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Issue 722

THE EDGE

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MUST-SEE MELODRAMA

Last night – Tuesday 26 August – saw the opening performance of the MELODRAMA - Sedgefield’s biggest annual charity fundraiser. Judging by the reaction of the audience – the production team have taken the show to even higher levels.

The African Dream theme for this year’s offering is a spark of genius – most of the songs will surely be known and loved by audiences, with more than a few to stir the patriotic heartstrings and have folk singing along.

And there is hilarity in abundance! From geriatrics (not) coping with modern technology to plaster-cast classical musicians attempting to play their instruments from the casualty ward. The cast includes so many local business people (you may even recognise

some!), strutting their stuff in outlandish costumes, performing with such tongue-in-cheek enthusiasm that their clients may never see them through the same eyes again!

The end result is an absolutely must-see show – by locals, for locals, in aid of local charities..

Whilst there’s no doubt that the 38 members of cast and crew are having a great time on stage (despite some cases of acute stage fright), each and every one of them must surely be commended for the many hours of hard work leading up to opening night. Ten weeks of rehearsals two nights a week, with extra dance practises on top, not to mention the costume, set design and construction – dedication simply doesn’t cover it.

But they will all tell you the results make it worth every minute. Last year’s Melodrama raised over R198 500 for charity – setting quite a target for the

2025 My African Dream production to beat.

Exhausted (but so excited) Producer Margie van Rensburg couldn’t be happier with how this year’s Melodrama has turned out.

"We have crafted a truly great show," she says, "And I am so proud of the cast and crew for making it come together. We create this incredible thing, out of nothing but ideas. The sense of accomplishment is indescribable, and I can't wait to share it with our audiences!"

The Sedgefield Melodrama runs every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday until 5 September and tickets are for sale via www.sedgefieldmelodrama.co.za or at Pedro’s Herb & Plant Nursery, on the northern service road.

Seating is around tables – so be sure to get a group together and bring a picnic along.

Sedgefield Library REVIVED



On Tuesday 19 August 2025, locals and dignitaries were treated to the 'big reveal' of Sedgefield's beloved JGB Watney Memorial Library's remarkable transformation. This thanks to the tireless efforts of the Revive Sedgefield team.

The project, which the local community initiative began at the end of May this year, has

breathed new life into the library, enhancing its facilities and creating a welcoming space - especially for children, but also for visitors and indeed the library staff.

The renovation includes a complete kitchen overhaul, including new flooring, a breakfast bar, and improved storage, giving library staff a functional lunch space. The lobby

entrance was redesigned and boasts an especially commissioned bespoke bench that details the history of Sedgefield, with the names of the librarians secretly recorded in the book mural. The real highlight is the Children's Library which has been transformed into a colourful, imaginative space with new flooring, murals, and creative furniture, fostering a love for reading among young visitors.

Other improvements included a new bin, revamped information box, installation of the original 1989 inauguration plaque, power cleaning, and repairs to windows and light fittings.

Sedgefield’s Library has always been special to Revive. The team first began its work in the library garden in 2022, marking the start of their community-driven projects.

This year, enabled by a generous donation from an anonymous benefactor and additional fundraising, the team has invested R75,000 into revitalising the library's interior.

At the 'unveiling' Revive Chair Linda Evans explained that The library's story dates back to the 1950s when it lacked a permanent home, operating out of various locations such as a shop, garage, and orphanage. In 1962, Elaine Watney, a dedicated member of the library committee, donated funds for the construction of the brick building we know today, naming it in honour of her late husband, JGB Watney.

Revive Sedgefield are understandably proud of the completed project, noting the emotional significance of the library to the community.

"Our team hopes the upgraded space will be enjoyed and cared for by staff and visitors for years to come," said Linda, adding that the revitalised JGB Watney Memorial Library stands as a testament to the power of community spirit and dedication, ensuring its legacy as a cherished space in Sedgefield.

SEDGEFIELD MELODRAMA

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Notes from T'Ed's Head

Communication let me down. One would think, if one were inclined (I, personally, find that the best position to do any thinking), that after being married longer than most dragons live (most, not all, definitely not all), a person would know their spouse inside out.

Indeed, one would surely surmise that by the stage in life where two people have co-habited (yes, we both smoked at one stage) for so long, semi-successfully raised two children into adulthood without actually trading them in for more productive ones (despite regular temptation to do so), and even slept 'neath the same duvet (well, sometimes one slept whilst the other spent wakeful nights listening to the snoring of the sleeping one – but you get my drift – yawn.), these two people would surely be 'as one'.

Thinking the same thoughts. Sensing each other's every emotion. Knowing and understanding even the slightest whim. Even finishing one another's sentences.



But somehow this is not the case for Mrs Ed and me. Sometimes we are so far from being 'on the same page' that I wonder if we might actually be in different books. I once said as much, suggesting that she would probably be quite at home in a Stephen King novel. She replied, rather thoughtlessly, that I would be found amongst the pages of 'The Good Slug Guide' by Jo Kirby.

Yes. The connection of our minds seems to be, if one were to use a modern terminology analogy, 'dial up' rather than 'fibre'. Do you get my drift?

Mind you – I think I should mention (there are witnesses out there after all), that we DO, on occasion, finish each other's sentences.

Just not in the way that the ... er ... 'sentencee' might have been thinking.

For example.

Me: "It's Friday, and after such a hard week, I am going to the bottle store to ..."

She: "... buy just three beers, so you are not lying in bed like a totally useless slug all day tomorrow?"

She (to my daughter): "There's a big sale on at Sploshyknees. Your dad and I are driving through early tomorrow to ..."

Me: "... walk up and down countless aisles for 17 hours, complaining that nothing fits, then end up touring the rest of George to buy perfume, 99 flower pots, ANOTHER garden sprinkler system and a million rands worth of crafting stuff to

fill the last available 3cm of space on the kitchen table?"

I'm sure you get my drift?

And sometimes we FEEL like we are on the same page as our beloved/betrothed/be-prepared-for-anything partner. Oh yes! Isn't it wonderful when that happens?

"Our minds are finally connected," we think to ourselves, "What a beautiful moment this is!"

And at the time, it IS beautiful.

At the time!

A host: "Are you two rushing off so quickly? But it's only 9:30, and we have at least another three bottles of wine to share (whilst we all continue to discuss American politics at great length, snorting with laughter as we each give our best/worst impersonation of Donald Trump). Won't you stay just a teeny-weeny bit longer?"

Me: "Oh, sounds wonderful! What do you think love?"

She: "Oh, um ... I don't mind ... remember we have a BUSY DAY tomorrow, but we can stay ... if you want ... It's up to you...."

Apparently, it isn't. At all.

Indeed, if on such an occasion, you ever believe that it's up to you when she says 'It's up to you', you'll learn all about it NOT being up to you, whilst she is driving you home at 11:45pm. And even your most HILARIOUS DT voice will do nothing to improve the mood.

But it works both ways.

She (talking to a friend/relative/one-time acquaintance): "You are moving tomorrow, Jenny? What ... all by yourself? That's ridiculous! Oh, I see - because your husband's tired after a hard week. Well, we certainly aren't going to let you do that alone, are we T'Ed? You won't mind spending the day with Jen, helping her carry the big stuff. No, Jen, absolutely not! I won't take no for an answer. He LIKES getting up early in the morning - apparently he wants to escape my snoring, don't you, dear? Ha ha! You'll be MORE THAN happy to help Jen move, won't you?"

Me: "Well ... sure ... there is the rugby, but ... it's fine."

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NOTICE

Please note that Dr S Senekal will be on leave from Monday 25th August to 22 September.

Reception will be on leave from Monday 25th August until 15th September.

Our administrative staff will be available from 16th September to take bookings.

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doing our bit to make sure everything had a place and everything was IN its place, working side by side as we slowly but surely fixed up our home (even putting the family pictures up!) and becoming the house-proud hosts that she had dreamed of long ago.

I thought that we would be sleeping 'til 9, drinking twenty

seven cups of tea a day, eating cake and cream scones mid-morning AND afternoon, popping out the pub for a pint or three of Guinness every evening, and eating a large portion of fish n chips n mushy peas most Fridays, except for the ones when we go out for beers and a curry...

We'd be mad if we didn't!

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Chris and Danielle de Jager have recently relocated to Nosy Komba, a pristine volcanic island just off Nosy Be, Madagascar, and have taken over 293 on Komba, a boutique eco-lodge tucked away in a protected bay. They would love a visit from fellow Sedgetarians.

With only four exclusive rooms, the lodge offers guests an intimate and tranquil

escape, completely off the grid yet surrounded by the island's natural beauty and wildlife. Just a 3.5-hour flight from Johannesburg on Airlink, Nosy Komba is an accessible but untouched destination for those seeking something truly unique.

For more, visit their Facebook page: 293 on Komba Guest House, Nosy Komba, Madagascar.

HOUSING CRISIS CLOSE TO BOILING POINT

Residents of Smutsville clashed with members of the law last week, resulting in the arrival of at least four Public Order Policing trucks packed with personnel in riot gear armed with rifles with rubber bullets and teargas.

Tensions were high early Friday morning as roads were blockaded with burning tyres and gangs of younger residents challenged the law enforcers head on. Chases ensued, rocks were thrown, tear gas cannisters launched and once again several Smutsville streets became a war zone.

Whilst for the most part many residents merely watched the cat and mouse games between POP members and the youths, anger erupted when the action was drawn to the road outside the school. Some mothers risked rushing past the POPs members into the school grounds to snatch up their children and whisk them home, whilst teachers kept the rest of the young learners closed in the classrooms to avoid the tear gas hanging in the air.

Meanwhile, gangs of youths gathered on the dune to launch rocks at the POP personnel trucks, and the street battles continued into the day, eventually petering out in the early hours of Saturday morning.

Whilst the intensity of the clash was not as all-encompassing as the housing protests which brought Sedgefield to a standstill in June 2018, they were about the same issue:- the fact that no subsidy homes have been built in Sedgefield for decades.

Since the last protest with authorities promises have been regularly made and relevant budgets allocated, but without any actual construction materialising, residents are no longer taking anyone's word for anything housing related.

When the alarm was first raised on Thursday afternoon, we spoke to community members who had gathered on Melkhout Street as the large area of municipal land behind the old 'U-SAVE' supermarket was marked out into informal plots by residents with the intention of building their own dwellings.

They said that this was happening after they had been informed earlier in the week that the budget for the promised housing project for that piece of land had been moved to the 2027/2028 financial year. They were fuming over yet another delay.

"Housing projects are going up in other parts of Knysna, but not in Sedgefield!" one angry resident shouted, with agreements from others.

The community members said that enough is enough – they insist on a meeting with officials from Provincial Government Housing so that they can get to the bottom of what is going on. They want to know why the

budgeted monies for the building of houses in Smutsville keeps getting moved on, or returned to province due to being unspent.

"Province don't know what's happening here on the ground. They must come and see what's going on," a lady told us, "Knysna Municipality is telling them one thing, and telling us another. We want to speak to province direct!"

We asked their Ward Councillor Levael Davis for his input, and he sent the following detailed explanation.

"On Thursday 14 August 2025 a group of community members came to my house demanding answers based on information they received that Sedgefield's money for the Sedgefield Infill Project was taken back by Province due to the municipality's inability to spend it.

"I told them that this first came up in a recent council meeting where I questioned similar information I had heard from a fellow Councillor. The Portfolio Councillor told me he knows nothing about this and will request a report for the next Human Settlements Section 80 meeting, set to take place early in September 2025.

"The community members present at the street meeting asked me to request information from the Province because they don't trust the processes of the municipality, then we agreed

to meet for a follow-up street meeting on 19 August. The resolution in the meeting was that I contact the Province to get documentary evidence on the true financial and project status.

"The Provincial minister confirmed that he has seen the plight of Smutsville firsthand and as a result they have prioritised this project after his last meeting with the community of Sedgfield. They have allocated +R37M to the project over the three year Medium Term Revenue Expenditure Framework. There was an allocation of R8 million given last year that the municipality didn't spend due to unfinished processes.

"On 14 February 2025, I wrote to the Mayor and Municipal Manager to investigate and institute consequence management against those who were responsible for not spending the allocation on time. Province has had to move the money to the next financial year.

"So to date, according to the available information supplied by the municipality and confirmed by the Provincial Housing Department, the latest provisional allocations for this project are as follows:

2026/2027 financial year: R16,56M servicing of 207 sites



Residents and anti-riot POP members sharing Smutsville streets

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"The municipality must spend this money in the time-frames given. This is why community members are upset because this behaviour has been recurring and we all feel that the municipality has failed us in this regard. You do your best as a councillor in driving the issue, attending the meetings, consulting the community, giving the inputs, and pushing the project to as far as possible, but then officials drop the ball.

"In the meeting the community was informed that the appointment of the architect, and planning related items as well as an outstanding assessment must still be submitted by the municipality. The meeting also chose two community members to serve on the project steering committee. I await the September 2024 IHS Section 80 report on Sedgefield's status to see if the information provided lines up with everything communicated to the community by the relevant officials."

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WE LOVE SUPPORTING THE AFRICAN DREAM!

It's Melodrama time, and we are once again joining up with Wimpy to make sure the cast and crew are fed every show night. All the money raised from Melodrama ticket sales and auctions is donated to local charities, so we are more than proud to support them every year. All the best for a successful show, guys!

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Environmental Democracy

by Charl van der Merwe,
Environmental Ethicist
On behalf of Sedgefield
Ratepayers Association.

In an era marked by escalating ecological crises - from climate change and biodiversity loss to pollution and resource depletion and overpopulation - the concept of environmental democracy has now emerged as a vital framework for ensuring that environmental decision-making is inclusive, transparent, and just.

At its core, environmental democracy is about empowering individuals and communities to participate meaningfully in shaping the policies and practices that affect their environment and well-being. The concepts of ecological and environmental democracy seek to reconcile two firm principles: ensuring environmental sustainability while safeguarding democracy. These ideals are frequently regarded as being in conflict, as democracy is perceived to be too slow and cumbersome to deliver the urgent large-scale collective action needed to tackle environmental problems.

Defining Environmental Democracy

Environmental democracy refers to the principle that all people have the right to access information, participate in decision-making, and seek justice in environmental matters. It is grounded in three accepted key pillars:

- **Access to Information:** information about environmental threats, conditions, risks, and policies must be readily available for all.

- **Public Participation:** communities must have opportunities to influence environmental decisions, from local land use and biodiversity strategies to national

climate strategies.

- **Access to Justice:** Legal mechanisms must exist to challenge environmental harm and hold polluters and environmental criminals accountable.

These principles are enshrined in our Constitution and various Acts as well as international agreements which affirm our rights in environmental governance.

Why It Matters

Environmental democracy is not just a theoretical model - it is a practical necessity. Environmental degradation affects everyone but more so those who often lack the political power to resist harmful developments or advocate for restoration. Without democratic safeguards, decisions about land, water, air, and biodiversity will be made without the input of those most impacted.

Consider the case of industrial pollution or development in sensitive areas. In both instances, environmental democracy offers a pathway for affected groups to assert their rights, demand accountability, and shape sustainable alternatives.

Democracy and Environmental Justice

Environmental democracy is deeply intertwined with environmental justice. It recognizes that ecological sustainability cannot be achieved without social fairness. When communities are excluded from environmental governance, policies tend to favour short-term economic interests over long-term ecological health.

On the other hand, inclusive decision-making often leads to more resilient and equitable outcomes. The following examples illustrate how democratising environmental knowledge can foster both ecological integrity and human

dignity.

- Community-led conservation efforts have proven more effective than top-down approaches in protecting biodiversity.

- Participatory urban planning can improve green space access, reduce heat island effects, and create nature corridors.

- Citizen science initiatives empower individuals to monitor air and water quality. The Coordinated Waterbird Count records waterbirds twice a year and iNaturalist is a global community-driven identification system for recording plants, animals, and insects. These actions contribute valuable data to public agencies and universities.

Challenges and Opportunities

Despite its promise, environmental democracy faces significant obstacles such as:

- **Information Gaps:** environmental data may be inaccessible or unreliable.

- **Political Barriers:** controlling managements and corporate interests often suppress public participation.

- **Legal Limitations:** weak enforcement and corruption hinder access to justice.

There are, however, four fundamental areas of challenge and opportunity for theory and practice: public participation and populism; technocracy and expertise; authority and enforcement; and ecological rights and limits. There are also opportunities such as digital technologies which allow access to environmental information, while public movements are increasingly demanding transparency and accountability.

Conclusion

As our environmental crisis intensifies, environmental democracy will become more authoritative. Decisions made today about energy systems, land use, and conservation will shape our planet for generations. Ensuring that these decisions reflect diverse voices and values is essential for crafting durable and adaptive solutions.

We must work to strengthen and maintain environmental democracy by:

- Promoting environmental education and literacy

- Supporting community engagement in policy processes

- Enhancing legal protections for environmental defenders

Environmental democracy is more than a governance model - it is a moral commitment to shared stewardship of our environment. By focussing on transparency, participation, and justice, it will offer a roadmap for navigating the complex intersection of ecology and society. In doing so, it transforms environmental protection from a top-down mandate to a collective endeavour, rooted in equity, resilience, and optimism.

POP-UP INDIGENOUS NURSERY

The Sedgefield Island Conservancy has teamed up with In Toto Retreat to host a pop-up indigenous nursery at the start of spring, from the 12-14 September.

Locals are invited to learn about, and purchase, a wide range of indigenous plants that have been sourced from six nurseries in the area. These include the Garden Route Botanical Gardens in George, Sugarbush Nursery in Langvlei Dunes, Proteus Nursery in Rondevlei, Garden Roots Nursery in Sedgefield, Indigenous Seedlings from MK Horticulture and Pledge Nature Reserve in Knysna.

The pop-up nursery coincides with the annual campaign of the conservancy to promote the planting of indigenous plants in private gardens, street verges and public spaces. Planting indigenous plants supports local biodiversity, creates water-wise gardens and can help control invasive plants. Gardens containing indigenous plants also support healthy ecosystems by providing specific food and shelter for local wildlife and pollinators. By organising this event, the Sedgefield Island Conservancy committee hopes to make it easier for residents of Sedgefield to source and plant indigenous plants in their

gardens.

An added feature of this event is two interesting talks provided by Christian Viljoen, the curator of the Garden Route Botanical Gardens and Colin Fair, the owner of Proteus Nursery. Christian will talk about planting gardens with indigenous plants that attract birds and butterflies and will provide an update on developments at the Botanical Gardens in George. Colin will tell the story of Proteus Nursery and focus on providing tips for successfully growing proteas and leucadendrons (pin cushions) in your garden. These talks will take place between 11h00-13h00 on Friday 12th September. Maré Collet from Sugarbush Nursery

will be at In Toto Retreat on Sunday 14 September to answer any questions about gardening with indigenous plants.

When: 10h00-13h00 from Friday 12 September till Sunday 14 September

Where: In Toto Retreat, 55 Jan van Riebeeck street, The Island, Sedgefield

For more information contact Lawrence Boatwright on 083 376 7846 or Helia van Zyl on 082 332 2206.

Don't miss out on this great opportunity to plant more indigenous plants in your own backyard!



GARDENING ... GET TO THE ROOT OF IT

by Slade West

What is pruning? When and how should we prune? Why should we prune? These are all questions that many of us may be wondering. As we are knocking on Springs door, it is a great time to discuss this topic.

Pruning is a term used for controlled cutting back of plants or trees with a specific outcome in mind. Many people will prune at random, wanting to open up or neaten a space, without thinking about the future and what the end result will be a few months down the road. In some cases this is completely fine, but it can also result in stunted growth or undesirable growth in certain plants and trees. When planning your next pruning session, take some time to research the plant or tree beforehand and think about how the new growth is going to form over the next couple of months. You may be surprised with the results.

Timing of your pruning can also have a big effect on your end result. This is potentially less important for some of your perennials like certain hedges that can be pruned quite heavily and more frequently, but for many plants and trees it can make a huge difference. Fruit trees and rose bushes are a great example of this. A good well planned pruning back of branches can achieve amazing results. Springtime brings about some of the most explosive growth in the garden as many plants and trees come out of dormancy and enjoy the warmer climate and longer daylight hours. This makes the late winter / early spring transition a perfect time for pruning. Think of it as removing some of last seasons growth to make space for and sculpt the new growth that is going to set the stage for your spring and summer garden. Have fun with the process as you have a "hands on" role in how your plant or tree is going to grow and look and

also learn from every season. Maybe you pruned too much or too little this time around, be mindful of what you have done and what the results were.

Apart from pruning for a specific growth result, there are also some benefits from a general spring clean in the garden. Removing dead or diseased plant material is always a good practice. Thinning

out dense and overgrown areas will improve air flow to the garden and also bring more sunlight to where you want it. Some slower growing plants may become overcrowded from surrounding plants, pruning the surrounds will keep these plants as a visible feature in your garden, aid in their health and growth and contribute to a wholesome garden scape.

At the end of the day, gardening should be fun so instead of looking at pruning as a chore, try to think of it as setting the stage for your very own backyard show.

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JOHN HUME ARRESTED IN RHINO HORN SYNDICATE INVESTIGATION

John Hume, the South African breeder known for owning the world's largest captive rhino operation, has been arrested along with five others in connection with an international illegal rhino horn trafficking syndicate. The arrest which took place on August 19, 2025, included his lawyer Isak du Toit.

They have been charged with fraud, theft, and contravention of South Africa's National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act (NEMBA), with prosecutors also considering additional charges such as racketeering and money laundering.

Hume has strong links to Sedgefield, having played a notable role in the development and enhancement of the town's tourism industry. In 1986, he purchased Pine Lake Marina that initially comprised 41 units

along with a caravan park. Over time, under his ownership, the resort grew and was recognised for its quality, even receiving a Gold Crown award as a mark of excellence. It was sold in May 2008 for the princely sum of R118 Million.

Hume's involvement is significant due to his long history in the rhino breeding and horn trade business. He began breeding rhinos in the early 2000s and owned approximately 1,600 Southern white rhinos on a ranch previously known as Buffalo Dream Ranch, later renamed Platinum Rhino. Hume also challenged South Africa's 2009 moratorium on domestic trade in rhino horn through the courts, which was partly overturned in 2017, allowing legal domestic trade under certain permits.

The illegal trade case against Hume and associates reportedly

involved the use of fraudulent permit schemes to mask the export of rhino horns to Southeast Asia, circumventing international bans under CITES. The syndicate allegedly exploited South Africa's domestic trading regulations to facilitate these exports.

According to Dion George, South Africa's Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, the arrests represent an important crackdown on organised crime networks involved in wildlife trafficking.

Hume's rhino ranch was taken over by the NGO African Parks in 2023, but the status of his rhino horn stockpile remains unclear. This case highlights both the complexities of regulating the rhino horn trade and the challenges in combating illegal trafficking linked to wildlife conservation efforts.

RATES BOYCOTT NOT ON

Despite the justified expectation of Ratepayers to receive service delivery from the Municipality, such as water, sanitation, electricity, waste removal, road maintenance, and public safety, the unfortunate reality is that we are being failed by our local authorities. The question arises whether a last attempt may be made to save the condition of our town by withholding payment of our rates and depositing it into a trust account from which proper private management of our infrastructure could be funded. In short, the answer is no.

According to legal advice received by Sedgefield's Ratepayers Association, there are several decided court cases on the subject. In City Council of Pretoria v Walker 1998 (3) BCLR 257, it was held that "...it is for the courts to grant appropriate relief against any public official, institution or government when there are grievances. It is not for the disgruntled individual to decide what the appropriate relief should be and to combine with others to take it upon themselves to punish the government structure by withholding payment which is due. The court also stated that: "If every person who has a grievance about the conduct of a public official or a

governmental structure were to take the law into his or her own hands or resort to self-help by withholding payment for services rendered ... it carries with it the potential for chaos and anarchy and can therefore not be appropriate."

As citizens we are expected to pay local taxes and noncompliance remains unlawful regardless of the motivation behind it. We face these challenges due to the municipality's poor accountability, its lack of capacity, and corruption. It is certainly unfair to expect ratepayers to pay for services that are not being provided and especially where our service infrastructure has failed. This appears to have almost become the norm throughout the country, unfortunately.

To summarize, we advise as follows:

DO NOT stop paying, as it is unlawful and puts you at risk of:

- 1) interest being charged on your account.
- 2) penalties being levied.
- 3) disconnection of services.
- 4) eventual sale in execution of your property, to satisfy your debt.

DO take these recommended steps:

- 1) follow the prescribed procedure for complaints as provided on the municipal

website (this entails lodging your complaint on collab, escalating it to the Municipal Manager, and thereafter to the Executive Mayor).

2) escalate further to Provincial Government (Section 139 of the Constitution allows for provincial and national intervention when municipalities fail to fulfil their obligations, while Section 154 mandates national and provincial governments to support municipalities in strengthening their capacity.)

3) petition your local councillor.

4) request the appointment of a committee to monitor service delivery and advise on priority issues.

5) private funding (this has its own downfalls, because you end up paying twice).

6) legal action (launch an application to compel the municipality to deliver services). However, success is not guaranteed, as the delivery of services would be limited to the municipality's ability to provide them. It is a complex subject, and an expensive exercise.

7) become a member of your local Ratepayers Association and support them in their quest to continuously raise issues with the Municipality and to escalate the problem of service delivery to the Provincial Government.



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Catch and release helps to conserve the Western Cape's indigenous fish

Freshwater ecosystems across the Western Cape are rich in biodiversity, supporting a variety of indigenous fish. However, these species are increasingly threatened by the spread of invasive alien fish species, that prey on indigenous species and compete with them for food, space, and breeding grounds. These subtle shifts in ecological balance are often difficult to detect, but they have lasting consequences for the long-term health of freshwater ecosystems.

Currently, 24 of the province's 35 freshwater fish species are listed as Threatened and 73% of the Western Cape's freshwater fish are found nowhere else in the world. This high level of endemism makes local conservation efforts especially important. At the same time, 73 of 138 freshwater ecosystems in the Province have been classified as Critically Endangered, highlighting the need for science-based solutions to protect these habitats.

To support the long-term health of these fragile systems, CapeNature is promoting catch and release fishing practices of indigenous fish species, and removal of invasive fish species as a practical and immediate way for recreational anglers to contribute to conservation. "We want to empower communities, anglers, and visitors to become

environmental stewards for our indigenous fish species," said Dr Ashley Naidoo, CEO of CapeNature. "Practising responsible catch and release or sometimes catch and remove for alien invasive species helps to sustain the biodiversity and ecological balance of our freshwater systems."

A recent survey conducted in the Boland Mountain Complex, which includes protected areas like Jonkershoek, Hottentots-Holland, Hawequas and Theewaterskloof, found that over half the surveyed river sites were in "Good" or "Very Good" ecological condition. This is encouraging, but the presence of invasive fish at some sites remains a challenge for the survival of certain indigenous species.

The Endangered giant redbin (*Pseudobarbus skeltoni*) was confirmed for two of the three known populations but remains under pressure due to the presence of invasive fish.

The catch and release approach helps reduce fishing pressure on indigenous fish populations, especially those that are already vulnerable or have limited ranges. When done correctly, it gives fish a chance to recover, breed, and contribute to the resilience of their ecosystems.

CapeNature is continuing to monitor river health through



biodiversity surveys and is using the data to guide conservation action. Simultaneously, the entity is encouraging behavioural change among fishing communities, outdoor enthusiasts, and local stakeholders by broadening the scale and scope of different public awareness efforts. These initiatives and their progress are reflected in resources such as the 2025 State of Conservation Report.

The entity encourages all recreational anglers to familiarise themselves with indigenous species, use barbless hooks, minimise handling, and return fish to the water gently. These small actions can make a big difference in conserving the province's unique freshwater biodiversity. By combining science, community awareness and practical action, we're building long-term capacity to protect our freshwater fish species and the systems where they play critical roles.



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Paul: 082 566 6011

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Andre: 060 887 6769

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DIARY DATELINE

Every 2nd Monday
2pm Sedgefield Art Society meets at Lions Club. New members welcome. Patsy 073 256 6021

Every Monday
1:30pm Duplicate Bridge at Catholic Church hall. Enquiries (Whatsapp) to Toni 0722465024.

Wednesdays
8 for 9am Golf Day @ The Links. All members welcome.
5:15pm Sedgefield Striders Walking / Running time trials on road adjacent to Bowls Club. Beginners welcome.

Thursdays
7:00am Eden Cycling Club Group Social outride departs Cycle Worx. All welcome.
8 for 9am Sedge Gentlemen's Golf @ The Links
12:30pm Social Bridge School at St Anthony's Catholic Church hall All levels welcome. Lessons 12:30, Play from 13:45. Enquiries: Gail 0834577647.
13:15pm Bowls. Tabs in

Fridays
8am Ladies Golf @ Links Course

Saturdays
7am Eden Cycling Club Group Social outride departs Cycle Worx. All welcome.
8am-12 Wild Oats Community Farmers' Market
8 for 9am Saturday Competition Golf @ Links Course
8am-2pm Mosaic Market
8am-2pm Scarab Craft Market
13:15pm Bowls. Tabs in.

Sundays
7am Eden Cycling Club Group Social outride departs Cycle Worx. All welcome.

Sunday 7 September
8am-12 Gardeners and Crafters Market at Steam Whistle Stop. 072 487 0395

Sunday 14 September
8am-12 Car Boot Sale at Steam Whistle Stop. 072 487 0395

Should your association, Charity or group have any forthcoming events please send us details so that we may publish them in our next issue!

MASITHANDANE NEW VEHICLE FUNDRAISER

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Vote Mandy for YOU's "Glam Gran"

Sedgefield's Mandy Heggie (58) has made the top ten finalists in the You Magazine 'Glam Gram' competition – and your vote could make her the winner! Mandy, a vibrant grandmother who works from home as a virtual assistant, is well known locally. She lived in the village for many years whilst her four children were growing up, left for a while, and then moved back.

According to the You magazine bio, Mandy loves making a special effort with her appearance – whether it's for an evening out, going line dancing or simply getting some fresh air and exercise in the surrounding forests and hills. "When I'm out there in the fresh air running, I try to look fresh," Mandy says. "But if I'm going dancing, I like to dress up and I like to try to look my best."

But nothing brings her more joy than visiting her daughter Jessica's children, Ivah (6) and Ezra (3).

Jessica's husband, Marco Jardim, owns an avocado, strawberry and macadamia farm nearby and Mandy goes to visit the family often.

"They don't have much company, so when I arrive there it's like a playdate," she says. "They show me everything and they're very lovable."

Should Mandy win she will walk away with R10 000 cash, a Bada Bing Bada Body hamper worth R3 000, a SKNlogic hamper to the value of R2 148.

Her story will appear in YOU magazine – and be featured on the cover too, as well as on YOU's social media platforms. And just to make her even more



glamorous, she will be styled by the beauty and fashion teams and feature as a model on YOU's fashion pages

Voting takes place only on the online Glam Gran voting page (news24.com/you look for the 'Glam Gran' icon) and voting closes on 5 September.

The result will be announced at the end of September.

WHERE IN THE WORLD HAVE THEY GONE WITH OUR EDGE?



Bomber and Kel sharing local news with the Fab Four in Liverpool

Seeing Clearly : Working together changes lives



For many people, a simple pair of glasses can mean the difference between a struggle and quality of life. In communities where eye care is often out of reach, optometrists, are stepping up to bridge the gap - bringing vision, dignity, and opportunity to those in need.

Another such initiative from Sight Optical has been making this possible for some ladies of the "Forget me Nots" senior club at Masithandane by teaming up with the Lions, the ladies themselves as well as local sponsors. These ladies, who struggled with tasks, are now thriving - "thanks to a clearer view of the world".

SEDGEMEER PARK HOME FOR THE AGED NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

Notice is hereby given that Sedgemeer Park's AGM will be held on Tuesday 9th September 2025 at 2pm in the dining room. Minutes of the meeting will be made available to interested parties on request.

Congratulations

Neville Large & Bernita Meneses are delighted to announce their engagement. Neville popped the question on the 9th July of at sunrise on Cloud 9, which has left Bernita floating on Cloud 9 ever since.

Congratulations to the happy couple.



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SEDGEFIELD'S PRIDE : SUPPORT OUR YOUNG RUGBY STAR!

We are thrilled to announce that Surgio Solomons, one of our talented young students from Sedgefield has been selected to represent our community in an exciting rugby tournament in England! This is a fantastic opportunity for our young athlete to showcase his skills on an international stage, and we are eager to show our support.

To help make this dream a reality, we are organising a fundraising event on 29 August, and we invite the entire Sedgefield community to join us. Tickets for the event are available at an affordable price of R50, and all proceeds will go towards supporting our young rugby star's trip to England.

By purchasing tickets, you will not only be contributing to a worthy cause but also be showing your pride in and support for our community's talented young athlete. We believe that this is an excellent opportunity for us to come together as a community and celebrate the achievements of our youth.

So, let's rally behind our young star and help make his dreams a reality! Get your tickets now for the August 29th event and be a part of this exciting journey. Let's show the world what Sedgefield is made of!

Event Details:
Date: 29 August
Time: 18h30
Venue: Smutsville Community Hall
Ticket Price: R50
Contact Person: Elspeth Hartzenburg
Contact Number: 061 736 8960

We look forward to seeing you there! Let's support our young athlete and make Sedgefield



WE'VE BIN MEANING TO SAY ...



... on behalf of the whole community, a HUGE vote of thanks for the wonderful, custom-designed bins that are dotted around the village. Revive Sedgefield and our two local conservancies have installed around 25 of these beautiful creations, provided by an 'anonymous' donor. *Whoever it was - we applaud thee!*

Thank you Outward Bound Trust SA



PUBLICLY SPEAKING

The Cry for Consequence Management: Why South African Municipalities Are Failing Communities

by Levael Davis

Imagine your water not working for weeks, potholes swallowing up half your street, projects delayed for years, and your municipal account keeps climbing. Meanwhile, the officials responsible for this are sitting pretty in their offices with little to no accountability for their failures.

In boardrooms across South Africa's 257 municipalities, a troubling pattern emerges where local governments operate like consequence-free zones. Consequence management is the promise that public servants who break rules or fail to meet community expectations will face real timely repercussions.

The 2023-24 Auditor General's report painted a shocking picture where more than half of our municipalities (53%) have completely ignored consequence management legislation. Nearly half didn't bother investigating irregular spending from the previous year, and when it came to wasteful expenditure, 40% of municipalities simply looked the other way. What's worse is that of 42 municipalities audited for fraud and misconduct, 13 didn't investigate the allegations at all.

This is like having a burglar alarm going off and deciding to fall asleep instead. At 94 municipalities, clear signs of corrupt supply chain processes were flagged for follow-up, but unfortunately, 37 of them did absolutely nothing about this. They further found that at 59 municipalities, policies and procedures to monitor, measure, and evaluate staff performance were not in place, resulting in a lack of accountability for transgressions and non-performance.

The question is not whether consequence management



tools exist, because they do. The real issue is why municipalities are allowing these tools to gather dust, especially when our legal system provides robust mechanisms for consequence management.

The Municipal Finance Management Act demands financial accountability and empowers accounting officers to take disciplinary action against acts of financial misconduct. The Municipal Systems Act allows for performance management systems that should identify and address poor performance of officials. The Municipal Staff Regulations provide detailed disciplinary procedures, and the Code of Conduct for councillors and officials sets ethical standards with enforcement mechanisms.

Additionally, the Labour Relations Act provides clear procedures for dealing with incompetence and misconduct. Yet these powerful tools remain largely unused, creating a culture where mediocrity thrives and excellence declines. Many municipalities suffer from weak leadership at the top, where accounting officers lack the competence or courage to enforce consequences. Some arrived in their positions through political interference rather than merit, making them reluctant to challenge the people who secured their appointments.

Others simply don't understand the legal mechanisms at their disposal, and this incompetence cascades to lower levels of staff. When municipalities refuse to

On behalf of the children from our Sedgefield communities, Masithandane would like to thank Outward Bound for the opportunity to send 36 children to attend a 7-day and night camp during the July school holidays. Aims and objectives included developing self-awareness, confidence, and resilience while equipping participants with the ability to think critically, solve problems, and make responsible decisions in challenging and unfamiliar environments. What an adventure and learning curve it was!

Three groups of children participated in all kinds of outdoor activities including camp craft, hiking, canoeing and abseiling and learned so much from others, about themselves, care for each other and the environment. Outcomes were unique for each group. The challenges of the personal

enforce their own rules, they're essentially telling everyone that standards don't matter. Officials quickly realise they can cut corners, ignore unethical behaviour, deliver terrible service, or even engage in corruption with minimal risk. New employees observe this lawlessness and adapt accordingly, while experienced staff either join the decline or burn out trying to maintain standards in a system that doesn't value excellence.

The solution requires courage from municipal leadership and support from oversight bodies like provincial governments and the Auditor-General. Municipalities must begin implementing consequence management systems that are fair but firm, transparent but swift.

Residents deserve municipal officials who understand that public service is a privilege that comes with real consequences for failure. We don't need new laws but leaders brave enough to enforce existing ones. Until that happens, communities will continue paying the price for municipal cowardice. Only then will the cry for consequence management become a reality.

development and decision making objectives were mostly partially met with the help of instructor input. However, many children did rise to the occasion, as they learned to trust their own judgment and take initiative. The Problem Solving objective was not achieved by most, but by the end of the course some had successfully met the programme's objectives, showing meaningful growth in both decision-making and problem-solving skills.

Despite facing conflicts and discomfort - such as paddling in the rain and managing camp responsibilities - the groups demonstrated resilience and a willingness to persevere.

It all started out as a Sedgefield Collaboration Initiative that involved community leaders Martie Rooi and Selena Du Plessis, Belinda Rumbelow from Outward Bound, Alison Watson and Kevin Scanes from Lions and Masithandane's Candice Lima, Child and Youth Care Workers and volunteers.

With contributions from Lions Sedgefield in the form of toiletries for each child and shoes and other needed clothing items, provision of transport and more clothing items and administration by Masithandane, and care and oversight of the children by Martie and Selina it all came together and the children and Selina were on their way to camp!

We look forward to a reunion evening at Masithandane in September when reports and videos taken will be shared with the children, as well as a follow-up workshop at Outward Bound in October.

A huge thank you goes to all involved but especially to Deon Snyders, Shirley Oerder and the rest of the team at Outward Bound. The sponsorship Outward Bound received, provided such a wonderful opportunity for our children. To quote Outward Bound: "Seeds of growth have been planted. Only time will reveal the depth of the transformation and the harvest it may yield."

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CLASSI-ADS

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NB. Classified adverts for the next issue need to be in by Monday 10th September 2025. Emailed classies will not be placed without payment

4. Announcements

ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS Sedgefield Acorn Group. 079 323 2085 for details.

BOOKS & COFFEE with homebaked treats. We buy quality 2nd hand books. Free WiFi. Deo Gratia 082 9020 649

Garden refuse removal... your affordable solution in Sedge, Knysna Dial a Drum ... 082 808 5984

Sedgefield Mosaic Tours Masithandane hosts mosaic art tours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. You can hear the stories that inspired the pieces that make up a magical outdoor gallery alongside a water wonderland. Come meet the talented mosaic team, learn about the town's history, people and 'slow town' character. Call or WhatsApp Jacky 0824142133 to book your place.

WANTED:Sedgefield Hospice Shoppe need your second hand goods. Have a clean out and help others with your unwanted items! Please give them a call on 044 343 1722

6. Building & Related Services

All DIY Hardware and Tools available @ Sedgefield Hardware. Tel 044 343 1960

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7. Businesses

PASTEL SALES, setup and training. Call C A Mather Accounting. 044 343 2202 or 083 779 7934

9. Clothing

Embroidered burpers & face cloths - handmade. Mariana 082 7710694

10. Computers

Computers Desktop, Laptop, Network & Internet support. Call Ken Hampson 072 111 7791

12. Education & Tuition

Jolly Juniors Registered Crèche and Aftercare on the Island. Contact Anzele @ 082 058 2988

MUSIC LESSONS Piano, music theory and clarinet. All ages from beginners to advanced. Please contact Ann Carroll on 083 275 7576, adrcarroll@gmail.com

SINGING LESSONS from classical to contemporary, and musical theatre. All welcome. Contact Lynne Brown. 083 660 4749

Supportive Learning for Ages 5 – 12 Is your child struggling with Phonics /Spelling, Reading, Maths? I offer one-on-one assisted learning in fun, friendly and focused sessions. Online or in Studio. Contact Margie on 083 629 9471 to discuss rates and book a free consultation.

13. Electrical

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15. Employment Wanted

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Witness is available for Domestic work. Refs. Call 061 757 5595 or 060 405 4696

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Carpentry

Brown - 073 194 6419 Painting

Domestic

Joyce - 083 774 0992 Ref
Rose - 069 825 4480
Witness - 061 757 5595

Gardening

Alex - 083 691 4627 Refs
Elijah - 060 341 1350 Farming
Karim - 083 774 0992 Refs
Miltonie - 061 137 3580 Painter

18. For Sale

Pine planks - untreated, rough off saw, all sizes. Call 069 404 2039

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19. Home & Garden

AQUAMAN POOL CARE Service Maintenance. Pump Repairs. Call 044 343 3237 / 072 704 2872

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20. Health & Beauty

Aloe Ferox Products whole range in stock @ factory prices. The Aloe Lady : 071 362 0433 @ Wild Oats Market on Saturdays.

Any problems with epilepsy or other disabilities? EPILEPSY SA on 044 382 2155 or visit Off Rio Road, Knysna We can help!

Sedgefield Pharmacy, Woodpecker Mall. Tel 044 343 1628, Fax 343 1110. Mon-Fri 8am-6pm, Sat 8am-1pm, Sun & Pub Holidays 9:30am-12.

Silver Scissors Unisex Hairstylists - 21 Tiptol Street, Sedge. 072 205 7985

22. Home Improvements

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25. Motor Cars/Bikes

Auto Mobile Diagnostics & Services - We collect, service, deliver to you. Call Cecil 083 701 3655

27. Pets & Livestock

All pet food or donations for Animal Welfare 044 384 1603 to be dropped off at Simply Vets or Knysna Vet Clinic.

Knysna Animal Welfare office 044 384 1603, emergency 073 461 9825. (24hrs)

28. Plumbing

Heunis Plumbing & Electrical. All Maintenance & Construction Qualified in both trades COC Certificates. **Solar Geysers.** Call 082 972 3911 manie.heunis@gmail.com

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31. Security

Alarm and Gate Batteries. Tel 3431960

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32. Services Offered

BATHROOM GURU - All alterations. Plumbing, tiling, all fittings, Walk in Showers, Specialised bathrooms for aged /disabled. Anthony 074 708 4738

COP- Community Orientated Policing. Fighting Crime in Sedgefield. 074 506 7242

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Cindy's Cleaning Services - Drop off Maids, Supervised Team Cleans, Holiday Homes. Competitive rates. Contact Casey on 066 068 5851 or email caseyleeowen393@gmail.com

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Attorneys, Conveyancers & Deceased Estates
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Estate no 002909/2024

The First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Accounts in the Deceased Estate:

Surname: **Milburn**
First names: **Ronald**
Identity No: **510514 5047 181**
Last Address: **57 Island Village Paul Kruger Street, Sedgefield 6573 Western Cape.**

First Names of Surviving Spouse: **Geraldine Ann**

Surname of Surviving Spouse: **Milburn**

Identity No: **511026 0053 188**
will be open for inspection at the office of the Master, Cape Town, and the Magistrate's Court Knysna, for a period of **21 days** from the date of the publication of this advertisement.

If no objection is lodged with the Masters during this period, payments will be made in accordance with the accounts.

JORDAAN. VAN WYK ATTORNEYS INC.
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Executor: Anton Jordaan

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JULIANA DELPORT - 80 YEARS YOUNG AND STILL LEADING THE WAY

Twice a week, the Sedgefield community hall hums with chatter, laughter, and the shuffle of yoga mats as 30 women aged from their early 60s to late 80s gather for their workout. Under the watchful eye of 80-year-old Juliana Delport, resistance bands stretch, small weights lift, and spirits rise.

For the next hour, Juliana leads with quiet authority, guiding the group through warm-ups, stretching, weight training, balance drills, resistance bands, and core-strengthening Pilates, both on the floor and from a chair. It's no gentle shuffle; her routines could challenge women decades younger. Yet whether it's stiff hips, sore knees, aching shoulders, or sciatica, she finds a way to keep everyone moving.

For the women who gather here,

the real magic goes beyond exercise. This is a lifeline of friendship, encouragement, and support. Life happens to us all: a cold, a cancer diagnosis, the loss of a loved one. There are joys too: birthdays, new grandchildren, hard-won achievements. In this hall, camaraderie, empathy, and comfort are every bit as valuable as the workout.

"The energy, the vibe, and the goodwill among the group are proof that exercise benefits everyone, no matter your age or condition," Juliana says.

Her involvement in the senior exercise classes began in 2005, shortly after she moved to the Garden Route to join her husband, who ran a construction business. She joined the local exercise class but soon took over the coaching when the former instructor could no longer do it. Juliana's days are anything but sedentary. Between weekly Bible



Juliana Delport is in the centre front, surrounded by some of the senior fitness class members

study groups, twice-weekly exercise classes, and preparing meals for her son's nearby family, she still cycles a 10 km route around Sedgefield Island, where she lives. She also supports friends and family recovering from illness or surgery, guiding them through gentle, targeted exercises.

Regular exercise has always been part of her routine. Earlier in life, she played hockey, badminton, and squash, and joined the aerobic classes that were all the rage a few decades ago.

Her resilience is legendary. In

2008 and again in 2012, she faced aggressive cancer diagnoses. The treatments took their toll on her energy, but she refused to let them derail her commitment. Even during these periods, she showed up to lead the classes. Twenty years on, she rarely misses a beat.

Leading the exercise classes is a voluntary service to the community. Juliana does not receive payment to show up. Participants make an annual donation, which is passed on to a deserving local charity. "It's purely a contribution to the community," she explains. "It's gratifying to see how someone's

movement, posture, and outlook on life can improve with exercise. The feedback I receive is more than enough payment.

Juliana's dedication has created a special space where women come not only to strengthen their bodies but also to nourish their spirits. She is living proof that age is no barrier to making a meaningful impact.

Her philosophy is as inspiring as her energy:

- Only 1% of the world's population reaches the age of 80. If you're still here at this age, you're destined to keep making a difference. Embrace it.
- Keep moving while you can, it keeps you young.
- Be useful to others.

- Push yourself to do a little better every day.
- A healthy mind lives in a healthy body.

As the music starts and the mats are unrolled, the community hall once again fills with movement, laughter, and determination. At the centre of it all stands Juliana Delport, 80 years young, still leading by example, and proving that the best way to stay young is to keep moving. Over the years, she has become more than a coach: she is a motivator, a friend, and a role model.

Through it all, Juliana's faith has been her anchor in times of illness and hardship. "I simply place everything in God's hands," she says.

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INVITATION

You are invited to a tea and introductory talk about our next Bereavement Support Group.

Date: Fri 29 August 2025
Time: 10h00
Place: Knysna Sedgefield Hospice
24 Wilson Str, Hunters Home

RSVP: Linda Lifson 083 680 9620
or Hospice 044 384 0593

Knysna Sedgefield HOSPICE

AFRIFORUM CONTINUES REPAIRS AT DANGEROUS SEDGE INTERSECTION

AfriForum's Knysna branch carried out further repairs to the dangerous intersection of Volstruis Road and Quail Street in Sedgefield on 16 August. This time, another six tons of tar were used to fill the giant potholes.

Volunteers from the Knysna branch, Cape Island Construction and B&V Contractors removed the loose gravel that the Knysna Local Municipality had previously dumped into the holes in a half-hearted attempt to fill the holes. The holes were then sealed with a binder, filled with tar and then compacted. There is one more large hole in the intersection that needs to be repaired.

Instead of supporting community initiatives like such, the Municipality accused AfriForum of illegal actions after the previous repairs at the intersection on 2 August – when this project was initiated. However, AfriForum considers this attack unfair because the Municipality fails to act against

real illegalities, such as the illegal land occupations in Karatara and Sedgefield, stray animals (mainly cattle and goats) that pose a danger to motorists and the ongoing sewage pollution of the Knysna and Sedgefield lakes. These life-threatening issues are simply allowed to continue, but positive actions that contribute to the safety of the community are labelled as illegal. While AfriForum has already tabled solutions and proposals in these cases, the Municipality sits back and makes unfounded accusations.

"It is very clear that there is an unwillingness from the Municipality to acknowledge that they cannot tackle the problems in Knysna alone," says Martinus Erasmus, AfriForum's District Coordinator for the Southern Cape. "AfriForum brings solutions – we do not just complain, but the Municipality would rather point fingers. The Municipality should put their pride in their pockets and admit



that they are not able to solve the problems in Sedgefield themselves and need the community's help."

AfriForum's activities do not deprive the Municipality of their responsibility but rather emphasise that communities even in the Western Cape must wake up and realise that they can no longer depend solely on government, whether nationally or locally.

"We fight against failed structures by pointing out dysfunction and holding

authorities to account, but at the same time we build workable alternatives," says Erasmus.

The Knysna branch will continue to offer sustainable solutions to local problems. Every action is a message: Communities can and will rise when official structures fail. Help AfriForum's Knysna branch complete the repairs at the intersection by joining: Call Erasmus on 081 216 9602 or email for more information. martinus.erasmus@afriforum.co.za

VROUEDAG IN KARATARA

Baie dankie aan al die vroue wat Vrouedag moontlik gemaak het op die 16de Augustus 2025 hier in Proteasaal Karatara.

Ann almal wat deel uitgemaak aan ons mode parade - dankie hulle wat die dag gereël, het Dorris en Chamenta met haar dansers ook baie dankie.

Ons winners vir die dag:

Mej Vrouedag 2025 - Elretha Morris

1ste Prinses - Anna Witbooi 2de Prinses - Brunilda Ferreira
Mej Persoonlikheid - Liena Appels

Dankie aan die gemeenskap en al ons beoordelaars.



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FREE DELIVERIES

KNOW THE SIGNS OF AN ASTHMA EMERGENCY IN CHILDREN

Paediatrician's message to parents and caregivers

A child struggling to breathe is every parent's worst nightmare. With South Africa facing one of the highest asthma rates in the world, this fear is a daily reality for families across every province. Anyone caring for an asthmatic child must know the signs of an asthma attack as a medical emergency and clearly understand how to respond

appropriately when every second counts.

"All caregivers of children with asthma must be provided with clear, written instructions by their treating doctor outlining exactly what to do during an acute exacerbation—a severe and potentially life-threatening asthma attack," says Dr Refiloe Moreke, a paediatrician practising at Netcare Garden City Hospital.

According to the Global Asthma Report, asthma is the most common non-communicable disease among children and adolescents in Africa, yet it remains largely under-diagnosed.

"Acute asthma attacks in children typically present with an expiratory wheeze and varying degrees of respiratory distress. It is important for parents and anyone responsible for caring for children with

diagnosed asthma to recognise these signs early and seek medical help timeously," she says.

Symptoms of respiratory distress:

- Fast breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Worsening cough
- Chest tightness
- Use of muscles in the neck, shoulders and chest that are not usually needed for normal breathing
- Feeling tired or weak
- Trouble feeding, especially in very young children.

Plan of action

"When a child's parents or caregiver recognise the onset of an asthma attack, the first step is to administer the child's quick-relief or bronchodilator medication immediately, and a second dose can be provided 20 minutes later," Dr Moreke says.

"For severe attacks, parents or caregivers should immediately call for an ambulance or transport the child to the nearest emergency department for urgent medical care while initiating quick relief medication," she advises.

Make anyone who cares for your child aware

Parents should alert their child's school or other caregivers if their child has asthma and should share a clear action or treatment plan to be followed in case of an emergency. A list of possible triggers should also be provided, so that they can help the child and others who care for the child avoid possible exposure.

While immediate emergency instructions are vital, managing

asthma daily requires a comprehensive written action plan. This plan details not only the medications your child needs and the correct way to use them but also ensures that caregivers — especially at school — are prepared with enough medication and know how to recognise early warning signs. An effective action plan will bridge the gap between emergency response and everyday care, providing essential protection when parents can't be at their child's side.

Asthma diagnosis in young children

She warns that diagnosing asthma in children can be very challenging, especially in very young children, because many of the symptoms overlap with other respiratory illnesses. Another factor is that younger children may not be able to perform certain diagnostic tests yet.

A thorough history from parents combined with a clinical examination are the most important factors for reaching a diagnosis in childhood asthma.

Providing the doctor with information including any family history of asthma or allergies, and a list of the child's symptoms, like breathing patterns, wheezing, coughing — especially at night, after exercise, or following exposure to allergens like grass, mould, house dust mite or pets, and how long these have been noted, is most helpful.

Confirming an asthma diagnosis is usually based on the demonstration of reversible

PHYSIOTHERAPY
Andrea Lamprecht
WILDERNESS • KNYSNA
SEDGEFIELD 082 457 2472

airflow obstruction with spirometry. This is a test where the patient needs to exhale their full lung capacity through a tube to measure the volume of air and rate of flow as they breathe out. Unfortunately, spirometry cannot be performed in children under five years old, further complicating the diagnosis of such young patients

Identifying and eliminating triggers

"Asthma is easier to manage when parents know what their child is sensitive to and are able to remove these triggers from the child's environment," Dr Moreke says.

Common asthma triggers

- Respiratory infections
- Allergens such as house dust, dust mites, mould, grass, pets, and tobacco smoke
- Changes in temperature or weather, especially in winter or spring
- Physical activity
- Emotions and stress.

Certain triggers can be identified through allergy testing or the appearance of symptoms after exposure to a particular trigger. For triggers that are difficult to avoid, like physical activity, environmental allergens, emotional triggers or upper respiratory tract illnesses, parents should be taught how to adjust their child's asthma medication to help better manage potential flare ups that could occur at any time.

Informed parents, grandparents and caregivers are absolutely

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Christo Matthee 083 769 9313

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Kontak : Kerkkantoor 044 382 6551
Sekretaresse 072 189 0215

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or Paul McMillan 083 273 2601

Church of Christ
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Elohim gemeente
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Peter Lor 076 649 3050

Knysna Presbyterian Church
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Rev Tim Hawkridge
083 324 3562

Lakeside Baptist Church
3 Duiwe Laan
Pastor J D - 066 160 7029
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Karatar: 10.30am
Ds. Marius Coetzee 079 873 3832
Kerkkantoor (044) 343 2033

NG Kerk Die Vleie, Hoekwil
Ds. Dawie le Roux 084 532 9958
Kantoor : 078 965 3651

Pinkster Protestantse Kerk
Ouderling Jakobus Grootboom
078 158 2042
Chris Solomons 071 617 5630

Sedgefield Christian Church
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Pastor Juan & Tammy Pienaar
081 749 2534
info@sedgefieldchurch.co.za

Sedgefield Seventh-day
Adventist Church
Ph 081 270 7212

St Anthony's Catholic Church
Cnr Sysie / Flamingo Streets
Find us on FB Debbie - 083 242 2808

St Francis United Church
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Suid-Kaap Christen Familie
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081 271 1551.
Assist Pastor: André & Soné Rossouw
072 341 7099

Wilderness Christian Fellowship
Pastor: Steve Grewar
044 877 0307 or 083 594 7505

Sedgefield Pluimbalkklub / Badminton Club Kry Besoekers

Op Maandag 13 Augustus 2025 het Sedgefield se pluimbalkklub die Mosselbaai Pluimbalkklub hier by ons verwelkom. Dit was hoog tyd dat ons weer by mekaar kuier, want ons het laas vóór Covid ons rondry ingekort het só iets gedoen.

Because we only have one court, we decided to play a mix and match rather than the two clubs against each other. This took a bit of planning and juggling, but in the end worked out wonderfully. Both clubs consisted of younger and more mature players (in years not necessarily experience or badminton ability!!). It was a fine adventure to tackle this new challenge head on.

Ons was natuurlik in albei klubs ook geseënd met spelers met minder en/of meer ervaring en vaardighede, maar juis dit het die

hele aand so aangeneem gemaak. Jy speel sáám met iemand wat jy ken en dan weer saam met 'n onbekende spanmaat. Dan weer téén bekendes en vreemdes – Groot pret! Dit het meegebring dat elke volgende spel 'n nuwe, genotvolle ontdekkingsreis was.

Who won? Everybody! We all had a good time and it could be seen in the atmosphere of the evening. “We must do this again!”; somebody remarked. And that led to a promise of a “rematch”, the next time in Mosselbaai.

Ons is opreg dankbaar teenoor die Voorsisters van Sedgefield



L: Sedgefield Pluimbalkklub R: Mosselbaai Pluimbalkklub

en Mosselbaai se klubs vir al die reëlins wat hulle getref het. Ons dank gaan ook aan Tjaart en Pick n Pay Sedgefield vir die verversing wat hulle geborg het en aan die dames van Sedgefield se klub vir die verversings, wat hulle gebring het.

Thank you to all who participated and contributed to

the evening's enjoyment. Although Sedgefield Badminton Club is not a big club – in numbers – it is a great club – in spirit and friendship and joy!

As jy wil deel word van ons klub / to join us contact Tokkie by 082 449-0673.

Tokkie Hartslief
(Voorsitster/Chairperson)

DALIN IN SEDGE FOR A FEW SHOWS ONLY

by Melanie Baumeister

South African Comedian, Dalin Oliver, is returning to Sedgefield with his multi-award-winning, globe-trotting, one-man, stand-up comedy show, '90 Day Comedian'. You can see him live, at one of two shows at In Toto Retreat in Sedgefield, on Sunday, 7 September. Dalin has been a regular on our entertainment scene since 2016 and these tickets are snapped up fast!

Dalin is fresh from performing at the prestigious Melbourne International Comedy Festival,

and can't wait to dive into themes of identity, culture, and belonging— offering an hilarious yet moving reflection on what it means to be proudly South African in a world that often misunderstands our people, culture, rich heritage and diversity.

A former high school teacher turned laughter specialist, Dalin's sharp wit and infectious charm has won over audiences around the world, following performances of this show in seven countries and 19 cities outside South Africa - including Australia, Ireland, the Netherlands, England, France, Spain, and Germany.

Show accolades include:

- Fringe World - Best Weekly Comedy Show Award (Perth, Australia, 2024).

- Bronze Standard Bank Ovation Award (National Arts Festival, Makhanda, South Africa, 2024).

- Comics Choice Comedy Awards, Best Solo Show Nominee (South Africa, 2024 & 2025).

'Deep cultural connection in the guise of a great conversation with an interesting guy at the bar.'

½ Fringefeed (Australia).

'A masterclass in relatability and humor, leaving everyone in the room feeling like they had just shared something special with an old friend.'

½ Last Minute Craic

(Ireland).

Experience an event of laughter, stories, and the celebration of what connects us all—through the eyes of one of SA's brightest comedy voices.

Catch this star comedian live at In Toto Retreat, 55 Jan van Riebeck Street, The Island on Sunday 7 September at 15:00 for a matinee show (R170) or at 19:00 for the show and dinner (R370) catered by Yegusha Catering Company team with a complementary glass of wine from Ur-bin Cellar.

Book with Russell (079 379 3233) or Roland (069 511 1964).

SEDGE CHESS PLAYER TAKES 2ND PLACE

The Eden Open Chess tournament took place in Oudtshoorn on Saturday 23 August 2025. The tournament was divided into four sections, Championship, Advanced, Intermediate and Under 12. Each section played five rounds.

Sedgefield local, Terry Quirk, was placed 2nd in the Advanced section. Terry was also the most senior player at

this event.

The Sedgefield Chess Club currently meets on Wednesdays at 17:30 at the Spar coffee shop

Should you require further information about the tournament you may contact Terry on 083 276 3875



SOCIAL BRIDGE CLUB

Thurs 31st July.
1st Carol & Shirley 76.6%
2nd Christel & Willem 71.6%
Thurs 7th Aug
1st Brian & Clive 56.2%
2nd Christel & Willem 53.1%
3rd Terry & Gail F. 50.0%
Thurs 21st Aug.
1st. Diana & Maryke 62.5%
2nd equal Terry & Gail F
Johann & Thinus 53.1%

SEDGEFIELD BRIDGE CLUB

28 JULY :
1 63.6% Pam & Colin
2 63.1% Irene & Terry
3= 52.9% Ann & Robyn / Paddy & Bernard
4 AUGUST :
1 68.7% Ann & Robyn
2 56.2% Paddy & Bernard
3 52.0% Brian & Clive
11 AUGUST :
1= 60.0% Irene & Linda / Paddy & Bernard
3 47.5% Paul & Rodney
18 AUGUST :
1= 55.0% Paddy & Bernard / Paul & Rodney
3 50.0% Carol & Robyn

The Wine Ghost

The Wine Ghost tasted – Nuy Colombar 2023

The front label has the cellar and varietal's names prominently printed on a dull background. There is a concise description of the wine on the back label. Abv. 12.5%

The wine's appearance is clear and very light coloured, with lots of short legs. On the nose no flaws could be found. Aromas of a fruit salad, containing raisins, peaches, mangoes and bananas were experienced.

It is a well balanced wine with flavours of fruit salad, and a touch of lemon carrying through. The Colombar has a short mouth feel and tastes left in the mouth are banana, sprinkled with lemon juice and a hint of minerality.

It is a good companion for a creamy seafood, or any other mild curry dish. The price range is R80 – R100. **In Vino Veritas till next time.**



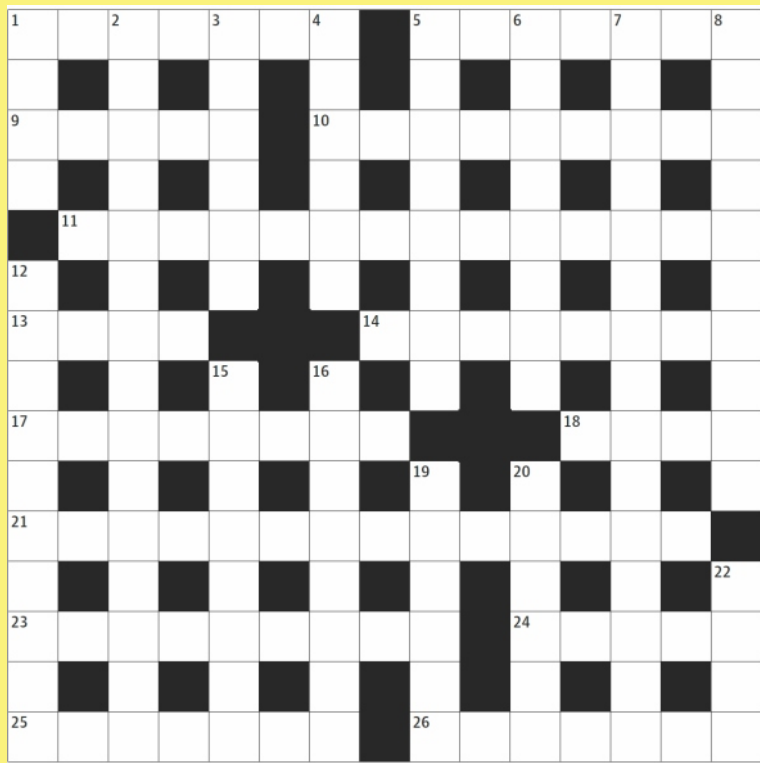
TED'S BRAIN CRUNCHER

Across.

1. Limpet I took apart to make a different mine. (4,3)
5. It turned car dents into good news! (7)
9. Gee, I heard I was ahead of Joseph as a kid's hero? (2,3)
10. Hurt, I came round feverish. (9)
11. 'Merci' for the Mafia? (9,5)
13. The area where orbs are kept, so we heard. (4)
14. In the end, she and I are included, though somewhat inter-twined. (8)
17. Exposed - he was given a second serving of new beef. (8)
18. Old politicians went back to find him. (4)
21. Steering it carelessly in the outside lane may be the cause of indigestion. (5,9)
23. Seabird guilt about the murdered mole. (9)
24. Felt the fabric announcement in natural harbours. (5)
25. Ron's at one about his daily food allowance. (7)
26.. Dexterousness is, we gather, very little. (7)

Down

1. Learn to be almost huge on the ice track. (4)
2. Court ruling to evict dirty Major quite surprising. (8,7)
3. Before being 'brill', houses were made in advance. (6)
4. Vegetable Pi.
5. The Rowan Atkinson fall guy



is nothing but a comic. (3,5)
6. Courtier does 'calm suffering' under the sword! (8)
7. All the same, it comes with sitting room, and that's it! (15)
8. Reaching that level of being next in the line. (10)
12. One looking forward to stardom! (10)
15. A line for pieman's relief, perhaps in London. (8)

Across: 1. Prophetic 6. High 8. Flamenco 9. Ocular 10. Frosty 11. Go steady 12. Raised 15. Tree frog 16. Showroom 19. Trauma 21. Ellipses 22. Cliffs 24. Cliffs 25. Aeration 26. Bear 27. Registrar
Down: 1. Polar 2. Osmosis 3. Henry 4. Thought 5. Crows feet 6. House of 7. Guard room 13. Ash blonde 17. Weirder 18. Mustang 20. Alister 22. Cards 23. Flour

THE SPORTS EDGE

LADIES' GOLF

Club Report

Friday, 15 August

Eleven determined ladies gathered on the deck undeterred by the threat of rain. After a few quick stretches and some cheerful banter, we headed out—Individual Stableford was the game for the day. And what a surprise! The weather turned out to be near-perfect for golf—cool but comfortable, with no wind and not a drop of rain in sight. What more could we ask for? Well... a hole in one wouldn't go amiss (though we would happily settle for a birdie or two!).

RESULTS

1st Place: Elize Mackenzie-Blom (39 points)
2nd Place: Linda Evans (36 points) count out
3rd Place: Joy Herbst (36 points)

NEAREST THE PIN

0-16 handicaps: Marina van der Westhuizen
17 upwards: Christine Coetzee
BIRDIES
Marina van der Westhuizen (4)
Joy Herbst (15)
Elize Mackenzie-Blom played 3 under her handicap

Friday, 22 August

Twelve ladies weathered the gusty windy conditions. Most enjoyed the multiplication Stableford format, and

all were still talking to their partners after the game!

1st Place

Charlene Blacker and Sylvia de Moor won with a mammoth 80 points
2nd Place
Brenda Howden and Joy Herbst were second on 64 points on a count-out to Marina van der Westhuizen and Clare Garner.

NEAREST THE PIN HANDICAPS 16 & BELOW

Marina van der Westhuizen (15th)
Marina van der Westhuizen (7th)
Joy Herbst (13th)
Sylvia de Moor (1st)
Brenda Howden (4th)
Sylvia de Moor played 4 under her handicap and Brenda Howden 1 under hers.
Well played all!



SEDGEFIELD GENTS' GOLF

Club Report

Thursday, 14 August

As the club members arrived to play on another bitterly cold morning, the Captain Brian Gerard decided to lighten the day by conversing on subjects unrelated to golf. He said that though many wives have complained that their husbands never listen to them, he has never heard his wife say that. The club is blessed to have such a benevolent and merciful captain at the helm. Brian has mentioned how proud he is to have lost 6 kg recently, but that is rather like the good ship Queen Mary losing a deck chair. The day's competition was IPS and some great scores were recorded in spite of the weather. The club was also happy to welcome the return of Andre de Wet who now resides for part of the year in the USA. Great to see him back and even greater to report that his accent remains totally dissimilar to that of Mr Trump. He (Andre, not Donald) finished third on the day with 35 points. In first place, after an outstanding game was Henry Crowther with 40 points, followed very closely by Glen Mauchline with 39. One of the problems that a golfer faces if he plays on the same course every week is that on the tee, he will grab the same club week after week out of sheer habit. To counteract this the captain announced that the

next week's competition would be IPS but cross country. What happens here is that every tee has a different green to shoot at. For instance, the first tee plays at the 2nd green and so forth. All players would receive a map of the new course before play starts, and choosing the correct club for the new distance will be a mentally challenging exercise which actually leads to a lot of fun on the course. With the SGC age group you may call this competition "Mentally challenging for the mentally challenged".

Thursday, 21 August

As we always strive to assist struggling golfers with their game, we offer this sage advice. Please note that a ball always travels further if hit in the wrong direction. And you should also remember that a golfing optimist is someone who always sees the bright side of someone else's misfortune. There is no need to thank us. The day's IPS cross country competition was played on a relatively warm day. The scores, however, were really hot for some of the players. Firstly, there was the 42 pointer gained by Glenn Mauchline which was almost met by the 40 achieved by Brian Stewart, who in his lifetime has never had so many points. In third spot was Bill Craig with 36. He says he would have scored more but had spent most of the day avoiding balls aimed at him. In fourth spot was Peter Schnetler with another good score of 35.

Off the Mat

Sedge Bowling Club News



Important News

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Franci Stewart on Friday 22nd August. Franci has been a member of our club for the past 10 years. She will be dearly missed and fondly remembered. We extend our condolences to her family.



Mixed pairs winners Brian Concannon and Merle de Kock

We would like to welcome new member Wessie van der Westhuizen and wish him many years of happy bowling in Sedgefield.

Club News

The final of the mixed pairs was played on Tuesday 12th and was won by Brian Concannon and Merle de Kock. Well done to all participants.

On Sunday we hosted members from the Wilderness bowling club for a fun morning of bowls followed by a braai. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Our annual Shell Day sponsored by Shell Garage Sedgefield takes place on the 4th September.

Eden News

The first day of the Eden Men's and Ladies League kicked off on Saturday and both our men premier and ladies 1st teams are lying top of the log. Keep up the good work.

That's a wrap see ya'll "on the mat"

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NEXT EDGE: Wednesday 10 September 2025 - Issue 723

PLEASE NOTE OUR DEADLINES

(Careful, they tend to fly by VERY quickly)

Display Ads: Email editor@edgenews.co.za by 8 September 2025
Classifieds: (Stuff for sale, jobs, get-rich-quick schemes, secret treasure hints) Email accounts@edgenews.co.za by Monday 4 September 2025

KINDLY NOTE: Due to the epic craziness of life as we currently know it, our EDGE office may not always be open. Please call 072 516 4701

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TIDE TABLE

27 Aug - 9 Sept 2025

● Full Moon 7 September 2025

Wed Aug 27 2025
low tides 11:28 23:57
high tides 05:39 17:51
sunrise 06:53 sunset 18:07
moonrise 08:49 moonset 22:17

Thu Aug 28 2025
low tide 11:54
high tides 06:05 18:16
sunrise 06:52 sunset 18:08
moonrise 09:15 moonset 23:16

Fri Aug 29 2025
low tides 00:25 12:20
high tides 06:32 18:44
sunrise 06:51 sunset 18:09
moonrise 09:45 moonset -

Sat Aug 30 2025
low tides 00:56 12:50
high tides 07:01 19:16
sunrise 06:50 sunset 18:09
moonrise 10:18 moonset 00:14

Sun Aug 31 2025
low tides 01:34 13:33
high tides 07:42 20:08
sunrise 06:48 sunset 18:10
moonrise 10:57 moonset 01:14

Mon Sep 01 2025
low tides 02:39 15:29
high tides 09:16 22:08
sunrise 06:47 sunset 18:11
moonrise 11:44 moonset 02:12

Tue Sep 02 2025
low tides 06:11 18:35
high tide 12:46
sunrise 06:46 sunset 18:11
moonrise 12:37 moonset 03:07

Wed Sep 03 2025
low tides 07:20 19:26
high tides 00:38 13:32
sunrise 06:44 sunset 18:12
moonrise 13:38 moonset 03:58

Thu Sep 04 2025
low tides 07:56 20:03
high tides 01:32 14:05
sunrise 06:43 sunset 18:13
moonrise 14:42 moonset 04:42

Fri Sep 05 2025
low tides 08:26 20:37
high tides 02:10 14:35
sunrise 06:42 sunset 18:13
moonrise 15:50 moonset 05:21

Sat Sep 06 2025
low tides 08:55 21:10
high tides 02:44 15:05
sunrise 06:40 sunset 18:14
moonrise 16:58 moonset 05:55

Sun Sep 07 2025
low tides 09:24 21:43
high tides 03:50 16:10
sunrise 06:39 sunset 18:15
moonrise 18:06 moonset 06:26

Mon Sep 08 2025
low tides 09:54 22:18
high tides 04:24 16:44
sunrise 06:36 sunset 18:16
moonrise 19:14 moonset 06:55

Tue Sep 09 2025
low tides 10:25 22:53
high tides 04:24 16:44
sunrise 06:36 sunset 18:16
moonrise 20:24 moonset 07:24

SEDGEFIELD TENNIS NEWS

The monthly Men's Monday challenge was played on the 4th of August with a full house comprising 12 players on a perfect afternoon for tennis.

The tennis was enjoyed by all with Francois Hay and Martin Rainbow coming out on top and a group of three finishing third. As always competitive tennis was played in good spirit.

A huge thank you must go to Len Dekker for organising a well run afternoon.

Sedgefield Tennis Club is a very sociable Club and all members of the community are welcome to join us.

Club Championships start on the 20th of September and entries are looking good thanks to a new format being played. All are welcome to come and watch with the finals due to be played on Saturday /Sunday 11th /12th October, weather permitting.

