

The Bugle

MAGAZINE

email: thebugle@mweb.co.za

Rhythm, Romance and Radiance



The KwaZulu-Natal Philharmonic Orchestra presents the second concert of its Early Spring Season on Thursday, 27 August at 7pm at The Playhouse Opera. Maestro Debora Waldman conducts a spectacular programme featuring Kodály's Dances of Galánta, Bruch's beloved Violin Concerto with virtuoso Lidia Baich, and Sibelius's majestic Symphony No. 5. A celebration of music, nature and women, captured at Durban Botanic Gardens by Val Adamson.

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THROUGH MY EYES

by Kasia Yoko



Comfort rarely changes us. It is discomfort, being hungry, cold and sleep-deprived, as Margaret Thatcher once suggested, that pushes us to act, adapt and see the world more clearly. I was reminded of that idea during my six weeks in Europe, particularly in Poland, where the contrast between the country I remembered and the one I encountered forced me to question what progress has given us and what it may have taken away.

What I understood from it was simple: you need to step outside your comfort zone if you want to achieve anything worthwhile. Nothing much grows in a life that is permanently comfortable.

Poland has changed dramatically. Economically, the country appears to be thriving. New developments are everywhere, supermarkets have sprung up on almost every corner and the advertising of 'killer deals' has become relentless. Buy more and pay less seems to be the mantra.

But I couldn't help wondering what we have sacrificed along the way.

Western-style processed food has taken centre stage. Shish kebab takeaways can be found in almost every village and town, alongside burgers, pizza, fried food and ice cream shops. There is an abundance of everything, and the opulence seems to be shining its light on the population.

From my perspective, it doesn't necessarily look healthy.

The Poland of my childhood was a very different place. Almost every home had a vegetable garden and fruit trees. Open land was occupied by small allotments where families grew potatoes, onions, tomatoes, sunflowers, berries, cucumbers and herbs everything else they needed.

Poles were masters of foraging. Summer meant gathering wild berries, mushrooms



£300 fine warning to anyone picking blackberries this summer

Recent article in UK's daily newspapers

and fruits from the forests and countryside. There was a deep understanding that nature provided, and that you did not need a supermarket for everything.

Today, the American blueberry seems

to have become a feature of almost every fruit stand, while much of the fresh produce in supermarkets arrives from elsewhere in the European Union. And in some places, forests that once welcomed generations of foragers now carry 'Do not enter' signs.

Times have changed.

And, standing there after so many years away, I realised that the Poland I carry inside me is no longer quite the Poland I see today.

Yet I returned to South Africa with another realisation.

We may not have the economic stability that Europe appears to enjoy. We have our political shenanigans; rising food prices, uncertainty and enough daily challenges to keep even the most optimistic person awake at night. Sometimes it feels as though those making the decisions have little idea of what ordinary people are experiencing.

But strangely, my heart feels lighter here.

Perhaps it is because uncertainty keeps us awake. It keeps us alert. It forces us to adapt, to improvise and to appreciate what we have. We cannot afford to become too comfortable.

And perhaps that is the lesson. The grass is always greener on the other side because we are looking at it from a distance.

Once you get there, you discover that it has weeds too.

So I choose to stay upbeat. I choose to have faith in the outcome. I choose to embrace the chaos, the challenges and even the uncertainty.

Because sometimes being a little hungry, a little uncomfortable and slightly outside your comfort zone is exactly what keeps you moving forward.

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Dear Ed,

Re: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS (LGE)

The voters roll closed at midnight on 7 August 2026 and the LGE will take place on 4 November 2026. People will be able to make their crucial marks on this important occasion.

It is hoped that voters will apply their minds aptly and make wise and informed choices using wisdom, caution and discernment. This will benefit towns, cities and its peoples. Councillors who served well in the past are commended and could be re-elected.

Councillors and parties serve the electorate and should discharge their constitutional obligations successful and timeously. At local level the rubber meets the road, with grassroots implications.

Voters must not be fooled by lies, false/empty promises and sweet talk. They must learn from past bitter experiences. They must reject outright crooks, charlatans, deadwood, non-performers and other unsavoury characters. They must not be taken for a ride by inefficient and ineffective persons who are there just to line their pockets and not serve the public.

Voters need to get value for money. Also there must be consequence management. Councilors earn hefty salaries and get allowances and other benefits that executives earn. So they need to deliver aptly.

Sadly we have had underperformers and lacklustre Councillors thrust upon us and this must end. The country needs new and fresh faces who will deliver us from the rot, decay, degradation, doom and gloom that characterized the past 30 plus years.

Crooks and shadies that have held public office must never again be re-elected. It is not surprising that many of such crossstitutes, charlatans and nincompoops had or have the ANC as their homes, such as J Manyi, D Pule,

N Mapisa-Nqakula and P Marais.

Pertinent questions must ask before one decides who to vote for. These include: is the person qualified, has he/she integrity, is he /she self-serving or public spirited, has he/she capabilities and competencies, has he/she a proven track record, is he/she worthy of public office?

Voters please resist the temptation not to vote. Each vote is important and really matters cumulatively. If one does not vote, he/she then cannot complain.

Do not be fooled by party manifestos that are just theory and cut and paste jobs. Talk is cheap. Action is vital, not "big talk".

Over 600 parties are registered- how crazy is this! What is needed is quality, not quantity. All and sundry are making themselves available. Even some have risen from the dead to torment and fool us should they hold office anew.

South Africa must be saved by voters making good choices and by the grace of GOD. Water crises, power outages, faulty robots and street lighting, potholes abounding, crime and grime, overgrowth, uncollected refuse and other ills of the past and present must no longer exist. Local government must pursue higher achievements such as providing job opportunities, capital projects, infrastructure improvement, housing and other community developments and public benefiting ventures and schemes.

Our towns and cities must be improved and bettered for the benefit of all, especially the downtrodden, less fortunate and the previously disadvantaged and marginalized. Viva democracy and upliftment viva, phansi repression, poor or no service delivery and incompetency phansi. We certainly deserve better and should and certainly will achieve this vast improvement only if voters vote and do so wisely.

Simon T Dehal
Verulam

PLEASE WRITE TO US

Have something to say?

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"The cure for boredom is curiosity." By Dorothy Parker

Steve Smit: The Man Who Spoke For The Voiceless

Remembering Durban beloved Monkey Man

There are some people who become so much a part of a community that their absence leaves a space far bigger than the person themselves.

Steve Smit was one of those people.

Known across Durban and KwaZulu-Natal simply as the 'Monkey Man' Steve died on 12 August 2026, aged 70, following a battle with cancer. For more than three decades, he devoted his life to animals that most people simply passed by, misunderstood or regarded as a nuisance.

Steve saw something different.

He saw a life worth saving.

Through Monkey Helpline, which he founded in 1995, Steve became the familiar face called upon when a vervet monkey was injured, trapped, abused or simply in trouble. He climbed trees, crossed rooftops, entered gardens and answered rescue calls that many others would have walked away from.

But Steve's story was never only about monkeys.

His activism stretched across the broader animal-rights movement. He founded the Front for Animal Liberation and

Conservation of Nature in 1985 and later co-founded Animal Rights Africa. He campaigned against wildlife exploitation, the ivory trade, live animal exports, canned hunting and animal cruelty.

Yet it was the vervet monkeys of KwaZulu-Natal that ultimately became synonymous with his name.

For years, Steve worked largely as an unpaid volunteer, giving his time, energy and resources to animals that could never repay him. His mission was not simply rescue. Education was equally important. He wanted people to understand the animals living alongside them and to replace fear and intolerance with knowledge and compassion.

Those who knew him describe a man of enormous character, passionate, outspoken, funny, determined and sometimes uncompromising. He was a storyteller, mentor, activist and, above all, a man who refused to stand by when something needed to be done.

His partner, Carol Booth, who worked beside him for many years, has spoken of the profound love Steve carried for his family.

He was a father to Jonathan, Kiron and Luke, a stepfather to Jessica and Jordan, and a proud grandfather to four grandchildren.

Steve leaves behind more than an organisation and a lifetime of rescues. He leaves behind a changed community, one that learned, through his persistence, that our responsibility does not end with our own species.

His legacy is alive in every animal that was given another chance because Steve answered the call.

And fittingly, those wishing to honour his memory have been encouraged to plant one of his favourite trees a sycamore fig creating something living in his name and providing food and shelter for wildlife.

A tree grows slowly. A legacy does too.

Steve Smit spent his life planting one.

Durban has lost its Monkey Man.

But the animals he fought for, the people he inspired and the countless lives he touched will ensure that Steve Smit is not forgotten.

Rest peacefully, Steve. Your work here mattered.



Steve Smit, the 'Monkey Man' died on 12 August 2026, aged 70, following a battle with cancer

AcquaBox by Mountain Falls opened its doors at La Lucia Mall offering a naturally balanced mineral water, from the Klein River mountains in the Western Cape. It is a beautifully considered approach to premium mineral water that brings refined hydration into everyday living

AcquaBox by Mountain Falls, a premium mineral water has finally arrived at La Lucia Mall

La Lucia Mall has a new tenant worth raising a glass to. AcquaBox by Mountain Falls, a premium mineral water company, has officially opened its doors at Shop 12, bringing with it a message that goes far beyond simple refreshment: water is one of the most overlooked pillars of good health.

It is easy to treat hydration as an afterthought, something squeezed in between coffee and the next meeting. But according to Mountain Falls, proper hydration with premium mineral water plays a far more active role in wellbeing than most people realise. It supports bone health, keeping the body's structural foundation strong. It aids circulation, helping oxygen and nutrients move efficiently through the bloodstream. It sharpens cognitive function, the kind of mental clarity we all reach for during a demanding day. It lifts

energy levels, offering a more sustainable boost than the usual caffeine crutch. And it shows up on our skin too, contributing to that healthy, hydrated glow that no amount of product can fake.

But not all water is created equal, and this is where Mountain Falls mineral water sets itself apart. With a perfectly balanced pH of 7.0 and naturally rich in calcium, magnesium and potassium, this mineral water offers a mineral profile that few brands can match. Mountain Falls also belongs to the Fine Water Society, placing it among a select group of waters from 35 countries to earn that recognition. This year, Mountain Falls claimed gold at the Design and Taste Awards in Canada, honoured for both the striking design of the AcquaBox and the quality of the water itself. More than just premium hydration, Mountain Falls

is a carbon and plastic neutral company reflecting a commitment to exceptional water, responsible sourcing and sustainability.

Convenience is part of the offering too. The company delivers free of charge across La Lucia, Umhlanga and the greater Durban North area, and also supplies water dispensers for home or office use.

For KwaZulu Natal residents looking to make a genuine investment in daily wellness, AcquaBox by Mountain Falls' arrival at La Lucia Mall is perfect timing. Pop in, pick up a bottle or an AcquaBox, and experience the difference that an award winning water makes. Visit them at Shop 12, La Lucia Mall, contact them on WhatsApp at 083 864 0228, or find out more at www.acquaboxdistributorkzn.com

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"Our life is what our thoughts make it." By Marcus Aurelius



Let us begin in London, where Andy Burnham has apparently decided that being Prime Minister means cosplaying Churchill. Standing at a military remembrance in Kiev this week, he compared the Ukraine conflict to Britain's fight against Nazi Germany, then promised anti-air missiles and, more alarmingly, handed over classified data enabling Ukraine to build Storm Shadow cruise missiles on its own soil. This is not support.

This is arson with a photo opportunity attached. Moscow responded by quietly withdrawing its ambassador and not bothering to replace him, the diplomatic equivalent of blocking your number rather than merely being cross with you. Keir Starmer at least pretended restraint occasionally. Burnham has skipped straight to writing cheques his depleted, underfunded military cannot possibly cash, all while Britain reportedly has less than a day's worth of ammunition for full-scale combat. Bold strategy.

Meanwhile in Washington, Trump's Treasury has launched what it proudly calls an "economic onslaught" against Iran, threatening to blacklist any nation still trading with Tehran. Noble in theory, laughable in practice, given that Iran trades with roughly three quarters of the planet and America is simultaneously locked in a tariff brawl with Canada over electricity supplies and car parts. You cannot bully the entire world into isolation while also alienating your neighbours. Even bullies need friends to hold their coats.

Over in the West Bank, Netanyahu's government continues its quiet, grinding expansion, settler

What's The Issue? Everyone's Playing With Matches, and We're All Standing in the Petrol



violence claiming more young lives while the world issues statements instead of consequences. Funny how outrage is rationed so selectively depending on which flag is involved.

And who benefits from all this simultaneous chaos? Not you. Not the young men in trenches, the sanctioned economies, or the families burying teenagers. The defence contractors do rather well though, as do the political careers built entirely on having an enemy to point at. Nothing unites a fractious electorate

quite like a good, distant war to watch from the safety of the sofa.

Closer to home, our own Government of National Unity is providing its own comedy hour. Nomvula Mokonyane has publicly admitted the GNU is "no longer a source of unity," which is rather like a marriage counsellor announcing the marriage is over mid-session. Meanwhile the Madlaga Commission continues unpicking allegations of criminal cartel involvement stretching into the police

and criminal justice system itself. We are governed by people who cannot agree on unity while investigating each other for corruption. At least it is consistent.

So here we sit, watching London posture, Washington sanction, Jerusalem expand, and Pretoria squabble, all convinced they are the reasonable ones. The rest of us just get to pay for the fireworks, and clean up whatever is left standing when the petrol flames finally run out.



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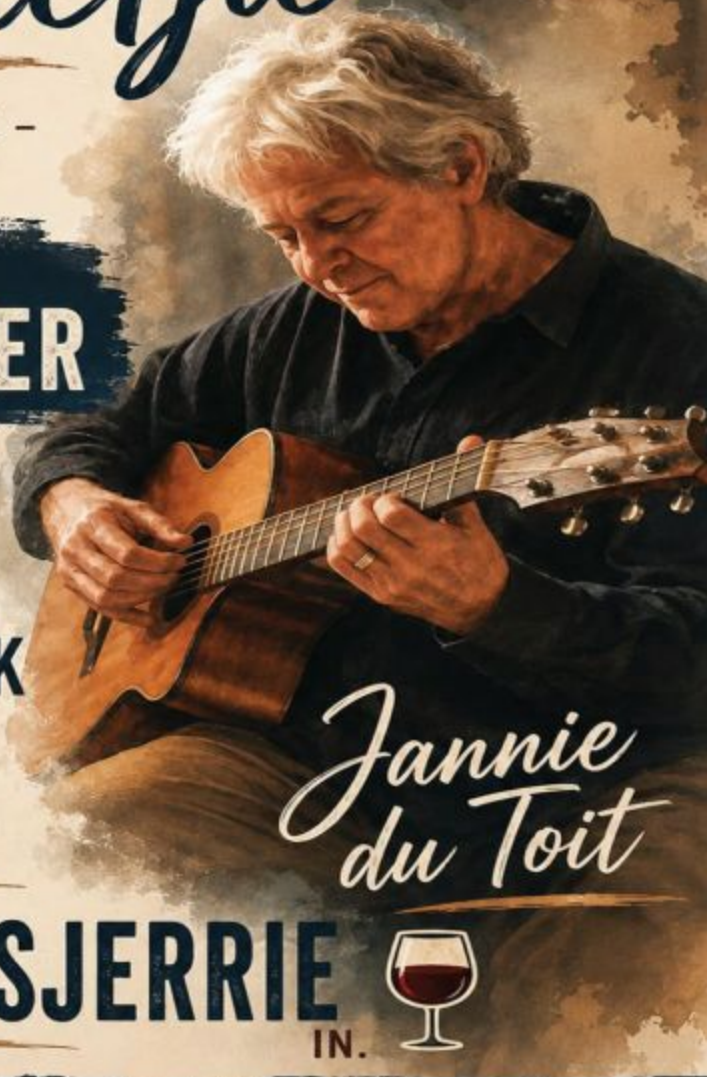
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7	4	1	8	2	5	3	9	6
6	8	5	1	3	9	2	4	7
2	3	9	6	7	4	8	5	1
4	1	2	9	5	7	6	8	3
3	6	8	4	1	2	5	7	9
9	5	7	3	6	8	1	2	4
5	2	3	7	9	6	4	1	8
8	7	6	2	4	1	9	3	5
1	9	4	5	8	3	7	6	2

	1	6		4	7	2
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“The first principle is that you must not fool yourself.” By Richard P. Feynman

Reality Check

By Brad Nathanson
Private Investigator



A Genuine Question For The South African Government

I would genuinely appreciate an answer to this from someone in Government or SASSA or anybody else in the know.

Why is it that when a prisoner is transferred from one prison to another anywhere in South Africa, their basic provisions continue without interruption? They continue to receive three meals a day, access to medical care, electricity and other basic necessities.

Yet an 83-year-old pensioner, whose only source of income is her SASSA grant, moves from KwaZulu-Natal to Cape Town and suddenly finds herself without financial support because she is told she has to re-apply simply because she has moved to another province. She is 83 years old. She has contributed to this country throughout her life and has reached an age where she should be able to live with some dignity and security. Instead, she is left waiting for an administrative process to be completed.

In the meantime, who is feeding her? Who is paying her electricity? Who is buying her medication and basic necessities? Who is making sure that she is okay?

And this is my question to Government:

Why can't an existing SASSA grant simply follow an elderly person when they move from one province to another? We are talking about a national social grant, not a provincial benefit. Moving from KwaZulu-Natal to the Western Cape does not change the fact that this woman is 83 years old and dependent upon that money to survive.

I am not suggesting that prisoners should be denied food, medical care or basic human necessities. They are human beings too. But surely,

we must ask ourselves whether our system has its priorities right when an elderly pensioner can be left without her only source of income because of an administrative process.

An 83-year-old woman should not have to wonder where her next meal is coming from because she moved provinces. She should not have



Why should the seniors suffer?

to choose between food and electricity. She should not have to rely on the goodwill of other people while waiting for Government bureaucracy to catch up with her.

So, SASSA, the Department of Social Development, or someone in Government please explain this to me. If there is a legitimate reason why an existing grant cannot simply be transferred when a pensioner changes province, I would genuinely like to understand it. And if this is simply an administrative failure, then perhaps it is time we fix it.

Government exists to serve its people not to leave its most vulnerable citizens fighting the system to receive what they are already entitled to.



by
Jo Rushby
from Ikes Books & Collectables

Moel-y-Garth, Wales. 23 July 2026

Emrys (wizard), my brother's neighbour, and farming for 80 years in the Welsh valley, cast his gaze over the field and our hay gathering efforts. His sparkly blue eyes relayed his admiration and a jovial nod to these antiquated methods. A man of few words. "Not bad" he said. We had been out in the blistering sun, the three of us. My brother scythed the long dry grass, swishing back and forth, while my niece Maddy and I raked and gathered. Industrious, mad.

It was almost as if we were caught in a time warp. The smell of hay. The sheep salivating. Hard but satisfying labour. There was no talking but rather I entered a trance-like state. A rhythmic, harmonious silence enveloped as we started piling the grass into 'stoeks', the familiar pyramidal shapes that once dotted the countryside.

*"The (wo)men leaned on their rakes, about to begin,
But still. And all were silent. All was old,
This morning time, with a great age untold"*

(Edward Thomas)

When I looked back at the fruits of our labour, I wanted to capture it for all time. Not with a cellphone but with paint and brush.

Claude Monet did exactly that, painting fifteen canvases throughout 1890-1891 of haystacks in various lights, times of day and seasons, the same scene over and over and over, replicating the rhythm of nature and man. One reviewer Geffroy said of this series: "They stand erect beneath the bright sun in a limpid atmosphere...At the close of the warm days...the stacks glow like heaps of gems. Their sides split and light up...These red-glowing grainstacks throw lengthening shadows that are strewn with emeralds".

Now Maddy and I were in the groove, tossing the hay, giggling, throwing ourselves into the sides like giant cushions, higher and higher it grew. With the triumphant golden towers at the ready, we asked Emrys the wizard and his son Brian if they could help.

Always up for a fun distraction, they immediately agreed. The tractor arrived and we piled on the grass. Laying on top, I felt a rush of complete joy run through my body, as the tractor swayed and rolled up the hill to their farm. Emrys the wizard and his wife Gwynedd were waiting with the hay baler. Excitement flowed as the hay was pushed through the juddering machine and out they popped on the other side in squished rectangles. A whole day's work. Five bales.

I peeped into the shed. Gigantic hay bales. Rolled to perfection. Machine made. I looked back at our rough, misshapen blocks and smiled. Making hay while the sun shines is one of the most delightful things I have had the privilege to do. The sheep loved it too. Given a choice at the end of the day between our bales and the machine, they baa-ed and coo-ed over our delicious hay. And what I learned in the Welsh sun-burnt valley is that you might not find a needle in a haystack, but you will find happiness.

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Durban Street Food Festival

A Feast for the Senses Returns!

One of KwaZulu-Natal's biggest food, music, and lifestyle events, the Durban Street Food Festival 2026 returns to The Pavilion Shopping Centre from 4 – 6 September 2026.

Celebrating the very best of food, music, culture, and community, this year's festival promises to bring together more than 75 food, craft, and lifestyle brands, an exciting entertainment programme, family-friendly attractions, and two of South Africa's most celebrated headline artists.

Leading the 2026 music lineup, is legendary Mafikizolo brought to you by The Pavilion Shopping Centre, and award-winning musician Muzi, who will headline a weekend of live performances alongside an outstanding lineup of local talent, including: the KZN Youth Orchestra; Veranda Panda; Matt Davies and Tim Lewis.

The Durban Street Food Festival has established itself as one of South Africa's leading food and lifestyle festivals, celebrating the diverse flavours, cultures, and creative communities that make Durban one of the country's most exciting culinary destinations.

Festival-goers can expect an incredible selection of international and local street food, artisan desserts, gourmet burgers, seafood, vegan cuisine, authentic cultural dishes, handcrafted beverages, specialty coffee, sweet treats, and much more. Beyond the food, visitors will enjoy lifestyle shopping, artisan goods interactive brand activations, family entertainment, children's activities, and immersive festival experiences designed for every age group.

One of the standout additions for 2026 is the DSFF Bokke Bokke Fan Park, where rugby supporters can come together on Saturday, 5 September, to watch the Springboks live on the big screen in an electric festival atmosphere. The fan park will feature food vendors, beverage gardens, live entertainment, and activations, creating one of Durban's premier rugby viewing experiences.

Whether you're a passionate foodie, music lover, family looking for a great day out, or someone searching for Durban's best festival experience, the Durban Street Food Festival 2026 promises an unforgettable weekend.

Durban Street Food Festival 2026 takes place at the Pavilion Shopping Centre, Entrance 5 from 4 – 6 September 2026

For more info - Email: durbanstreetfoodfestival@gmail.com Tickets through Quicket.

Dube TradePort Special Economic Zone investor BSG and Technologies launches IRIS, an Artificial Intelligence Humanoid Tutor Robot, a South African First. BSG and Technologies designed their robot to support teaching and learning; IRIS can communicate and teach in all 11 official South African languages and supports multiple subjects, aligned with the South African educational curricula, while also accommodating private and independent school curricula, from Grade R through Grade 12 and tertiary education.

“BSG and Technologies was established in 2017, initially operating as BSG Community Development with a strong focus on science, technology, education and community development. The organisation later expanded and evolved into BSG and Technologies in 2020, strengthening its focus on Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies, artificial intelligence, coding, robotics and digital education.

“Our vision is to ensure that every learner, regardless of location or circumstance, has access to world-class educational support powered by artificial intelligence. Through IRIS, we are building a future where technology enhances teaching, empowers learners and creates opportunities for communities across Africa.” Says BSG and Technologies founder and CEO Bonisiwe “Thandoh” Gumede.

The company was originally founded in KwaMnqobokazi, Hluhluwe; BSG and Technologies has expanded its footprint with offices, an IRIS showroom within Dube TradePort and plans to establish a manufacturing facility in the special economic zone.

The AI-powered humanoid robot is designed to create an interactive learning experience by engaging directly with learners, answering questions, explaining concepts, assisting with assessments, supporting teachers and analysing learning interactions. IRIS can also be customised for corporate environments, training programmes, presentations and other sector-specific applications and in addition to the 11 official spoken languages, IRIS can communicate in more than 7,000 languages globally, making it one of the most versatile educational technologies available.

The rollout of IRIS to local schools is currently underway. BSG and Technologies had already built more than 2,000 IRIS robots internationally, having received orders in South Africa from private schools. Now with government support through the National IRIS Lab School Campaign, BSG and Technologies has begun rolling out IRIS and related technology, initially with five schools getting the technology: Amangwe High School, Mgidla Secondary School, Ekuthuthukeni Secondary School, George Caltex Primary School, Intakamazolo Combined School.

BSG and Technologies currently employs 15 people, with projections of creating more than 20,000 employment opportunities over the next five years as IRIS deployment expands into manufacturing locally with global distribution. The projected opportunities will span technology development, artificial intelligence, software engineering, manufacturing, assembly, technical support, education and training, logistics, sales and marketing, administration, and large-scale deployment operations.

Dube TradePort Special Economic Zone Investor BSG and Technologies Launches AI-Powered Robot



BSG and Technologies founder and CEO Bonisiwe “Thandoh” Gumede



Kyle Cameron Marcus from Fork This

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Property Talk

By:
Andreas Wassenaar

The Buyer Has Changed And Property Has to Catch Up

As property practitioners and the sellers we represent, we spend an enormous amount of time talking about the property market. Interest rates, prices, supply, demand, semigration, investment and whether buyers are active or sitting on their hands. But perhaps we are overlooking the most important part of the transaction altogether: the person actually buying the property.

Because the South African property buyer is continually evolving, understanding why people are buying and what they value may tell us more about where the market is going.

There was a time when the property journey was relatively predictable. You bought your first home, moved into something bigger as your family grew, and eventually downsized when the children left. Today, that journey is far less straightforward.

A younger buyer may be entering the market through sectional title, a higher loan-to-value purchase or even with family assistance. For them, getting onto the property ladder is often about affordability and location

rather than owning the traditional family home. They also may have aspirations of being more mobile, travel between continents and work remotely. Digital nomads may be able to afford certain homes but may value quality and convenience more than space.

At the other end of the spectrum, we are seeing established homeowners making very different decisions. They may have spent decades building equity and are now asking themselves a more lifestyle-driven question: If I am going to own a home for the next 10 or 20 years, how do I actually want to live and more importantly where.

That can mean trading a large suburban property for a smaller property inside an estate, moving closer to the coast, prioritising security, reducing maintenance or simply buying into an environment where the family can spend more time together.

And then there are the buyers who are making decisions around their children. A property purchase may be about creating a home that works for multiple generations, being closer to grandchildren, helping adult children enter the market or securing an asset that can remain within the family.

The reasons people trade is becoming just as diverse as the properties themselves.

This is particularly evident on the North Coast. Buyers are not simply choosing between one house and another. They are choosing between lifestyles, security, schools, proximity to the beach, nature, community, convenience and the quality of the surrounding environment. These all carry more weight than an additional bedroom or a larger size of land.

That does not mean price has become irrelevant. Quite the opposite. Buyers are increasingly sophisticated about affordability and total cost of ownership. Interest rates, levies, maintenance, security and everyday living costs all form part of the decision. A property that looks affordable on paper may not represent the best value once the full cost of living is considered.

Interestingly, this also helps explain why two properties at a similar price can perform so differently. They may be competing for completely different buyers. Design is increasingly informing price – get the design wrong and you kill the price.

One buyer may be looking for a secure family environment. Another may be looking for an investment. Someone else may be buying a retirement lifestyle or a coastal escape. The price may be similar, but the motivation is not. And this is where the role of the agent becomes increasingly important.

Sellers cannot simply put a property onto the market and wait for someone to respond. The agent needs to understand what makes that property relevant, who it is likely to appeal to, and what is important to that particular buyer. It is about finding the right buyer, not just finding a buyer. Excellent agents have an incredible ability of matching buyers to the right property.

Perhaps that is the real evolution taking place in property. The question is no longer simply, “What is my property worth?” It is becoming, “Who is this property right for, and why would they choose it?” “What would they pay?”

The better we understand the answer, the better we understand the market itself.

Workplace Violence: When Dismissal Is Justified

The Labour Court was recently called upon to consider whether an employee’s dismissal following a physical fight with a co-worker was fair. The employee, who worked as a general worker, was involved in an argument with a colleague, Mr Wonder Mpya, on 8 December 2021. What started as a verbal confrontation at work later escalated into a physical fight after the employees had knocked off.

The employee was charged with gross misconduct. It was alleged that he had started the physical fight, assaulted Mpya and had also threatened and insulted him at work. Following a disciplinary enquiry, he was found guilty and dismissed. The employee disputed the dismissal and referred the matter to arbitration. His version of events was very different. He maintained that Mpya was the aggressor and that he had merely defended himself. He alleged that Mpya had grabbed him, stabbed him with a knife or razor and had thrown stones at him. He also said that he had sustained an injury to his hand during the incident. The Commissioner, however, preferred the employer’s version.

Three witnesses gave evidence on behalf of the employer. Mpya described how the employee had approached him after work, grabbed him by his shirt and started punching him. Mr Moleleki, who was walking with Mpya at the time, substantially supported this version. The supervisor, Mr Mkandawira, also gave evidence about the earlier argument between the two employees at work. There was another factor which counted against the employee. Mpya reported the incident to the employer the

following day. The employee, on the other hand, did not report that he had allegedly been assaulted by Mpya. The employee subsequently took the arbitration award on review to the Labour Court, arguing that the Commissioner had ignored important evidence and had failed to take proper account of his claim that he had acted in self-defence. The Court was not persuaded.

One of the employee’s arguments was that medical reports showed that he had been injured during the fight. The difficulty, however, was that although the medical reports appeared in the arbitration bundle, the employee had never properly introduced them into evidence or relied on them during the arbitration. The Court therefore found that they could not simply be relied upon as proof of his version.

His allegation that Mpya had obtained a knife from Moleleki was also found to be speculative. There was no evidence that the two had planned the attack or that Moleleki had supplied Mpya with a weapon. The Court ultimately found that the Commissioner had considered the evidence before him and had reached a conclusion that a reasonable decision-maker could reach.

Importantly, the Court reminded us that a review is not an appeal. The

question is not whether the Court itself would have come to a different conclusion. The issue is whether the Commissioner’s decision fell outside the range of decisions that a reasonable decision-maker could make. In this case, it did not. The review application was dismissed, and the employee’s dismissal remained in place.

The case is a useful reminder that an allegation of self-defence must be supported by credible evidence. It also highlights an often-overlooked point in arbitration proceedings: documents placed in a bundle do not automatically become evidence. They must properly be introduced and relied upon.

For employers, the case also illustrates the importance of having witnesses who can corroborate the material aspects of an incident and who can give a consistent account from the disciplinary hearing through to arbitration. In the end, the employee’s version simply did not outweigh the evidence presented by the employer.

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“I think, therefore I am.” by Descartes

Dignity for a 72-year-old wheelchair-bound man who was found in heartbreaking circumstances near Kingsburgh Mall

There are moments when compassion means doing something uncomfortable, something difficult and something that cannot wait for someone else to take responsibility.

That was the case when a 72-year-old wheelchair-bound man was found in heartbreaking circumstances near Kingsburgh Mall.

The Elders Voice KZN had received a call asking the organisation to assist a couple sleeping outside the mall. When members arrived, they discovered the elderly man in an extremely poor condition. He was covered in faeces, had wounds and was clearly in need of urgent medical attention.

It was reported that the man had been brought from Durban and was allegedly being used to beg on the streets.

But for the women who found him, the circumstances surrounding his situation were secondary to one simple fact: he deserved dignity.

They returned with clean blankets, a pillow, clothing, nappies, soap, face cloths, sanitiser, water, a bucket and linen savers.

Then, on the side of the road, Luyande Meyer and Alta from Heart of Toti set about caring for him.

They cleaned and bathed the elderly man as best they could, tended to his wounds and dressed him in clean clothing.

Their intention was to ensure that when he eventually reached hospital, he would arrive clean, cared for and with some measure of dignity restored.

Initially, the women waited for a state ambulance. As darkness approached and temperatures dropped, however, it became clear that waiting indefinitely was not an option.

An appeal was made for assistance with a private ambulance. When no private ambulances were immediately available, Konrad from Faithmed stepped in and made a plan.

An ambulance arrived, and the elderly man was safely transported to Prince Mshiyeni Hospital, where he could finally receive the medical care he so desperately needed.

The rescue was made possible by a number of people who refused to look away.

A generous donor covered the cost of the private ambulance, ensuring that the man could be transported safely to hospital.

Alta from Heart of Toti and Luyande Meyer gave their time, energy and compassion when it mattered most. Konrad from Faithmed once again responded when help was urgently needed.

Their actions are a powerful reminder that homelessness and neglect are rarely simple stories. Behind them can be complicated family circumstances, addiction, poverty, exploitation and failures within the systems meant to protect vulnerable people.

But sometimes the immediate need is much simpler. Someone is hurting. Someone needs help. Someone needs to be treated as a human being.

The full circumstances of this elderly man's life may never be known. What matters now is that he is no longer sitting helplessly on the side of a road.

He is in hospital. He has been seen. He has been cared for. And, for one night at least, his dignity was restored. Because sometimes compassion does not require grand gestures. Sometimes it simply requires someone to stop.



The Elders Voice KZN had received a call asking the organisation to assist a couple sleeping outside the mall

Leapmotor C10: The EV That Cured My Range Anxiety



A full sized SUV with just 5.5 litres per 100 kilometres helps the buying decision of the new Leapmotor C10 model

I will confess something. Electric cars have always left me slightly on edge, that nagging calculation of kilometres remaining versus kilometres to the nearest charger. The Leapmotor C10 REEV, new to South Africa, put that anxiety to bed entirely. Here is the clever part. The C10 drives purely on electric power, always, with a 158kW rear motor delivering 320Nm that makes pulling away from the Sheffield Road robots feel genuinely eager. There is no petrol engine turning the wheels, ever. Instead, a small 1.5 litre unit sits quietly in reserve, acting as a generator to top up the battery when you need it, not a traditional drivetrain component. The result is that unmistakably smooth, silent EV character, but without the range panic. Around town on a full charge, you get roughly 145km of pure electric

commuting, more than enough for the daily Ballito to Umhlanga shuffle. Push further and the range extender takes over seamlessly, stretching total range to a claimed 970km. Combined consumption sits at a genuinely impressive 5.5 litres per 100km, numbers that make long coastal drives feel almost guilt-free. Buying benefits are straightforward. You get EV smoothness and instant torque without charging infrastructure dictating your life, strong practicality thanks to a spacious cabin with 26 storage compartments, and the backing of Stellantis's dealer network behind a genuinely fresh Chinese contender. For anyone eyeing an EV but hesitant about the charging lifestyle, the C10 REEV might just be the sensible leap.

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"Less is more." By Ludwig Mies van der Rohe

Small Car, Big Ego: The Suzuki Baleno Takes On The North Coast

I will admit it plainly. I did not expect to fall for the Baleno. Compact hatchbacks have a habit of feeling like appliances with wheels, but Suzuki's little contender had other plans for my afternoon.

I pointed it up the R102 toward Salt Rock, windows down, coastal humidity doing its best to fog my sunglasses, and the Baleno simply got on with it. The 1.5 litre naturally aspirated engine will not win drag races against anything with a turbocharger and a chip on its shoulder, but it is smooth, willing, and refreshingly honest about what it is. No pretending to be a hot hatch. No identity crisis.

Inside, the surprises kept coming. A seven-inch touchscreen that actually responds when you touch it, decent boot space for the weekly Spar run, and cloth seats that held up admirably against my questionable driving position. The

steering is light enough for Ballito's mall parking gauntlet, yet composed enough that the KwaDukuza bends did not feel like a personal attack.

Why buy one? Fuel economy that will make your wallet write you a thank you note, Suzuki's reputation for mechanical honesty, and a price tag that leaves room in the budget for actual holidays. For the full experience, CMH Suzuki Ballito remains the standard against which other dealerships should measure themselves, meticulous, unfailingly polite, and staffed by people who seem to genuinely enjoy cars rather than merely selling them. If fastidious is a compliment, they have earned it in full.

The Baleno is waiting for you to take it for a test drive, pop in at 35 Moffat Drive, or call CMH Suzuki Ballito on 031 001 9965.



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The Mahindra Bolero MaXX: A Workhorse That Does Not Punish You For Working



Reliable, affordable, and finally bearable in the heat, the Bolero MaXX earns its workhorse title honestly. Speak to CMH Mahindra Ballito on 032 946 5820 for more info

There is a particular breed of bakkie built for people who do not have time for nonsense, and the new Mahindra Bolero MaXX fits that brief precisely. This is South Africa's newest, most affordable proper one tonne bakkie, priced to make sense for entrepreneurs, farmers, contractors, and fleet operators who need a vehicle that earns its keep every single day.

The range spans three payload variants, the 1.3 City, 1.5 City, and 1.7 HD, with the 1.5 City and 1.7 HD both fitted standard with air conditioning, heating, and demisting. That is a genuine benefit for anyone spending long hours behind the wheel in KZN's coastal humidity, comfort should not be a luxury reserved for premium

bakkies.

Powered by Mahindra's dependable m2Di 2.5 litre diesel engine, the Bolero MaXX delivers 52kW in the City models and 60kW in the HD, paired with payload capacities running from 1.3 to 1.7 tonnes. All three can be driven on a standard Code B licence, removing red tape for small business owners and everyday operators alike.

Why buy one? Low running costs, a four year or 120,000km warranty, rear parking sensors as standard, and load boxes generous enough to swallow a full pallet between the wheel arches. This is a bakkie built for work first, without abandoning the driver's comfort entirely.

"Knowledge comes, but wisdom lingers." By Alfred Lord Tennyson



CMH Nissan Ballito have the answers to your questions on their latest model to break covers, the Nissan Tekton is imminent call 032 946 5820 for details

Something New Is Coming to CMH Nissan Ballito

I love that feeling when a new arrival gets under my skin before I have even sat in the driver's seat. The Nissan Tekton is doing exactly that to me right now.

This is the achievable SUV, Nissan's answer for buyers who want genuine presence without genuine compromise. A front end borrowed in spirit from the mighty Nissan Patrol, gives it real road stature, while the "Double C" motif on the door handles catches the eye and refuses to let go. This is the model stepping in to fill the space the Qashqai leaves behind, and slotting in above the Magnite with real intent.

Under the bonnet, expect a turbo-petrol engine paired with a dual-clutch automatic, the kind of combination that makes daily driving feel effortless rather than like a chore. Practical where it needs to be, confident where it counts, and styled with enough flair to hold its own against the Hyundai Creta and Kia Seltos.

Here is my honest take. Cars like this do not come along often, ones that promise genuine SUV presence without demanding premium SUV money. That combination of sensibility and flair is rare, and worth your attention.

Do not wait for the queue to form. Call CMH Nissan Ballito now, get your name down, and be among the first to discover what the Tekton, the achievable SUV, is really about.



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The much anticipated arrival of the most powerful, most capable Ford Ranger Super Duty ever produced, find out more at CMH Ford Ballito 087 723 9278

Coming Soon:

Ford's Ranger Super Duty Set to Land at CMH Ford Ballito

Truck Month at CMH Ford Ballito just got a serious upgrade. While the dealership celebrates everything that makes a bakkie a workhorse, there is one name generating more buzz on the floor than any other right now: Ford Ranger Super Duty.

This is not a facelift or a trim upgrade. Ford has taken the Ranger platform apart and rebuilt it for people who actually work their vehicles into the ground. Confirmed for South Africa and built at Ford's plant in Thailand, the Super Duty arrives with a unique chassis frame using thicker gauge steel, heavy-duty front and rear axles, reinforced suspension and tow bar mounts,

and what Ford calls the largest and strongest rear differential ever fitted to a series-production Ranger.

The numbers back up the muscle. Gross vehicle mass sits at 4 500 kg, with a gross combination mass topping 8 000 kg. Braked towing capacity climbs to 4 500 kg, a full 1 000 kg more than any other Ranger in the stable, and payload is rated at up to 1 982 kg. Add a 130-litre fuel tank and 850 mm wading depth, and this is a bakkie built to go the distance on farms, building sites, and everywhere in between.

Under the bonnet is Ford's proven 3.0-litre turbodiesel V6, delivering 600 Nm of

torque through a 10-speed automatic gearbox, paired with full-time four-wheel drive and a low-range transfer case for when the going gets properly tough. Onboard Scales let drivers estimate payload directly from the touchscreen as they load up, while Smart Hitch calculates tow ball weight for safer, better balanced towing. Front and rear locking differentials round out a spec sheet designed for serious off-road and heavy-duty work, all backed by Ford's factory warranty.

CMH Ford Ballito will offer both single cab and double cab derivatives once the Super Duty lands locally, and customers do

not need to wait to get involved. Sales Manager MK Khubone is taking enquiries now, helping customers configure their own Ranger Super Duty and get their order in ahead of arrival.

If your current bakkie is starting to feel like it is working harder than you are, now is the time to start the conversation. Pop into CMH Ford Ballito, speak to MK Khubone and his team, and be among the first in KZN behind the wheel of the toughest Ranger ever built. You will find CMH Ford Ballito at 35-37 Moffat Drive, Ballito Business Park, or call ahead on 087 723 9278 and find out more about the Super Duty.

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