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XENOPHOBIA - NEVER THE ANSWER

Yesterday, Sedgefield seemingly became a focal point of anti-immigrant tensions brought on by the controversial '30 June March and March' campaign, with Slangepark in Smutsville emerging as the hot spot while the rest of Knysna reportedly remained comparatively calm - at least at time of this paper going to press.

By early evening on the day nationally earmarked as a stand against undocumented immigrants, 219 foreign nationals, including men, women and children, were being sheltered at Sedgefield Town Hall, as authorities worked to prevent the situation from escalating further.

The day's events unfolded against a backdrop of heightened concern across the Greater Knysna Municipality, where residents, safety officials and community leaders had been bracing for planned protest action linked to the national campaign. SAPS and Municipal Law Enforcement were out in numbers to meet any trouble head-on.

In a statement issued on 29 June, Knysna Municipality said it had finalised coordinated operational plans with SAPS, the Knysna CPF, All Sound, Men in Blue, the Garden Route District Municipality, Municipal Law Enforcement, traffic, fire and rescue services, disaster management, emergency medical services and other security stakeholders.

The municipality said the aim was to maintain public safety, protect infrastructure and minimise disruption. It added that a multi-stakeholder readiness meeting was due to confirm operational readiness, review contingency measures and ensure a coordinated response. A Joint Operations Centre was also activated for the duration of the planned protest action, giving officials a central command point to oversee deployments and coordinate emergency response.

The statement made clear that no application had been received in terms of the Regulation of Gatherings Act for a march within the municipal area, meaning any unauthorised march would be treated as illegal and dealt with by law enforcement in accordance with the law. The municipality also confirmed that it had engaged with local church leaders to help promote calm, support congregations and encourage peaceful and lawful conduct.

Knysna Executive Mayor Cllr Thando Matika said the municipality supported the constitutional right to peaceful protest, but warned that this right must be exercised responsibly and with respect for the safety and property of others. He said the safety of residents, businesses and visitors remained the municipality's highest priority, and that the coordinated efforts of emergency and law enforcement partners were intended to keep communities safe and peaceful.

According to Michael Simon of Sedgefield's Community Oriented Policing, having a coordinated plan in place made the critical difference. "If there hadn't been an operational plan to work to, things would have been much, much worse in Sedgefield," he said.

His comment reflected growing concern that the town might otherwise have seen a more serious breakdown in order.

The immediate trigger for the panic of the many Malawians, Zimbabweans and other foreign nationals was the high level of intimidation by groups of youths, most notably in Slange Park and Smutsville. At the time of going to press, no injuries to foreign nationals had been reported. Still, the threat itself was enough to create fear and movement, with juveniles armed with golf clubs reportedly chasing foreign nationals through the streets, and reports of their vacated homes being looted.

Public Order Policing units, or POPS, who were on standby in Knysna, were swiftly deployed to Sedgefield as soon as the trouble began. SAPS and Municipal Law Enforcement vehicles were sent not to arrest foreign nationals, but to transport them to places of safety, which in Sedgefield's case was the Town Hall.

As the situation developed, more and more people sought refuge there, while reports of others choosing to go into hiding were widespread.



SAPS transporting foreign nationals to a place of safety whilst tension runs high in Smutsville. Picture source:- Facebook

By early evening, the hall contained 219 people, with some presenting their immigration documents and others undocumented.

"Their absolute fear was obvious," said Mario Ferreira of Gift of the Givers, who was there to assist. "It was noticeable that even the men and women who had valid papers were still only focused on how they could get back to their own countries."

Whilst some of the foreigners had managed to bring belongings with them, others arrived with little more than the clothes they were wearing.

Support on the humanitarian side has been immediate. With coordination by councillors Cleone Vanston and Levael Davis, those in the hall were soon fed by Sedgefield Mobile Meals, the Lions and Gift of the Givers, with the latter also providing bedding and blankets. Local residents also dropped off food and other items to make the 'refugees' stay just a little more comfortable.

The larger backdrop to the local crisis is South Africa's broader immigration debate, which has again been sharpened by the March and March movement. The national campaign has called for tougher action against undocumented foreign nationals, but its rhetoric has also drawn criticism for fuelling fear and resentment. In Sedgefield, many residents have pointed out that foreign nationals — particularly Malawians — have been part of the local community for many years, and that they should not be made to suffer because of a broken immigration system.

That sentiment has been reinforced by the difficult position in which the authorities now find themselves. The town

has been trying to manage safety, help verify documents and maintain order while also responding to a humanitarian emergency. The Malawian Embassy has reportedly been overwhelmed to the point where it is offline and unreachable, adding another layer of difficulty to efforts to resolve the situation.

What began as a national protest action landed very close to home in Sedgefield, where, for the most part, the immediate concern is not politics, but the safety and dignity of people caught in the middle. It has to be said that violence, intimidation, threats and fear-mongering will never, ever be the solution to any of South Africa's problems.

For now, the town remains on watch, with officials hoping the coordinated response will hold and that the situation will calm before it spreads further.

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WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Justine Laver is a Candidate Estate Agent with Seeff in the Garden Route, focused on residential property sales in Sedgefield and surrounding areas. She is dedicated to providing professional, client-focused service while building strong local market knowledge and experience within the Seeff brand.

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Notes from T'Ed's Head

I think Mrs Ed is using new means to mess with my brain.

In fact, I KNOW she is.

You see, her old methodology clearly wasn't working, despite many years of effort on her side.

She must have realised that 'Recalling' promises I 'apparently' made back in the late nineties, such as taking her out for dinner once a month, or not eating pies in bed, or having regular meaningful conversations (with each other!), or putting my socks in the wash, or any other wild and fanciful ideas that her vivid imagination (I'm sure she smokes mushrooms on occasion) could conjure up - just wasn't working.

Nor was the skulduggery ruse of 'hiding things in plain sight' that she regularly employed, trying to make my overworked brain believe it had lost its marbles when it simply could not find something, despite intense searches. This was made worse when she (by use of some ancient witchery) proceeded to locate said thing with the greatest of ease, just five centimetres to the left of where I had been endlessly looking.

And there was the rather cunning ploy she engaged in of putting my work clothing inside out on the hangers in the wardrobe. This caused many a sympathetic look in the supermarket, and no small

amount of chuckling behind hands at the office, but I eventually cottoned on that this was HER doing ... not mine.

And wearing one's jeans with the pockets on the OUTSIDE might even become a fashion trend one day....

But now she's upped her game plan a couple of notches. Oh yes, the scaly fire-breather is clearly going all out. I suspect she may even be consulting AI in her quest to mess with my mental mindset.

Because she's using a phone app!

Yes. Who would have thought she could stoop so low in her efforts to stymie my poor old (well, middle-aged at least) brain?

And who in the techno world could be so dastardly as to develop an app specifically to send a husband bounding with a wail and a maniacal cackle over the rainbow of insanity?

Beware the App called "Audible Unlimited"

And don't let the name lull you into some false sense of security ... because it is evil. In the wrong hands, it's enough to play havoc with even the most intelligent of minds. Ask me!

You see, this dastardly App weaponises the phone owner - Mrs Ed, in this case (alas, and alack) - with thousands upon thousands of recorded narrations of stories, countless stories, millions of the things.

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"Ahem ... welcome to the 21st century," you say, rather patronisingly, I might add.

Let me explain, whilst I still have at least some mental capacity.

It's not that I don't admire this seemingly limitless wealth of audible creativity, information and advice; it's just...

Did I mention 'in the wrong hands'?

It's Mrs Ed. She doth torture me!

Let me try to paint a picture of my macabre suffering.

Imagine, if you will, arriving home after a rather exhausting afternoon of watching rugby, discussing politics, telling jokes, drinking beer and finding some way to mercilessly tease your friends (who said men cannot multi-task), and at your kitchen table you find a Texan, reading out loud from a paperback entitled 'Blood on the plains'.

"Wow!" you think, "This guy is brilliant! I can't wait to hear how the FBI team uncovers who the child traffickers are."

You pop your head into the pantry to see if there might be remnants of a pie to guzzle whilst you listen to this intriguing story, retrieve it (your head, not the pie), only to find the Texan has been replaced by a lady from Cornwall, waxing lyrically about 'Young Emily fallin' 'ead over' eels for Arrnold from the moment she set eyes on 'im, and wishin' (hopin', 'n prayin') that 'is wife (her sister) didn't notice how she was staring at his bemuscled torso, when 'e removed 'is shirt to rescue the drug-addled teenager caught in the bitter-cold waters of the English Channel, who turned out to be 'is great aunt's mother's illegitimate daughter.'

But even as you begin to calculate how this is even possible, the lady-narrator morphs into a stern German fellow, who discusses the undeniable connection between poo texture and gut health, and how asparagus will change your life, until of course HE switches to some Canadian, whose subject is true crime mystery, regaling irrefutable evidence that Bruce McArthur was actually falsely accused when arrested for the murder of eight people. You spin



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Congratulations

Cari and Roscoe Toevs on the birth of their beautiful baby girl **Raya Shaughn Toevs** on 21 June 2026, little sister to Charlie. Grandparents Eddie and Bomber & Kel are delighted



President Pedro



by Debbie Olivier

The Sedgefield Lions have a brand spanking new President! Welcome and congratulations to Lion President Pedro Goncalves.

Many people will have first met Pedro when he moved to Sedgefield in 2006 to assist his folks at their nursery. But this "still waters run deep" kinda guy has achieved so much in his time

in Sedgefield and in his personal life, one can only smile and nod in admiration!

First introduced to Striders in 2016 by the late Eric Watson and Lion Alison Watson, Pedro was soon running marathons across the country, including his first Comrades in 2018. That same year he joined the Sedgefield Lions Club and has slowly but surely gained the knowledge of

not only what it takes to be a Lion, but also to be a President, and has gained the respect of his fellow Lions. Always happy to assist, always cheerful in all he does, always showing up! We wish you well, President Pedro - and know you will lead us to greater heights. We do hope that you will continue your stellar work as our official braaimaster, as well as our dedicated clown as you head on stage for your 9th Melodrama!

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Environmental Degradation and Environmental Conflicts

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

Environmental degradation is caused by both human activity and natural processes. The environmental damage we experienced during the recent storms is an example.

Environmental degradation could thus be referred to as the deterioration of the natural environment through the depletion of resources such as air, water, soil, landscapes, and biodiversity. It is one of the most urgent challenges facing our modern world because it not only threatens ecosystems, but also human health, economic development, and social stability.

Environmental conflict, on the other hand, occurs when groups, communities, or governments are in dispute over scarce or damaged natural resources, or when environmental harm, or pressure intensifies social, political, and economic tensions. The relationship between environmental degradation and conflict is deeply interconnected. As the environment deteriorates, pressure on people and institutions increases, creating conditions in which disputes can emerge or worsen.

Understanding Environmental Degradation

Human actions are the dominant drivers of environmental degradation in the modern era. Urban expansion, deforestation, invasive plants, mining, industrialisation, overgrazing, unsustainable agriculture and pollution, all place heavy strain on natural systems.

Climate change has intensified the problem by increasing the frequency and severity of

droughts, floods, heatwaves, wildfires, and storms. The result is not only ecological damage but also social vulnerability. When people lose access to fertile land, clean water, forests, fisheries, grazing areas or cultural sites, their ability to survive and develop becomes limited.

How Environmental Degradation Leads to Conflict

Environmental degradation causes scarcity and increases competition which leads to conflict over important natural resources such as water, land, forests, fisheries, minerals, and cultural sites. When these resources become limited, damaged, polluted, or difficult to access, communities, businesses, or governments may struggle over who has the right to use them, who benefits from them, and how they should be protected or managed. For example, polluted rivers, soil erosion, deforestation, alien plant infestations and non-functional ecosystems can affect food production, housing, income, and cultural practices. As these resources become more uncertain, people may feel that their needs and rights are being ignored, which can increase frustration and mistrust between separate groups and between groups and government institutions.

Environmental pressure may therefore contribute to disputes, unrest, displacement, protests, and sometimes even violent conflict. Weak institutions may fail to manage resources fairly, enforce environmental laws, or resolve disputes before they escalate. At the same time, poorer communities are often more vulnerable to environmental change and more likely to experience conflict when resources become scarce.

Environmental conflict is usually the result of several

factors working together, including resource scarcity, unequal access, poor planning, weak leadership, poverty, corruption, and lack of communication between affected groups. When people are excluded from decisions about land, water, development, or conservation, they may resist projects or lose trust in authorities. Environmental degradation should be understood not only as damage to nature, but also as a social and political issue that can affect peace, stability, and justice.

Addressing Environmental Degradation and Conflict

Preventing environmental conflict requires more than protecting nature. It requires sustainable resource management, not only for human needs but, just as importantly, for the needs of natural systems. Without a healthy ecosystem there will not be a healthy social system. Government institutions, communities, and businesses must use land, water, forests, minerals, and energy in ways that meet present needs without destroying the ability of future generations to meet theirs. This involves the protection of natural systems, reforestation, soil conservation, water recycling, renewable energy, pollution control, and responsible development practices.

Local communities must get involved in decisions that affect their environment, especially when projects involve land use, water use, industrial and housing developments, or conservation.

Conclusion

Environmental degradation and environmental conflict are challenges that reflect the relationship between ecological health and human security. Degradation reduces access to vital resources, weakens livelihoods, and increases competition. At the same time, conflict damages the environment and creates further scarcity. Addressing this cycle requires sustainable development, fair resource governance, climate adaptation, and inclusive decision making. Protecting the environment is therefore not only an ecological responsibility but also a foundation for peace, justice, and long-term human health.

SEDFIELD'S EXPERT-LED ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM MAKES PUBLIC DEBUT

The Sedgefield Environmental Advisory Forum (SEAF) held its official public launch on Tuesday, 23 June 2026, coinciding with the Sedgefield En Route Art Festival, a fitting backdrop for an organisation dedicated to protecting the town's distinctive natural heritage.

SEAF brings together local residents with professional qualifications and hands-on experience in environmental management. Formed following a planning workshop in September 2025 and formally established in November 2025, the forum has already been quietly at work reviewing development proposals and engaging with environmental authorities before stepping into the public eye.

"SEAF strives to protect Sedgefield's natural environment through sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, responsible resource use, and environmental awareness," said Chairman Jonathan Lewis at the launch.

"We foster education, collaboration, advocacy, and community engagement to support sound environmental governance and a resilient future for Sedgefield."

Since its establishment, SEAF has submitted objections and comments on several proposed developments, including concerns about Erf 5008, a mixed-use development on Erf 1627, and a proposed development in Ruygte Valley. In April 2026, it formally requested independent hydrological risk verification from the Knysna Municipality over potential cumulative impacts on the local estuarine zone.

Guest speaker Cobus Meiring, convenor of the Garden Route Environmental Forum (GREF), praised the initiative as timely and well-organised, while urging SEAF to collaborate with bodies such as the Sedgefield Ratepayers Association. He noted that with government institutions

increasingly under-resourced, civil society organisations are more critical than ever in holding authorities accountable for environmental matters.

Community members at the launch voiced shared frustrations: deteriorating infrastructure, development pressure on already-strained services, bureaucratic obstacles to environmental compliance, and a perceived failure by authorities to act on reports of environmental abuse. Climate change, particularly its visible coastal impacts such as flooding, was highlighted as an urgent ongoing concern.

SEAF is calling on residents to get involved by reporting environmental concerns, engaging with local government, and supporting the forum's efforts. The organisation plans to keep the community informed via social media, local newspapers, and public meetings.

For more information, contact SEAF at info@seaf.co.za

WORLD OCEAN DAY CELEBRATION

by Adrienne Bartlett

Every year the Cola Myoli Conservancy organises a beach cleanup to celebrate World Ocean Day. The event was held on a Sunday as most families are available, and we wanted to focus on getting children involved. We couldn't have asked for better weather, a beautiful crisp winter morning, much to the delight of everyone.

Meeting in the Pili Pili parking area, gloves, recycle bags and water bottles were distributed to the more than 50 enthusiastic community members, including members of Revive Sedgefield and The Island Conservancy. Armed and ready, off they went. Pili Pili, who always supported our cause once again offered ice cream to all the children, who brought in a bag of debris off the beach. We had a bumper number of bags taken off the beach, including plastic bottles, broken glass, a car tyre, and of course the ever present nurdles (picture attached). Nurdles are very difficult to see and take a lot of effort to get out of the sand. It needs a great deal of sifting to achieve any reasonable result.

Nurdles are lentil sized plastic pellets used as raw materials to manufacture everyday plastic goods. Spilled from cargo ships, they wash up on shores all around the world. Because they mimic fish eggs, marine life ingests them which ultimately leads to starvation. They also act as sponges for toxic chemicals. If you have an opportunity to get them off the beach at any time in the future please do so. Items required would be a great deal of patience, a sieve and a plastic bag to put them in.



The day was a huge success, and just seeing the pleasure on everyone's faces as they got together afterwards made me realise how blessed we are to live in this beautiful part of the Garden Route. We need to

continue to work together as a community to keep our beaches clean of the debris that continually washes up. Every one of us can make a difference to our beautiful environment. So next time you go for a beach walk, take a bag with you, and see what a difference you can make.

Being located along the Garden Route coastline, we are highly susceptible to these micro plastics which are being washed up on our beaches daily. Incidents such as the shipping container spills off the KwaZulu Natal coast, among others, have heavily affected our shoreline.

Back to our beach clean event. Once the bags were brought in off the beach the children happily went to claim their ice cream treat and delicious hot coffee was available for the adults.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people for their continued support of the World Ocean Day beach clean. We couldn't do it without you.

- The committee of the Cola Myoli Conservancy
- Paul from Remax and Oasis for the bottles of water,
- @Paul's Wild Oats market for the coffee
- Pili Pili for the ice creams
- Knysna Municipality for the prompt recycle bag removal.

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Our Ocean Heritage Event - Youth Day 16 June

Amid natural disasters, social hardship and environmental pressure, community action on climate change is increasingly urgent. We all share responsibility for protecting the land, air and water all of which sustain people, animals and ecosystems.

On Youth Day, 16 June, over 200 young environmental ambassadors and their families celebrated ocean heritage through Lunchbox Theatre performances, expert talks on local biodiversity, and art, music, dance and choral activities. Hosted by UbuMama

at Scarab Village, the programme created an engaging conservation learning experience and encouraged discussion about the natural world.

Marine and terrestrial presentations and exhibits by Sedgefield Island Conservancy, the Strandloper Project and NVT offered both environmental education and engaging entertainment for youth and parents from across the Garden Route. The event showed how education, creativity and collaboration can inspire young environmental stewards.



Thank you to UbuMama Outdoor Education, NVT, SANParks, participating

organisations and community members for supporting this memorable Youth Day celebration.

FEAST OF FLAVOUR KNYSNA OYSTER FESTIVAL

The countdown is officially on for the 2026 Knysna Oyster Festival, and food lovers have plenty to look forward to when the festival returns from 3–12 July under the theme "A feast of family fun". From oyster competitions and wine tastings to forest feasts, food markets and sweet treats, this year's programme serves up one of the most diverse culinary line-ups yet.

At the heart of the action is the Festival Hub at the Knysna High School sports fields, where Oyster Alley will bring together food stalls, local flavours, family entertainment and market experiences throughout the festival. Visitors can sample a wide variety of food while soaking up the festive atmosphere and live entertainment.

One of the most anticipated events on the programme is the Stella Artois Oyster Cooking and Shucking Competition. Taking place at the Festival Hub,

the event will see talented oyster shuckers competing for championship honours while visitors enjoy plenty of oyster-inspired fun.

Food enthusiasts can also look forward to the ever-popular FeedmeSlowly Feast in the Forest experiences at Diepwalle. These intimate Slow Food events combine exceptional local produce with the natural beauty of the Knysna forest, offering a dining experience unlike any other.

Wine lovers are equally well catered for. The Knysna Fine Wine Festival returns with premium tasting experiences at Simola Country Club & Spa, while additional wine tastings will take place throughout the festival at participating venues across town. Escape Wine Tasting at Blackwaters River Lodge, Blend Wine Tasting and Boards, and the Vintage & Wine Tasting Experience at Ekhaya African Cuisine all offer visitors the chance to discover

outstanding local and South African wines.

The programme also includes several unique food experiences. Visitors can enjoy a four-course Oyster Inspired Dinner at Île de Pain, a four-course Slow Food Dinner at Grain Mill Bistro, the popular Robberg Fish Braai Competition, and the wonderfully indulgent Dessert War Fair at the Festival Hub, where bakers and dessert enthusiasts will showcase their sweetest creations.

For those wanting to enjoy oysters in true Knysna style, the Oyster Cruise aboard The Water Club combines a lagoon cruise with fresh oysters and MCC, while Simola's Sip, Shuck & Spa experience offers a more relaxed way to celebrate the festival.

Adding to the flavour of the festival are the Stella Artois Oyster Hot Spots, where participating restaurants and eateries across Knysna will be offering oyster specials, unique

dishes and opportunities to win prizes throughout the festival.

Lungiswa Goya, Manager: Economic Development at Knysna Municipality and spokesperson for the festival, says food remains one of the festival's biggest attractions. "The Knysna Oyster Festival has always been about bringing people together, and food plays a central role in that. From oysters and wine to family favourites, local produce and unique dining experiences, this year's programme offers visitors countless opportunities to discover the flavours that make Knysna such a special destination."

The full programme is available on www.knysnaoysterfestival.co.za and visitors are encouraged to check back regularly as additional events and experiences continue to be added.

Official Street Festival Opening Ceremony

THURSDAY, 2 JULY 2026
18:00, MAIN ROAD, KNYSNA

Please note: Main Road from Long Street to Gray Street will be closed for the Official Knysna Oyster Festival Opening Ceremony on Thursday 2 July from 2pm to 7pm.

Join us as we kick off 10 unforgettable days of festivities, food, sport and entertainment.

For the festival programme scan QR or visit www.knysnaoysterfestival.co.za



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FESTIVAL

1ST EN ROUTE ARTS FESTIVAL OUTPERFORMS EXPECTATIONS

The inaugural En Route Arts Festival that was held in Sedgefield from 19-24 June was a runaway success.

According to Festival Director, Roland Vorwerk, more than 1,200 people attended the wide variety of events that included an arts exhibition, children's shows, talks and readings, workshops, musical performances, guided tours and theatre productions.

Established performers such as Andrew Buckland were joined by young theatre makers who were heading to the National Arts Festival to ensure an exciting, fresh and thought-provoking offering. Events were held across multiple venues in Sedgefield including In Toto Retreat, the Bistro at Simbavati Fynbos on Sea and the Smutsville Community Hall. The workshops and guided tours included in this year's programme showcased the diversity of experiences that Sedgefield has to offer.

The event organisers are hoping to make the En Route Arts Festival an annual event in the second half of June. This will ensure that some of the performances that are scheduled to appear at the National Arts Festival can be seen by Garden Route audiences.

For those who missed out on this year's festival, there are still a few shows lined up in July.

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) by the local troupe, Sedgefield Players, will be performing a final show at Simbavati on Saturday 4 July at 15h00.

You Should Go In, a two-person drama about forgiveness and the complicated road toward it, will be performed at Simbavati on Sunday 5 July at 18h00.

The HA!Man Live – a unique blend of cello, keyboard, flutes and traditional instruments - will be performed by the talented Francois le Roux at 18h00, on Thursday 9 July at In Toto Retreat performing

Tickets available on Quicket, or call Roland on 082 466 1251



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SPEAKER SWINGS VOTE, VETOING COUNCILLOR PAY INCREASES

Knysna's Special Council Meeting, held on Thursday evening, 18 June 2026, ended with a failed attempt to push through a councillors' remuneration increase, after Speaker Mark Willemsse used his casting vote to reject the proposal when the division in the chamber reached 10 votes for and 10 against. This after Councillors had debated whether the increase should be implemented and whether it should be backdated to 1 July last year.

When the matter was reached on the agenda, Knysna Independent Movement (KIM) Councillor Susan Campbell initially proposed that part-time councillors' salaries be increased and that the adjustment be

backdated to 1 July last year, arguing that this would place less strain on the municipality and would help correct what he described as an unacceptable gap between full-time and part-time councillors. Her proposal, however, was not seconded and thus fell away. EFF Councillor Neil Louw then moved that Council accept the recommendations that all councillor salaries be increased - which reopened the broader remuneration debate.

Levael Davis, DA Ward 1 Councillor and the party's mayoral candidate, spoke firmly against the increase, saying Knysna was already in financial distress despite what the latest financial report suggested on

paper. He told the meeting that service delivery had "basically ground to a halt" and argued that it was not justifiable for councillors to receive increases while residents were dealing with severe service failures and financial strain.

But current (ANC) Executive Mayor Thando Matika took the opposite view. He said it was incorrect to claim that the municipality had financial challenges in the way that Davis and other opposition councillors were suggesting. He argued that councillors in difficult wards deal daily with residents who seek help with funerals, school costs and other emergencies, and said councillors had gone seven years without an increase while living costs had continued to rise.

Matika added that the current financial year's budget had already made provision for councillors' salary increases, and warned that if the item was not approved now, the increase would not be budgeted for in the next financial year either.

A vote on the matter, somewhat complicated by connection issues with the online attendance, eventually resulted in a deadlock of ten votes for the increase and ten against, at which time Speaker Willemsse - one of two KIM councillors - exercised his casting vote against the increase, so the motion of no salary increases for the councillors was carried.

COBBLE SEDGEFIELD Paving & Retaining

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sirs,

SALE OF BUSINESS: COBBLE PAVING SEDGEFIELD

I refer to the above matter.

Kindly take note that Mr. Kevin Taylor ("seller") has sold, with effect from 01/03/2025 all his rights, title and interest in the above business to NSH Investments Pty (Ltd) ("purchaser").

In line with the above transaction, the seller is also subject to a restraint of trade, which has the result that the seller may for a period of 5 (five) years:

'not set up or perform duties or services for a direct or indirect competitor of Cobble, whether as an employee, consultant, principal, advisor, shareholder, board member or any capacity, that are substantially similar to the services that the seller performed whilst involved with Cobble Paving Sedgefield.'

We would therefore kindly request that all parties remain mindful of these mandates as outlined in the sales contract between Mr Kevin Taylor and NSH Investments (Pty) Ltd, and avoid any interaction from Mr Taylor that may be interpreted as soliciting Cobble Paving Sedgefield's staff, clients, suppliers, or business opportunities, in other words, activities that are in contravention of the sales contract mentioned above.

We do appreciate and value the working relationship that we currently enjoy with you, and look forward to growing and cementing this valuable relationship into the future.

For any further information please feel free to contact either Gavin, or Rene, on the numbers or email addresses below.

Rene Lutzkie

Shareholder

082 586 4609 – Rene / lutzkie@cobblepave.co.za /

lutzkie@hotmail.com

083 305 0346 – Gavin / gavin@cobblepave.co.za

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

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

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PLEASE NOTE: If you would like to write a letter to the editor, it must be submitted with the author's full name, address and phone number. If a writer does not wish his or her name to appear in print, a 'pen name' (nom de plume) may be included. Email letters to: editor@edgenews.co.za The editor has full discretion as to which letters are included or excluded and no argument, badgering, cajoling, bribery or heated conversation will be entered into. Opinions expressed in published letters and articles are not necessarily those of the management and staff of The EDGE Community Newspaper.

Congratulations and Huge Motivation

by Renwill Hardnick

I want to publicly congratulate three of our very own on their graduation on 24 June 2026. Duine molle in hul volste glorie.

Yes, the day was a huge milestone for three of our local residents: Deshnee du Plessis, Surita Fredericks and Danfred Grootboom.



Deshnee du Plessis

Grootboom. And it was much more than just a normal graduation, it was a significant milestone achieved.

Deshnee du Plessis obtained her Bachelor of Education degree with distinction, yes, she completed her degree "cum laude". Deshnee persisted and made sure she always gave her best. Every late night, stress, and hard work paid off. Deshnee is indeed making a huge mark - having a very young child, she showed that it is possible, and made sure her child has a bright future. Being a teacher, a mother to a young child, and a student was most probably her motivation. She did it. Geluk, Juffrou du Plessis. Ons is trots op jou.

Surita Fredericks obtained her Bachelor of Information Science degree with a distinction, yes, she also completed her degree "cum laude". This is a true testament that hard work pays off and that dreams can be achieved, no matter what. Surita, met 3 kinders en 'n voltydse werk, kon nog steeds baie goeie uitslae behaal en haar studies 'n sukses maak. Surita, dankie dat jy vir ons, jonk en oud, wys dat niks jou

Brushstrokes

Sedgefield Art Society Celebrates a Successful Season of Creativity and Inspiration.

The Sedgefield Art Society has once again been celebrating the wonderful talent and creativity within our community. The Society was delighted to be part of the recent En Route Art Festival, where members displayed their beautiful artworks and received wonderful support from the community. The festival was a great success, with visitors enjoying the diverse range of art on display and appreciating the passion and dedication of our local artists.

The Society's ongoing exhibitions continue to offer art lovers the opportunity to enjoy beautiful artworks in relaxed and welcoming settings. Visit the exhibition at Golem Pottery and Craft Studio in Main Service Road, Sedgefield, or enjoy the artwork displayed at the Lake Pleasant Hotel in Groenvlei while having a meal or enjoying a beverage. These exhibitions provide a wonderful opportunity to support local artists while experiencing the beauty and creativity that surrounds us.

Sedgefield Art Society would also like to extend a warm welcome to all residents and

visitors to visit our ever-popular Pop-up exhibition next to Sotheby's, this takes place on the last Saturday of the month from 8h00 to 13h00. There will be a wide variety of original art on display, and the artists would love to meet you!

Art enthusiasts are also invited to visit The Views Hotel in Wilderness, where you can enjoy the work of talented artists Roy Vierra Forte and Petra Brits. Their exhibition offers a wonderful opportunity to experience their unique artistic expressions in the beautiful surroundings of Wilderness.

Congratulations must also go to Petra Brits for receiving a special mention in the Authentic Impressions Art Challenge for her outstanding piece titled "More Creation Will Come to Life". This challenge was an Anti-AI Challenge, encouraging artists to truly observe, "look and look again", while exploring creativity through textures, sculpture, and conceptual approaches. Petra's achievement is a wonderful recognition of her artistic vision and dedication — well done!

The Sedgefield Art Society's next meeting promises to be a fascinating and inspiring event. Join us on Monday the 13th July at 14h00 at the Lion's Hall for a special introduction to the art of intaglio printmaking (etching).



Surita Fredericks

hoef te verhoed om sukses te behaal nie.

Danfred Grootboom obtained his Master's degree in Information Science (please note that this is an NQF Level 9 full research qualification). This also confirms that it does not matter where you come from, you can achieve anything you set your mind to. I know the long nights, stress, and never-give-up attitude Danfred showed during



Guests will have the opportunity to witness the magical process of transforming an inked zinc plate into a beautifully detailed print on soft, hand-soaked 100% cotton paper. Experience how pressure, ink, metal, and paper come together to reveal an image in a way that is both surprising and captivating.

Whether you are an artist, an art enthusiast, or simply curious about this centuries-old technique, this demonstration promises to be an unforgettable journey into the world of printmaking.

The presentation will be hosted by Blue Door Art Studio, Sedgefield.

The Sedgefield Art Society looks forward to sharing this unique printmaking experience with you and welcomes everyone to join us for an afternoon celebrating creativity, learning, and the magic of art.

his studies. It wasn't easy, we all know he lost his mother recently, but this did not derail him from achieving his goal. Danfred, on to your PhD—you've got this!

Ons is trots op julle, hoor. Dankie dat julle ons wys dat dit nie saak maak hoe oud of jonk mens is nie, dat dit moontlik is om sukses te behaal. Dankie dat julle bewys dat, al is ons van Smutsville, ons steeds sukses kan behaal. Julle is inderdaad 'n voorbeeld vir baie van ons.

Mag die Here julle toekomsplanne so seën dat baie van daardie seënings op julle kinders en dié vir wie julle baie lief is, sal oorgedra word.

Net soos Jeremia 29 vers 11 verklaar: Mag julle 'n hoopvolle toekoms hê.

Geniet julle graduering.



Danfred Grootboom



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A QUILT WELL WORTH WINNING



Congratulations to Jan Ochse (currently away) who was the lucky raffle winner of this beautiful quilt made by the Pincushions Quilt Group. The raffle was held to raise funds for the Sedgefield Bowling Club and a cheque of R8000 was handed over to Chair Dawid Malan.

WHERE IN THE WORLD HAVE YOU BEEN WITH YOUR EDGE?



John Crowson, in Sedgefield, County Durham, UK recently taken whilst on holiday with his wife, Val in the UK.

CAUSEWAY CAFÉ : WHERE EVERYONE HAS A PLACE TO BELONG

In Sedgefield, an organisation is answering one of the toughest questions faced by parents of special-needs children: what happens when their school years end? For many families, school provides structure, friendship, safety and purpose. But when those children become adults, that structure often disappears overnight. For young adults with intellectual or developmental challenges, the end of school can mean isolation - not because they have nothing to offer, but because society hasn't created enough places for them to belong.

That gap birthed 'Natural Purpose', a Sedgefield-based NPO focused on creating meaningful work, dignity and community participation for adults with special needs. What began as Andrew Parker's vision for his daughter, Rebecca, has grown into something bigger. Natural Purpose's mission is simple: give young adults a sense of purpose through

carefully supervised work in conservation and community projects.

Over the past year, the organisation has moved from idea to impact. Young adults have participated in conservation work across Sedgefield and the Garden Route - from invasive plant clearing to recycling initiatives, river clean-ups and community beautification. Early partnerships included work with the Sedgefield Conservancy, Revive Sedgefield, Slow Town Mobile Meals, the Sweethearts Foundation, Up With Downs and Garden Roots.

The results go beyond visible improvements. For the young adults involved, the work has brought routine, confidence, identity and financial independence. This is the heart of the organisation: not charity as pity, but opportunity as dignity.

Natural Purpose has become deeply rooted in Sedgefield,

helping with Revive Sedgefield, supporting community efforts in Smutsville, and becoming the face of the Sweethearts Foundation in town, collecting plastic lids and bread tags recycled to provide wheelchairs for those who cannot afford them.

Now, Natural Purpose is planning its next step: Causeway Café, to be situated on the old 'Oyster's Edge' property. Andrew and Megan Parker, who founded the organisation, envision it as more than just a café-deli.

"We're not simply opening a café for a good cause," says Megan, "We want to build a meaningful community-oriented business, - a commercially viable café, deli and farmstall that can create supported employment niches while helping underwrite the non-profit's running costs over time. Think of a relaxed café-deli with a barista and deli bar, indoor seating around a central fireplace, a glass-enclosed deck with panoramic views, and a small production area for nougats, jams and relishes



made from locally sourced goods."

She is quick to point out that the most important feature of the project isn't architectural - it's human. "Every part of the café can become a job niche: gardening, baking, scullery work, stock packing, labelling, cleaning, maintenance, crafts and front-of-house support. The aim is creating a working environment where people with different abilities can contribute safely and genuinely," she said.

The couple are excited that Causeway Café will sit naturally within Sedgefield's character as a

slow town known for natural beauty, local markets and community spirit. What better place to create a long-term income engine that protects the NPO's beneficiaries' dignity while creating value for the wider community.

Natural Purpose began with Andrew and Megan asking what

happens next for his daughter and others like her, including Megan's own sister. Says Megan, "Causeway Café offers one possible answer - creating purpose, naturally."

Contact Natural Purpose: info@naturalpurpose.net

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DEMOCRACY UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Did We Ever Truly Understand Democracy?

The recent municipal budget process has come and gone. Objections were invited, the budget was adopted, and politicians have returned to canvassing for support. The experience raises a far more fundamental question.

South Africa is a democracy? We vote. We hold public meetings. We publish budgets. We invite public objections.

But what happens next? How are those objections evaluated? Which are accepted? Which are rejected? Where can the ordinary citizen see the reasoning behind those decisions? More importantly, how does the public know whether participation has improved the final outcome?

These are not cynical questions. They are democratic questions.

What is democracy? Is it simply the right to place a cross on a ballot paper every few years? Or is it a living system of accountability, transparency and peaceful correction?

Healthy systems depend upon feedback.

Nature responds to itself. Actions produce consequences. Disturb a balance and the system responds. The recent storms that swept across the Western Cape, closing roads and disrupting communities, reminded us that no system exists in isolation. Every healthy system contains a mechanism through which information returns to its source, allowing adaptation, correction and improvement.

Without feedback, decline often goes unnoticed until failure becomes unavoidable. Should democracy be any different?

If citizens object to a budget, where is the feedback loop that demonstrates their concerns have been considered? If public participation cannot meaningfully influence public decisions, in what sense is it participation rather than procedure?

These questions are not directed at one political party. They apply equally to every government, every council and every public official entrusted with power.

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing South Africa is not whether we have a Constitution. Perhaps it is whether we have developed a democratic culture that truly understands what the Constitution demands of both government and citizen.

A constitution can be written. Institutions can be created. Elections can be held. But democratic culture is different. It is learned over generations through practice, accountability and civic understanding.

Maybe democracy is not something we achieved in 1994. Maybe it is something we are still learning. Or perhaps the more uncomfortable question is this: Did we ever truly understand it?

Perhaps democracy begins not with elections, but with citizens prepared to ask better questions.

Siyabona Emanje MaBenza

PUBLICATION OF CANCELLED TENDERS IN RESPECT OF ADVERTISED COMPETITIVE BIDS IN TERMS OF REGULATION 23 (C) (III) OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS 2005 (COVERING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JULY 2025 TO 30 JUNE 2026)

No.	Tender No	Description	Reason for cancellation
1.	T01 of 2025/26	EOI for Appointment of a panel of suitable qualified professional service providers for various housing projects.	SCM regulation 44 on conflict of interest.
2.	T08 of 2025/26	Appointment of a service provider for Media Monitoring services for a period of 36 months.	Funds are no longer available to cover the total envisaged expenditure.
3.	T12 of 2025/26	Render a complete, well equipped and suitably qualified Lifesaving function in the Greater Knysna Municipal area for a period of 36 months.	Inadequate demand Management (Specifications)
4.	T13 of 2025/26	Appointment of a panel for the provision of radio airtime and related services for a period of 36 months	Funds are no longer available to cover the total envisaged expenditure.
5.	T03 of 2025/26	Provision for security services for a period of 36 months.	No responsive tenders received.
6.	T18 of 2025/26	Supply and Delivery of A new hooklift Truck and Trailer	No responsive tenders received.
7.	T35 of 2025/26	Supply, Delivery and Installation of mechanical and electrical equipment, for a Bio-Filter model 30KL RBC wastewater.	No responsive tenders received.
8.	T11 of 2025/26	Supply and Fitment of Pneumatic Tyres, Wheel Puncture Repairs and Wheel alignment for a period of 36 months	No responsive tenders received.
9.	T15 of 2025/26	Supply and Delivery of cleaning and maintenance products (Highly concentrated and concentrated) for a period of 36 months.	No responsive tenders received.
10.	T30 of 2024/25	Construction of Civil Engineering Services	No responsive tenders received.

MR. B.M NGUBO
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER

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CLASSI-ADS

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NB. Classified adverts for the next issue need to be in by Monday 13th July 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

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7. Businesses

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9. Clothing

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10. Computers

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12. Education & Tuition

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13. Electrical

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15. Employment Wanted

Domestic
Agnes - 083 509 2303 Refs.
Lindelwa - 083 509 2303 Refs

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

18. For Sale

Retainer lite blocks ~ affordable, light, easier to work with and quicker to install. Ready Bricks 068 600 6557

Rust Stain Remover Fabric. Various sizes available from Edge offices. Cash sales. Enq. Verity 076 619 3659

19. Home & Garden

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

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20. Health & Beauty

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

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

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

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

22. Home Improvements

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25. Motor Cars/Bikes

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

27. Pets & Livestock

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

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

28. Plumbing

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32. Services Offered

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

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

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

Garden refuse removal - bag/ drum/ bakkie ... Dial a Drum ... 082 808 5984

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.

M J P HOME MAINTENANCE - Roof cleaning, painting, deck maintenance, gutter cleaning, wall extensions, window sanding & repairs and fencing. Call Martin 071 558 8581

33. Sports & Leisure

SURF LESSONS on weekends. Beginners to advanced. Call Slade 060 907 3845

PRIVATE TENNIS COACHING with Martin in Sedgfield. All levels. Bring your own racquet, balls supplied. Coaching fees R150 hour + R50 court visitors fee. Call to book 071 558 8581

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Georgou: 079 211 3308



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250ml bottle - R130 cash
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GARDEN MAINTENANCE & LANDSCAPING ASSISTANT WANTED.

Are you passionate about gardening and landscaping? Do you enjoy working outdoors and bringing green spaces to life? We are a growing garden maintenance and landscaping company looking for a dedicated, hardworking individual to join our team!

Requirements:

- Enthusiasm for outdoor work
- Reliable and punctual
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Experience is a plus
- Drivers licence

If you love nature and want to be part of a company that values quality and care, we want to hear from you!

Contact us at 072 4421640 or email dazel.design@gmail.com with your name and a brief introduction.



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N E W

SCRABBLE CLUB ALERT

Looking for a fun, social way to exercise your brain?

Sedgefield is hosting the very first WESPA-affiliated Social Scrabble Club on the Garden Route!

(World English-speaking Players Association)

All skill levels welcome from absolute beginners to seasoned pros.

Our focus is on social play, learning, and sharing our love for the game.

We are currently finalizing our permanent venue, but we are already meeting twice a week and would love you join us.

For more information, please message Debbie via WhatsApp 083 419 5424

Also, follow us on FB @Garden Route Scrabble



NPO 150156 / PBO 930056344

SLOW TOWN MOBILE MEALS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, 19 August 2026

Time: 11:00

Place: Municipal Offices, Sedgefield

Any queries may be directed to Jim Mitchell on 083 379 3737

VACANCY

Live-in House Parent(s) needed for +_ 14 Children at Rondevlei Learning Centre

The primary role of the House Parent is caring for the health, welfare and wellbeing of the children attending Rondevlei Learning Centre (RLC) as boarders and/or day students. This may necessitate the provision of 24/7 care, safety, and mentorship of young people. Key responsibilities include managing daily routines (waking/sleeping), monitoring wellbeing, administering medication, enforcing discipline, organising social activities, and communicating with parents, school staff, and volunteers.

As a House Parent you are accountable to, and report directly to the Chief Executive Officer [CEO] of SHAPE LEARNING. The right candidate must be flexible, reactive and proactive, as dictated by the needs of the children.

Requirements

- Demonstrate previous experience in working with young people, and be able to supply relevant references.
- A working knowledge of child protection policies, procedures, services.
- Must be comfortable with communicating in Afrikaans and in English.
- Proven interpersonal skills.
- Must be able to provide own transport
- Experience in cooking and preparing meals for fairly large groups.
- An ability to manage and work within tight household budgets.
- Be physically fit and active.
- Experience and skills in maintenance work, basic household repairs and DIY.

Recommended:

- Qualifications/experience (with references) in pastoral care.
- Be experienced in organising events for children.
- Be adaptable and flexible in their approach.

Please send CV with a covering letter to Vinessa van Rensburg vinessavr@gmail.com

SEdge SCOUT GROUP CELEBRATES 5TH BIRTHDAY!

By Serena Dicks

Shortly after 18:45 on Friday, 12 June 2026, the winter sky outside the Lions Hall in Sedgefield was illuminated by dancing flames as Scouts carrying torches ignited the campfire. Families, friends and community members gathered around the fire, settling into their seats as the warm glow pushed back the darkness and signalled the start of an evening of celebration.

From the earliest days of Scouting, the campfire has been an integral part of the Scout experience. In his book Scouting for Boys, Lord Robert Baden-Powell wrote, "Then, as the darkness comes on, the campfire is lit. It is then that the best part of the day begins. You sit around, and tell stories, and sing songs, and play games. You feel a wonderful sense of companionship that you don't get at any other time".

After welcoming guests and thanking the community for its

support over the past five years, Mushu, the Group's Scout Group Leader, handed the evening's festivities over to Campfire Leader Nathan Colloty. From the relative stillness of the evening came a sudden burst of energy as a Scout war cry rang out across the gathering. Moments later, rhythmic chanting of "We are, we are, Sedgefield!" echoed around the campfire, drawing cheers and applause from the crowd. The opening set the tone for an evening filled with laughter, enthusiasm and Scout spirit.

Throughout the evening, Scouts led a lively programme of scout songs, skits and cheers. Audience members were encouraged to join in, and before long both young and old were singing along, clapping to the rhythm and laughing at the performances. The crackling fire, cheerful voices and sense of togetherness created the atmosphere that makes campfires a treasured Scouting tradition for generations.

The event served not only as a birthday celebration but also as a fundraiser to support some of the senior Scouts going on two upcoming adventures: The Tsitsikamma Scout Adventure and the Cederberg Senior Scout Adventure. Scouts sold boerewors rolls, hot chocolate, snacks and drinks, with proceeds helping to make these exciting opportunities possible.

Among those attending the celebration were local "celebrities" Ward Councillor Levael Davis, Lions club President Alison Watson, Scouts District Commissioner Sandy Colloty and Theo Rijs, Chair of the National Scout Programme. Their presence highlighted the strong support for the Scout group within the community.

As the evening drew to a close at 20:00, the campfire continued to glow while guests reflected on the group's achievements over the past five years. For many, the celebration was not

only a birthday party but a reminder of the friendships, adventures and life lessons that Scouting provides.

The fundraising effort was led by Henry Crowther and fellow Scouts Alice Pearson, Astrid Pearson and Adrian Absilis.

Their dedication, enthusiasm and countless hours of work resulted in a significant contribution towards the fundraising goals. Special thanks go to Campfire Leader and event organiser Nathan Colloty, as well as the many Scouts and Scouters who worked behind the scenes to ensure the celebration was a success.

Five years after its founding, the 1st Sedgefield Scout Group continues to provide young people with opportunities to develop their leadership skills and spirit of service while creating memories that will last a lifetime. Judging by the smiles around the campfire, the next five years promise to be just as bright.



Knysna
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inclusive || innovative || inspired

RESOLUTION ON LEVYING PROPERTY RATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 JULY 2026 TO 30 JUNE 2027

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 14(1) and (2) of the Local Government: Municipal Property Rates Act, 2004; that the Knysna Municipality Council resolved by way of Council resolution number SC04/05/26 on 29 May 2026 to levy the rates on property reflected in the schedule below with effect from 1 July 2026

1. PROPERTY RATES			
1.1	Properties (Residential to business ratio 1:2 maximum)		
(a)	Residential properties	Cent in rand	R0.0086407
(i)	Vacant Land	Cent in rand	R0.0172813
(ii)	Private Open Space	Cent in rand	R0.0164741
(b)	Business and commercial properties	Cent in rand	R0.0174732
(ii)	Vacant Land	Cent in rand	R0.0218416
(c)	Industrial properties	Cent in rand	R0.0174732
(i)	Vacant Land	Cent in rand	R0.0174732
(d)	Properties owned by organs of state and used for public service purposes	Cent in rand	R0.0174732
(i)	Vacant Land	Cent in rand	R0.0174732
(e)	Agricultural properties	Cent in rand	R0.0086407
	Agricultural properties used primarily for agricultural activities will be categorised as Agricultural and shall be rated at a rate determined by applying the prevailing ratio as prescribed by Regulation.	Cent in rand	R0.0020651
(f)	Public service infrastructure properties	Cent in rand	R0.0020651
(g)	Properties owned by public benefit organisations	Cent in rand	R0.0020651

The following exemptions, rebates and/or reductions are applicable for the 2026/2027 financial year:

Residential Properties:

- Residential properties will receive a reduction of R15, 000 statutory impermissible rate as per section 17(1) (h) of the Municipal Property Rates Act.
- An additional R35000 of the valuation of residential properties will be exempt from property rates for properties valued at R500 000 and below. All residential properties above R500 000 will not receive the R35 000 rebate Council discretion.

Rebates in respect of category of owners of property are as follows:

1. Indigent owners:

- Owners of residential zoned properties exclusively used for residential purposes, where the combined monthly income of the household is less than R5,800 per month an additional reduction (up to a maximum property valuation of R700,000, a rates rebate of 100% may be given to owners upon application.

2. Owners dependent on pensions, social grants, people with disability and poor households:

- The obligation rests solely on the owner to apply for this rebate and may be granted in respect of one residential property.

Gross monthly household income	% Rebate
Income Group A: R5,801 – R7,500 per month up to a maximum property valuation of R700,000	80%
Income Group A: R7,501 – R9,700 per month up to a maximum property valuation of R700,000	60%
Income Group A: R9,701 – R11,900 per month up to a maximum property valuation of R700,000	40%
Income Group A: R11,901 – R13,180 per month up to a maximum property valuation of R700,000	20%

4. Business and Commercial - Accommodation Establishments:

- Accommodation Establishments with lettable rooms from 3 - 8 rooms will qualify for the 10% rebate on the business tariff.

Full details of the Council resolution and rebates, reductions and exclusions specific to each category of owners of properties or owners of specific category of properties as determined through criteria in the municipality's rates policy are available for inspection on the municipality's offices, website (www.knysna.gov.za) and all public libraries.

MR B.M. NGUBO
ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER



156946 www.ayandambanga.co.za

CHURCH SERVICES

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

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

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

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

Church Without Walls (WOW)
Red Shed, Scarab Market
Sunday 9.30am

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

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.

New Apostolic Church
Enq: Anthony Davis - 083 641 5027

NG Kerk Sedgefield: 08.45am
Karatara: 10.30am
Ds. Marius Coetzee 079 873 3832
Kerkkantoor (044) 343 2033

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

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

Sedgefield Christian Church
Sunday services @ 09h00
Kairos Jnr & Snr Youth SAT 6pm-8pm
Pastor Juan & Tammy Pienaar
081 749 2534
info@sedgefieldchurch.co.za

Sedgefield Seventh-day
Adventist Church
Ph 081 270 7212

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

St Francis United Church
Sunday - 9am - Family Service
Every 1st Sunday -
9am - Communion Service
Cnr Swallow Drive / Pelican Lane
All welcome! 044 343 1702
Rev Graeme Mercer 082 926 3798
office@stfrancissedgefield.co.za

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 087 630 0609

St Anthony's Catholic Church of Sedgefield is offering the RCIA course (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults).

This course is directed at candidates curious to learn about the history of the Church and its founding through our Lord JESUS CHRIST. And over a period of personal formation in the teachings of the Church, to become a member of the Catholic Church.

The course is aimed at the Christian spiritual formation of the candidates on a shared journey with other candidates and other converts, culminating in their baptism/confirmation or both, which in turn seeks to transform the candidate's character into one of Christlikeness, through grace. It is coupled with weekly attendance of the Catholic Mass, in order to experience the fullness of the Christian experience.

- Start date of weekly lessons is Tuesday 21st July from 5.00pm to 6.30pm and ending at Easter 2027, depending on readiness of the candidate
- Lesson duration 90 minutes
- Candidates from all denominations, or without any spiritual background, and of any age older than 16 years and younger than 100 are welcome!

Contact person Luigi 0832898951

TENNIS COACHING - Sedgefield -

Coach - Martin 071 558 8581

Coaching at all levels
Private coaching
24 hour notice for bookings
Balls will be supplied
Bring your own equipment
Fees: R50 court visitor fees
Coaching R150 per hour
Come and enjoy some tennis,
improve your game and make friends

SEDGEFIELD COMMUNITY CHARITY EVENTS CALENDAR 2026

- JULY
25 Medieval Event (Lions)
- AUGUST
25, 27, 28 Melodrama
- SEPTEMBER
1, 3, 4 Melodrama
- OCTOBER
17 Pink Walk
18 Remax Kite Festival (Masi)
- 31 SAM's Fashion Show
- DECEMBER
31 Watershed (Masi)

Masi - Masithandane
SAM - Sedgefield Animal Matters
TLC - The Living Cornerstone

SEDGEFIELD LIONS CLUB PRESENTS...
Medieval Feast

MEDIEVAL ATTIRE ENCOURAGED
HEAR YE - BYO DRINKS AND DRINKING VESSELS

25 July
6.30 for 7.00 pm.
R200 pp.
Town Hall

COSTUME HIRE FROM CLUBHOUSE:
Sat 18 July - 3-5 pm
Mon 20 July - 4-6 pm
Tues 21 July - 4-6 pm
Fri 24 July - 4-5 pm

TICKETS. TABLE BOOKINGS AT WOOLnTHINGS

ENGEN WIMPY PnP SEDGEFIELD FAMILY

A FUNDRAISER FOR LIONS SERVING OUR COMMUNITY
All proceeds support Lions community projects.

SEDGEFIELD MELODRAMA PRESENTS
NIGHT OF THE ICONS

Show dates: Aug 25, 27, 28 & Sept 1, 3 & 4

Venue: Laerskool Sedgefield Primary, 19h00
Tickets: www.sedgefieldmelodrama.co.za or Herbs & Plants Nursery
Ticket Price: R120

The Wine Ghost



The Wine Ghost tasted - Compagniesdrift Rosé 2024

The front label has an interesting variety of images, which continues on the collar and screw cap. The label also shows a Michelangelo gold award as well as Rosé Rocks Gold award. On the back label one finds tasting notes and more about the origin of the wine. Abv. 13%. The wine's appearance is clear, with a ripe apricot colour and very few legs visible. WG experienced aromas of green strawberries, quinces and half ripe peaches. The rosé is light bodied, with a crisp acidity and quite a short mouth-feel. Flavours and tastes left in the mouth were green watermelon, green peaches, green

MATRIC FAREWELL DANCE

SEDGEFIELD BRIDGE CLUB

Monday 15 June 2026
1st Keiran & Terry 66%;
2nd Rodney & Paul 65%;
3rd Johann & Thinus 48%.

Monday 22 June 2026
1st Rodney & Paul 64,29%;
2nd Meg & Carol 58,93%;
3rd Clive & Terry 52,98%.

SOCIAL BRIDGE CLUB

Thurs 18th June 2026
1st Jeannie & Mary 65.2%
2nd Irene & Linda 62.5%
3rd Johann & Thinus 56.9%

Thurs 25th June 2026
1st Terry & Keiran 72.2%
2nd Thinus & Johann 60.4%
3rd Brian & Clive 59.3%

strawberries and pomegranate in the background. It is a very light hearted wine and to be honest, not the WG's first choice. The wine is in the price range R100 - R120.
In Vino Veritas till next time.



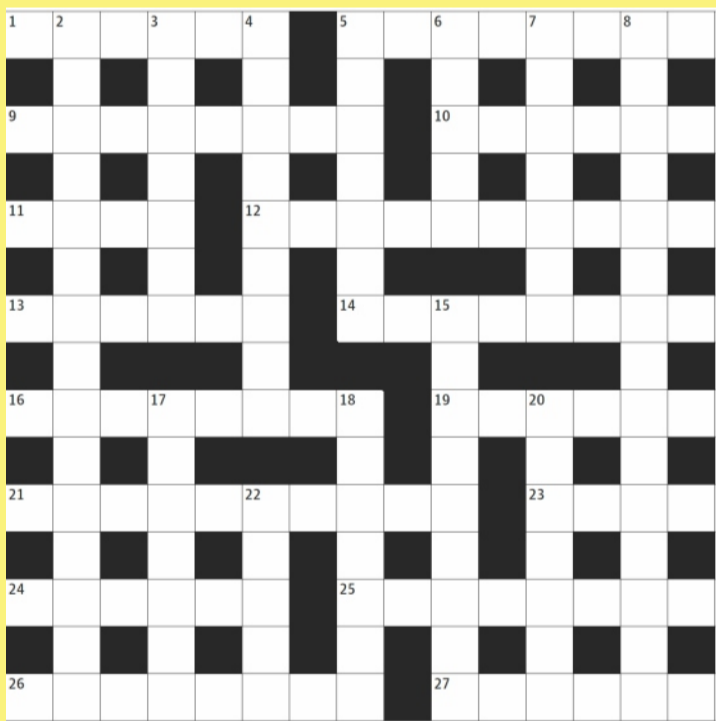
TED'S BRAIN CRUNCHER

Across

1. Drink for a pixi?(6)
5. Could have sworn Roc came back to me about agricultural hairstyles. (8)
9. More than one or two in the play section. (3,5)
10. Van that I and Tyler part-owned out of pride. (6)
11. Ancient city used external public relations to tackle a rather catty outcome. (4)
12. I hauled Tim over the coals, leaving him totally embarrassed. (10)
13. Me and the regular bank fellow get together at the plant's reproduction unit. (6)
14. In the dark? I have no idea. (4,4)
16. Given alternative accommodation within red border. (8)
19. Increase sympathy for those a little arrogant. (6)
21. Hole one may end up in after playing a round. (21)
23. More than one creature we saw cut away on the farm. (4)
24. One long bit of writing gets credit for early money. (6)
25. Arrive with evil intent for rubbish collector holding bands. (6,2)
26. Look for trouble... or request something else. (3,3,2)
27. Some of those hybrid Denneoord horses were used. (6)

Down

2. In an effort to regain some semblance of order, I used bits of a stripped down bakkie. (4,2,3,6)
3. In the mid-term, I initiate



- something temporary. (7)
4. Going on ahead, we hear better. (9)
5. Being somewhat mediocre, a medic gets thoroughly beaten! (7)
6. Take delight in getting your pivot bar back. (5)
7. Sprinted in the kid's race to cause mayhem. (7)
8. Left hanging, bound to fail when you don't get picked?

- (6,2,3,4)
15. Always less well-behaved, unfortunately, than I urge them to be. (9)
17. You, me and a creature that belongs to either of us. (7)
18. Hiding batteries inside makes you a bit of a fool! (7)
20. On paper, Peter Lotz initially did start, or so he promised. (7)
22. Sort of ducking down. (5)

SOLUTIONS FOR LAST ISSUE

Across: 8. Jubilant 9. Clear 10. Many 11. Darjeeling 12. Memoir 14. November 16. Atheist 18. Instead 21. Whitener 23. Ending 24. Stirfrying 26. Mist 27. Lewis 28. Asteroid
Down: 1. Budapest 2. City 3. Wander 4. Staring 5. Acre 6. Deplumated 7. grande 13. Overthrows 15. Van 17. Son 19. Agnostic 20. Artisan 22. Hotels 23. Eight 25. Rush 26. More

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 15 July 2026 - Issue 744

PLEASE NOTE OUR DEADLINES

(Careful, they tend to fly by VERY quickly)

Display Ads: Email editor@edgenews.co.za by 9 July 2026
Classifieds: (Stuff for sale, jobs, get-rich-quick schemes, secret treasure hints) Email accounts@edgenews.co.za by Monday 13 July 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

YOUNG BOYS FC SHINES

Sedgefield's Young Boys FC Under 13 squad is flying high after bringing home the winners' trophy from the Ikusasa Plett Development Cup. The tournament was held at Kwanokuthula Stadium on the weekend of 27 and 28 June.

Coach Joseph Mxoleli is understandably more than proud of his young team, reporting back on their progression through the tournament.

"We played our first game on Saturday at 9 o'clock, beating Yellow Marines FC 1:0. Our goal scorer was Iviwe Speelman, assisted by Lubanzi Nkosintsha," he said. The team played their second game the following day, once again winning 1:0 with a goal scored by Olwam Mkhokhali.

"We unfortunately lost the third game 2:1, with our goal coming off the boot of Olwam again," the coach told us, "But we were back on form for the last game of the group stages, winning it four goals to nil. Olwam was the star scoring two of our goals, with the others by Sinalo and Luniko."

This meant the team were into the semi-finals, and faced Ijakes FC. Olwam didn't disappoint - managing to find the back of the net and put the Young Boys ahead, whilst his team mates made sure any attack from their opponents did not change the scoreboard.

Facing Plett club Academic FC in the finals, the Young Boys did not let their opponents' home-ground advantage come to anything. Olwam shined once more, enthusiastically banging in the one-and-



only goal of the match and winning himself the accolade of Top Goal Scorer of the tournament. In only conceding two goals over the entire weekend's play, Young Boys goalkeeper Amvaethu Mashwa won Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament, adding even more feathers to the cap of coach Mxoleli.

"I am so proud of my boys they made my weekend so special," he beamed.

Should any individual or business wish to sponsor the Young Boys FC Coach Mxoleli may be contacted on 067 393 7652

Off the Mat

Sedge Bowling Club News



"From cracked wood to crafty curves- bias has kept us bending the rules since 1522!"

In 1522, the Duke of Suffolk fixed a cracked bowl with a banister knob. The odd shape made it curve, and players soon realised this "accident" could be used to out-smart opponents. Modern bowls are shaped to bend on purpose — the quirk that makes lawn bowls more than just rolling straight.

Eden Mixed Pairs

Congratulations to SBC players Luke Hugill and Debi Stanford, Neels Theron and Wendy Mack, Arthur and Sheril Owen and Charles Fontini and partner who made it through to the playoffs. Once again you are up there with the best!

A special shoutout to Wendy and Neels who picked up a perfect 8 during the round robin section of the competition.

Eden Mini League

SBC Ladies excel in the league. Huge congratulations to our ladies who, in the final standings, took the second, third and fourth places and won the

overall club title for SBC. Huge congratulations to Ronel Eloff, Gill Thomas and Gill Cromhout - Janet Larkins, Sally Reeves and Sheryl Owen - Sue Crone, Lyn Otto and Analise le Roux for keeping our flag flying high and proud in Eden!

Men's Mini league

Continuing the highly competitive bowls that we have seen from our Mens Mini League teams over the past three weeks we now have the Neels Theron third on the leaderboard with Chris Cannon (7th), Charles Fontini (15th), Dawid Malan (18th), Mike Crone (20th) and Pieter Griesel (24th) and their

teams still with a chance of stepping up in the fifth and final round.

Drawn Mixed Singles

This competition is heating up nicely with the knockout round being contested by Arthur Owen and Johan le Roux. Frank Witteveen will be giving Bernard Sheridan a go. Neels Theron will be taking on Ann Dold and Brian Concannon will do his level best to give Martin Simonic a run for his money! Happy rolling and good luck for the semifinals to the winners!

That's a wrap — see you on the mat

LADIES' GOLF

Club Report

Friday, 26 June 2026

Rain, rain, go away, we love you, but not on a Friday! And so it did, the ladies arrived in their red club shirts at Sedge Links in good spirits, ready to play the monthly medal and putt competition. The even better news was that all bunkers were out of play, always a good thing to hear on medal day! After the game, the kitty sponsored a toastie and chips for each of the ladies, well deserved after a fabulous game of golf at the Links. A huge, huge thank you to Engen 1-Plus Sedgefield for sponsoring today's prizes.

GOLD DIVISION

Winner: Marina van der Westhuizen (nett 54)
Runner-up: Elize Mackenzie-

Blom (nett 56) count out with Brenda Howden

SILVER DIVISION

Winner Linda Evans (nett 46)
Runner-up: Esme Steinmann (nett 48)

BRONZE DIVISION

Winner: Clare Garner (nett 50)
Runner-up: Marie Joubert (nett 63)

LEAST PUTTS AWARD:

Linda Evans (24 putts)

BIRDIES:

Linda Evans (6 & 7), Elize Mackenzie-Blom (11 & 14), Daleen Schooling (2), Almarie Mead (17), Marie Joubert (15), Marina van der Westhuizen (15)
Linda Evans played 8 under her handicap, Esme Steinmann played 6 under and Clare Garner played for 4 under.

Friday, 19 June 2026

Eleven ladies teed off, all hoping they wouldn't find themselves in

"Trouble" – the name of today's format. Every hazard you landed in earned you an extra point on your scorecard, so staying out of trouble was definitely the aim of the game!

With the sun shining, not a breath of wind, and the beautifully manicured Sedge Links course looking its best, what could possibly go wrong?

After a quick gathering on the deck, the teams were drawn – three 3-balls and one 2-ball – and we set off, determined to avoid "Trouble". But with every bunker back in play, the sense of trepidation was very real!

WINNER: Linda Evans (38 points)

RUNNER-UP: Michelle J Gilchrist (37 points)

3RD PLACE: Marina van der Westhuizen (36 points)

NEAREST THE PIN: 0-16 handicaps: Almarie Mead, 17 and above handicaps: Esme Steinmann

BIRDIES FOR THE DAY

Linda Evans: Holes 12 (a magnificent slam dunk 50 metres out), 14 and 16

Michelle J Gilchrist: Hole 4

Elize Mackenzie-Blom: -1

Shannon Nicol: Hole 6

Almarie Mead: Hole 7

Linda Evans played 2 under her handicap (16) and Michelle J Gilchrist was 1 under hers (21)

Well played to all players!

SEDFIELD GENTS' GOLF

Club Report

Thursday, 11 June 2026

It is said that friendship isn't about someone you spend most of your time with, but someone who has seen you play golf and still sticks around. They also say that you mustn't laugh at anyone who believes in Santa because you get some people who believe they can play golf. The believers as well as best friends, playing a combined stableford, competition were the following. In first spot, and smiling, were Garth Schooling and Roy Harrington with 70 points after a count out with Des Fenner and Peter King. In Third spot were Terry and Greg Savage with 67. Andre de Wet and Len Moults followed with 65.

Needless to say the rest of the field were grumpy but still friends.

Thursday 18 June 2026

It was a lovely, chilly day for this week's competition which the Captain, Brian Gerard, announced was an Individual Stableford.

The famous golfer, Lee Trevino, once said that golf was invented by the same people who think that music comes out

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of a bagpipe. Well, the golfer who wailed the loudest today was Bill Craig who scored a marvellous 40 points. He says nothing fixes a bad mood better than finding four Titleist Pro V1's while looking for his lost Top Flite.

A welcome visitor, Kevin Lombard, took second spot with 34 after a count out with Andre de Wet and Trevor Pahl.

Thursday, 27 June 2026

The day was full of promises of rain which thankfully didn't happen as it turned into a beautiful day for a game of golf. In golf, if you play well, all you want to do is play again. If you play badly, all you want to do is play again. However, you should always be positive. Take our Captain, he's always positive even if he's just positive that he's going to have another beer. It was the Monthly Mug Competition which is always sponsored by those great

community minded companies, Pick n Pay and Engen. Andre de Wet was the day's runaway winner in the A division with a net 52. Ian Wright took second place with a net 53 after a count out with the rather disgusted Neville Large. Fourth spot went to Glen Mauchline.

The B Division, playing medal, was won by a rather embarrassed Terry Savage, with 36 points, followed by Len Moults with 34. Third spot went to, and we still don't believe this, Peter Heath, knocking Rudy Bosch into fourth, after a count out, both on 33.

Closest to the pin on the 2nd and back into the wine, was Len Moults with Dave Herbst closest at the 17th. Garth Schooling showed his golfing expertise by winning the Lucky Draw. The "Duck" for worst player of the day was won by Trevor Pahl who thought he was playing in a "Shoot Your Age" competition.

TIDE TABLE

1 July - 14 July 2026

• Full Moon 29 July 2026

Date:	Sunrise	Sunset	High Tides	Low Tides
Wed 01 July	7:35	17:30	4:17 16:49	10:18 22:40
Thur 02 July	7:35	17:30	4:51 17:20	10:50 23:15
Fri 03 July	7:34	17:31	5:25 17:53	11:22 23:51
Sat 04 July	7:34	17:31	6:01 18:28	11:56 -
Sun 05 July	7:34	17:32	6:41 19:08	0:31 12:33
Mon 06 July	7:34	17:32	7:26 19:53	1:16 13:17
Tue 07 July	7:34	17:33	8:19 20:49	2:10 14:10
Wed 08 July	7:34	17:28	9:26 21:56	3:15 15:17
Thur 09 July	7:33	17:34	10:45 23:12	4:29 16:37
Fri 10 July	7:33	17:34	12:06 -	5:45 17:57
Sat 11 July	7:33	17:35	0:26 13:16	6:52 19:09
Sun 12 July	7:33	17:36	1:32 14:15	7:50 20:10
Mon 13 July	7:32	17:36	2:30 15:06	8:42 21:05
Tue 14 July	7:32	17:37	3:21 15:54	9:49 21:55

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