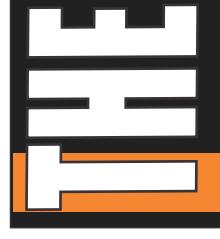


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## COMMUNITY STANDS AGAINST MURDER SUSPECT'S BAIL

The Garden Route community remains gripped by the tragic murder of former Plettenberg Bay detective Anneke "Nicky" van Heerden, as her alleged killer, 53-year-old local driftwood artist Bevan van Druten, formerly of Sedgefield, returned to court on Monday 26 January for a bail hearing. Unfortunately proceedings were stalled and the decision as to whether or not he will be allowed out on bail was pushed to Thursday, 29 January.

According to a SAPS report, Van Heerden's fatally injured body was found at approximately 22.30 on 18 January, at Keurbooms Beach near Rivertides, after reports of a woman screaming had been made by neighbours. She was lying beside a vehicle registered to Van Druten.

The artist was arrested the following morning and charged with murder at his first court appearance on January 21.

The bail hearing was set for Monday, 26 January, in Plettenberg Bay Magistrate's Court, but when Van Druten's attorney, Carl Jeppe, declined to represent him, the accused requested a state-appointed Legal Aid attorney. Due to this switch, Magistrate Zukiswa Hans postponed the hearing for two days to allow his new counsel time to prepare his defense.

The state had sought a district surgeon referral for observation, but withdrew it after the magistrate noted no prior court order existed. Prosecutors continue to oppose bail fiercely, citing the case's severity.

Van Druten knew his alleged victim. The pair had recently begun a romantic relationship, and she had reportedly introduced him to her family earlier the same weekend.

Outside the court, protesters rallied against gender-based violence with placards reading words such as 'No Bail, Only Jail,' and 'Justice for Alaska' (Van Heerden's nickname).

With the fight against crimes perpetrated on women and children supposedly a top priority in South Africa, many are asking why Van Druten had not been arrested previously, with at least five protection orders against him by local women for years of alleged harassment, intimidation, threats, and physical violence, which left a number of women traumatised.

Two of these court orders resulted from his assault of three ladies in Sedgefield after they had moved into a house on The Island, directly opposite Van Druten, in January 2023.

They agreed to tell us their story on condition of anonymity.

"He (Van Druten) had only lived there a few weeks when he went away for five days, leaving his dogs without food or water," one of the ladies told us, "After we were alerted by their incessant barking, we managed to organise their feeding, but we did report him to Sedgefield Animal Matters."

Little did the women know that this would be a catalyst for the escalation of crazed behaviour, with Van Druten verbally abusing them over the fence at every opportunity. On the evening of 22



Protesters brought placards to Plettenberg Bay Magistrates' Court on Monday 26 January 2026, hoping that their painted words might send a powerful message to those officiating at the first bail hearing of murder suspect Bevan van Druten.

November things took a turn for the worse. He arrived at their gate and began shouting abuse. When one of the ladies went out to ask him to stop, he violently shoved the gate into her chest. She slapped him in retaliation and suddenly he was all over her - punching her in the face, grabbing her hair, throwing her to the pavement, and then kicking her whilst she lay helpless. When her friend attempted to come to her rescue, she too was manhandled to the ground, causing a bad break to her hand which later required surgery.

SAPS were called, but when a lone officer arrived, Van Druten had already retreated into his own home, where his dogs made it difficult for the uniformed man to gain access.

Though a case was opened, the intimidation continued into January 2024. On one occasion Van Druten obstructed their driveway, standing in front of their vehicle as they tried to leave, and 'staring them down'. It was only intervention from members of Sedgefield COP and, eventually, SAPS Knysna's tactical team that allowed the traumatised women to exit their car and head back into the house.. He was arrested by the Tactical Team and the women were granted protection orders against him the next day in Knysna.

When his case got to court, one of the victims was informed that the docket containing much of the evidence against Van Druten had been misplaced. She told them she would not continue in court until it was located.

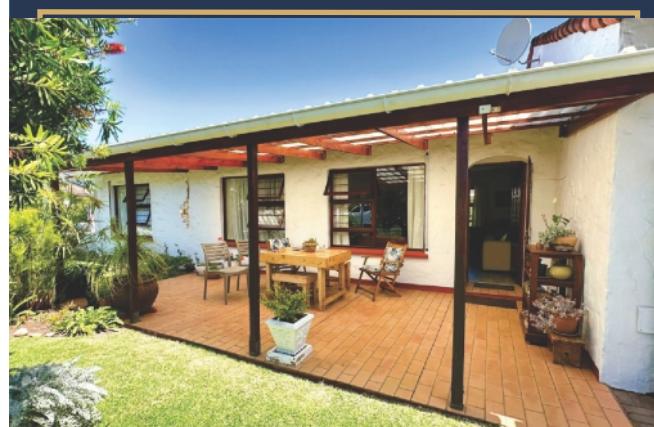
In July last year she was once again contacted by the state prosecution, stating they were ready for his trial, but at that stage she only wanted to move on with her life. "That chapter had already left me totally traumatised," she explained, "By then we had relocated, and I just couldn't face looking at him across the court room. So I said no!"

Van Druten had also meanwhile relocated from Sedgefield - It is believed that the barrage of complaints raised by residents

living around him on The Island resulted in his eventual move to Plettenberg Bay.

The current murder case returns to the Magistrates Court tomorrow (Thursday, 29 January) for Van Druten's formal bail hearing, with both sides preparing amid heightened scrutiny. Legal opinion is that Magistrate Hans - who is known to be tough on crimes of a violent nature - will more than likely turn down requests for bail if compelling evidence to the contrary is not presented.

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*Murder accused Bevan van Druten (Source - Face Book)*

# Notes from T'Ed's Head

I'm not responsible!

never will be, *that* sort of responsible.

In fact, quite the opposite. If there were ever the need to depict the word 'irresponsibility' in human form, I would be the poster boy.

"That's all very well," you say (and thank you for showing an interest where so many wouldn't), "But why are you choosing now to make such a bold and (dare I say) courageous announcement?"

I guess there are a few reasons - but here I present the top 3, M'lud.:-

**Reason 1.** I am turning sixty (much, much later) this year (I know! It IS hard to believe, especially when I don't look a day over forty) and to be honest, I'm tired of TRYING (and failing) to be responsible. It is exhausting, isn't it? Remembering birthdays, making sure the car has enough petrol in, knowing how much money is left in the bank account (or... ummm... overdraft), ensuring the same bills are paid every month, not putting a high priority on beer... I don't know how all of you responsible people do it, I really don't.

**Reason 2.** I have come to terms with my own limitations. Let me explain this with a story, if I may:- When I turned 21, my parents presented me with a Yamaha, steel-string acoustic guitar. Very nice indeed. They had clearly recognised my

In other words, whilst I, T'Ed, have often been referred to as "The one RESPONSIBLE for the ... (delete the inapplicable) chaos/damage/mess/empty fridge/missing cheese/dent in the door of my mother's Renault 4, all of the above, I don't ever remember hearing the words 'He's a RESPONSIBLE sort of fellow,' coming from anyone looking in my general direction.

I never have been, and probably



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or

*"Oh ... did I mention that you'll need to be at home for the next five days, watching the gate every single second that God sends, to sign for the courier deliveries of the 11 skirts, 27 bras, three pairs of shoes, a special knitting gizmo, fifteen silicon thingies that I probably won't actually remember the use of, 14m of special adhesive tape that's so strong it will solve everything that is wrong in our lives, and the six-egg-boiler (free, because I'm a top-tier customer), that I ordered from Temu. Why? Oh, because I ordered them under your name - you know I never put my signature on anything - it's dangerous."*

or

*"My cousin's wife's aunt's step daughter's twin girl's boyfriend's sister - the one with the ... er ... 'problems' I told you about? You know, through the toilet door, that day soon after The REE's first day at high school? The one who SAPS released on a technicality...? (Don't you EVER listen when I speak?) Anyway -*

or

*"My cousin's wife's aunt's step daughter's twin girl's boyfriend's sister - the one with the ... er ... 'problems' I told you about? You know, through the toilet door, that day soon after The REE's first day at high school? The one who SAPS released on a technicality...? (Don't you EVER listen when I speak?) Anyway -*

or

*"she's having some sort of car insurance problems, apparently, so I said shame, man, she could put it in your name. She says, could you phone her broker and make an appointment before next Friday, because they want to get it done before their camping weekend?"*

or

*"No. Not anymore. Not in 2026,*

*This is the year that things change. No more responsibility. No more demands of adult behaviour. (see! I didn't even use Spell-Cheque, there!). This is the*

year I have set the bar at ground level, with my personal expectations somewhere beneath!

Now I have to go, because there's a courier van at the gate. No. Not for Mrs Ed.

I think it's the ukulele I ordered through Takealot.

(I'll let you know the dates of my first tour.)

***I'd be mad if I didn't!***

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# SEDGE CENTRAL TO CHOO TJOE REVIVAL

On Monday 26 January, Alan McVitty, CEO of Classic Rail, the successful tenderer for the return of the Outeniqua Choo Tjoe, told all present at the Sedgefield Ratepayers AGM that Sedgefield Station is set to become the main steam train hub for the service that will operate on the George / Knysna Line. To this end, a new turntable and running workshop will be built north of the current station.

A Choo Tjoe progress update was issued the following day by Martin Hatchuel

The George / Knysna Railway Line was built between 1925 and 1928, so is now 100 years old and a privilege to restore.

Afri-Track, under the leadership of Johan Laubscher, Dawie Moller and Leon Steyn, is Classic Rail's track contractor. This company has one team on site clearing the vegetation from the rail reserve – initially five metres on either side of the centerline of the rail.

This team began working at the Sedgefield station in December, and has now reached the 12 km mark. The cleared material has been stored along the outside of the cleared area, for later chipping and composting. This is an important process as the dead vegetation could pose a fire risk.

Members of the team on site report that on average one in four wooden sleepers will need replacing, but that the majority of them are still sound, despite being 100 years old. The project has broken into two phases: Phase 1: The Waterfront Express – the Sedgefield / Knysna line; and Phase 2: The Museum Limited – from Sedgefield to the George Railway Museum.

Classic Rail has exclusive rail access to the Museum Railway Platform.

## BACKGROUND WORK

The remainder of the Classic Rail team is working in the background, to select and restore locomotives and heritage carriages. Preparation for the development and restoration of all the historic properties along the line is also underway.

## RAIL REGULATOR

Classic Rail's Daleen Endley and Carol Anne Matseba have helped secure the Rail Safety Permit from the Rail Regulator to clear and later operate the line.

## FAIRLIE PROJECTS

Shaun Ackerman, of Fairlie Projects, is preparing a refurbishment plan for all the Outeniqua Choo Tjoe Locomotives. (Shaun has a long history with the previous Gauteng-based Reef Steamers.)

Initially, two 19 D locomotives currently stabled in the LA Workshop at the George Railway Museum will be road hauled to Fairlie's Germiston Workshop for restoration. One will be restored as a coal-fired steam engine, and the other will be converted to an oil-fired steam engine – this will accommodate Fire Risk Days as determined by the Local Fire Chief on a daily basis.

On completion, these locos will be road-hauled back to Knysna.

One Class 32 diesel locomotive will be refurbished at the LA Workshop and then road-hauled to the Knysna / Sedgefield Line and will operate as an overall back up locomotive as and when required.

The remaining steam locomotives (as allocated to the Outeniqua Choo Tjoe Concession) are currently

stabled at Voorbaai, and will be rail-hauled to the George Railway Museum Yard in due course. They will then be repaired as and when required, together with the other Class 32 Diesel Loco.

All the relevant Outeniqua Choo Tjoe spares currently at Voorbaai will also be transferred to George LA Workshop.

This work will commence shortly when all paperwork with Transnet Heritage is completed.

## LE ROUX CARRIAGE PROJECTS

Les Le Roux is a cabinet carpenter and builder who recently undertook the refurbishment of the luxury carriages for the Kruger Shalati Train Hotel on the Bridge at Skukuza in the Kruger National Park. He will be responsible for the refurbishment of all the Outeniqua Choo Tjoe's 3rd class side-door carriages which are currently stabled at the George Railway Museum.

These carriages will be repositioned from the Museum Platform to the LA Workshop where they will be completely refurbished and redecorated. On completion, they will be road-hauled to Knysna via Humansdorp because of the current roadworks at Wilderness.

## SEDGEFIELD STATION

Concept drawings for the Sedgefield Station development are being prepared by Shaun Ackerman, and will be finalised by heritage architect Henry Paine, who will also contribute to the redevelopment of all the heritage properties along the George / Knysna line.

The Owen and Donavon McCullum building team will be responsible for the construction



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and refurbishment of these heritage assets. Owen and Donovan built the Phantom Forest Eco Reserve that was destroyed in the 2017 Knysna fire.

## OTHER WORK IN PROGRESS

The status of all bridge repairs, and the appointment of the

Outeniqua Choo Tjoe operations and marketing team are considered works in progress at this stage, and Classic Rail will report back on these aspects of the project in due course.

## SPECIAL THANKS

The company extends a special thanks to Cathy Averienos and Pam Booth who are guiding the

environmental process, as well as to Knysna's Dudley Isaacs, who has made himself helpful in many different ways.

Further updates will be posted on Facebook @classicrailgardenroute and to the company's website: www.outeniquachootjoe.com

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# Talking Conservation

## Drie Valleyen

### Responsible Environmental Citizenship

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

South Africa is a country rich in biodiversity, from its iconic wildlife to its diverse ecosystems and, we who are staying in the Garden Route can attest to that. Yet, we face pressing environmental challenges such as pollution, deforestation, water scarcity, land grabs, industrial and residential developments, and climate change. To address these issues, your responsible environmental citizenship is essential. Responsible environmental citizenship emphasizes the role of individuals, ordinary citizens, in safeguarding our fragile environment through everyday actions and collective responsibility.

Section 24 of our Constitution guarantees everyone the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being and obliges the state to protect the environment for future generations through reasonable measures such as laws and the creation of nature reserves and protected areas.

However, protecting the environment is not only the duty of government institutions but also of ordinary citizens, communities, and businesses. With our constitutionally guaranteed environmental rights comes a responsibility. To be a responsible environmental citizen in South Africa is to **act with awareness, accountability, and commitment**. Every small action—whether conserving water, recycling, supporting conservation or reporting environmental crimes, contributes to a healthier environment. By embracing sustainable practices at work, at play or at home we can ensure that our natural heritage thrives, not only for our health and well-being, but also for generations to come.

Recent surveys show that South Africans are increasingly aware

of environmental issues, however, there is still a gap between awareness and consistent eco-friendly behaviour. Many citizens express concern about climate change, pollution, and degradation of the environment, yet daily practices such as recycling and energy conservation and participation remain limited. Being a responsible environmental citizen is not about perfection—it is about **small, consistent actions** that add up to important change.

Our environmental challenges are numerous. Urbanisation, with its concomitant rapid development, often leads to habitat destruction and increased pollution. Poverty and unemployment push sustainability into second place to address survival needs and while laws exist, enforcement is uneven. These concerns require convincing responsibility and collaboration between government and responsible citizens.

In our immediate environment we can do, and promote the following:

#### Waste Reduction & Recycling

- Separate household waste into recyclables, compostables, and non-recyclables.
- Support community recycling initiatives and reduce single-use plastics.
- Donate or repurpose old clothes and furniture instead of throwing them away.

*Think of waste as a resource waiting to be reused. Reduce, reuse, recycle, repurpose.*

#### Water Conservation

- Fix or report water leaks immediately.
- Use water-efficient appliances, and practice mindful consumption every day.
- Harvest rainwater and reuse greywater where possible.

*Remember: South Africa is one of the most water-scarce countries in the world. We are experiencing a drought, every drop counts!*

#### Energy Efficiency

- Switch to renewable energy sources like solar panels.
- Reduce electricity consumption by using energy-efficient appliances and turning off unused devices.
- Carpool, cycle, or use public transport to cut down on emissions.

*Energy saved today means a healthier planet tomorrow.*

#### Biodiversity Protection

- Avoid purchasing products that contribute to deforestation or illegal wildlife trade.
- Support conservation projects and respect protected areas.
- Plant indigenous or be a purist and plant endemic to this area.
- Identify and remove alien invasive species on your property and inform others about theirs.

*Every tree planted is a gift to future generations.*

#### Community Engagement

- Participate in clean-up campaigns, tree-planting drives, and environmental awareness programs.
- Educate others about sustainable practices.
- Be a watchdog for environmental crimes.
- Influence others to become responsible environmental citizens.

Being a responsible environmental citizen is not about doing everything perfectly; it is about **doing something every day**. Imagine if every citizen saves just five litres of water daily or recycles one plastic bottle or picks up one piece of litter, we will make a massive impact.

Your actions inspire others. When you choose to live sustainably, you are not just protecting nature, you are **building a legacy of hope and resilience** for South Africa and specifically for our town. The environment does not need superheroes - it needs ordinary people making extraordinary choices.

*Start small, stay consistent, and remember you are part of the solution, promote sustainable development, protect your environment, and motivate others.*

# GREAT STRIDES FOR SEABRIDGE

2026, will see Seabridge's first fully-fledged cohort of fourteen Grade 12 students take their final exams.

In 2024 and 2025, there were two small groups of Grade 12 students at the school (five and two respectively), who completed the required number of exams to qualify for a matric equivalent, but this year is our "coming of age" result. Our past students all did well, indeed, we are happy to report that two of them will be attending Queensland University in Australia this year, and one is in his second year at UCT. Moreover, our recent external exam results are most encouraging. The bulk of the 56 exams written in October/November 2025 were for IGCSE courses and from the fine outcome we can look forward to a solid set of AS results this year.



Unlike the case with the National Senior Certificate (CAPS) - where all of the exams that make for a matric are written at the end of Grade 12, in the Cambridge system the equivalent of a matric is built up over two years; first by passing some IGCSE exams in Grade 11, and then by passing the main AS exams in Grade 12.

Seabridge School was established in 2021 and has

grown steadily over the last five years. The school offers a broad range of subjects to provide for an education that allows our students to follow careers in the humanities as well as the sciences, but always with a sense of a deeper understanding of the environment and how to sustain it. Hence, our focus on Marine Science as a centrepiece in the school's activities.

## TURTLE RESCUE NETWORK ROADSHOW

by Mark Dixon

**In February, the Two Oceans Aquarium Foundation will be conducting their annual roadshow in the Garden Route with information on the correct procedures to rescue and transport stranded marine turtles found along the shoreline.**



The Turtle Rescue Network has been instrumental in a series of successful rescues involving members of the public, conservation organisations and ocean focused marine NGO's.

Annually, between February and August, turtle hatchlings wash up along the shoreline between PE and False Bay. There are two species of hatchlings, loggerhead and leatherback turtles, that travel in the south flowing Agulhas current from their hatching grounds in northern KwaZulu-Natal.

The correct rescue response is to gently lift the turtles from the beach and place them in a dry, well ventilated box, preferably on a dry paper towel or facecloth. Once stabilised in this manner, rescuers can contact the Turtle Rescue Network number or their local rescue organisation to arrange collection and transport to rehabilitation facilities at either the Two Oceans Aquarium in Cape Town or Bay World in Gqeberha.

Turtle hatchlings usually wash up after strong winds and storms, and do so for a number of reasons. Following strong easterly winds, an upwelling event can occur, resulting in a rapid decline in ocean temperatures, which stun the

**What to do if you find a washed up turtle hatchling.**

- Do not return to the ocean.
- Lift carefully, supporting from underneath, and place in dry, well ventilated box or container. Place on a dry paper towel or cloth.
- Contact the Turtle Rescue Network hotline or local marine rescue organisation to arrange collection and transport to a rehab center.

#### SAVE THE DATE

Date : 17th February

Time : 09h00 to 15h00

Venue : Red Roof, Scarab Arts & Crafts Village, Sedgefield.

#### Who to contact for turtle Rescues between Buffalo Bay and Wilderness.

- Turtle Rescue Network hotline : 083 300 1663
- Strandloper Project : 082 213 5931
- Sedgefield Stranding Network : 083 2717324
- SANParks : 082 269 5007
- Cape Nature : 044 383 0043

Visit the Turtle Rescue Network workshop to learn how you can sponsor a turtle rehab.

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## KNYSNA STRIVING TO AVOID 'DAY ZERO'

Knysna Municipality has significantly intensified its water security interventions as part of an ongoing, coordinated effort to avoid Day Zero and to stabilise the municipal water system amid sustained pressure on water supply.

While infrastructure interventions are being accelerated, the most immediate and effective way to stabilise the system remains responsible water use by all residents, businesses and visitors.

A range of operational, technical and planning measures are currently underway, supported by daily coordination through the Joint Operations Centre (JOC) and close collaboration with provincial and national departments. These efforts are further supported through ongoing technical assistance and coordination with the Western Cape Department of Local Government.

Knysna Executive Mayor, Cllr Thando Matika, said the municipality is deploying every available resource and exploring all possible interventions to safeguard Knysna's water supply. "We are facing one of the most challenging water periods in recent years, but Knysna is working around the clock to protect its water supply. Every current intervention is aimed at

buying us time, strengthening infrastructure and reducing demand. However, the success of these efforts ultimately depends on how responsibly every resident and business uses our available water," he said.

**Operational capacity strengthened**  
The municipality has deployed additional human resources to improve response times and reduce losses within the system. Five additional plumbers have been operational since 19 January 2026, supported by six water meter installers deployed from 15 January 2026. A total of 30 general assistants are being phased in, with 10 already on duty since 23 January and a further 20 having commenced duty during the course of this week.

In addition, 1 000 new conventional water meters have been ordered, scheduled to be installed on arrival.

**Infrastructure and supply interventions**

Critical infrastructure projects are progressing despite tight timelines. The borehole refurbishment tender closed on 16 January 2026.

A completed business plan for alternative pumping from the existing Charlesford and new Salt River pumping schemes, linked to

## Advertorial

**Shekinah Academy** is a homeschool tutoring and learning support centre opening in Sedgefield, created to partner with parents who have chosen an alternative education path for their children. Our heart is to provide a safe, structured and encouraging environment where learners can grow academically, emotionally and spiritually while remaining firmly rooted in accredited South African curricula.

We are a tutor centre that functions under a Christian ethos. This means that our daily culture is shaped by values such as respect, kindness, integrity and self-discipline. While our faith informs how we serve and care for our learners, our primary focus is academic support and excellence for homeschool families. Shekinah Academy mainly

supports learners who are registered with Impaq and CambriLearn, both of which are CAPS-based and registered with SACAI, the South African Comprehensive Assessment Institute. These curricula are fully accredited, and learners who complete their schooling through these programmes are able to obtain a valid National Senior Certificate at the end of Grade 12.

Our centre caters for learners from Grade 1 to Grade 12. During the school day, learners work under the supervision of qualified educators who provide subject-based facilitation, guidance and one-on-one assistance where needed. Educators assist learners with planning, daily goals, understanding content, completing tasks and preparing

for assessments, tests and exams as set by the curriculum providers.

Although Impaq and CambriLearn form the foundation of our programme, we understand that not every homeschool family follows the same route. Parents who are enrolled with a different curriculum are welcome to approach us. If the curriculum is accredited and aligns with our support model, we are happy to assist the learner where possible.

Shekinah Academy operates as a homeschool support centre, meaning that parents remain responsible for registering their children with the Department of Basic Education where required, as well as with their chosen curriculum provider. Our role is to walk alongside families by providing daily structure,

academic oversight, encouragement and accountability in a calm, nurturing environment.

We are located at 14 De Wet Street, Sedgefield, and operate weekdays from 08:00 to 13:00. Our aim is to offer a space where learners can focus, parents can feel supported, and children can thrive at their own pace without the pressures often experienced in traditional schooling.

Shekinah Academy looks forward to becoming part of the Sedgefield community and serving families who value quality education, strong values and personalised support for their children's homeschool journey.

Opening: 2 February 2026



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## SHEKINAH ACADEMY – SUPPORTING HOMESCHOOL FAMILIES IN SEDGEFIELD

## Advertorial

for assessments, tests and exams as set by the curriculum providers.

academic oversight, encouragement and accountability in a calm, nurturing environment.

We are located at 14 De Wet Street, Sedgefield, and operate weekdays from 08:00 to 13:00. Our aim is to offer a space where learners can focus, parents can feel supported, and children can thrive at their own pace without the pressures often experienced in traditional schooling.

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Opening: 2 February 2026

## FOR SALE

127 BLESCHOENDER STREET MEEDINGSRIDE



R3,395,000

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ADRIAAN

4670 DOVER STREET  
COLA BEACH

R8,950,000

RXED-1793



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29 ALOE STREET  
BOGGOMSBAAI

R4,550,000

RXED-1832



CELEST

63 BLESCHOENDER STREET  
SEDGEFIELD CENTRAL

R3,850,000

RXED-1833



STEFAN

044 343 1905

REMAX Coastal  
28 Main Service Rd  
Sedgefield, 6573

ISSUE 732 28 January 2026

THE EDGE Page 5

# DOGS LIVES LOST DUE TO BEES

**Local resident Andre Stemmert** is grieving the loss of no less than three dogs to bee stings from a massive hive lodged in the walls of an overgrown, vacant property next to his home, which he also believes has become both a fire hazard and illegal dumping ground due to unchecked vegetation.

Community Safety Director Johnny Douglas visited and promised action. "A worker appeared the next day to address the hive, but the problem persisted," he told us. The problem flared up again on January 23 this year when the property owner bulldozed the plot, disturbing the bees again.

This again resulted in the death of one of the Stemmert family's dogs, while leaving another small dog, belonging to a neighbour, also found dead on the site. Stemmert has said that despite repeated complaints to the Knysna Municipality, fire department, and ward councillor, little changed until Women's Day last year, when

Last August, two of his dogs died after a swarm attack, with another small dog, belonging to a neighbour, also found dead on the site.

Enquiries: Gail 0834577647. 13:15pm Bowls. Tabs in 2:30pm Sedgefield Jukseki Group at Sedge Bowling Club. All welcome. Aniel 072 600 0722

**Fridays**  
8am Ladies Golf @ Links Course

**Saturdays**  
7am Eden Cycling Club Group Social outside 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.

**Saturday**

G R Astronomical Society meet @ 3pm every 3rd Saturday at the George Botanical Gardens. 083 743 1690

**Sundays**

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

**Sunday 1 February**

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

**Sunday 8 February**

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

## In Loving Memory of

Marie Dale

14.07.1941 - 26.12.2025

Our hearts are heavy as we share the sad news of the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Marie Dale, on 26 December 2025.

Marie was a gentle soul with a rare gift for making everyone feel welcome. If you left her alone for five minutes, she would know everything about the person sitting beside her and would likely have made a new friend. Her kindness, warmth, and genuine interest in others left a lasting impression on all who were fortunate enough to know her.

She was the heart of our family, a constant source of love, comfort, and quiet strength. Her presence brought light, conversation, and connection wherever she went, and her love will continue to live on through the many lives she touched.

She will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her family and friends. You were our light and inspiration. We will miss you always. Love you always.



**MASITHANDANE**

## NEW VEHICLE FUNDRAISER

If you would like to donate towards this worthy cause, the bank details are as follows:

**Masithandane ABSA**

**4067253575**

**Ref: Your name 'VEHICLE'**

**TARGET**

**R320 000**

**NB.**

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**NB.**

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**NB.**

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**can provide a**

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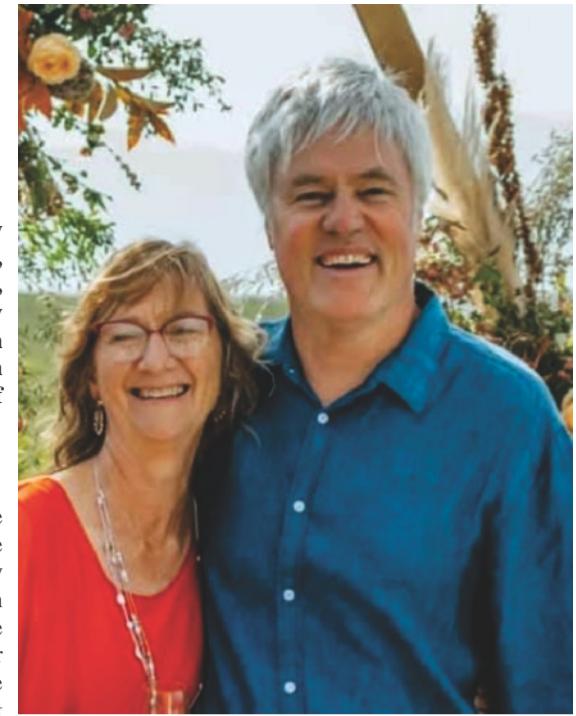
# THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

By Pam Victor

2026 has heralded an exciting new beginning for St Francis United Church, with Graeme Mercer and his wife, Kathy, starting as the new pastoral couple. They were joyfully welcomed after the service on Sunday 14th December 2025 in true South African style with a braai and plenty of salads!

But who are these newcomers?

Pastor Graeme Mercer was born in Zimbabwe and lived in Australia for five years, before settling in Port Elizabeth. He married Kathy in 1984, and the couple have three children and three grandchildren. Pastor Graeme began his career as a Metallurgical Engineer and was in industry for 11 years before entering full time ministry in the Methodist Church in 1994. His ministry has been multicultural and diverse, from a small Methodist Church in Riebeekstad, near Welkom, to Montclair, Durban and finally Willows Methodist Church in Pretoria East. After retiring at the end of 2024, Pastor Graeme and Kathy took a "gap year" in Robertson to rest and to prepare for the new chapter in their lives. After much prayerful consideration, Pastor Graeme accepted the position as Minister of St Francis United Church in Sedgefield.



Kathy is a qualified teacher, specialising in Early Childhood Development. Whilst in Durban, Kathy was very involved in the establishment of the Udobu Grade R School - a school for the underprivileged. Whilst in Pretoria, Kathy became involved with Class Act, an NGO which was allocated the task of mentoring teachers from identified underperforming schools in Gauteng. Kathy subsequently joined an NGO called Ransom, the mission arm of their previous church, to head up the ECD Pillar, which involved training, coaching and mentoring teachers and principals of schools in the rural sectors of the city.

Kathy enjoys walking, hiking, birding and visual arts and crafts.

We welcome Pastor Graeme and Kathy to St Francis United Church and look forward with much anticipation to their ministry in Sedgefield.

# ITALY COMES TO KNYSNA : ITALIAN STREET FESTIVAL RETURNS IN MARCH

Thesen Harbour Town in Knysna is set to come alive with the sights, sounds and flavours of Italy as the second annual Knysna Italian Street Festival returns on 21 and 22 March 2026.

Following last year's success, the event will be held over two days at the beautiful, upmarket Thesen Harbour Town. Promising a vibrant, immersive celebration of Italian culture that is not to be missed, organising duo Nicci Rousseau-Schmidt of Knysna PR and Carien Loubser of Brainwave said the festival will offer visitors a true taste of la dolce vita in the heart of the Garden Route. "Expect the irresistible aroma of authentic Italian cuisine and fine wines, live music and family-friendly festivities. Adding to the experience will be an iconic showcase of Italian motoring excellence. From classic Vespas and Fiats to legendary Ferraris and Lamborghinis, celebrating both old-world charm and modern design."

### Collaboration with ItalCham

This year marks an exciting collaboration with ItalCham, the Italian-South African Chamber of Trade and Industries. Pamina Bohrer from ItalCham said that, following Italy in Town - Cape Town's success, they aim to host three annual Italy in Town events across South Africa: Cape Town, Johannesburg, and the Garden Route edition in Knysna. "The events are about celebrating Italian culture, cuisine and lifestyle beyond the major metropolitan centres. This partnership brings together the

ItalCham mission to promote Italian excellence in South Africa with the Festival's strong local roots and vibrant community spirit. Through this collaboration, ItalCham will support the festival in strengthening its Italian identity, fostering cultural exchange, and creating meaningful connections between Italian businesses and brands and the South African public."

The Knysna Italian Street Festival has become a key platform for showcasing authentic Italian food, wine, music and family traditions in the Garden Route. Bohrer said the inaugural Festival in 2025 attracted more than 2 200 attendees. "Visitors came from as far as Port Elizabeth and Stilbaai. ItalCham is proud to be associated with an initiative that celebrates Italy beyond the major cities and highlights the richness of Italian culture at a community level."

### A passion for all things Italian

The organisers said sponsors are key to hosting a quality experience. Chris van der Merwe from REMAX Coastal, the Festival's main sponsor, said they are excited to be involved. "We love Italian cars, wine and food and are privileged to be part of the event. ItalCham involvement and the inclusion of the event in the Italy in Town collection are exciting, and I look forward to working with them to create an authentic, truly Italian experience. We also appreciate the support of Visit Knysna."



### Early bird tickets now available on Quicket

Ticket sales have opened and are available on Quicket, with early-bird tickets in February at R150 pp, pre-event tickets in March at R180, and R200 at the entrance. Limited VIP tickets are available at R500 pp and include reserved VIP seating, welcome drinks and a charcuterie board.

With world-class flavours, unforgettable performances, and a stunning display of Italian automotive passion, the 2026 Knysna Italian Street Festival promises an unforgettable weekend of culture, connection and celebration.

Buon appetito, Knysna - Italy is coming to town!

Follow the festival's social media channels for regular updates: Fbook: @knysna street festival Instagram: @knysna Italian street festival

**I.T GIRL** garden route

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For all your computer needs!

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# POSITIVE START FOR REVIVE SEDGEFIELD

Revive Sedgefield has started 2026 on a very positive note with the long-awaited signing of its Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Knysna Municipality.

The agreement was officially signed almost twelve months after it was first submitted, marking a significant milestone for the organisation.

The MoU was signed by the Municipal Manager and Revive Sedgefield Chairperson, Linda Evans, with Sally Theron present as a witness. This important step formalises the partnership between Revive Sedgefield and the municipality and enables several long-planned community projects to move forward.

With the MoU now in place, approval has been granted for three priority projects that will have a meaningful impact on the wider Sedgefield community. The first of these is the installation of a spike water and sprinkler system at the Sedgefield Playpark. The playpark has become a central and much-loved gathering space for families and

children, but ongoing drought conditions have placed the area under considerable strain. The approval of this system brings much-needed relief and will help preserve this important recreational space. Revive Sedgefield will now engage with relevant stakeholders to begin implementation.

The second approved project involves the upgrade of the River-mouth carpark deck. With the assistance of AfriForum, Revive Sedgefield completed interim improvements ahead of the busy December holiday period. The project is now being finalised with the addition of permanent retainers, new planter boxes, an extra coat of sealer, and five recycled plastic benches. These benches will offer visitors a comfortable place to sit and enjoy the beautiful views of the lagoon and ocean.

The third MoU-approved initiative focuses on accessibility within the village. We plan to develop a wheelchair-friendly route through the business district, in collaboration

with Ari Seirlis. This project is planned for later during the year and reflects Revive Sedgefield's ongoing commitment to inclusivity and creating a village that can be enjoyed by everyone. We were delighted to receive a generous sponsorship donation at the end of 2025. At the donor's request, the funds will be used to begin replacing the broken pole fencing along the service roads. With the valued support of AfriForum, we aim to begin this work as soon as possible.

The popular Revive High Five initiative continues into 2026 after proving to be a great success. The initiative has been so well received that it will now run on an ongoing basis. Every second week, a pavement or verge that stands out for its care and presentation is awarded the Revive High Five, complete with a display board placed in the garden as a point of pride. Residents are encouraged to nominate deserving spaces by contacting Chairperson Linda Evans.

Rockie, Sedgefield's much-

loved local rock art installation, has also seen exciting developments with the introduction of the "Colour Me Rockie" packets. Each packet includes a rock, paints, a brush, a stencil, and a colourful instruction map. The initiative has been extremely successful, generating just over R10,000 in profit since its launch. The project will continue throughout 2026, with local businesses stocking the packets at R60 each. More rocks will be placed on Thursday, 29 January, with the goal of extending Rockie beyond its current 273 metres toward a target of 300 metres — trying ultimately to make it the longest rock art installation in South Africa.

Late last year, the black plant pots along the service road and surrounding areas were repainted in a warm terracotta shade and are now ready to be replanted with bougainvillea. A dedicated "Pot Team," led by Elize King, has been formed to care for and water these pots.

Looking ahead, Revive Sedgefield will host a fundraising event in May, featuring a Spit Braai and



SHAZA. Further details will be shared on social media closer to the time.

Revive Sedgefield continues to maintain its existing gardens as best as possible under water restrictions, steadily transitioning

to waterwise and indigenous plants. The organisation's passion for revitalising Sedgefield remains strong, fuelled by an incredible team of volunteers and the ongoing support of a generous and engaged community.

## SRA CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

History reminds us that real change seldom emerges from comfort, but is forged in strain, uncertainty, and tested resolve.

The fall of Robespierre showed revolutionary fervour meeting reality's limits, while communism's failure proved even forceful ideas fail without accountability, adaptability, and course correction - marking not ambition's end, but the start of grounded progress.

2025 mirrored this: a demanding year, challenging assumptions, testing systems, and demanding tough choices. It clarified essentials - integrity, perseverance, and quiet determination amid unseen efforts. Sustaining us was commitment, rather than rhetoric: The committee diligently bore heavy loads, often under pressure and sans recognition, ensuring stability and future foundations. My sincere thanks for their time, judgment, and resolve.

Entering 2026, we're neither naive about challenges ahead nor discouraged by ones past. We advance with a firmer resolve, and clearer purpose, believing meaningful change comes via consistent, principled action, not drama.

## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT KNYSNA WATER SUPPLY

### Municipal Water Supply Sources:

- Rainfall in the area is variable throughout the year with historical data showing a slight peak during spring.
- There are five main water supply systems serving the municipal area: Knysna, Sedgefield, Karatara, Rhenenadal and Buffalo Bay.

- Surface water supply provides most of the water to the municipality, and relies on rainfall to keep rivers flowing, to fill dams and reservoirs. The main potable supply is from the Knysna and Goua rivers, pumped to the water treatment works. When excess capacity is available, water is also pumped from these to Akkerkloof Dam. The latter provides storage capacity of more than two months (71 days at 12 MLD), should the rivers run dry. Akkerkloof Dam is thus not the primary source of drinking water to Knysna but a critical part of the system especially during drought periods.

- The groundwater systems are not currently optimised, providing only

### Governance Engagement and IDP Oversight.

In 2025, EXCO strengthened local government ties via bi-monthly meetings with Wards 1 and 2 Councillors, focussing on Integrated Development Plan (IDP) progress. This shifted us from ad hoc talks to accountability, planning, and delivery. Post-engagements, SRA obtained the Knysna Municipal Spatial Development Framework (MSDF) Implementation Framework (2025), while insisting on prioritising, approving, and implementing 2020 Standard Operating Procedures for illegal land invasions.

### Service Delivery Challenges.

2025 was tough, with alarming spatial planning and water meter woes. Refuse collection showed stabilisation signs, and there were limited repairs to Kingfisher Drive, but overall delivery stayed inconsistent, isolated, and discontinuous.

### Waste Management and Provincial Ties.

Garden Route Alliance representatives Kevin Barnes and Len Moult met Western Cape Government on Knysna's waste status. Follow-ups targeted the viability of the

### Provincial Oversight.

Carte Blanche exposed Knysna's decline; Minister Anton Bredell blamed poor management and political interference - echoing residents' realities.

**Water Security.** SRA's 700+ signature petition urged water pump fixes and supply assurance. The Municipal Manager's promises rang hollow, and the issue persists, eroding trust.

**Section 139 Backing.** SRA endorsed Bredell's Section 139c intervention of Knysna Municipality for governance/service stability. Sadly, hoped-for improvements still lag.

### Sedgefield Alarm.

Sedgefield residents fear ongoing Knysna mismanagement: Inconsistent services force reactive petitions for notice. Concerns include no waste planning, garden rubble mishandling, non-recyclable neglect, tick-box consults, short-lived roads, months-long sewer pump breakdown and unrepaired gear.

### Operational Failures:

More woes: lax illegal

### Sedgefield System:

This is the second largest system in the municipality, and independent of the Knysna system. Main supply is via the Ruigtevlei Weir on the Karatara River, supplemented by four boreholes. The desalination plant (1.5MLD) at Myoli beach is part of the licensed supply but not currently operational. The boreholes cannot meet demand when the river flow is too low to allow abstraction.

### Water Conservation & Demand Management strategies to reduce losses and Non-revenue Water:

- Bulk meter management, assessments, refurbishments & installations
- Water supply zone optimisation
- Pressure management programme
- Leak repairs – general and indigent households
- Metering and billing analysis

Following such an outage, the distribution system takes time to recover, until all reservoirs are replenished, as water demand tends to spike following an outage.

business plan in Municipal Legal review, with Ritchie Morris's input. Next we need approval with costs/timelines. SANParks aid has been sought via Dr Viljoen /Coastal Management, and there is a collaborative push. Planning Department is now a champion of this cause, pledging the formation of a steering committee.

**Resident Resolve.** Sedgefield won't stay passive: residents demands urgent intervention in governance, law enforcement, and the restoration of trust.

**Swartvlei Access Advance.** 2025 saw the Swartvlei launch;

simple membership so that we may grow our database for communication reach, thus giving us more clout with Knysna Municipality.

**Financial Stability.** Our Financial Report shows a healthy position, funding our Community in Blue, Revive Sedgefield, and security upgrades - despite non-profit status.

**EXCO Gratitude.** Thanks to 2025 EXCO for performing extremely well in an especially tough year. **Kevin Barnes.**

**Knysna Municipality** || Municipaliteit || uMasipala inclusive || innovative || inspired

## ADOPTION OF THE KNYSNA MUNICIPAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (2024/2025)

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 20(1) of the Spatial Planning and Land Use Management Act, 2013 (Act 16 of 2013) that the Knysna Municipality at a Council meeting held on 11 December 2025, has adopted an amended Knysna Municipal Spatial Development Framework (2024/2025) by way of Resolution No: M 02/12/2025.

## AANNEMING VAN DIE KNYSNA MUNISIPALE ONTWIKKELINGSRAAMWERK (2024/2025)

Kennis word hiermee gegee in terme van Artikel 20(1) van die Ruimtelike Beplanning en Grondgebruik Wet, 2013 (Wet 16 van 2013) dat die Knysna Municipaliteit by 'n Raadsvergadering op 11 December 2025, 'n gewysigde Knysna Munisipale Ruimtelike Ontwikkelingsraamwerk (2024/2025) aangeneem het by wyse van Resolusie No: M 02/12/25.

## ADOPTION OF THE SEDGEFIELD LOCAL SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (2025)

Notice is hereby given in terms of Section 10(2) of the Knysna Municipal Bylaw on Spatial Planning and Land Use Management (2021) that the Knysna Municipality at a Council meeting held on 11 December 2025, has adopted the Sedgefield Local Spatial Development Framework (2025) by way of Resolution No: M 01/12/2025.

## AANNEMING VAN DIE SEDGEFIELD PLAASLIKE ONTWIKKELINGSRAAMWERK (2025)

Kennis word hiermee gegee in terme van Artikel 10(2) van die Knysna Munisipaliteit Verordening op Ruimtelike Beplanning en Grondgebruiksbestuur (2021) dat die Knysna Municipaliteit by 'n Raadsvergadering op 11 December 2025, die Sedgefield Plaaslike Ruimtelike Ontwikkelingsraamwerk (2025) aangeneem het by wyse van Resolusie No: M 01/12/25.

**DR. LULAMILE MAPHOLOBA**  
MUNICIPAL MANAGER / MUNISIPALE BESTUURDER



1 To Rent  
 2 Accom. Wanted  
 3 Accom. - Holiday  
 4 Announcements  
 5 Boats & Acc  
 6 Building Services  
 7 Businesses  
 8 Cellular, Electronics & TV  
 9 Clothing  
 10 Computers  
 11 Crafts & Home Industry  
 12 Education & Tuition  
 13 Electrical  
 14 Employment Offered  
 15 Employment Wanted  
 16 Fabric & Haberdashery  
 17 Food & Wine  
 18 For Sale  
 19 Home & Garden  
 20 Health & Beauty  
 21 Hobbies  
 22 Home Improvements  
 23 Lost & Found  
 24 Miscellaneous  
 25 Motor Cars/Bikes  
 26 Personal  
 27 Pets & Livestock  
 28 Plumbing  
 29 Property  
 30 Restaurants & Pubs  
 31 Security  
 32 Services Offered  
 33 Sport & Leisure  
 34 Tea/Coffee & Take-Aways  
 35 Heavy Vehicles & Mach.  
 36 Wanted / Swap etc

NB. Classified adverts for the next issue need to be in by Monday 9th February 2026. Emailed classies will not be placed without payment

#### 1. To Rent

Spacious upstairs apartment with balcony, max 2 persons. Garage parking available. 1 March. R8000pm. Excl. Water/Elec. Tel 0824678596

#### 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

Architectural Draughting Services. Phone Tracy 082 695 3119

Bay Hill Frameless Glass & Aluminium. Leading Frameless Glass Specialist operating from Stilbaai to Plett. 20 years experience. Precision work & professional service. info@bayhillsa.co.za

## COMPUTERS

Hardware, Software & Internet Support  
Ken Hampson 072 111 7791



**BUILDERS...** We source the best local products at the cheapest possible price. CX Tippers & Diggers - your one stop aggregate supplier. Tel 044 382 1645

**Decks, timber alterations, pergolas, garden sheds, tiny homes, cabins ~ all things timber!** 30 yrs construction experience in the Garden Route. References. Call 069 404 2937

#### 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 082 771 0694

#### 10. Computers

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

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

#### 12. Education & Tuition

**Jolly Juniors Registered Crèche and Aftercare** on the Island. Contact Anzelle @ 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

#### 13. Electrical

**Electrical Hardware @ Sedgefield H/Ware**

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

#### 15. Employment Wanted

**Anette, domestic work.** 068 146 1634

**Elijah, gardener, painter & cleaner.** Please call 061 137 3589

**Godfrey - garden work.** 075 343 5654

**Jodan, gardener available for 2 days.** Please call - 074 917 6727

**Maulana Maumbo** is looking for work as a Driver Machine operator. Email maulanamaumbo@gmail.com or please call 069 286 9277

**Rachel, domestic work.** Malawian. Call 069 589 3764

**Suzen, domestic work.** Malawian Call 069 559 5035.

**Thandi looking for domestic work.** Refs + work permit. Exper. 078 928 0555

**Violet Shaba, domestic work.**

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All Rezoning Applications  
Contact Details: Cell: 062 6252 096

## CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT & REGISTERED AUDITOR

# CAMATHER

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT REGISTERED AUDITOR

CATHERINE ANNE MATHER  
BCompt Hons CA(SA) (ACIS)

tel: 044 343 2202 cell: 083 779 7934  
email: cathy@camather.co.za  
address: 14 Swallow Drive, Sedgefield

Malawian. Call 060 587 7782

**Witness Mzia, domestic work.** Malawian. Call 060 405 4696

**Building work**

Zimba - 073 194 6419 Paint, Tiling, Carp

**Carer - home based**

Thandi - 074 330 9262 Ref

**Domestic**

Enala - 082 237 3935

Fostina - 062 260 4093 Refs Wed 1 day

Lennie - 067 798 9174

Lincy - 078 494 3118 Refs. Avail 3 days

Loveness - 067 172 1955

Thomas - 078 873 3402

Rachel - 076 731 8986

Rose - 069 825 4480

Violet - 060 587 7782

Witness - 060 405 4696

**7. Businesses**

**9. Clothing**

**10. Computers**

**12. Education & Tuition**

**13. Electrical**

**15. Employment Wanted**

**16. For Sale**

**18. For Sale**

**20. Health & Beauty**

**21. Laundry**

**22. Home Improvements**

**23. Motor Cars/Bikes**

**25. Pets & Livestock**

**26. Plumbing**

**27. Personal Services**

**28. Security**

**29. Services Offered**

**30. Sports & Leisure**

**31. Transport**

**32. Vehicles**

**33. Work**

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# FISHERMAN SAVED AT SWARTVLEI

Jonathan Britton, NSRI Wilderness station commander, reports:

**At 21h43, Wednesday, 21 January, NSRI Wilderness duty crew were activated following a report to their duty phone from an eyewitness raising the alarm regarding a fisherman suspected to be in distress on Swartvlei Beach, Sedgefield.**

Off-duty NSRI lifeguards, who were camping in the area at the time, had also been alerted following a commotion at the beach, indicating that a person appeared to be in distress in the water.

NSRI Wilderness rescue swimmers and NSRI medics responded while the off-duty NSRI lifeguards, and local community volunteer medical personnel, were activated and responded.

Knysna Fire and Rescue Services, the SA Police Services and WC Government Health EMS were activated

and responded.

Reports suggested that what appeared to be a headlamp, worn by a local fisherman who had been fishing from the beach and waded into shallow surf, had disappeared underwater in the surf zone. Immediately bystanders witnessing the incident raised the alarm.

On investigation the off-duty lifeguards, who had grabbed the NSRI pink rescue buoy that is stationed on the beach, located a 22-year-old male fisherman, from George. He was in shallow water, barely conscious, and appeared to be trying to get himself to the shore.

The off-duty NSRI lifeguards assisted the man to the shore and initiated medical care as by that stage, he was unresponsive and in a serious condition presenting with non-fatal drowning symptoms.

The lifeguards were joined by NSRI medics, local community volunteer paramedics, Police and emergency services.

The man was stabilised by paramedics and he was transported to hospital by EMS ambulance in a serious but stable condition.

Following medical treatment in hospital, the man was discharged on Thursday.

While fishing the man had got into difficulties in shallow surf. He may have been caught in rip current that swept him into the surf zone.

The eyewitnesses that raised the alarm and the swift response of the off-duty NSRI lifeguards, the community volunteer paramedics, NSRI Wilderness, Police and the emergency services, are commended for contributing towards saving the man's life.

Bystander eyewitnesses have praised the swift response, the professionalism, compassion and cooperation displayed by the joint teams that responded to this incident.

# AIR Project 2026 : Empowering Knysna's Next Generation of Cultural Entrepreneurs

The Western Cape Arts Festivals (WCAF), powered by Ariva Arts Foundation, and funded by the Western Cape Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport (DCAS), the National Arts Council of South Africa (NAC), the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture (DSAC), and the Presidential Employment Stimulus Programme (PESP) Cycle 6, in proud partnership with Knysna Municipality, officially announces the launch of the African Indigenous Renaissance (AIR) Project 2026.



"The AIR Project is where culture meets commerce," says Yusuf Ganief, CEO of the Western Cape Arts Festivals and founder of the AIR Project.

"We are not only developing artists - we are cultivating cultural entrepreneurs who can sustain themselves through their heritage, skills, and creativity. This programme directly links instrument makers and craft producers to performers and cultural entrepreneurs - the programme contributes to Knysna's positioning as a vibrant cultural destination.

Executive Mayor Cllr Thando Matika welcomed the initiative, stating:

"Knysna is proud to host a programme that directly empowers our creative community. The AIR Project aligns with our Integrated Development Plan by advancing local economic growth, social inclusion, and cultural tourism - particularly for artists from underserved and rural communities. It enables meaningful participation in the

creative economy while celebrating the rich indigenous heritage of our region."

Beyond skills development, the AIR Project promotes economic participation, job creation, and cultural tourism growth. By strengthening local creative value chains - from instrument makers and craft producers to performers and cultural entrepreneurs - the programme contributes to Knysna's positioning as a vibrant cultural destination.

Auditions for the AIR Project 2026 were successfully held on 9 December 2025 at Hornlee Civic Centre, where musicians and crafters from across the Knysna region presented their work for evaluation. A panel of five independent judges assessed artistic skill, cultural relevance, craftsmanship, and entrepreneurial potential.

## SASSA PROVIDES UNIFORMS

Parents from Sedgefield Primér in Smutsville are very grateful to the SASSA offices from George who came to the school on 17 January with school uniform hampers for the children.



A grateful parent receiving a school uniform hamper from SASSA

This initiative is part of SASSA's Social Relief of Distress (SRD) programme, ensuring vulnerable learners receive essential schoolwear with dignity and timeliness. As a Schedule 3A public entity, SASSA administers social grants and emergency relief to qualifying households, and the provision of school uniforms forms a critical component of the SRD grant, aimed at reducing the financial burden on indigent families and promoting school attendance.

Whilst the wait had been lengthy - applications were filed back in 2023 - the parents of the young recipients were very grateful.

"The delivery included full uniform sets for twenty children, each worth over

R5000," said a Smutsville community member Salome Kiewiets, who had assisted with the facilitation. She explained that each hamper included a pair of shoes, three pairs of socks, two pairs of trousers, a short sleeve shirt, two long sleeve shirts, a jersey, underwear, a belt, raincoat, Dry-mac, schoolbag, pullover, tracksuit, sports shirt and a sports t-shirt.

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**REPORT WATER ABUSE** **WHATSAPP 060 998 7000**

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

SAMURAI

1. Each Samurai Sudoku puzzle consists of 5 overlapping "classic" 9x9 Sudoku sub puzzles.

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

SUDOKU

2. Each 9x9 sub-puzzle must be solved according to the rules of Sudoku.

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

## HEALTH EXPERTS PUSH BACK AGAINST THE NEW YEAR DETOX CRAZE

Each January, detox diets surge as part of the annual post-holiday reset. A US study published in *Nutrients* found that around 26% of consumers have tried a juice cleanse or detox programme, under-scoring how entrenched detox culture has become. Although the data is US-based, experts suggest the trend mirrors behaviour seen in many countries with comparable wellness and diet industries, including South Africa.

diets remove toxins or provide lasting health benefits.

"The human body is naturally equipped with highly efficient elimination systems – primarily the liver, kidneys, lungs and digestive tract – that continuously remove waste without the need for special regimes or products."

This seasonal surge is mirrored in consumer spending. January remains a strong sales period for detox and detox-adjacent supplements, with products positioned around liver support, digestion and cleansing. These trends form part of a rapidly expanding global detox market, forecast to grow from about USD 40.7 billion in 2025 to more than USD 72.6 billion by 2035.

Prominent dietitian, Aziwe Boo, known for her evidence-based, culturally relevant nutrition advice, says despite their popularity, there is no credible scientific evidence that detox

The research published in *Nutrients* also found that a three-day juice cleanse increased markers of inflammation and altered gut bacteria in ways associated with poorer digestive health – contradicting typical detox claims.

"This year's wellness reset should emphasise re-establishing healthy routines rather than chasing quick fixes. Gentle, evidence-based approaches give people real tools to feel good again, without misleading claims or unnecessary stress."

Rooibos – a scientifically credible ally in post-holiday wellness

For South Africans, Rooibos needs little introduction. Increasingly, however, it is being recognised in scientific and public health research as a credible, evidence-based beverage, valued for its antioxidant profile rather than detox claims.

"People often look for something to 'fix' festive overindulgence," says Boo. "But the reality is that the body already has highly effective detox systems. Rooibos doesn't promise a quick fix – it supports everyday hydration and balance, which is far more sustainable. Meeting hydration needs can often prove to be challenging for many. This is where Rooibos – consumed either as an iced tisane or served as a warm beverage – can be a flavourful alternative with additional health benefits."

Rooibos contains polyphenols, such as aspalathin and quercetin, associated with antioxidant activity and reduced oxidative stress – a process linked to inflammation and chronic disease risk. Research has also linked Rooibos consumption to improvements in cardiovascular and metabolic markers, while emerging gut-health studies suggest it may help protect the

intestinal barrier and reduce inflammation in gut cells.

Rooibos, which is naturally caffeine-free and low in tannins, is a convenient substitute for sugary or caffeinated drinks, supporting lasting whole-body health rather than temporary cleanses.

"Instead of chasing the next trending cleanse, focus on habits you can actually sustain," says Boo.

She encourages a shift away from restriction and towards an abundance mindset – asking not what you need to cut out, but what you can add to your diet and lifestyle to make it healthier.

Here's a simple health checklist to help you build lasting habits:

- Stay hydrated – this includes beverages like Rooibos
- Eat fibre-rich meals by prioritising darker, whole-food starches
- Choose nutrient-dense options, such as colourful fruit and vegetables every day

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Catholic Church, Sedgefield  
Flamingo Street gate entrance



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Tel: (044) 343 3124 all hours

# CHURCH SERVICES

THESE ARE THE CHURCH DETAILS WE HAVE ON FILE. PLEASE SEND UPDATED DETAILS. THERE IS LIMITED SPACE SO PLEASE ONLY LIST THE TIME AND CONTACT NO.

Afrikaanse Protestantse Kerk  
Cearn Saal, Leisure Isle, Knysna  
10am Service  
Christo Matthee 083 769 9313

AGS Lighuis  
Kontak : Kerkkantoor 044 382 6551  
Sekretariesse 072 189 0215

Anglican Chapelry of St. Aidan's,  
Wilderness  
Peter Mundell 060 985 9113  
or Paul McMillan 083 273 2601

Church of Christ  
Lynn van der Walt.  
Tel: 076 068 2900

Church of the Resurrection  
Service 9.30am  
Petronella Buis 084 252 1698

Church Without Walls (WOW)  
Red Shed, Scarab Market  
Sunday 9.00am  
Schalk van As - 082 413 8363  
(Please bring a chair)

Deo Gloria  
Past Danie & Karin de Bruyn  
044 343 1301 or 084 714 7023

Elohim gemeente  
Kerkkantoor: 082 896 6387  
Pastoor: Hansie Strydom

Knysna Presbyterian Church  
Office 044 382 7722  
Rev Tim Hawkridge  
083 324 3562

Lakeside Baptist Church  
Sunday 9am  
3 Duiwe Laan  
Pastor J D - 066 160 7029

Ned. Hervormde Kerk Sedgefield/Knysna  
Erediens Sondag 11vm  
Goukamma Kerk gebou by Riverdeck  
Buffelsbaai pad.  
Dr Wim Dreyer - 082 859 6876

Suid-Kaap Christen Familie  
Pastor: Leon & Elmarie Terblanche  
081 271 1551.  
Assist Pastor: André & Soné Rossouw  
072 341 7099

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

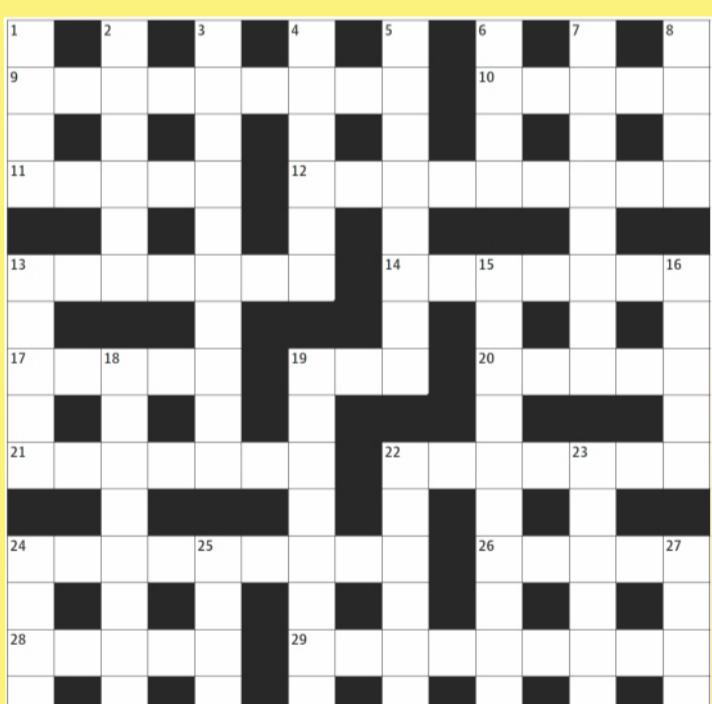
## TED'S BRAIN CRUNCHER

### Across

9. Strangely in awe of the colour being affected by elements. (9)  
10. Card carrying leader eats the first steak. (5)  
11. Was it the threat of war that got one so rattled? (5)  
12. Could those scars be less 'him' perchance? (9)  
13. Not keen on a job involving coconuts. (4,3)  
14. What the editor says to show off. (7)  
17. The clown - a powder is all it takes to get him into hot water! (5)  
19. A large amount of inflection without direction. (3)  
20. On record that it could mean the demise of this crossword! (5)  
21. 'Man of the match' won't work. (7)  
22. A bridge destroyed by fire. (7)  
24. Chap I rush about on wheels. (9)  
26. He has his own personal high-dive platform. (5)  
28. On the board, as it were, the Reverend is envious. (5)  
29. Turn too sharply and topple the beast. (9)

### Down

1. Has bad weather. (4)  
2. In Morecambe, go right, but be careful of the angle. (6)  
3. A cut of mutton? Get knotted! (10)  
4. Flip burger offcut by making it a little unsavoury. (6)  
5. Noise had scared them into sticking together. (8)  
6. A small ornamental case buried in 'hulle tuin'? (4)



7. Slice out a new berth for this man. (8)  
8. In the Cape, such is one that mimics. (4)  
13. Primitive ignition systems for light industry. (5)  
15. The investigation of the writer's sketchy storage unit. (6-4)  
16. Inch towards the point of being lazy. (5)  
18. Bobs respectfully Brusque? That's terrible Afrikaans! (8)

### SOLUTIONS FOR LAST ISSUE

**Across:** 1. Just so 4. Deflate 9. Confiture 10 Umami 11. Pupil 12. Lampshade 13. Thought 15. Police 17. Stasis 19. Tangent 22. Referenda 14. Let go 26. Union 27. Hangers on 28. Doe eyes 29. Stroke **Down:** 1. Jackpot 2. Sun up 3. Spillages 4. Dream up 5. Feuds 6. Avalanche 7. Exited 8. Bullet 14. Out of line 16. Loneliest 18. Synch in 19. Trains 20. Trounce 2. Ground 23. Randy 25. Tasto

# SEDGEFIELD STRIDERS' AGM SIGNALS A STRONG YEAR AHEAD

Sedgefield Striders held its Annual General Meeting on Wednesday evening, drawing an excellent turnout of members and comfortably exceeding the required quorum.

The strong attendance reflected the continued commitment and enthusiasm within the club. Key matters affecting the club were addressed, with particular emphasis placed on the much-anticipated Tortoise Tuff, scheduled to take place on 21 March. With FJ Cruiser confirmed as the main sponsor, and generous support from Wild X Adventures, AR Gaiters, and V&M Labs, the committee expressed confidence that this year's event will be another resounding success. Numerous smaller sponsors have also come on board, with the list continuing to grow.

More than just a race, the Tortoise Tuff has become a showcase event for both the club and the town of Sedgefield. The influx of runners, supporters, and visitors provides a meaningful boost to the local economy while reinforcing Sedgefield's reputation as a welcoming destination for athletes and outdoor enthusiasts alike. The event also highlights the important role Sedgefield Striders plays within the broader community.



A special highlight of the evening was the introduction of three Life Honorary Members, individuals recognised for their outstanding and sustained contributions to the club over many years. Together with club chair Alvin Witten, they are (as pictured above) Pedro Goncalves, Paul Laubscher and Darryl Webber.

"By conferring honorary membership tonight, we do more than say thank you. We affirm the values we want this club to be known for: service, generosity of spirit, teamwork, and commitment to something bigger than ourselves," said Chairperson Alvin Witten. Development will be a key focus area for the year ahead. To support this, the club has established a separate development fund, underscoring

our commitment to structured growth and future capacity building.

The AGM concluded with the presentation of certificates and trophies to athletes across various categories. Sedgefield Striders athletes continue to represent the club with distinction, participating in numerous events throughout the district and consistently drawing positive attention to both the club and the town. Congratulations were extended to all award recipients for their dedication and achievements.

For more information on the AGM, upcoming events, and award recipients, visit [www.sedgefieldstriders.co.za](http://www.sedgefieldstriders.co.za) or follow Sedgefield Striders on Facebook.

## CAN YOU ASSIST MASITHANDANE

The Masithandane Children's Safe Park Programme needs the following please:

- Top Trumps card games in various categories
- Jig-saw puzzles up to 60 pieces
- Board Games suited to Primary School Children
- Musical Instruments
- Clean empty 25 litre buckets

Items can be dropped off at Masithandane, Milkwood Road, Sedgefield until 13h00 or call Candice Lima 044-3432110 if you would like goods collected.

ALSO – The Masithandane Weaving Project – aimed at job creation – is in urgent need of a single or double garage in which to store their equipment, on either temporary or permanent basis, as their current premises needs to be vacated on Wednesday this week.

Please call the number above should you be able to assist.

 **COLA MYOLI CONSERVANCY**  
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### CONSERVANCY AGM

All welcome to join discussions, stay informed and to share your views.

**THURSDAY**  
5 February 2026

**VENUE**  
Lions Clubhouse  
(next to the Sedgefield clinic)

Our guest speaker is well known local author Sue Swain who will be speaking on the subject 'Biomimicry: Revitalising relationship with our living planet'.

More Information: [colaconservancy@gmail.com](mailto:colaconservancy@gmail.com) Cash Bar Available

## The Wine Ghost

The Wine Ghost tasted – Spier Chardonnay Pinot Noir 2025

The front label on the bottle is quite plain, but the cellar's name is definitely prominent.

On the back label there is a bit of history about the cellar, as well as tasting notes. Abv.12%.

It is a very clear wine, with a light salmon blush colour and a few distinctive legs.

The wine has a yeasty nose, like one would find in homemade ginger beer. Aromas of golden delicious apples and freshly cut grass came to the front.

Rather high acidity was experienced, with flavours of green strawberries, apple and prominent mineral tones.

It is a medium bodied wine, with a medium length mouth feel and tastes of yellow apples with minerality lingering in the mouth.

Enjoy chilled with a raw salmon salad, or on its own.

It is an interesting wine in the price range R80 – R100.

**In Vino Veritas till next time**



## SEDGEFIELD BRIDGE CLUB

Thursday 15 January 2026

1st. Willem & Clive 58.8%

2nd. Linda & Robyn 55.5%

3rd. Thinus & Johann 54.6%

Thursday 22 January 2026

1st. Keiran & Terry 64.5%

2nd. Jo & Ann 63.8%

3rd. Jeannie & Mark 56.2%

It's EASY!  
Scan this QR code to get the  
**WHERE TO FIND IT**  
**SEDGEFIELD**  
Directory on  
your PC or phone



# The BIG Walk for Young Warriors

**A Childhood Cancer Awareness Walk**  
**18 FEBRUARY 2026 5.30pm**  
**Wally vd Walt Street, The Island**

**PLEASE WEAR YELLOW OR GOLD IN SUPPORT**  
No entrance fee, but donations to CHOC  
(Childhood Cancer Foundation of South Africa)  
will be appreciated



From left: Almarie Mead, Linda Evans and Wendy Mack

**SEND SPORTS RESULTS OR ACHIEVEMENTS  
TO editor@edgenews.co.za.**  
Please keep sporting editorial brief in order to  
enable us to include everyone.

Sedgefield Striders TIME TRIAL Wednesdays @ 5.30pm on  
Wally van der Walt Street adjacent to Sedgefield Bowls Club  
Beginner runners/walkers welcome.

## TIDE TABLE

Wed Jan 28 2026  
low tides 05:07 18:18  
high tides 11:41  
sunrise 05:46 sunset 19:37

Thu Jan 29 2026  
low tides 07:38 20:05  
high tides 0:43 13:04  
sunrise 06:41 sunset 19:26

Fri Jan 30 2026  
low tides 07:50 20:19  
high tides 01:51 14:07  
sunrise 05:48 sunset 19:36

Sat Jan 31 2026  
low tides 08:43 21:04  
high tides 02:42 14:57  
sunrise 05:49 sunset 19:35

Sun Feb 01 2026  
low tides 09:28 21:43  
high tides 03:26 15:41  
sunrise 05:50 sunset 19:34

Mon Feb 02 2026  
low tides 10:09 22:19  
high tides 04:05 16:20  
sunrise 05:51 sunset 19:33

Tue Feb 03 2026  
low tides 10:46 22:53  
high tides 04:42 16:57  
sunrise 05:52 sunset 19:33

**28 Jan - 10 Feb 2026**  
• Full Moon 2 February 2026

Wed Feb 04 2026  
low tides 11:21 23:25  
high tides 05:18 17:32  
sunrise 05:53 sunset 19:32

Thu Feb 05 2026  
low tides 11:54 23:55  
high tides 05:51 18:05  
sunrise 05:54 sunset 19:31

Fri Feb 06 2026  
low tides 12:24  
high tides 06:19 18:37  
sunrise 05:41 sunset 19:40

Sat Feb 07 2026  
low tides 00:26 13:00  
high tides 06:58 19:12  
sunrise 05:56 sunset 19:29

Sun Feb 08 2026  
low tides 0:57 13:38  
high tide 07:32 19:50  
sunrise 05:57 sunset 19:28

Mon Feb 09 2026  
low tides 01:33 14:28  
high tide 08:13 20:44  
sunrise 05:58 sunset 19:27

Tue Feb 10 2026  
low tides 02:26 15:54  
high tide 9:12 22:28  
sunrise 05:59 sunset 19:26

## BIG WALK FOR YOUNG WARRIORS

Please join the Sedgefield Lions and Striders for the Childhood Cancer Awareness walk on Wednesday 18 February. The Big Walk for Young Warriors will happen along the Striders Club time trial route in Wally van der Walt Street at 5.30 pm.

The fight against Childhood Cancer is one of the pillar projects of Lions International.

Whilst childhood cancer is the leading cause of disease related deaths in children, the survival rate can be up to 80% in higher income nations if treated early enough.

Come along and have fun supporting this worthy cause.

## LADIES' GOLF

### Club Report

**Friday, 16 January 2026**

... and the ladies are back. The theme this year "Smile, Fun and Fabulous Golf!"

Our first Friday saw us looking very spiffy in our new pale blue shirts, buzzing to catch up after a month-long break. The weather turned it on for our opening ladies' match of the season - though, truth be told, even rain probably would not have drawn many complaints given the local water shortage.

After a quick rundown of the latest course rulings and a warm welcome to Debbie von Plato, who has joined the ladies' division, we were ready to kick off the golfing year. With fingers crossed that we had not completely forgotten how to coax that little white ball into such a tiny hole at the end of the green, 19 ladies stepped onto the tees - and away we went, the format being Individual Stableford!

#### Results:

1st Place – Almarie Mead 34 points (count-out evens 18)  
2nd Place – Linda Evans 34 points (count-out evens 17)  
3rd Place – Wendy Mack 33 points (count-out 16)  
4th Place – Marina van der Westhuizen 33 points (count-out 17)

**Nearest the Pin** (Handicap 16 upwards) Linda Evans

#### Birdies

Shannon Nicol (10)  
Brenda Howden (14)  
Clare Garner (5)  
Almarie Mead (8)

Well played to all ladies!

**Friday, 23 January 2026**

With 19 ladies arriving at Sedge Links, the cool air and gentle breeze were a welcome relief as we gathered to say hello and enjoy a quick catch-up before heading off to our allocated tee boxes. The day's format was an Alliance, with two scores to count. We also had the pleasure of welcoming newcomer Adelaide Claassen to the team.

#### Results:

1st Place – Brenda Howden, Daleen Schooling and Ronnie Maingard (79 points)  
2nd Place – Shannon Nicol, Janet Wood and Brenda Howden (ghost) on a count out (75)  
3rd Place – Adelaide Claassen,

Essie Steinmann and Debbie von Plato (75)

Adelaide played 2 under her allocated handicap

**Nearest the Pin** 6 and under handicap – Linda Evans

#### Birdies

Marina van der Westhuizen (10)  
Wendy Mack (14)  
Claire Theunissen (14)

Well played to all players!

## Off the Mat

### Sedge Bowling Club News



"You don't stop playing bowls because you get old

—  
you get old because you stop playing bowls!"

#### PROTEAS FLYING HIGH

Our ROLLBOKKE - Esme Kruger, Jason Evans and Shaun Thomas gave an outstanding account of themselves at the World Indoor Bowls Championships. Although there were no medals, they represented us with pride, grit and determination. Sometimes the bowls don't fall your way!

#### THE WAY WE ROLL IN EDEN

##### Eden Singles

It's only January and Sedge Bowling Club is already filling the trophy cupboard with a fine collection of silverware from the Eden Singles:

- Ann Dold - Silver, Veterans Ladies
- Robin Gibbs - Bronze, Veterans Men
- Marius Nagel - Silver, Novice Men

#### JUBILANT JUNIOR

The pride and joy of our club, Wilize Botha, played brilliantly to enhance her chances of selection for the Eden team to compete at the SA National Junior Championships later this year! You go girl - we're cheering you all the way!

#### BACK HOME ON OUR OWN GREENS

The clubs drawn Ladies' and Men's competitions are progressing well and with the Novice Singles kicking off on 17 February There's no shortage of opportunities for Sedgies to test their mettle - and keep their nerve under pressure.

It's all in the call  
If it is true that "Good communication saves a lot of measuring" we all owe Pieter Griesel and his trusty WhatsApp group a vote of thanks for keeping us off our knees! Dankie Pieter!

"An elderly bowler called Kent  
Whose backhand was terribly  
bent,  
Was rumoured to say  
In competitive play  
That he couldn't control where  
it went"

That's a wrap — see you all  
on the mat!

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