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NO POWER NO SHOWER!

WAS SEDGEFIELD LEFT HIGH & DRY AFTER THE STORM?

Anger and frustration have been palpable in Sedgefield over the past two dark weeks, and many are asking questions as to whether more could have been done by local authorities to manage the chaos caused by the long and drawn out power failures - the first on Wednesday 6 May lasting for three days, and the second starting the following Monday and lasting for six days (and longer in some communities).

The lack of electricity was bad enough, but the situation was made that much more unbearable for many households when the local water system failed.

Obviously little could be done to mitigate the level 8 storms and gale-force winds that affected the whole Garden Route over a period of six days, with trees that have stood for decades being toppled over like skittles (263 fell on George Golf Course alone!). It was only a matter of time before major power lines were taken out.

Eskom teams were out in force, but with damage so widespread and much of it in inaccessible gullies on rural land, there were certainly not going to be a quick-fixes.

Local Ward 1 Councillor Levael Davis was eager to sing the praises of the repair crews on the ground "They worked around the clock, but aside from the stormy weather on some days, the terrain they were working in made things almost impossible. There were steep inclines and so much mud, their bakkies were getting stuck and they had no choice but to try to reach the powerlines by foot, carrying all their equipment."

Having no electricity for so long had a hugely negative effect on local residents, businesses, accommodation establishments and households, but it was when the taps started to run dry that tempers really flared.

Councillor Davis, overwhelmed by the constant stream of calls he has had to field from local residents left high and dry, is furious, and blames Knysna Municipality, demanding accountability from the local authority. "The lengthy water outage in Sedgefield has left many residents, particularly our most vulnerable community members, without access to clean water for several days," he said, "While the trigger for the outage was a storm-related electricity failure, the collapse of the water supply was entirely preventable. What we witnessed was not a natural disaster but the consequence of serious infrastructure mismanagement."

He explained that at the centre of this crisis is a backup generator, stationed at the Sedgefield water facility, which was not operational at the time it was needed most. "This is despite the Sedgefield team consistently requesting maintenance support," he said. "A similar outage in Sedgefield occurred the week prior, but no effort was made to repair the generator. Had this critical piece of infrastructure been properly maintained, water pumps could have continued operating during the power outage, reservoirs would have remained supplied,

and residents would have been spared days of unnecessary hardship."

And he is not alone in his frustration. Sedgefield Ratepayers EXCO are equally frustrated. Chair Kevin Barnes wrote: "The recent water crisis affecting Smutsville, Cola Beach and Myoli is not merely an infrastructure failure - it is a stark warning about the consequences of poor municipal governance, inadequate maintenance and the erosion of accountability in local government.

Residents across these communities have once again found themselves without access to water, a basic human right protected under the Constitution of South Africa. Families, businesses, schools and vulnerable residents are forced to endure the indignity and hardship of dry taps while explanations remain vague and meaningful intervention appears painfully slow."

He also talked of the unrepaired back up generator being non-operational due to a lack of proper servicing and maintenance.

"This is not bad luck. It is not an unavoidable disaster. It is a failure of management," he said. "Critical infrastructure does not simply collapse overnight. Pumps, generators and water systems deteriorate when preventative maintenance is ignored, warnings are not acted upon and accountability disappears within administrative structures. Communities are then left to pay the price for negligence through interrupted services, economic losses and declining quality of life."

"For years, ratepayers across the Garden Route have faithfully met their financial obligations while watching the steady decline of essential services. Roads deteriorate, infrastructure ages, response times slow and basic maintenance becomes reactive rather than preventative. Yet the cost of municipal living continues to rise."

He said many residents are now asking who carries responsibility when repeated failures occur, despite ongoing complaints and warnings?

"A functioning municipality should not wait for a crisis before acting. Efficient local government depends on competent administration, properly maintained infrastructure, skilled technical leadership and transparent oversight. Most importantly, it depends on elected representatives and officials understanding that they are accountable to the communities they serve. When accountability weakens, service delivery suffers."

He believes the situation in Smutsville, Cola Beach and Myoli should serve as a broader wake-up call — not only to municipal officials, but to every resident and ratepayer, and that this should be remembered at the local government elections later this year.

"Complaining around dinner tables, on social media or in community groups may highlight problems, but lasting change ultimately requires civic participation," he said. "Local government elections are not abstract political exercises. They directly determine who manages water systems, infrastructure budgets, maintenance planning and service delivery priorities. Every vote influences whether municipalities are led by capable, responsive and accountable leadership — or whether communities continue to experience decline.

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THANK YOU. DANKIE. ENKOSI.

As Sedgefield is (hopefully!) coming out the other side of a very dark (literally and metaphorically) and stormy tunnel, there are many who helped the community through in one way or another. We're sure you will agree that this is what makes living in this town the special experience that it is.

So, if we may be so bold, we would like to offer the whole community's thanks to those silent heroes. From the feeding schemes set up in the town hall for those badly affected, to the horse (and other animal) rescuers, to the coffee shops and other businesses who allowed people to recharge phones, laptops and caffeine levels, to the councillors trying to keep us informed, and calmly taking the frustration of locals on board, to the ESKOM and Municipal ground-force teams who got us reconnected, to those tireless folk doing shifts at Sedgefield's old age homes, to the ones who helped rebuild damaged homes in Smutsville / Sizamile, to the people who just went out of their way to help other people cope. *We salute all of you!*



On Thursday 7 May, the rescue of 31 horses from their flooded paddocks in Rondevlei involved huge effort and energy by many selfless residents - see full story on page 5. Picture by Pam Booth.

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Notes from T'Ed's Head

Ummmm,

That was Mrs Ed's reaction.

And it wasn't because I hadn't showered for seven days. There was no nose wrinkling, well, none that I could see through the industrial face mask I had been wearing since lunchtime Tuesday (probably because she hadn't been able to shave).

No. It was a different sort of Ummmm to the "Ummmm, you smell like the back end of a rotting camel," sort.

It was an Ummm that invoked more primal fear than the howling of an ancient wolf.

Now, for the sake of some of you gents who may NOT have the poor fortune of being married for as long as two life sentences (with no time deducted for good behaviour), I should perhaps share the myriad meanings this particular Ummmm phrase has.

Those who HAVE (been married for that long, I mean... please do try to keep up!) will undoubtedly, at this very moment, be shivering in their boots at the very thought of an

'Ummmm' coming from their ... er ... better halves.

(Please, when I say 'better halves' in this context, I am, of course, referring to their wives. It's a colloquial saying, which, I reflect sometimes quietly in my head, doesn't make much sense. Personally, I think my own 'Better Half' is the portion of my body from my hips downwards, as that is the 50% of my mortal frame which enables me to run away.)

Right. Let's begin this lesson, lest we be interrupted by something miraculous like electricity or water. An 'Ummmm' – and indeed the level of fear/frustration/lunacy/desperation it should cause, depends on what my English teacher (bless his late cotton socks) would refer to as its TMP. "Time, Manner, Place, boy!" he would shout, sending a chalkboard duster flying in my general direction.

For example. If Mrs Ed says "U m m m m m m" at approximately 2 am, in hushed tones, whilst we are in bed, then alarm bells will instantly ring in my head, announcing that there is imminent danger ahead.

Either

1. She has found something to buy online, which is so expensive she feels it necessary to acquire a general grunt/snore/"whaaaa?" or some other form of murmur from me (anything except NO! DON'T BUY IT!) will be taken as absolute agreement to hit 'Add to Shopping Cart'. OR

2. She has heard a noise downstairs, which may or may not be a sign of someone trying to break in. This means that in the next ten seconds, her 36 million candlepower bedside light will be switched on, and an argument in sign language will ensue. She, suggesting in quite wild gesticulations, that I should go down and tackle any intruders, and me countering with the internationally recognised flurry of hand movements invoking Rule # 275 (iii) of cohabitation:- 'The one who (claims to have) heard the noise should investigate the cause.'



Alternatively, if the "Ummmm" is used on a Saturday afternoon whilst I am involved in an Important Deep Thinking session on my hammock, THAT normally means that Mrs Ed has taken note of how wonderfully comfortable I am and lined up an urgent task for me to perform posthaste. Usually, one that I might have mentioned I would get round to when I have time (if only she would stop nagging me every six months).

Of course, there are many other 'Ummmm's – too numerous to mention. The Eyebrow Raised Ummmm, which implies "Really? You have fetched yourself a beer (a seven-second task) without offering to make ME a drink (which involves hours on end of labour finding ice, slicing a lemon, searching for the gin, going to the shops to buy tonic, etc., etc., etc.)." The Admission of Guilt Ummmm "I think I just watched the recycle truck drive away with your whole Twelve Season Collection of Bay Watch DVDs, which I accidentally dropped in a clear bag and left outside."

But on this particular day, Mrs Ed's Ummmm wasn't any of those.

When this Ummmm happened, we were staring at my MAC.

No, not a computer. (Remember those things we used to use when we had that thing called electricity?)

This MAC that we were looking at (because our phones were flat, the TV was powerless, and the neighbours had started getting annoyed with us staring into their garden) was my Most Amazing Creation.

And it wasn't a golden statue of Donald Trump (you just HAD to go there, didn't you?)


It was a fence - a thirty-metre-long fence along the edge of The EDGE offices.

And it had been built by me.

With my own hands.

Are you impressed? Well, you should be. At least Mrs Ed should have been.

Because she hadn't believed I could accomplish such mastery. Indeed, she had droned on and on like a dragon on Dextromethorphan about employing people who are professionals at such things. Surely she of all people should be the one who recognises my inherent craftiness when it comes to DIY?



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ONDERSTEGAATJIE PUMP STATION

Knysna Municipality has commenced with repair work at the Onderstegaatjie Pump Station in Sedgefield following recent operational challenges caused by severe weather conditions and prolonged electricity interruptions.

The pump station, which services the surrounding informal settlement and forms part of the final sewer transfer system to the Sedgefield Wastewater Treatment Works, experienced significant strain over the past two weeks due to heavy rainfall and the extended Eskom power outage. Municipal technical teams are implementing repairs while also planning long-term infrastructure upgrades aimed at preventing similar incidents in the future.

Acting Municipal Manager Manqoba Ngubo explained that the Onderstegaatjie Pump Station is designed to operate with three 48kVA pumps, one duty pump for normal daily operations, one assist pump activated during periods of increased demand, and one standby pump used during maintenance or breakdowns.

"However, the station has for some time been operating with only one duty pump, limiting the system's ability to effectively manage high inflows during emergency conditions," he said. "The recent week-long Eskom power outage placed additional pressure on the system, leaving the pump station without electricity for more than six days. During this period, heavy rainfall further increased the hydraulic load on the infrastructure, with substantial volumes of stormwater entering the sewer network."

The situation was further exacerbated by the location of the informal settlement in a natural low-lying area that lacks a formal stormwater drainage system, resulting in waterlogged conditions and increased inflow into the pump station. Critical electrical components, including the soft starter responsible for controlling pump motor operations, sustained damage due to the excessive load placed on the system.

"The municipality has prioritised repairs at the pump station to restore operational stability as quickly as possible. Replacement of the damaged soft starter is scheduled to take place today 19 May, while repair work on the control panels will also resume," he continued. "These interventions will provide temporary relief while more comprehensive refurbishment plans are being finalised. Municipal teams remain on-site monitoring conditions and implementing measures to reduce the impact on affected communities."

The municipality has identified the Onderstegaatjie Pump Station as a priority sewer infrastructure site for the 2026/27 financial year. Planned interventions include the full refurbishment of the pump station, the installation of all three required pumps to restore full operational capacity, the refurbishment of electrical control panels, upgrades to security and control systems, and condition assessments of critical sewer and water pump stations across the Greater Knysna municipal area.

A professional service provider to assist with sewer infrastructure projects was appointed in April 2026, marking an important step towards strengthening and modernising municipal infrastructure systems.

"We acknowledge the inconvenience experienced by affected residents and wish to assure communities that both immediate repairs and long-term infrastructure improvements remain a priority. We are committed to building more resilient water and sanitation systems capable of withstanding severe weather events and operational pressures in the future," concluded Ngubo.

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SEDFIELD TO HOST NEW WEEK-LONG 'EN ROUTE' ARTS FESTIVAL THIS JUNE

Sedgefield will come alive with theatre, comedy, music, workshops, and cultural experiences when the inaugural En Route Arts Festival takes place from 18 - 25 June 2026.

The festival will feature more than 20 performances and workshops across multiple venues in town, showcasing a diverse mix of established artists and emerging talent.

Festival Director Roland Vorwerk, of *In Toto Retreat*, said the festival's name was inspired by the many performers travelling through Sedgefield on their way to the National Arts Festival in Makhanda (Grahamstown).

"We are privileged to host such a fantastic diversity of performances and look forward to welcoming new

audiences from the wider Garden Route and elsewhere," said Vorwerk.

Highlights of the programme include:

- Acclaimed actor **Andrew Buckland** returning with his celebrated storytelling theatre
- Award-winning playwright **Mike van Graan** presenting two

new productions: *Pet Friendly* and *Helen of Troyville*

- The Sedgefield Players performing their tongue-in-cheek *Complete Works of William Shakespeare - Abridged*

- Comedy performances by **Stuart Taylor** (*Odd Man Out*) and **Sophie Joans** (*Netflix*)

- Musical productions including *Amy Winehouse - The Diva and Her Demons*, *Time to Tango*, and *Call Me a Diva*

The festival also offers workshops and cultural experiences celebrating Sedgefield's natural and artistic heritage. Activities include fossil footprint walks, photography outings, mosaic and beadwork classes, a writing

workshop, pottery painting and the Masithandane Mosaic Tour.

An "In Conversation" session with Mike van Graan and Andrew Buckland, as well as a creative questioning workshop led by artist and researcher Dr Greg Streak, will add further depth to the programme.

Festival venues include **In Toto Retreat**, **The Bistro at Simbavati Fynbos on Sea**, and the **Smutsville Community Hall**.

Tickets for the performances, workshops and tours will be available on **quicket**. See <https://enroute-festival.co.za/> for more information.

For enquiries, contact Roland Vorwerk on 082 466 1251.



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HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR TREMENDOUS PnP TEAM

The owners and management of Sedgefield Pick n Play would like to take a moment to salute our staff for their dedication and enthusiasm over the last two weeks of mayhem in Sedgefield. Despite all facing huge challenges at home due to power and water outages, each and every one on the team turned up to work his or her shifts, ensuring our customers would enjoy the sort of friendly service they are used to at their favourite family store.

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Talking Conservation

Drie Valleyen

The Gaia Principle

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

The Gaia Principle, also known as the Gaia Theory or the Gaia Hypothesis, theorises that Earth and its biological systems behave as a huge single entity. Named after the Greek goddess of the Earth, Gaia, the theory emphasises that the biosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere, and pedosphere are tightly coupled and evolve together to maintain environmental stability. It puts forward that Earth has tightly controlled self-regulatory feedback loops that keep the conditions on the planet within boundaries that are favourable to life.

The Gaia Principle, introduced in the early 1970s by chemist James E. Lovelock and biologist Lynn Margulis, offers a novel perspective on global ecology and evolution. It diverges from traditional views by emphasising the interconnectedness of biological and physical systems. Lovelock's Gaia Hypothesis describes Earth as a self-regulating system where the biosphere and evolving life forms help maintain stable conditions such as temperature, ocean salinity, and atmospheric oxygen, ensuring long-term habitability.

Although Lovelock's ideas were initially received with hostility by the scientific community, they are now integral in the disciplines of, *inter alia*, geo-physiology and earth system science. Despite controversy, the Gaia Hypothesis has reshaped scientific perspectives on the interconnectedness of life and the environment.

But how does this affect you and me?

We are standing on a living organism, not a dead rock, and we are part of that living organism (as parasites?), which has been breathing for 4.5 billion years, and it is trying to tell us something. Our Earth is life, and the atmosphere, the oceans, the soil, and the temperature are not accidental. As our bodies regulate their own temperature, Lovelock says the Earth does the same thing.

When CO₂ rises, forests expand to absorb it. When the ocean gets too acidic, shell-building organisms pull calcium from the water and lock it into limestone. When the surface gets too hot, clouds form to reflect sunlight. The planet has been running its own thermostat for 4.5 billion years, without an engineer, without permission from anyone and it has survived five mass extinctions. It has recovered from asteroid impacts that

vaporised entire oceans.

And then we showed up James Lovelock understood that the planet does not need saving; it has endured catastrophic events like the Great Oxygenation Event 2.4 billion years ago, when a new organism called cyanobacteria flooded the atmosphere with a gas so toxic it killed nearly every living thing on the planet. That gas was oxygen and the planet adapted, life rebuilt, new species emerged that could breathe the "poison." One of those species is humankind which has made the largest single impact over the last two hundred years on the Earth's, and our own health.

But now, as the planet shows signs of distress, we still debate whether it is real. We are that species that views the Earth as a resource rather than a partner and develops without consideration of the natural environment. We then act surprised when the ground shakes and the water rises. The Earth tells us that we are the ones wiping out species and ecological systems.

The planet's resilience suggests that it will survive our actions because the planet does not negotiate. When a system is pushed too far, it corrects and it does not correct gently. It does not send a warning letter. The Earth has a remarkable capacity to adapt and recover from environmental upheavals, including ice ages, extinction events, floods, droughts, and climate change.

Lovelock postulates that we are not separate from nature. We are nature and our negative response to our environment, is a conflict we have declared with ourselves. Everything we do to the Earth, we do to ourselves, we are not on the Earth, we are part of the Earth.

The critical question is not: "Can the Earth survive what we are doing?" but: "Can we survive what the Earth will do in response?"

The planet is not fragile. We are.

Our Ocean Heritage Event - 16 June Youth Day at Scarab Market Sedgefield

Now! More than ever, at a time like this of natural disasters, crisis, deprivation, human suffering and where our fragile environment and precious ocean heritage is so at risk! Our community needs more than ever to step up and mitigate climate change.

Each of us holds a vital responsibility for the future of our world. To create a brighter, cleaner, less polluted environment. And collectively to raise our voices in voting to hold industry, governance and military accountable to keep our atmosphere, soil and water free of toxic pollution. Because everything which is harmful to the land, air and water is harmful to us human beings, the animals and all living creatures.

On Youth Day, 16 June, 200 young ambassadors for the environment will be gathering for a whale of a day. A wonderful conservation learning experience. There will be a theatre performance about our local whales by Lunchbox Theatre. Talks by experts in their field on 'Fynbos', fish, water, birds, cetaceans and elephants. The Our Ocean Heritage Festival Day is free of charge, and everyone is welcome. There will be a delicious potjie braai lunch available. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and other sweet treats will be on sale at the event.

So, join in the fun, bring your



family and a picnic and become a nexus point for positive environmental change at the Our OCEAN HERITAGE festival event.

Project UbuMama Outdoor Classroom began in 2020 in Kayaletu, Knysna, offering a unique outdoor education programme rooted in South African heritage. The name UbuMama, meaning "motherhood," reflects care for family, community, and the natural world, echoing the concept of Mother Earth.

The project promotes core community values by reconnecting learners with nature and culture through traditional stories, music, dance, crafts, and food preparation. These experiences strengthen identity, cultural pride, and respect for tradition while nurturing curiosity and a love of learning.

In partnership with South African National Parks (SANParks), UbuMama

provides children from disadvantaged communities with access to experiential learning in natural environments. Guided excursions and hikes expose learners to South Africa's rich natural and historical heritage, including indigenous plants, wildlife, water systems, and soil. Sponsorships ensure accessibility by covering transport costs, while SANParks offers free park entry and expert guides.

Through immersive outdoor learning, Project UbuMama cultivates respect for nature, heritage, and community laying the foundation for confident, connected, and environmentally conscious young people.

UbuMama Outdoor Classroom Project is an independently sponsored organisation. If you would like to support the work of this organisation, please contact Sarah Mackie at www.ubumama.co.za

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HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY SEDGEFIELD LIONS CLUB!

by Lion Debbie Olivier

As the Lions Club of Sedgfield looks toward the future and their continued commitment to the community, I think we need to reflect on the decades of service, fellowship, and the active role it has played in supporting Greater Sedgfield, and show appreciation to our founder members.

From the humble beginnings of meetings being held in a cleared out chicken coop the Kingston farm, which belonged to Rodney and Jess Hahn, to the now super and spacious (and with not a chicken roost in sight) wooden structure on the village green (next to the clinic), here are some interesting snippets for those who remember the founder members, some of our past members, and of course, our current members.

It really was a cleared out chicken coop where the first meetings were held and the first president elected (Rodney Hahn).

The club was chartered with Lions International on 9 June 1986. As Lion Bob Dudley recalls, "the chicken coop was freezing, we held our meetings on a Thursday evening, and in winter, wore many layers of clothing and beanies to ward off the cold. No ladies were admitted to the club in those days, but they were very active in all the fundraising events and of course, all the festive parties held there."

The wooden structured clubhouse also holds "legendary status" in being moved to where it currently stands and being the official clubhouse of the Sedgfield Lions. The Plettenberg Bay Lions had shut shop, and their clubhouse was about to be absorbed by the Plett Municipality. No problem to our intrepid founding members, they all piled into a members bakkie, headed off before sunrise to Plett, dismantled the wooden structure, brought it back to Sedg, and rebuilt it to boot! There has been a number of addition to the Chicken Coup since it first arrived, much to the

benefit of members and the town. Many memorable fundraisers are held there and it is also used by the MOTHS, the Cubs and Scouts, and book clubs and knitting groups.

Fundraising was pretty much in the same vein as it is now; marshalling, fun events, and a hamburger stall at the Buffalo Rally in Mossel Bay. According to the Dudleys this was an absolute labour of love and a character building exercise of note. Thousands of burgers were sold over a weekend, very little sleep was had (bikers LOVE to vroom their machines), and long shifts of smelling like patties and onions was the order of the day, or should I say, the weekend!

Founder members, Rodney Hahn, Niel de Waal, Harvey Havenga, Riaan van der Spuy, Martin Combrinck, Wesley Sparks, Cliff Daniel and Rob Stoker, all did Sedgfield proud!



The club has ebbed and flowed since then, as all clubs do, but one of its greatest achievements was the building of the dining room area at Sedgemeer Park.

A lot of focus was put on our seniors with rides on the Choo Choo, trips on the John Benn, and even our members donning dresses and costumes to put on "cabaret-style" shows!

In recent years, the club has

supported schools, youth programmes, families in need, environmental initiatives, cancer awareness, mental health, and various community organisations. Our fundraisers are spirited gatherings, supported by locals. The events are where lasting friendships are built and provide much merriment, while raising funds for worthy causes.

As the club looks forward to the future, we remain committed to

supporting our community with the same energy and sense of fellowship as has been seen in our 40 years of service here in Sedgfield. We are proud of what we have achieved, and are extremely grateful to all who have supported us on this journey of service.

Above all be of single aim, have a legitimate and useful purpose, and devote yourself unreservedly to it. James Allen

OLD FRIENDS WITH GUITARS AND DRUMS IN SEDGEFIELD

Come and enjoy an afternoon with friends and legends, Steve Newman, Des Lindberg and Eugene van Pletzen. What a musical treat extraordinaire, we have in store for you.

**Sedgfield Bowling Club
Sunday 31 May 2026
from 3 to 5:30 pm**

• **Steve Newman**, one of South Africa's finest musical treasures - his project, Tananas, has played concerts/festivals on nearly all the world's continents including Asia, Africa, the US, Europe, and Australia.

• **Des Lindberg**, South African Troubadour for 60 years and more and married to Dawn for 55 years, will entertain you with his stories and well-known South African Songs like "Die Gezoem van die Bye" and "Kleinhuisie." He had many number one hits on Springbok Radio. He has starred alongside many prestigious artists like Spike Milligan and Steve Newman and co-produced GODSPELL, playing John the Baptist and Judas in in the year-long tour of the Musical.

• **Eugene Van Pletzen**, a percussionist, drummer and lover of swung rhythms and the

stories they tell and has made a name for himself playing with legendary artists such as Steve Newman and many others.

Get your tickets at Deo Gratia in the Pick n Pay centre or online via Quicket.

R200 for adults and children 12 and over. Children U12 free but must be under adult supervision.

There will be a cash bar so no drinks may be brought onto the premises. You are welcome to bring your own snacks.

For more info: Jacky 082 414 2133

COMMUNITY RALLIES FOR HORSES

The recent devastating flood emergency on the outskirts of Sedgfield sparked an extraordinary community rescue effort that saved 31 horses, as well as dogs and a cat, from rising waters during last week's severe storm.

What began as a quiet Wednesday evening on May 6 quickly turned into a life-threatening situation when floodwaters surged, despite the lagoon mouth having already been opened earlier in the day. With electricity already out, the team of RhythmsRiding Centre still spent the evening comfortably enough, with a fire, toasties and an early night. But within just two hours, the situation changed dramatically, and people were forced to evacuate by boat as the farmhouse was overwhelmed by floodwater.

By midnight, the dogs and cat had been safely moved into town, but 31 horses were still stranded as waters continued to rise. With no clear view of the animals' condition, the small group of rescuers had to wade into the floodwaters to assess the situation.

They found the horses huddled together on the highest ground they could reach, with water already up to their forearms and no dry land or grazing available. Horses need constant access to roughage, especially older animals experiencing cold, wet weather, so urgent decisions had to be made.

In torrential rain and waist-high water, and with another thunderstorm approaching, the team returned to the flooded fields to remove the horses' soaked blankets to allow them to move more easily. They were then secured in a smaller area that could be reached more safely by their human carers, and monitoring continued through the night as water levels were checked hourly.

By Thursday morning, the water had risen further and was chest-high in some areas. The horses still had no feed, and time was running out.

Help came when local land owner Clive Bower generously offered a safe, dry space behind the Engen Garage for the horses to be evacuated to. The location was ideal, close enough to allow even the wilder ponies and older horses to be moved in time.

With support from Eden Wildfire Rescue and many local animal lovers, the horses were successfully evacuated just before another electrical storm hit. Horse by horse, the rescue effort was repeated again and again as the rain eased briefly, with multiple helpers needed because of the extreme strain, deep water and difficult conditions.

The flooded ground had become dangerously unstable, almost like quicksand, making each rescue trip both risky and physically exhausting. But despite the challenges, the team persisted until every horse was safely on dry land.

Even after the immediate

danger had passed, the community support continued throughout the week. Locals helped feed, clothe and support those involved, while others kept watch through the night to ensure ponies did not escape onto the N2 and become a danger to traffic. Boats were loaned, equipment was rescued, and countless residents stepped in wherever they could.

The response, according to those involved, showed the true spirit of Sedgfield: a town where people may differ, but come together when animals and lives are at risk.

We're told the damage to the farm is significant, with the feed room, tack room, fences and riding areas all badly affected. The clean-up is ongoing, and there is still a long road ahead. But amid the destruction, the RhythmsRiding Centre team say they have had a powerful reminder of what community can achieve.

Local heroes thanked for their support included Demetri Divaris, Eden Wildfire, Clive Bower, the Sparks Family, Gift of the Givers, Build It, Hiremax, Tortoise Car Hire, Knysna Traffic Department, Sedgfield Fire Department, Cossack Stunt Academy, Garden Route Property and many others who gave help anonymously.

The owner of RhythmsRiding said the experience showed that when people see a need and respond, lives can be saved. In a week defined by floodwater, fear and exhaustion, Sedgfield once again proved that its greatest strength lies in its people.

DIARY DATELINE

Weekly
Sedgefield Cycling Club. Training and social rides from Cycleworx. For ride schedules contact 044-343 1710 or 083-357 9999.

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

Every 2nd Monday
2pm Sedgefield Art Society meet at the Lions Club. New members are welcome. Pasty - 073 256 6021

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
8 for 9am Sedge Gentlemen's Golf @ The Links
9:30-12. Every 1st and 3rd Thursday, the Pin Cushions meet at the Bowling Club. Quilting. Enq: Claudine 082 456 6055
1:15pm Social Bridge School at St Anthony's Catholic Church hall with play starting at 1:30pm. All levels are welcome. Enquiries: Gail 083 457 7647.
13:15pm Bowls. Tabs in
2:30pm Sedgefield Jukskei 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 every 3rd Saturday at 3pm at the George Botanical Gardens. 083 743 1690

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

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

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The Editor
Where do I start? I would say our town is slowly going backwards. There is a very small group of people who are trying to do good, one of them being Revive Sedgefield. One of their projects on which they spent thousands of rands, was fixing up the children's park which is now a pond of sewage which smells. This started just before the rains and I reported it to the powers-that-be. We then had no power which made it worse as the sewage was gravity feeding into the park. It has now been more than two weeks. Perhaps they might do something about the sewage when people get really sick or die from it but then it will be way too late. This has been going on for many years and it is just getting worse. If the water treatment plant had been placed further upstream, on higher ground we



would not be without water now. They could have done something by now but clearly they haven't. With load shedding or power outages, the generators could be placed higher up out of reach of the water in order to prevent water damage, similarly with the pump stations. I think there are a lot of people that feel as I do. It is the councillors that we voted in that do not care. We need to do

something now so that we have the right people in place who will stand up and do something about it. We need to keep highlighting these things in the

news so that we can get our town back to a place that we can once again be proud of.

Demetri Divaris

OPEN LETTER

To All Knysna Municipal Councillors
Subject: Serious concerns regarding the 2026/2027 Draft Budget

Councillors,

I write as a deeply concerned resident and ratepayer regarding the Knysna Municipality 2026/2027 Draft Budget.

Having read the draft budget report itself, I do not believe this budget gives the public confidence that the municipality is on a sound, disciplined, and credible path. On the contrary, the document presents a picture of a municipality under clear strain, while asking residents and businesses to carry significantly higher financial burdens.

The first and most obvious concern is the mismatch between inflation and the proposed tariff increases. The budget uses headline inflation of 3.7%, yet proposes increases of 5% on rates, 11.5% on electricity, 12% on water, 12% on sanitation, and 25% on refuse. This places very substantial pressure on households and businesses at a time when confidence in service delivery is already weak.

The water section is particularly alarming. The budget states that water losses have worsened from 33.68% to 47.98%. It further states that a cost-reflective water tariff would require an increase of 72%, although the municipality is proposing 12% at this stage. The same section also records that 1,000 conventional meters are being installed as a pilot before any wider rollout to approximately 8,000 faulty meters. In plain terms, the municipality is asking the public to pay more while openly acknowledging severe losses and an unresolved metering problem.

The refuse increase is another major concern. The proposed 25% increase is explained partly by under-recovery, the new regional landfill arrangement, and an estimated R15 million capital contribution, together with further transport and dumping costs. Ratepayers are therefore being asked to fund the consequences of structural weakness and delayed alignment.

The staffing position reflected in the budget is equally troubling. Employee-related costs are budgeted at about R405.6 million, while the report also says that approximately R40.3 million worth of vacant critical posts are included in the draft and still need to be realigned before finalisation. This creates an obvious contradiction: how can the salary bill be so high while critical staffing problems remain unresolved in the municipality's own budget document?

The municipality's underlying operating position also appears weaker than the headline presentation suggests. The draft shows operating revenue of about R1.524 billion and operating expenditure of about R1.529 billion, which means there is still an operating deficit of about R5.3 million before capital grants are taken into account. Only after capital grants does the budget show a surplus of about R48.2 million. That is not a sign of robust operating strength.

Equally serious is the budget's admission that grant allocations have declined because of low spending, non-approval of roll-overs, and grant compression, and that the municipality must spend grants fully if it wishes future allocations to increase. This points not merely to a revenue problem, but to an execution and capacity problem.

On the governance side, the policy schedule records "NO POLICY YET" against several important policy areas, including infrastructure investment and capital projects, planning and approval of capital projects, developer contributions, free basic services, management and oversight, managing electricity and water, management of losses, and conservation and efficiency. It is difficult to understand how a municipality can responsibly impose such steep tariff increases while still lacking a complete policy framework in key areas directly tied to infrastructure, service delivery, losses, and accountability.

The report also states that some monthly targets, variables, and project details are only partly completed and will be properly addressed in the final budget process. That is deeply concerning. A draft budget should already demonstrate

Brushstrokes

The Sedgefield Art Society has certainly had a busy and eventful month, despite the recent stormy weather experienced across the area. Unfortunately, the society was forced to postpone its monthly meeting from the 11th May to the 18 May due to the inclement weather conditions. We sincerely hope that all our members, friends, and the wider community remained safe and did not suffer too much damage during the recent storms.

The postponed meeting will now take place on Monday, 18 May at 2pm at the Lion's Hall, where members will gather for the society's Annual General Meeting. Following the AGM, members and guests can look forward to an inspiring brainstorming workshop presented by local and internationally acclaimed artist Sheila Cooper Collins. These workshops continue to offer wonderful opportunities for artists of all levels to learn new techniques, share ideas, and enjoy creative fellowship.

The Society's ongoing exhibitions continue to showcase the remarkable talent within our local art community. Current exhibitions can be viewed at Golem Pottery and Craft Studio, on Main Service Road, at the end of May, where the display will transition into a beautiful new theme titled "Winter Wonderland". Art lovers are encouraged not to miss this seasonal exhibition, which promises to capture the beauty and atmosphere of winter through a variety of



artistic styles and mediums.

Another popular exhibition venue, Lake View Restaurant, has also recently welcomed a fresh collection of artwork. Visitors can enjoy a relaxing meal or coffee while admiring some of Sedgefield's finest art. The combination of excellent food, tranquil surroundings, and inspiring local artwork makes this a truly enjoyable outing for residents and visitors alike.

For those unable to visit these exhibitions during the month, the society's ever-popular Pop-up Exhibition will once again take place next to Sotheby's on Saturday, 30 May from 8am to 1pm. This is always a wonderful opportunity for the public to meet local artists, view a wide variety of original artwork, and enjoy friendly conversation with members of the society. Whether you are an art enthusiast, collector, or simply curious, everyone is warmly invited to pop in and say hello.

Adding to the month's activities, Society members will also be enjoying a Plein Air outing at Steam Whistle Stop Café on the 28 May from 10am to 3pm. Members are encouraged to join in for a day of painting, creativity, and camaraderie while enjoying the beautiful local scenery that continues to inspire so many of our artists.

The Sedgefield Art Society continues to provide a vibrant and welcoming space for artists and art lovers alike and looks forward to sharing another exciting month of creativity with the community.



PODCAST QR CODE



seriousness, preparedness, and internal discipline. It should not present the public with major price increases while leaving important implementation details to be tidied up later.

In short, this draft budget raises the following concerns:

- tariff increases far above inflation
- severe and worsening water losses
- a salary bill of about R405.6 million alongside unresolved critical vacancies of about R40.3 million
- an operating deficit before capital grants
- declining grants due to weak spending performance
- major gaps in the municipality's policy framework
- incomplete monthly and project planning detail within the draft itself

I therefore ask each councillor to answer the following plainly and publicly before any approval of this budget:

1. How do you justify tariff increases so far above inflation across core services?
2. Why should residents pay more for water while the municipality admits losses approaching 48%?
3. How do you justify a salary bill of over R400 million while critical posts remain unresolved?
4. What specific and measurable service improvements will residents see in return for these increases?
5. Why are key policy instruments still absent?
6. Why should the public have confidence in execution when the municipality itself admits weak grant spending and incomplete draft budget detail?

This budget does not merely require technical approval. It requires political ownership. If councillors support it, then councillors must also accept responsibility for its burdens, contradictions, and consequences.

The people of Knysna, Sedgefield and outlying areas are entitled to more than reassurances. They are entitled to clarity, discipline, honesty, and competence.

Yours faithfully,
Simon Carr.

KNYSNA WELCOMES NEW ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Knysna Municipality has appointed Manqoba Ngubo as Acting Municipal Manager.

Mr Manqoba Ngubo has served in both Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer capacities, with experience in strategic planning, operational management, and strengthening financial systems. His approach focuses on practical implementation and improved service delivery.

He is an experienced business executive with over 11 years in

leadership roles across the private sector and state-owned entities. He has built a track record in financial services, including financial recovery and organisational performance improvement.

Executive Mayor Thando Matika welcomed the appointment, describing Ngubo as a young and energetic leader with a strong understanding of local government. "Mr Ngubo has done excellent work during his tenure at Bitou Municipality and is well acquainted with the

challenges facing local municipalities, including Knysna. Council looks forward to working with him as he steps in to lead the administration," said Matika.

"I welcome the opportunity to serve the community of Greater Knysna," said Ngubo. "I am eager to work with all stakeholders to strengthen service delivery and implement Council resolutions as we build an inclusive, innovative and inspired Knysna together."



Manqoba Ngubo is Knysna Municipality's new Acting Municipal Manager.

Democracy Divided : The Cost of Fragmented Politics & Failed Coalitions

by Alvin Witten on behalf of Sedgefield Ratepayers Association

Municipal elections are once again approaching, and with them comes the familiar parade of promises, slogans, posters, and newly formed political parties all claiming to have the answers to our frustrations. For communities like Sedgefield, however, the past few years have taught us a painful lesson: democracy does not end at the ballot box. The consequences of our choices echo for years afterwards.

Residents of Sedgefield, particularly through the tireless efforts of the Sedgefield Ratepayers Association, have repeatedly raised alarm bells over the steady deterioration of basic service delivery. Water outages affecting Smutsville, Myoli and Cola Beach have become all too common. Electricity interruptions, failing infrastructure, potholes, neglected maintenance, and poor communication from municipal officials have left many residents frustrated, angry, and disillusioned.

What has perhaps caused even greater concern is not merely the failure itself, but the seeming inability of the municipality to act decisively, efficiently, and

transparently. Communities have attended meetings, written letters, lodged complaints, and participated in public processes. Time and again, assurances have been given. Time and again, deadlines have passed with little visible improvement.

At the heart of this growing dysfunction lies an uncomfortable truth that South Africans increasingly need to confront honestly: coalition politics at local government level has, in many instances, failed to provide stable governance.

The fragmentation of voters across numerous parties has produced municipalities where no single party carries enough authority or accountability to govern effectively. Instead, fragile coalitions emerge, often held together not by shared vision or coherent policy, but by political convenience and survival. Leadership changes become frequent. Priorities shift constantly. Internal conflict replaces service delivery. Accountability disappears into a maze of committees, partnerships, and finger-pointing.

When things go wrong, no one party accepts responsibility. Each blames the other coalition

partners. Residents are left standing with empty taps, dark streets, and growing rates bills while political leaders negotiate positions and power behind closed doors.

As the next municipal elections approach, voters must understand that even more political parties are likely to emerge. In a healthy democracy, diversity of opinion is important, and every citizen has the constitutional right to support whichever party best represents their values and hopes. That right must always be protected.

But rights also carry responsibility.

Voters cannot afford to make emotional, impulsive, or protest-driven decisions without considering the long-term consequences. A vote is not merely a statement of frustration. It is an investment in governance. If that investment leads once again to fractured councils and unstable coalitions, communities may well endure another four years of deteriorating services, endless disputes, delayed decisions, and failing infrastructure.

This is not a call to support any particular political party.

Rather, it is a call for sober reflection and careful consideration. Citizens must examine track records, not just campaign rhetoric. They must ask difficult questions. Which parties have demonstrated competence where they govern? Which leaders have shown integrity, accountability, and the ability to work effectively? Which structures are capable of delivering stable administration rather than perpetual conflict?

Sedgefield's experiences should serve as a warning, not only to our own residents but to municipalities across South Africa. Communities cannot thrive where governance is paralysed by division and political instability. Roads cannot be repaired through slogans. Water cannot flow through political infighting. Service delivery requires leadership, competence, accountability, and stability.

The coming elections will shape our towns and communities for years to come. Every voter will enter the polling station with the freedom to choose. But freedom without reflection can carry a heavy price.

Our democracy gives us a voice. Wisdom lies in understanding the consequences of how we use it.

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THE EDGE ANNUAL

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One blanket can make a huge difference to anyone suffering from winter's chill, and there are so many struggling families

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BLANKET DRIVE

CLASSI-ADS

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NB. Classified adverts for the next issue need to be in by Monday 1st June 2026. Emailed classics will not be placed without payment

4. Announcements

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

BOOKS for quality new & 2nd hand books, visit Deo Gratia - we also buy books. 082 9020 649

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Sedgfield 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: Sedgfield 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 @ Sedgfield Hardware. 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 082 771 0694

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 Anzelle @ 082 058 2988

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

13. Electrical

Electrical Hardware @ Sedgfield 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

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Dotice - 084 704 1179
Ellen - 079 023 5811 Refs
Ester - 060 342 5225
Judith - 073 988 8330
Julia - 078 223 1633
Lincy - 078 494 3118 Refs. Avail 3 days
Witness - 060 405 4696 Refs.

Gardening
Alex - 073 988 8330 Refs
Karim - 083 774 0992 Refs

18. For Sale

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19. Home & Garden

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20. Health & Beauty

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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

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

28. Plumbing

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29. Property

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31. Security

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32. Services Offered

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

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Karen's Holiday Home Management while you are not at your holiday home, we will be! Regular monthly checks, reports on all aspects of your home Karefree Home Management. Call 072 586 1086.

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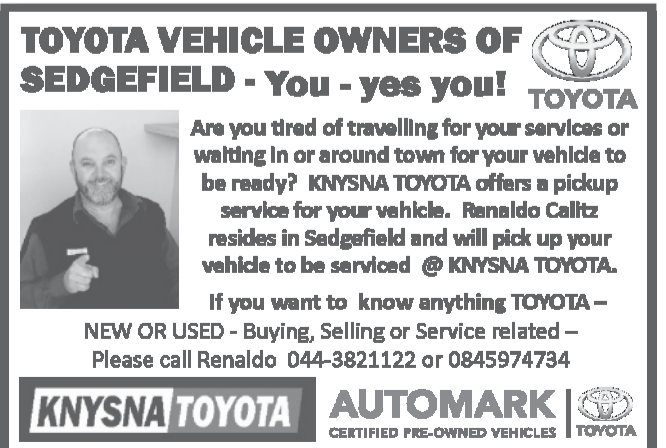
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KNYSNA IS EXPECTING!

by Hide Hay

Something new is beginning in our community, a brand-new children's home, Eden House.

At Eden House, the child will truly be at the centre of all we do. It will be a transformational residential care centre where vulnerable children receive the nurturing, stability, and psychological support they need to heal, grow and transition into confident, capable adults.

Why Eden House?

- South Africa faces a profound child-care crisis.
- 2.8 million children have lost one or both parents.
- Nearly one in five children live without either biological parent.
- Only about 18 000 children live in registered child and youth care centres.
- Many children remain in unsafe, unstable environments with few alternatives. The need for safe, well-governed residential care far exceeds the spaces available - including in Knysna.

Building Something that Lasts

Eden House has been created deliberately from the ground up to ensure strong governance before any children are admitted. Transparency and accountability are foundational to the organisation.

Our Model of Care

Eden House is not simply a place to house children. It is designed from the ground up as a model of transformation and care - a structured trauma-informed

environment that provides psychological support, extramural development, and a pathway for each child to transition into a capable, integrated adult.

This new home will be guided by a capable independent board with the skills required to run a sustainable organisation. We will be obsessive about child protection, best practice, DSD governance requirements, sound financial management, and qualified staff.

A shared income model strengthens resilience and protects the independence of care decisions:

- ±20% In-kind community contributions and services.
- ±50% Donors, foundations, and private giving.
- ±10% Fundraising and income-generating projects.
- ±20% Government subsidy.

An Ideal Location

Eden House has identified a highly suitable property in Concordia, Knysna - a green, spacious environment where children can play, develop and live. It is 3576m² offering excellent room to play, develop and live.

The property is close to schools and community facilities, offering the setting needed for a stable and nurturing home. It has a large outdoor area with generous space for play, healing and connection - with a view of the ocean and mountains. Two easily convertible homes - one for boys, one for girls plus a



flatlet for staff. Garages for skills programmes for future extramural and skills development programmes built right into the property.

How to Get Involved

Offering professional services. Our most immediate needs include construction, fundraising, PR and social media support.

As the project progresses, other services will become important - therapy, education, skills development, gardening and more.

Donating materials, equipment or workmanship for the renovation and upgrading of the home.

Connecting us with potential partners, funding, or community supporters.

Making a financial contribution to our capital campaign or operating fund. Details: Capitec Business, Current Account, Eden House Knysna Npc, Account number 1055118462, Branch Code 450105.

We would love to hear from you and promise to keep you informed. We look forward to raising our children as a village.

For further information and figures please visit www.edenhouse.org.za

SOS ON SWARTVLEI PENINSULA

Environmental protection group Save Our Sedgefield (S.O.S) has raised the alarm regarding the future of Swartvlei - and indeed the whole village - after discovering that the Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) has initiated plans to develop portions of the Swartvlei peninsula - including the Swartvlei Caravan Park, by way of a long-term development lease. No resident would ordinarily know of these plans.

The implications for one of the Garden Route's most treasured landscapes, an environmentally sensitive area, could be profound. Whilst the exact scope of the GRDM's intentions with the Swartvlei peninsula are not yet clear, council records reveal that the process is already underway.

The GRDM decision to develop portions of the Swartvlei peninsula was taken on 23 April 2025 when the GRDM Council decided, without any public notice (apart from publishing its agendas on the internet), to proceed to a long-term lease for development purposes of Portion "0" and Portion "1" of Farm 185.

A report that was attached to the agenda served before the Council made clear which factors were considered in identifying municipal properties for development potential. Sadly, it seems that environmental protection was not one of them.

According to the minutes of that meeting, the GRDM councilors also added three resorts for development that hadn't been included in the original report, one which was the Swartvlei Caravan Park. This is deeply concerning to S.O.S.

Indeed information available on the GDRM website suggests that 112ha of land may be allocated for development, including a significant portion of the Swartvlei peninsula. This peninsula forms a green belt across the lagoon and, for all intents and purposes, brings nature into the town. Its

development will have a profound effect on the character of Sedgefield.

The GRDM has been pursuing the idea of leveraging its assets since about 2017, but S.O.S maintains that environmental stewardship cannot become secondary to commercial interests, particularly in ecologically sensitive areas entrusted to public care. The Swartvlei peninsula is not simply vacant land on a balance sheet to go the highest bidder. It is part of the environmental identity, heritage, and future of Sedgefield.

On 7 May 2026 S.O.S wrote to the mayor of the GRDM and requested a meeting to discuss inter alia a moratorium on its plans to enter into long-term leases of certain properties pending a proper and transparent environmental evaluation. S.O.S has also reached out to other community-based bodies seeking support for its moratorium request to build broad support for this request.

S.O.S intends to pursue a path of constructive engagement and persuasion.

Residents who wish to support efforts to safeguard the peninsula are encouraged to join S.O.S. Membership forms are available on the S.O.S Facebook page, "Save Our Sedgefield (S.O.S)" there is a S.O.S WhatsApp information group on 082 385 7096.

Further announcements will follow as additional clarity emerges regarding the GRDM's intentions and response.

This article was sent to Garden Route District Municipality and the following response by Dzivhuluwani Mashila, Manager: Projects, Properties, Facilities & Resort Management was received.

At this stage, no development rights have been considered or invited. No final decision has been taken regarding a proposed future development and comments have therefore been invited.

It is important to note that the GRDM, during a Council meeting in accordance with Section 14(2) of the Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA), determined that this property is not required for delivering basic municipal services. It is common for municipalities to take such resolutions about properties that are not being utilised - it is common practice. Therefore, the Council resolution taken in 2025 was in compliance with the applicable legislative requirements.

The public participation process referred to in the press release issued by SOS, forms part of the statutory phase of the process, prior to any finalisation of a lease agreement. At that stage, no formal public notice or information statement had been issued. During this phase, a property description, valuation, proposed lessee, proposed lease period and proposed rental amount, will be made public - allowing the public a full opportunity to comment.

- The notice will be published on the Local Government Opportunities WhatsApp Channel
- The Municipal website www.gardenroute.gov.za (statutory)
- It will be shared with the stakeholder database of the GRDM (business chambers, individuals, and more)
- It will be shared with the media
- It should be, therefore, shared by Councillors too (who are supposed to re-share content with the public)

The process currently underway:

- Property valuations anticipated for completion by 30 June 2026;
- Supply Chain Management processes anticipated for completion by 31 August 2026;
- A formal 60-day public participation process anticipated to conclude by 31 October 2026; and
- Final Council consideration anticipated during December 2026 or January 2027.

As stated in the past, the GRDM is committed to lawful, transparent and responsible processes.

LOCK IN NOW : WHY THE JUNE CHECKPOINT MATTERS FOR MATRIC SUCCESS

As the second term of 2026 kicks off, the real work of matric begins in earnest. This is not a year where performance suddenly matters in September, but rather a full-year campaign with the June exams the first major checkpoint that truly counts, an education expert says.

"These mid-year exams cover the bulk of Term 1 and 2 work, feed directly into your school's progression report, and (most importantly) decide whether you walk into the second half of the year with momentum or playing catch-up," says Dr Alucia Mabunda, Campus Head at IIE Rosebank College.

"Nail them and your Admission Point Score (APS) starts looking strong, your confidence skyrockets, and your university options strengthen. Slack now and you'll spend July to November firefighting instead of flying. These next few months are your non-negotiable window to build an unbeatable foundation," she says.

Why the June exams matter:

- They form the first official record of Matric performance that universities and bursary providers review;
- Strong June results create early momentum and confidence heading into the second half of the year;
- They reveal foundational gaps early, giving students time to fix them before final National Senior Certificate (NSC) exams;
- Good mid-year marks improve a learner's overall APS;
- Performing well now

prevents a stressful catch-up period from July to November, and

- They can reveal whether a learner's current plans for post-matric study are realistic, allowing time to reconsider or adjust before it's too late.

Dr Mabunda says there are three solid moves matrics can make now to perform to the best of their ability in the upcoming and, ultimately, final exams:

1) Build an exam-simulation timetable that treats June exams like the finals

Stop "studying when I feel like it." Aim to block 3 focused hours every single weekday (and more during weekends) using the exact Department of Basic Education (DBE) Independent Education Board (IEB) or Cambridge weighting of each subject. Put your phone in another room, use the 50/10 Pomodoro method - 50 minutes of deep uninterrupted work followed by a 10 minute break, and schedule full timed mock papers. The students who smash June are the ones who already train like it's October. This habit alone will make the actual finals feel familiar instead of terrifying.

2) Master the core concepts in every subject before doing past papers

June papers expose who actually understands the work versus who crammed. For maths and physical sciences, solve every single example in the textbook until you can explain it out loud without notes. For languages and history, build your own one page

mindmaps of key themes, quotes, and sources. If you don't fix your foundational gaps now, every single paper will punish you. In coming months, aim to close all remaining gaps.

3) Turn weak subjects into performance drivers

Be brutally honest and identify the two subjects that are currently dragging down your average. From this moment until the June exams, give those subjects serious, non-negotiable daily priority. Book extra lessons with a teacher or tutor, make full use of reliable free online resources, or form a small, focused study group with only two or three equally committed students. Turning even one weak subject around can dramatically lift one's overall percentage, and significantly improve the chances of securing access to your preferred course or bursary. While it is important to polish your strengths, attacking weaknesses head-on, with urgency and discipline, can be a game-changer.

"The June exams contribute to the school-based assessment portion of the final matric results. Performing well at this stage helps create a pattern of steady effort that supports the overall year mark and prepares learners for the final exams," notes Dr Mabunda. "Starting strong now builds habits, confidence and collateral that will pay off in the final NSC outcome, and if students lock in for these next three months, the second half of matric becomes a victory lap instead of a rescue mission."

1ST SEDGEFIELD SCOUTS TAKE ON JAR OF HOPE CHALLENGE

by Brett Burgell

When people think of Scouts, they normally picture teenagers hiking and camping, building giant pioneering structures, or working towards badges. However, one aspect of scouting that is not often seen, yet remains one of its foundational pillars, is service.

Whether you are a Meerkat, Cub, Scout, or Rover, service plays an integral role in what we do. Scouts are always ready to answer the call when the community needs help. From assisting animal charities to rebuilding school playgrounds, Scouts step forward when needed.

The past two weeks on the Garden Route have seen some of



the most extreme weather recorded this century in the Western Cape. Sedgefield was hit particularly hard, and many families were left without electricity or water for over a week.

A call to action was put out, and the Scouts of 1st Sedgefield answered. On Friday night, they spent their meeting making 78

Jars of Hope, which have been donated to Masithandane for distribution in the community. These 78 Jars of Hope will provide approximately 300 people with a warm meal.

A huge thank you to all the Scouts of 1st Sedgefield who took the time and effort to help. Your service is appreciated.

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TIPS TO REDUCE THE RISK OF SEASONAL FLU

Every year, millions of people get sick from the flu, and for some, it can lead to serious complications.

The single best way to reduce the risk of seasonal flu and its potentially serious complications is to get vaccinated each year, but preventive actions like avoiding people who are sick, covering your cough and washing your hands also can help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like flu. This also can include taking steps for cleaner air and hygiene practices like cleaning frequently touched surfaces.

Preventing Spread of Respiratory Viruses When You're Sick

These tips will help you learn about actions you can take to protect yourself and others from flu and help stop the spread of germs.

- **Avoid close contact.** Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick, too.

Putting physical distance between yourself and others can help lower the risk of spreading a respiratory virus.

- **Stay home when you are sick.**

If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you're sick. You can go back to your normal activities when, for at least 24 hours, both are true:

- Your symptoms are getting better overall, and
- You have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication). After these two criteria are met, there are some additional precautions that can be taken to protect others from respiratory illness.

- **Cover your mouth and nose**

Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick. Influenza viruses are thought to spread mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. Wearing a mask is an additional prevention strategy that you can choose to do to further protect yourself and others. When worn by a person with an infection, masks reduce the spread of the virus to others. Masks can also protect wearers from breathing in infectious particles from people around them.

- **Clean your hands.** Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available,

use an alcohol-based hand rub.

- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.**

Germs can be spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

- **Take steps for cleaner air.**

You can improve air quality by bringing in fresh outside air, purifying indoor air or gathering outdoors. Cleaner air can reduce the risk of exposure to viruses.

- **Practice good hygiene and other healthy habits.**

Cleaning frequently touched surfaces, such as countertops, handrails, and doorknobs regularly can help prevent the spread of some illnesses. Also, get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

- **Get Vaccinated**

Seasonal flu vaccines protect against the influenza viruses that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season.

The 4-strain flu vaccine, available in South Africa, offers protection against four key strains of the influenza virus: Influenza type A H1N1, Influenza type A H3N2, Influenza type B Yamagata, and Influenza type B Victoria. This vaccine helps reduce the risk of getting the flu, especially during the flu season, which peaks in the winter months.

By targeting these four strains, the vaccine offers broader protection compared to older vaccines that only covered three strains.

Why Should You Get the Flu Vaccine?

The flu can cause a range of symptoms, from mild to severe, including fever, cough, sore throat, and muscle aches. While most people recover within a week or two, the flu can be dangerous for vulnerable groups such as:

- Elderly people (65 and older)
- Pregnant women
- Children under 5 years old
- People with chronic conditions like asthma, diabetes, or heart disease.

These groups are more likely to develop complications such as

pneumonia or worsening of existing health issues. The flu vaccine helps reduce the severity of the illness and protects those at higher risk from life-threatening complications.

How Effective is the Flu Vaccine?

The effectiveness of the flu vaccine varies from year to year because the flu virus changes (mutates) frequently. Health experts, including those from the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), study the strains of flu circulating globally to predict which ones will be most common. Based on these predictions, the 4-strain vaccine is formulated to offer protection against the most likely strains. While the flu vaccine doesn't offer 100% protection, it significantly reduces your chances of getting the flu and, more importantly, can lessen the severity of symptoms if you do get sick. It's important to get vaccinated each year because flu viruses change, and last year's vaccine may not protect you against this year's flu strains.

Where Can You Get the Flu Vaccine in South Africa?

The flu vaccine is available at both public and private healthcare facilities across South Africa. Many pharmacies and clinics offer the vaccine during the flu season, which typically starts in April and peaks around June or July. It is recommended to get vaccinated in early autumn before the flu season begins. The Department of Health encourages high-risk individuals, including healthcare workers, to prioritise getting the vaccine.

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

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

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

SAMURAI

SUDOKU

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

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

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

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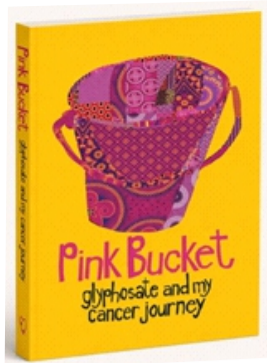
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Global Book Launch Announcement Pink Bucket: Glyphosate and My Cancer Journey

difficult questions about the hidden dangers of synthetic pesticides and their impact on human health and the environment. That deeply personal search for answers became the foundation of Pink Bucket.

Join us for the launch of **Pink Bucket: Glyphosate and My Cancer Journey** by Dolar Vasani at In Toto Guest House in Sedgefield on Saturday, 30 May, from 2pm to 4pm.

The afternoon will feature an engaging conversation moderated by Clare Louise Thomas of The LOVE Kitchen.

Following a diagnosis of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, a blood cancer, the author began asking

deeply personal, the story forms part of a wider global conversation about cancer, glyphosate, environmental health and the everyday choices that shape our lives.

"These are conversations we can no longer afford to ignore."

Guests attending the launch will have the opportunity to hear the story behind the book and take part in meaningful discussion. Members of the public, book lovers, environmental advocates and curious minds are warmly invited to join this special afternoon of conversation, reflection and connection.

Reserve a free place through Quicket or by calling Roland Vorwerk on 082 466 1251.

CANGO WILDLIFE FLOOD RELIEF

Press release

Over the past few days the team at Cango Wildlife Ranch in Oudtshoorn, has been working around the clock following the worst flooding event our facility has experienced in over 30 years.

While we are incredibly grateful that EVERY animal and staff member remains safe, this did not happen by chance. Through emergency Standard Operating Procedures, overnight monitoring, rapid response planning, evacuations, and extensive flood mitigation measures implemented before and during the disaster, our teams worked tirelessly to protect both human and animal



life.

The damage, however, is devastating. Floodwaters and mud have torn through large parts of the facility, leaving behind severe infrastructure damage, extensive repairs, and an enormous recovery effort still ahead of us.

Following the flooding events experienced in 2024, flood insurance cover was effectively taken off the table for us. Despite this, we continued investing heavily into improved drainage systems, flood barriers, emergency preparedness, and infrastructure upgrades to help protect the facility, our animals, and our staff. Those investments likely saved large parts of the

facility during this disaster.

But despite those preparations, the financial pressure and scale of damage we now face remain immense.

Our incredible team has worked through exhaustion, cold conditions, mud, and relentless rainfall to protect animals and

stabilise affected areas, yet we still have a muddy mountain of work ahead.

Today, we are urgently appealing for support.

Every donation will go directly towards flood recovery efforts, repairs, animal care, and restoring the facility as we work to rebuild during our 40th year of operation.

If Cango Wildlife has ever meant something to you, we humbly ask you to support us by donating or sharing this campaign. No amount is too small, and every share truly helps more than you know.

Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts.

CONSERVE. CARE. CONNECT.

Please visit this site to assist [Donorbox.org/cango-wildlife-flood-relief](https://donorbox.org/cango-wildlife-flood-relief)

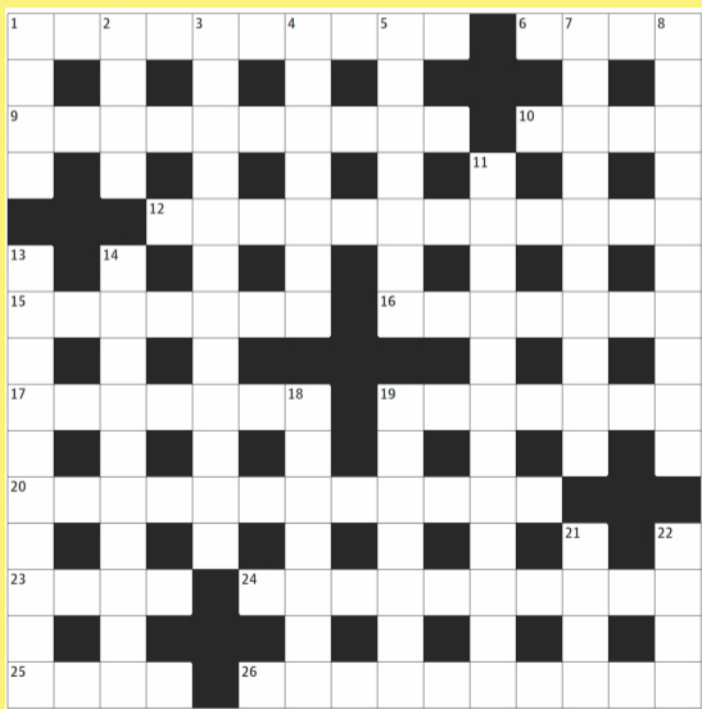
TED'S BRAIN CRUNCHER

Across

- No ways – it's Community Chest that has the Monopoly! (3,1,6)
- Average sort of cap might show a little portliness? (4)
- One switched to umbrella stance, that's clear. (10)
- Something that comes up not fully perfect after losing a student. (4)
- Evidently, if I change the answer it will be done with no doubt. (12)
- One so flighty just cannot keep quiet! (7)
- The result when some living without come inside. (7)
- We could point the fowl towards Alan for the longest time. (7)
- Many sides to those who complain around midday, they heard Gran has departed. (7)
- Tell the tale differently, without mentioning 'tale', or 'differently'. (2,5,5)
- Say – look at that mountain! (4)
- Used to speak out about your old trousers. (5,5)
- Turn in your sleep about lack of parking for swimmers. (4)
- Marks given a thorough once-over. (10)

Down

- A thing no international organisation could be. (4)
- That little shirt I dyed is so neat! (4)
- One has total control of DSTV. (5,7)
- More concerned about what was crawling in my shorts! (7)
- Average endless horizon is



- delicious once cured. (7)
- I hope odd egg concoction doesn't make it a weird selection. (10)
- We heard why many replanted beans outside – come hell or high water! (2,3,5)
- Easy to hit, notwithstanding one who is dodgy. (7,5)
- Unsavory meaning for baked dish, dearest! (7-3)
- Such wild abandon – you can't put a price on it! (4-3-3)
- Outside, Lars tipped a nod to the fatty meat cubes. (7)
- A teen? No, not really, a child much, much younger. (7)
- One of those recently toppled, taking power. (4)
- And another thing – the road – let's keep it hush-hush. (4)

SOLUTIONS FOR LAST ISSUE

- Across: 1. Comely 4. Crossbow 9. Gusto 10. Levellers 11. Bargainer 12. Taste 13. Room at the top 17. Boy meets girl 20. Agree 21. Narrowest 23. In transit 24. Trace 25. St Andrew 26. Uneasy
- Down: 1. Cage bird 2. Mushroom 3. Loofa 5. Reverse ferret 6. Solutions 7. Breast 8. Wessex 10. Long time no see 14. Aforesaid 15. Cinerama 16. Flattery 18. Radius 19. Protea 22. Often

Knysna Sedgefield HOSPICE
Sedge Charity Shop
All donations donated and sold in aid of Palliative Care & Support for our area.
Tel: 044 343 1722
Main Road, Sedgefield

TENNIS COACHING - Sedgefield -

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Contact Jenny 082 452 9102

The Wine Ghost

The Wine Ghost tasted – Excelsior Merlot 2023

The front label shows the Michelangelo gold award and that the merlot was produced and bottled by the De Wet family.

The back label gives an extensive explanation about the origin of the wine, soil, as well as tasting notes. Abv. 14.5%

In the glass, the wine has a deep plum colour and prominent, long, "Tina Turner" legs. At first, when just opened, there is an intense alcohol smell on the nose, but after a while it is totally gone and then aromas of freshly ground coffee, good quality dark chocolate, plums as well as prunes come to the front. It is a full bodied merlot that covers the whole tongue. The tannins soften after decanting and flavours of chocolate, dried apricots and coffee are experienced.

The wine has a long mouth feel, with tastes of coffee and dried apricots left in the mouth. Enjoy on its own, or perhaps with a nice piece of steak.

WG definitely recommends this merlot and sees it as an excellent find in the R80 – R100 price class.

In Vino Veritas till next time



THE SPORTS EDGE

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

NEXT EDGE: Wednesday 3 June 2026 - Issue 741

PLEASE NOTE OUR DEADLINES

(Careful, they tend to fly by VERY quickly!)

Display Ads: Email editor@edgenews.co.za by 28 May 2026
Classifieds: (Stuff for sale, jobs, get-rich-quick schemes, secret treasure hints) Email accounts@edgenews.co.za by Monday 1 June 2026

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

Off the Mat

Sedge Bowling Club News



THE LAWS OF SKIPPING:

“Leads roll, seconds measure, but skips ... they just point and pout.”

Nominated Pairs

Bowling at Sedgefield was almost sunk this fortnight — turns out bowls don't roll well under two feet of water! With the greens looking more like a koi pond, the Club Nominated Pairs were postponed. The only action allowed was tabs in, carefully overseen by our greenkeeper to protect the soggy turf. Cabin fevered Sedgies were delighted just to get out, and thanks to the

Comsecs pulling rabbits from hats (and the greenkeeper pampering the grass like royalty), games finally resumed on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

All Cape Tournament

The weather didn't just dampen spirits here — the Men's and Ladies' All Cape Tournament in Port Elizabeth was also drenched. Heavy greens, delays, and reschedules tested everyone's patience, but our bowlers proved tougher than the weather and Luke Hugill's team finished 5th in Section 6, while Tienie Otto's crew landed 9th in Group 12. The ladies' competition kicks off on the 15th, and we're backing Ann Dold, Wendy Mack, Ronel Eloff, Ros

McMillan, Vanessa Marx, Lyn Otto, and Riana Pollington to show the guys how it's really done.

SBC' Guides to Glory

A tip of the hat to our coaches, Wendy Mack and Ronel Eloff — brave souls who teach newcomers that bowls isn't just rolling balls and blaming bias. They turn wide woods into winning

shots and confusion into confidence. Without them, we'd be all chatter and scatter. Legends indeed!

A Quick Chuckle before you go

“An untimely cut off in May Really messed up the Nominated Pairs' play But the Comsecs they juggled And messaged and struggled So all our pairs would get their day to play.” That's a wrap — see you on the mat!



BIKERS UNITE FOR CAMARADERIE & KINDNESS

On any sunny Sunday, bikers will be getting together, simply because they enjoy the two-wheeled fellowship with others of their ilk. But Sunday the 17th saw an extra special gathering come to the fore - after Gary White and 'Cave' brother Alan put the word out for a breakfast run from Sedgefield to Buffalo Bay.

“Our initial idea was to see how many bikers we could get together, but when we got such a positive response to our Sedge Bikers Unite call, we thought we would add a charity drive into the mix,” said Gary.

This they did, asking the bikers for a R50 donation, under the MOTHS bannerhead.

As people started arriving, for the 9am start, Gary started counting heads. “I stopped at 101,” laughed Gary, “And then even more came. It was way

beyond what we expected.”

Raising R4600, they decided to put it towards helping a kindred spirit. Corlani de Villiers used to be a two-wheeled rider, but is now wheelchair bound after being knocked off her scooter a year or two back in Sedgefield.

“We are sure it will at least go some way to lighten her day-to-day living costs,” Gary told us.



GEAR UP FOR THE KNYSNA OYSTER FEST

It's time to shift gears and embrace the spirit of the Knysna Oyster Festival from the saddle. Whether you're looking to shred the MTB trails, spin the asphalt on your e-bike, or watch the kids find their line in the youth events, our 2026 weekend is designed for maximum stoke and zero stress.

events, perfect for all ages to enjoy the festival atmosphere together.

Sunday, 12 July 2026

Road Rides: Spin the asphalt and take in the iconic coastal vistas on our road rides.

Children's Races: Short, fun circuits designed for junior riders to build confidence and have a blast.

Enduro Rides: Great introduction to Enduro racing, with the lite category offering a safer option for first-time riders.

Don't miss out on the ultimate family cycling weekend - choose your adventure and secure your spot today!

We've stripped away the pressure of official timing so you can focus on the cadence of the ride and the stunning Garden Route vistas. From technical gravel sections to smooth family-friendly loops, every route is an invitation to enjoy the pure freedom of movement with your ride tribe.

Choose Your Adventure

Whether you're looking to drop the hammer or just enjoy the scenery, we have a start line waiting for you. Here is the breakdown for our "stress-free" weekend:

Saturday, 11 July 2026

MTB Routes: Tackle the legendary Knysna forest trails with distances curated for various fitness levels.

Family Fun Events: Walk, run or ride our easy-going 5km & 7.5km



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TIDE TABLE 20 May - 02 June 2026 ● Full Moon - 31 May 2026						
Date	Low Tide 1	Low Tide 2	High Tide 1	High Tide 2	Sunrise	Sunset
Wed 20 May		12.06	06.00	18.37	07.17	17.32
Thur 21 May	04.02	13.02	06.56	19.37	07.18	17.32
Fri 22 May	01.54	14.10	08.02	20.46	07.19	17.31
Sat 23 May	03.18	15.28	09.22	22:03	07.20	17.31
Sun 24 May	04.40	16.45	10.47	23:15	07.20	17.30
Mon 25 May	05.47	17.49	11.59		07.21	17.30
Tue 26 May	06.40	18.41	00.15	12.54	07.22	17.30
Wed 27 May	07.22	19.23	01.03	13.38	07.22	17.29
Thur 28 May	07.58	20.00	01.43	14.15	07.23	17.29
Fri 29 May	08.29	20.34	02.19	14.49	07.23	17.28
Sat 30 May	08.59	21.06	02.52	15.22	07.24	17.28
Sun 31 May	09.28	21.39	03.24	15.55	07.25	17.28
Mon 01 Jun	09.58	22.12	03.55	16.28	07.25	17.27
Tue 02 Jun	10.29	22.47	04.27	17.01	07.26	17.27