention by the SAPS were both unlawful. He also sued for malicious prosecution. Both defendants said they were justified in how they acted and denied their conduct was unlawful, with the Minister of Police saying that its arresting police officer was simply acting on the instructions of the Department of Transport.

The traffic officer said that since Zilwa was found to be driving above 160 km/h, he was obliged to arrest the driver as the Code Book does not

allow for no admission of guilt for this speed. The court did not agree. It said that the Code Book only says that for an offence above 160 km/h there is no admission of guilt and stressed that no admission of guilt does not equate to allowing the traffic officer to make an arrest.

The court said that the Criminal Procedure Act allows a peace officer to make an arrest without a warrant only if the officer has reasonable cause to believe a person has committed a Schedule 1 offence. It said that a speeding offence under the National Road Traffic Act [NRTA] is not an offence listed in Schedule 1. Therefore the traffic officer or police officer cannot arrest a suspect for driving at an excessive speed.

The court highlighted that an arrest is a drastic measure that invades a personal liberty and it must be justifiable as set out in the Bill of Rights. The court restated that traffic officers do not have the powers to determine police bail and/or to release a person on warning saying that the traffic officer is simply required to bring the person to the police station to be dealt with further.

It said that NRTA does not confer powers to the traffic officers to make an arrest stating that the

object of an arrest is to ensure a person's attendance in Court and for him or her to answer to the charge and not to "punish/intimidate" the person for an offence he has not been convicted.

There are a number of methods of securing an attendance at court, apart from arrest, which include summons, written notice, warning, and indictment as found in the Criminal Procedure Act.

Our constitutional court is replete with cases where it has held that a public official must be authorised to perform his or her duties and must do so rationally, lawfully and be procedurally fair. The court said that as Mr Zilwa's arrest was unlawful, his follow up detention was also unlawful.

The court however did not find evidence of malicious prosecution. It granted him damages for the unlawful arrest and detention, the amount of which could either be proved or agreed to amongst the parties.

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



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legal matter. We explore all options available to you including mediation, negotiation and litigation and arbitration. We are accredited mediators and members of the KZN Society of Mediators.

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Give us a call on 031 - 502 5670 or email fawzia@thelawdesk.co.za for excellent legal representation in your legal matters.

Community, adventure and a world record at Jimny Gathering 2025

Suzuki hosted its second biannual Jimny Gathering from 25 to 28 September at Louvain Guest Farm in the Western Cape, bringing together more than 1,000 Jimny owners and fans for four days of off-road driving, lifestyle activities, and live entertainment.

Participants tackled curated 4x4 trails in the Outeniqua Mountains, while the event also featured live music, a dedicated music festival in Oudtshoorn (Suzuki Safari Town), and a new Jimny Gathering Pageant. The weekend culminated in the setting of a new Guinness World Record, with 1,127 vehicles closing 1,838 doors simultaneously, underscoring the strong sense of community around the

Jimny brand.

“2025 was a year we can look back on with real pride,” said Brendon Carpenter, Brand Marketing Manager at Suzuki Auto South Africa.

“None of these milestones happen in isolation, and they reflect the commitment of our dealers, partners, and teams, as well as the loyalty of South Africans who continue to choose Suzuki. Whether it was on the sales charts, at major events, through our sporting partnerships or alongside the Jimny community, the support we felt throughout the year was humbling. As we head into 2026, our focus is on building on this momentum and continuing to grow the brand in a way that feels authentic and sustainable.”



The weekend culminated in the setting of a new Guinness World Record, with 1,127 vehicles closing 1,838 doors simultaneously, underscoring the strong sense of community around the Jimny brand

Bold Vision Meets Bold Driving: The Mahindra XUV 3XO “Black Edition” at CMH Mahindra Ballito

There are special moments in automotive retail when innovation, passion and sheer dedication align and what Willie Pieters has just unveiled at CMH Mahindra Ballito is one of them. With over 40 years in the motor industry, Willie isn’t just a veteran, he’s a curator of customer joy, a builder of trusted relationships and, as of now, the creator of an exclusive run of Mahindra XUV 3XO “Black Edition” SUVs that demand attention.

This is a celebration of personality, performance and value, crafted right here at CMH Mahindra Ballito. The “Black Edition” brings a R30 000 value package of premium extras bundled into a single, irresistible offer at just R289 900. You get leather upholstery that feels as good as it looks, sleek aluminium mag wheels, a reverse camera for confident manoeuvring, and smash-and-grab window tinting that protects privacy without

compromising style. Finished with distinctive Black Edition decals, these cars are designed to stand out whether you’re in town, at the coast, or heading out on an adventure.

This is no surprise from a dealership that’s been consistently recognised for excellence. CMH Mahindra Ballito recently scooped 6 Awards, dominating their category and they also support the Teddies4Kids initiative in partnership with IPSS security, bringing comfort and care to vulnerable children in times of need.

Local dealerships often talk about community. CMH Mahindra Ballito actually lives it. With this “Black Edition”, Willie Pieters and his team are giving customers not just a vehicle, but a story to tell and a reason to be excited about driving the Mahindra XUV 3XO. Call them on 032 946 5820 and claim your BlackEdition 3XO today!



The winning team at CMH Mahindra Ballito with trophies in hand are from left to right are sales Executives Sithembiso Magubane and Kimberleigh Eckersley, with Sales Manager Willie Pieters, Stock Controller Anitha Moodley, Sales Executive Matty Ndlovu and Leadmaster Michaela Moodley



XUV 3XO

DISCOVER THE X

EXCLUSIVE TO
CMH MAHINDRA
BALLITO

CMH MAHINDRA BALLITO
35 - 37 Moffat Drive, Ballito



BLACK EDITION

From Only
R289 900

FREE LEATHER
FREE MAG WHEELS
FREE SMASH & GRAB
FREE REAR VIEW CAMERA
FREE BLACK EDITION DECALS

032 946 5820
Email: leadmaster68@cmh.co.za

"If somebody offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes, then learn how to do it later." Richard Branson

Incoming Tata Harrier

Tata claims fuel consumption in the region of 6.1 litres per 100 kilometres

By: Tomas Yoko

The Tata Harrier arrived with the sort of presence that makes you give it a second look in the parking lot. Broad shoulders, a confident stance and styling that feels properly grown up rather than trying too hard. On the road it settles into a relaxed stride quickly, especially on longer runs where the Harrier feels like it was built to eat distance rather than chase headlines. Power is generated by a two litre turbo diesel and it suits the Harrier's personality perfectly. There is a strong, steady wave of torque that makes overtaking easy and long climbs feel unforced. On the open road the Harrier cruised quietly and comfortably, with road and wind noise well contained. Tata claims fuel consumption in the region of 6.1 litres per 100 kilometres and on a mixed route that figure felt achievable even though I am a little heavy footed. Ride comfort is a real highlight. The



On the road Harrier settles into a relaxed stride quickly, especially on longer runs

suspension deals confidently with rough patches and expansion joints, smoothing out imperfect surfaces without losing composure through corners. Steering is light around town and reassuringly stable at speed. Inside, the Harrier's cabin is spacious and well laid out, with good seat comfort and a driving position that feels spot on for long stints behind the wheel. There is, however, a small quirk in the gear selector that occasionally makes its presence known. A faint rattle, like loose change whispering secrets from a pocket. It is there, but never intrusive, and almost becomes part of the car's character rather than a flaw. Warranty cover includes a five year 150 000 kilometre plan, adding peace of mind to the ownership proposition. The Tata Harrier may not shout the loudest, but it speaks with confidence and that counts for plenty on South African roads.

Suzuki Dzire Small Sedan, Big Heart



Dreams and sunsets...ready for adventure

Some cars win you over with drama. Others do it quietly, kilometre by kilometre. The Suzuki Dzire falls squarely into the second camp, and after a long road trip up into northern KwaZulu-Natal, including a brief but telling off-road detour, it left a far stronger impression than its compact footprint suggests. From a buying perspective, the Suzuki Dzire makes a compelling case. It's light on fuel, sensible on price, and surprisingly generous on space. The boot swallowed luggage with ease, while passengers enjoyed more legroom than I would have expect from a sedan of this size. It's the sort of car that suits real life rather than brochure promises. The manual derivative I tested was a genuine pleasure on the open road. Power delivery is smooth and predictable, with enough urge to handle overtaking confidently without ever feeling strained. The gearbox is light and friendly, encouraging relaxed, engaged driving rather than demanding effort. On long stretches of tar, ride comfort stood out, composed, stable and unfazed by less-than-perfect road surfaces. Then came the unplanned off-road stint a gravel and dirt section that would have most small sedans tensing up. The Dzire, however, took it in stride. Ground clearance proved adequate, suspension remained compliant, and nothing rattled or complained. It wasn't designed for adventure, but it handled the challenge with quiet confidence. Inside, the cabin is well thought-out, with intuitive controls, comfortable seating and a level of standard safety and tech that adds reassurance without inflating the price. The reverse camera a great touch and now there is also a black interior option with the new Dzire. The Suzuki Dzire doesn't try to be flashy, and that's precisely its strength. It's honest, comfortable, economical, and capable when it counts. On a long KZN road trip, it proved that sometimes the smartest choice is also the most enjoyable. For more information and a chance to test drive the Dzire, contact Luke on 071 387 8372.

Trying Out The Triber

By: Tomas Yoko



Versatility encapsulated in the Renault Triber, fuel efficient and reliable motoring

After a week behind the wheel of the Renault Triber, I can confidently say it's a compact marvel that deserves the spotlight. From the moment I laid eyes on its bold front grille and sleek lines, I knew this car was ready to stand out in a sea of sameness. Inside, the spacious cabin surprised me. With three rows of seating and ample storage, there was plenty of room for family, weekend gear, and the third row is removable while the second row has slide/recline/fold and tumble functions that expand the versatility of the Triber exponentially. The 53 kilowatt engine, while not a speed demon, handled city traffic and winding country roads with surprising agility—almost like it had been

fueled by a strong cup of coffee. The touchscreen infotainment system kept me entertained and connected, with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto making it easy to blast my road trip playlist. Safety features, including a robust body structure and multiple airbags, put my mind at ease, even when my driving skills were put to the test. Fuel efficiency? Let's just say my wallet appreciated the trip. The Triber's commendable mileage meant fewer stops at the petrol station and more time on the open road. So, after a week of testing, I can confidently say that the Renault Triber is the trusty sidekick you didn't know you needed. Grab your keys and hit the road in style!

Hybrid Power, Real Savings GWM Ballito Turns It Up



The Haval H6 Hybrid Drive offers up the best of both worlds with an amazing combination of electric and petrol power production. This is a real option . . . call 031 300 0000

Every now and then, a deal comes along that makes you stop mid-sip of your coffee and read the fine print twice. This is one of those moments. GWM Ballito and Umhlanga have thrown the doors wide open on the Haval H6 Hybrid, and the numbers are as impressive as the vehicle itself. Right now, buyers can save up to R90 000 on the Haval H6 Hybrid Drive, and just to sweeten the pot, there's a R10 000 Gateway Shopping Voucher waiting for you as well. In an era where value matters more than ever, this is the kind of offer that speaks directly to smart, forward-thinking motorists. The Haval H6 Hybrid is already a standout. It delivers smooth, confident performance, excellent fuel efficiency and a level of refinement that comfortably punches above its price point. Add to that a tech-rich cabin, bold design and everyday usability, and you start to understand why the H6 has become one of South Africa's most talked-about SUVs. Backing it all up is GWM's confidence in their product a 7-year / 200 000 km comprehensive warranty, which remains one of the strongest in the business. It's peace of mind, built in. At GWM Ballito, under the leadership of Sales Manager Shane Moodley, the team has a reputation for straight talk, sharp deals and genuine service. Their current Demo Clearance Sale is further proof, offering up to R10 000 trade assistance and total savings that can reach a remarkable R100 000 on selected models. If you're even remotely in the market, this is a deal worth chasing down. Visit GWM Ballito at 7 Moffat Drive, Ballito, or give the team a call on 031 300 0000. Hybrid innovation, serious savings and a dealership that delivers.

Before

After

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

54°

29°

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

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- Non combustible
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- Non combustible
- Euroclass A1 reaction
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"We must be willing to get rid of the life we've planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us. The old skin has to be shed before the new one can come,"
Joseph Campbell

CMH Ford Ballito Takes to the Wildtrak



CMH Ford Ballito's Dealer Principle Mathew Buck handed over a new Ford Ranger Wildtrak to cycling legend Bianca Haw, who was super impressed with the decal showing her beloved dog in the signage. That small detail speaks volumes

There's something about the word Wildtrak that fits Ballito rather well. Open skies, tough terrain, coastal energy and a dealership that understands how lifestyle and motoring intersect. CMH Ford Ballito has taken that spirit and run with it, quite literally, by tying its latest Wildtrak deals into one of the region's most iconic endurance events.

The recent KAP Sani2Sea roadshow, hosted at Holla Trails, brought together grit, heritage and world-class athleticism, a fitting backdrop for CMH Ford Ballito to hand over a brand-new Ford Ranger Wildtrak to cycling superstar Bianca Haw. Haw's connection to the Sani2Sea is deeply personal, with family heritage rooted in the race's history, making the moment more than just a ceremonial key handover. It was acknowledging legacy, perseverance and the pursuit of excellence, values Ford knows well.

While the Ranger Wildtrak grabbed the attention, it's the Ford Everest Wildtrak that's currently stealing hearts on the showroom floor. Under the

guidance of New Vehicle Sales Manager MK Khuboni, CMH Ford Ballito is offering standout deals on this premium adventure SUV and for good reason. The Everest Wildtrak blends commanding presence with genuine off-road capability, refined ride comfort and a tech-filled cabin that feels equally at home on the N2 or a gravel pass deep in the Drakensberg.

Features like advanced driver assistance, intelligent four-wheel drive, bold Wildtrak styling and a powerful turbo-diesel engine make this Everest a serious all-rounder, tough when needed, polished when it matters.

Dealer Principal Mathew Buck and his team continue to show that CMH Ford Ballito isn't just selling vehicles, they're backing community, sport and lifestyle. From trail to tarmac, showroom to summit, CMH Ford Ballito has truly taken to the Wildtrak.

For more information and a chance to test drive the Ford Everest Wildtrak contact CMH Ford Ballito on 087 723 9278 or visit their showroom at 35 Moffat Drive, Ballito.



CMH FORD BALLITO

RANGER



FROM R6 899pm

EVEREST



FROM R9 899pm

TERRITORY



FROM R5 899pm

NEW YEAR * NEW YOU



EVEREST WILDTRAK
3.0L V6 Wildtrak AWD 10AT
FROM ONLY

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SAVE A MASSIVE

R195 000

Offer Includes: 6 year/90 000km Ford Optional Service Plan | New Vehicle Warranty - 4-yr / 120 000km Comprehensive Warranty | Corrosion Warranty - 5-yr/unlimited km cover | Roadside Assistance - 4-yr/unlimited km | Ford Family Promise comes standard with these offerings at no additional costs. Excludes Factory Extras. Offer exclusive to CMH Ford Ballito

*Terms and Conditions Apply. Vehicles shown for illustration purposes only. Prices include New vehicle Warranties E&OE



CMH FORD BALLITO | 087 723 9278
35 - 37 Moffat Drive, Ballito | www.fordballito.co.za

"If I must start somewhere, right here and now is the best place imaginable," Richelle E. Goodrich

The KwaZulu-Natal Sharks Board Maritime Centre of Excellence (KZNSB) was established in 1964, strives to be a leader in environmentally sensitive protection of bathers against sharks and capacity building in the maritime sector.

KZNSB safeguards 37 beaches on the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) coastline with shark safety gear owned and maintained by the KZNSB. The organisation positions itself as "The Only Organisation of its Kind in the World. The organisation has achieved distinguished accomplishments in its existence, defining the organisations successes towards achieving its' mission.

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

SHOW TIMES Tuesday to Thursday: 09:00am and 04:00pm. First Sunday of the month at 14:00pm.

BOAT TRIPS

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

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

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

VENUE HIRE

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

Exclusive use of the venue and an exquisite outside location to consider for use at no extra costs

- Armless chairs
- Tables
- Fully equipped kitchen
- Secure parking
- Cleaning staff
- Security
- We are ideally situated

close to the freeway: with access to and from the N2 and M4

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

