

## Not cleared for takeoff

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Aerial photographs taken this week of the view from the construction site of the Wind Garden Wind Farm towards the Makhanda/Grahamstown Aerodrome show the directional relationship between the wind farm's proposed turbines and the main asphalt runway (Bearings 16/34) with a length of 1 164m. Photo: Grocott's Mail photographer



IN THIS EDITION



On the cover

Work on the new wind farms outside Makhanda has begun and with it new woes for pilots needing to land and take off at the Grahamstown Aerodrome. **Page 9**



Humans of Makhanda

A bold new series of Humans of Makhanda starts in this edition. Reporter and photographer Dideka Njemla profiles six local residents living their lives, starting today with Xolisa Webb. **Page 18**



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The yard housing iBhabhathane's fleet of TLBs and other construction vehicles shut off by SMME owners and their workers.  
*Photo: Luvuyo Mjekula*

# Unpaid Makhanda SMMEs halt road paving project

By Luvuyo Mjekula

Angry and frustrated Makhanda subcontractors employed in the Rehabilitation of M Street and Albert Street project locked down the site office of the main contractor, iBhabhathane Civil and Construction, on Thursday morning, in protest against non-payment.

The group of small, medium and micro enterprise (SMME) owners and their workers also shut off the yard housing iBhabhathane's fleet of TLBs and other construction vehicles.

Workers abandoned the construction site while only one remained in the closed site office.

The Sarah Baartman District Municipality-funded project has previously hit lengthy delays due to similar payment disputes.

EFF PR councillor in Makana Municipality, Mzamo Booysen, who is also a member of the Municipal Public Accounts Committee (MPAC) in the district municipality, expressed concerns about further delays to the crucial project. He said the project is already behind schedule and should have been concluded by July.

According to a Makana Municipality statement released after an oversight visit by the district MPAC team last month, the project's scheduled completion date is December 2025.

## No pay, no work

Meanwhile, irate SMME owners vowed there would be no work until they are paid.

"The reason we are here is money. We have not been paid," fumed Sithandile Fatyi of Sangenathi General Trading. He said he has not been paid for work done in July, including paving a 20-metre stretch of road in one day. "I finished that job within a day but I have not been paid."

Fatyi said iBhabhathane owes him R24 780 as they had incorrectly billed his company for pavement pellet delivery. He is still waiting for the payment. The Tanty businessman said he has been distressed since he started working under iBhabhathane. "This is the norm before we get paid. I have been fighting since I came into this project. It is a stressful situation. I don't sleep at night."

He employs about 20 workers and has not been able to pay them. One of them told Grocott's Mail he struggles to make ends meet. "I was excited when I got this job, glad I would be able to put something on the table. But now I have to make other means to get money. We cleaned and paved roads. I wish they can pay us so that we can smile as well."

Fatyi said project manager Asa Mazomba does not answer their



**Some of the small, medium and micro enterprises (SMME) owners and workers protesting at the site office of the construction company, iBhabhathane Civil and Construction on Thursday morning. Photo: Luvuyo Mjekula**

calls. "When we call him, he says he is in a meeting. It is strange because they admitted they were paid by Sarah Baartman."

He said all the SMMEs must be paid before work resumes.

The owner of George and Justice Construction, Zamide Ponoshe, expressed his frustration. "We sat with them and had discussions and we left the meeting hopeful because they told us the money will be there the next day, but it has not been paid. My concern is we are losing workers," he said.

Ponoshe said they had no intentions to deliberately interfere with service delivery.

### Like a joke

Noxolo Jela, of Thinumzi Trading Enterprise, said it was painful working for iBhabhathane.

"I'm too old to be victimised by iBhabhathane. I am in pain." She said the company officials lacked empathy. They had deducted money from her account for materials, even though she had expected they would take at the end of this month, she said. "They do a lot of injustice. You win a project of R1 million, but you leave with R100 000 and still have to pay workers. This is like a joke for me, and yet I have children to feed."

Siphokazi Fatyi, the director of Sangenathi, echoed her colleagues. She said the rehabilitation project had been plagued by lack of materials. "If there were bricks, there would be no sand and when there was sand, there would be no bricks."

She also lashed out at the project manager. "We discuss things with [Mazomba] here, but when he gets to Gqeberha, he changes his tune. We don't even know the

owner of iBhabhathane – we only know his voice on the phone. It is difficult to even buy yourself a TV as a working person. There is no honesty in this project. We are on our own."

### New charges

Sipho Marambana, of Medelyn Trading Enterprise, said he had noticed changes as the company appeared to have introduced new charges, including for the use of a TLB.

He said they were being charged for equipment that did not appear in their Bill of Quantities. "This is unfair because we never signed for this. That is why we are losing money."

According to Booysen, during their oversight visit to the project as MPAC, they had heard that the plant is fraught with problems including work schedules. "We heard that they

work one day in a week and there are payment problems which cause delays to the project."

He said the concern is that the project will likely miss its completion deadline. "When SMMEs are not paid in one month and paid in another, the people will go on strike. We don't want the community to panic."

He said he has reported the matter to the chairperson of the district MPAC and the infrastructure department and mayor Deon de Vos (executive mayor of Sarah Baartman District Municipality) would also be informed. "This is unacceptable. We cannot accept this." Booysen said he had tried to contact the company to resolve the matter, to no avail.

iBhabhathane project manager Asa Mazomba had not responded to questions by the time of publishing. **GM**

There is no honesty in this project. We are on our own"

**Siphokazi Fatyi**



# Makana is not OK and we're doing something about it, says MCF

By Lungile Mxube

Residents will [have been]flabbergasted to read in *Grocott's Mail* last week that "Makana Municipality reports positive service delivery outcomes".

Water delivery is less reliable than it was before the drought of 2019. Even though hundreds of millions of rand have been spent on doubling the capacity of the James Kleynhans Water Treatment Works, it is delivering less water than it did before the upgrades began. Tens of millions have been spent on the Jameson Dam, which we exposed as being corruptly used as a cattle and goat farm, with not a drop of water delivered to Makhanda. On 17 September 2025, Council agreed against our objections to an irregular approach of a cession agreement to secure the pump because this was extremely urgent. We have yet to see this promised extra pump for the Howieson's Poort pump station appear, despite this supposed super urgency.

Many residents live in extreme filth and degradation with sewer spillages that have been running for years. Children play in a disgusting and unhygienic environment. Power goes out regularly, sometimes with no reason reported. The only road repairs in Makana have been funded by outside agencies, while the Makana Roads department sits idle and has not fixed a single pothole for years. Makana Citizens Front councillors did indeed miss the 30 October Special Council Meeting but we gave a proper apology because we had a long-standing commitment.

On that day, 30 October 2025, we made history when we handed over a VIP toilet to an elderly resident of N Street who has had to endure the indignity and denial of basic rights of using a bucket toilet for over 30 years. The joy on his face when he at last had his dignity restored is something every councillor should live for. Yet it is only the MCF, a civic movement with no money, that has found this solution. The ANC in over 30 years has forgotten the poor – except when they present an opportunity to pilfer grants meant to benefit the poor.

When MCF takes control of council, we will move without delay to permanently and comprehensively eradicate bucket toilets. Solutions such as the VIP toilet do not require waiting for the sewer system to catch up. We will also move without delay to formalise informal settlements and to repair the long-standing infrastructure decay that has set under ANC rot. We will ensure that RDP housing is built at a more rapid rate and that tenders are fairly awarded, not set up to reward corrupt insiders.

Unlike the ANC, when we secure government grants to extend infrastructure to the poor, we will ensure that those projects deliver. The ANC are a fine bunch to lecture others on the proper operation of council. We have lost count of the number of times that we have objected to agendas arriving late, long past the deadline in the Rules and Orders, and portfolio committees not sitting



■ Lungile Mxube, leader of the MCF. Photo: Luvuyo Mjekula

when they are supposed to. In more than one case, the portfolio committee could not meet because the chair failed to show up.

We wrote the Speaker a comprehensive response to matters on the agenda that we disputed. He failed to respond to this. Never mind. If he does not want us to call him to account, we will continue to send him others like the SIU, Hawks and Human Rights Commission to demand accountability. We have a few more nice surprises in store, as we are discovering resources for accountability that we did not know existed. But the strongest way to make the rotten ANC in council pay for their shocking disregard of basic constitutional rights and human dignity is to throw them out of office. We can do that by flipping one seat, though it would be better if we could secure a solid majority, which is the aim in 2026.

For the Ward 10 by-election of 26 November 2025, MCF has nominated a highly-regarded candidate, Thembinkosi Master Ngeleza. He is a successful businessman and a growing number of long-time ANC supporters are throwing their weight behind our campaign because they are sick of the ANC rot. We invite residents and businesses to follow our campaign on Facebook and to throw their weight behind our extremely capable candidate. **GM**

- Lungile Mxube is leader of Makana Citizens Front and a PR councillor.



■ Aerial view of Settlers Hospital. Photo: Grocott's Mail photographer

# Settlers hospital charging for consults

By Asemahle Vumsindo and Donne-Leigh Pienaar

Reports from students who reached out to *Grocott's Mail* about being charged consultation fees have triggered an investigation, revealing that Settlers Hospital uses a tiered pricing structure based on an interpretation of the official Uniform Patient Fee Schedule (UPFS) mandated by the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

This specific application of the policy means a student's access to affordable healthcare is currently determined by their financial aid status, which the hospital uses as a proxy for income assessment rather than a proper, individual evaluation of their actual financial means.

## Hospital confirms grant-based tiered charging

In a formal response to the initial enquiry, Settlers Hospital CEO, Zama Mve, confirmed the two-tiered charging system for university students. Mve said: "As Rhodes students you are classified as H3 patients. However, if you're receiving the national student grant [NSFAS], you may be reclassified to H1 with proof from your bursar."

The hospital says that foreign students are required to pay the full, unsubsidised rate. While Mve's statement specifically mentioned Rhodes University students, the policy is based on national UPFS guidelines and applies to all students seeking care at the facility.

## UPFS mandates income, not financial aid status

A review of the official UPFS documentation and its means test reveals a discrepancy in this application. The national tariff guidelines define the categories intended to

protect the most financially vulnerable based on income, not financial aid:

**H1 Patients:** Defined as individuals earning less than R70 000 per annum (or household income less than R100 000). For these patients, the Outpatient Department rate is R55 and the Casualty Department rate is R100. Outpatient services refer to scheduled consultations and treatments that do not require hospital admission, while Casualty (or emergency) services handle urgent and emergency medical cases.

**H3 Patients (self-funded):** Defined as individuals earning above R250 000 per annum (or household income above R350 000). These are the "full paying" patients who pay R82 for Outpatient Department services and R145 for Casualty Department services.

## Policy misapplication penalises low-income persons

The hospital's policy bypasses the official income thresholds by using NSFAS or SASSA grant status as a proxy for income classification. This means that individuals who do not receive the grant, including students from low-income households who may not qualify for NSFAS for various reasons, as well as young workers or unemployed residents in Makana, are automatically classified as high-income H3 patients. The H3 category is legally reserved for individuals earning over R250 000 per year.

Additionally, while the national policy states H1 patients qualify for largely free services, Settlers Hospital still imposes fees of R55 and R100, suggesting a localised interpretation that deviates from the intended provision of free care to the lowest-earning citizens.

The Eastern Cape Department of Health did not respond to questions by the time of publication.





■ Jane Cowley DA member of the provincial legislature. Photo: Chalotte Mokonyane

# DA takes bid to dissolve Makana council to NCOP

By Luvuyo Mjekula

Pressure continues to mount on the under-fire Makana Municipality, with the Democratic Alliance (DA) in the Eastern Cape throwing the latest salvo.

The party has called on the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) to dissolve the current council immediately, citing "persistent financial failure and a complete inability to provide basic services".

It is not the first time demands have been made for the incumbent leadership to vacate office.

Two attempts to dissolve the Makana Council through the courts stalled on appeal, including the Eastern Cape High Court's 2020 ruling ordering dissolution, and a subsequent Section 18 enforcement bid dismissed after the Supreme Court of Appeal granted leave to appeal, leaving the order unenforced and delayed for over five years.

The municipality is under investigation by the Special Investigating Unit (SIU) after whistle-blowers and ordinary residents reported corruption and other wrongdoing. The leadership has been hauled over the coals by the SA Human Rights Commission twice, and has appeared before the Public Protector as well as a parliamentary delegation led by former Health Minister, Zweli Mkhize, in KZN recently.

Last week, MPs in the Eastern Cape Legislature

debated a motion tabled in July by DA member of the provincial legislature (MPL) Jane Cowley to dissolve the municipality.

- In the motion, Cowley, the DA leader for Frontier Constituency, had highlighted the following:
- The municipality has received a disclaimer from the Auditor-General for the past five consecutive years.
- In the past five years alone, accumulated irregular expenditure, unauthorised expenditure, and fruitless and wasteful expenditure have topped R5,25 billion.
- The James Kleynhans Water Treatment Works up-grade, intended to double Makhanda's water capacity, has ballooned from R160 million to over R600 million, yet the facility remains only partially functional with no confirmed completion date.
- Two attempts to dissolve the municipality have stalled on appeal, and multiple petitions and protests by civic society, faith leaders, political organisations and residents have been ignored by the ANC leadership.

Cowley had called on the Legislature to immediately invoke Section 139(1)(c) of the Constitution and dissolve the Makana Local Municipal Council on the basis of sustained service delivery failure and financial mismanagement. She proposed an independent administrator be appointed to assume full legislative and executive powers for the duration of the dissolution period, with a mandate

to:

- Stabilise municipal finances and enforce full Municipal Finance Management Act (MFMA) compliance.
- Ensure the completion and operationalisation of the James Kleyhans Water Treatment Works
- Restore reliable water, sanitation, electricity and refuse services.
- Table a revised and funded Financial Recovery Plan within 60 days
- Refer this resolution to the National Council of Provinces and the Minister of Cooperative Governance, in accordance with Section 139(3)(a), to ensure national oversight and support for immediate remedial action.

However, the ANC in the Legislature rejected the motion, arguing that the municipality is improving, and that dissolving the council now would be tantamount to performing an abortion on all the good work done. "They therefore rejected the motion 'with the contempt it deserves,'" Cowley said.

She noted that all other opposition parties supported the motion.

Cowley has urgently requested that the matter be taken up at the National Council of Provinces and in the national ministry of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), to ensure national oversight and immediate intervention.

In a letter to Igor Scheurkogel MP, the DA's spokesperson for Cogta at NCOP, Cowley said the ANC's response was farcical as municipal services have entirely collapsed in Makana.

"The reality is that [the ANC] rejected the people of Makana with contempt. Residents are left with sewage in their gardens. Businesses are forced to buy water just to stay afloat. Women and children are vulnerable to attacks in dark streets.

"Schools, universities, hospitals, and prisons struggle to access basic necessities like water. The people of Makana deserve better. They deserve a DA government with a proven track record of fiscal discipline, excellent service delivery, and capable, competent administrators."

Henni Britz MP, a DA member in the NCOP will table a motion in the House to demand that the municipality be dissolved, said Cowley. This will ensure that the matter is placed on record at national level.

"Makana meets the threshold for mandatory intervention under Section 139 (5) of the Constitution and Section 136 of the Municipal Finance Management Act, having demonstrated persistent financial failure and a complete inability to provide basic services as required under Section 152 of the Constitution."

According to Cowley, the ANC is out of touch with reality in Makana. "Infrastructure sabotage is a daily occurrence, and basic services have ground to a halt."

Citing the Auditor General's report, Cowley said the municipality is dysfunctional and interventions by the provincial government have failed.

"The people of Makana deserve nothing less than functional service delivery that improves lives, creates jobs and brings hope for a better future."

Makana Municipality had not responded to questions by the time of publishing.

GM

# Eastern Cape entrepreneurs bridge the rural travel gap

By Gcina Ntsaluba

After losing their jobs at Woolworths Digital in April, Malusi Mbulwana-Barnard and his co-founder, Palesa Mjali, turned unemployment into an opportunity to address a transportation challenge they were all too familiar with: connecting rural South African communities to affordable long-distance travel.

HIKA, a ride-sharing platform that takes its name from the colloquial term "ukuhiker" (hitchhiking). Two weeks after launch, the startup is already positioning itself as a solution for journeys that the big e-hailing services don't adequately serve.

## Born from personal frustration

"We both had to travel from Cape Town to the Eastern Cape, and I was complaining about how much it cost to get from King Phalo Airport in East London to Engcobo when you hire a car since there is no direct transportation," Mbulwana-Barnard explains.

Mjali shared similar struggles getting to Mthatha from the same airport.

The conversation sparked an idea based on platforms they'd seen in France and Berlin, particularly BlaBlaCar. But this wouldn't be another Uber clone for urban



Malusi Mbulwana-Barnard. Photo: Supplied



markets.

"Uber and the likes work in the big cities, but for 200km-plus trips it stops being feasible, and that's generally the average distance between cities ePhondweni," says Mbulwana-Barnard. "This is the gap we are trying to fill."

A different model

Unlike traditional e-hailing services, HIKA operates on a simpler premise that doesn't require intensive driver onboarding. "I'm driving from Gqeberha to East London anyway, I have three seats available and room for a package, then post these on our platform," Mbulwana-Barnard explains. "We focus mainly on the regular guy who wants to save a buck and meet new people."

The platform currently targets the Eastern Cape, focusing on routes along the N10 from Gqeberha to the N2 and N6. Research revealed surprising demand: over 1 400 daily Facebook posts from people offering and searching for rides between these key points.

"Having had to travel between Cape Town and Makhanda as a student at Rhodes, my hope is that the platform makes it easier to find affordable modes to go home at end of term," Mbulwana-Barnard said.

"Uber and the likes work in the big cities, but for 200km-plus trips it stops being feasible, and that's generally the average distance between cities ePhondweni. This is the gap we are trying to fill"

Malusi Mbulwana-Barnard

Built in a month with AI

The technology behind HIKA is as innovative as its business model. The entire web application was built in just one month using AI-powered development tools, without traditional developers, designers, or database analysts.

"We managed to build a web app in a month, without developers, designers, database analysts, architects and testers. All simply using prompts for all the customer journeys and code," Mbulwana-Barnard says. "This is all due to the power of AI."

Both founders bring relevant experience to the venture. Mbulwana-Barnard and Mjali hold Bachelor of Commerce degrees and previously worked as business analysts, product owners, and product managers in banking, financial services, and retail.

"We've basically been running products as a business but for other people -- corporate bosses," said Mbulwana-Barnard. "HIKA was a no-brainer. We applied the very same concepts and skills that were critical to our jobs."

Complex challenges

Safety remains the biggest concern. The founders are raising funding to implement Know Your Customer solutions that verify users through Home Affairs records and integrate digital payment gateways. For now, the beta version operates on cash payments while they gather



Palesa Mjali. Photo: Supplied

user data.

"We've curated the journeys to such simplicity that my 78-year-old mother can use it," Mbulwana-Barnard said.

Taxi associations present another significant challenge. "Our biggest concern is taxi associations in the Eastern Cape," he admits. "We are two weeks old and are still trying to find our feet. Our hope is also to have a higher volume of student-to-student rides while we figure out this concern and what routes to avoid and work with local law enforcement."

Future Vision

After discovering they're no longer eligible for NYDA funding -- both founders are over 35 -- they've turned to angel investors and accelerator programmes. The platform remains free during this data-gathering phase.

"In order for that to succeed, we need to show the numbers," Mbulwana-Barnard explains. "The platform is basically 'free' for everyone for us to gather enough data on how many and how people use the platform, as our assumptions are most likely wrong."

Revenue diversification is already planned, including advertising space and partnerships with organisations like EC Tourism, rather than relying solely on commission fees.

The vision extends beyond ride-sharing. "We are passionate about catering for subsistence farmers in the province by expanding the platform for that marketplace," Mbulwana-Barnard said.

Positioning for growth

Mbulwana-Barnard sees HIKA competing more directly with taxi drivers than with Uber in rural areas, but with added convenience and affordability through technology. The goal is to make the platform ubiquitous in the Eastern Cape, encouraging more people to opt for tech-enabled solutions.

"When you have commission-only as your only source of income, you will come across problems," he said about balancing affordability with fair compensation. "Hence we have started looking for other revenue streams."

For two entrepreneurs who found themselves unemployed due to "economic pressures" and the ease of cutting contractors, HIKA represents both a personal lifeline and a potential solution for thousands of South Africans in underserved communities. Whether they become "AI millionaires," as Mbulwana-Barnard jokingly suggests, remains to be seen. But they're already making the journey easier for rural travelers across the Eastern Cape.

When it's time to plan a trip, go to <https://hika.co.za/>





View of the runways at the Makhandha/Grahamstown Aerodrome, Makhandha.  
Photo: Grocott's Mail photographer

# New infrastructure projects threaten air access to Makhandha

By Gcina Ntsaluba

The Grahamstown Flying Club has raised urgent safety concerns over two major infrastructure projects that could jeopardise the continued operation of Makhandha's only registered airfield and severely limit the city's air access.

The club warns that a proposed wind farm development north-west of the aerodrome, featuring turbines reaching heights of up to 187 metres, combined with the Grahamstown 400/132kV Substation Integration Project, could effectively "sterilize" the airfield's approach environment and compromise future safe aviation operations. Such operations include any expansion of the airfield for scheduled traffic, which would require greater compliance with aviation standards.

## Boxed in

The height of the proposed wind turbines is roughly equivalent to a 60-story building, and 65 metres taller than existing turbines on the south ridge. Their planned positions puts them directly within the climb-out and

approach corridors for two of the aerodrome's runways.

"Turbines of that size are not only intimidating and a safety concern, but a moment's distraction, an engine failure, or a problem can become unrecoverable because you are boxed in by 600-foot machines," said Peter Cotterrell, a qualified flight instructor at the club.

"The electricity transmission project adds another layer of risk, with 40- to 60-metre pylons and suspended cables near runway thresholds — infrastructure that is notoriously difficult to see, especially at dusk, in haze, or low cloud conditions," said Bruce de Jager, a commercial pilot with over 15 000 hours of experience.

## Learning by example

The club has pointed to several South African aviation accidents involving powerlines and similar obstacles. In 2021, a Zlin Savage Cub struck an Eskom line near Rietvlei, KwaZulu Natal (KZN), inverting and burning with one fatality. That same year, a Quad City Challenger II hit powerlines on approach at Wingfield Loch Vaal, causing serious injuries. Similar wire-strike incidents in Worcester (2010) and Alldays (2011) proved fatal.



“Every one of these reports tells the same story: you rarely get a second chance when powerlines and, by extension, turbines are in your flight path,” said Darren Olivier, club chairperson, adding that one of Grahamstown aerodrome’s three runways has already been decommissioned by the Civil Aviation Authority due to existing turbines on the ridge.

More at stake

The aerodrome serves far more than recreational aviation. Its users include emergency medical evacuation services, the South African Police Service, search and rescue operations, the Eastern Cape Parks & Tourism Agency for conservation patrols, business commuters, tourism operators, flight schools, and Rhodes University visitors.

If the aerodrome becomes unsafe for operations, medical evacuations would need to divert to airstrips at Kwandwe or Port Alfred – adding 45 minutes of road travel time compared to the current five-minute distance from the city centre.

“This isn’t a choice between energy and the interests of a local flying club,” the club members emphasised. “A misplaced turbine or powerline doesn’t only threaten pilots, it compromises access, expansion, conservation, emergency services, tourism, and training flights that serve the entire district.”

It’s about public access

The club warns that losing reliable air access would further isolate Makhanda from tourism, education investment, and economic opportunities at a time when road conditions are challenging and rail service is negligible.

“The danger is not immediate, but it is the start or continuation of functional extinction. The field stays on

the map but becomes unsafe, uninsured, and unused. Airfields are lost by inches, then all at once,” Olivier said. The Grahamstown Flying Club was established in the late 1930s, and operates under a lease from Makana Municipality. It is maintained through member fees and donations, hangar levies, and landing fees.

The club stresses it is not opposing development or renewable energy infrastructure but rather calling for smart coordination that respects established transport corridors – a requirement already embedded in national policy.

“Think of the aerodrome as part of Makhanda’s public access network, just like the N2 or the Settlers Dam road,” the club argues. “If you wouldn’t build a substation in the middle of those routes, you shouldn’t build obstacles in the city’s air access path either.”

“A misplaced turbine or powerline doesn’t only threaten pilots, it compromises access, expansion, conservation, emergency services, tourism, and training flights that serve the entire district”

Grahamstown Flying Club members

What to do?

The club is encouraging residents to:

- Support an independent review of air traffic navigation services approval for the wind farm project
- Ensure the aerodrome is properly recognised in Makhanda’s Integrated Development Plan
- Support visible safety measures such as wire-marker spheres and lighting

More information is available at [www.fagt.info](http://www.fagt.info), where residents can also learn about club membership – which does not require aviation involvement but supports the facility’s continued operation.

“If residents understand that safe air access underpins emergency response, tourism, and investment,” Olivier said, “then protecting the aerodrome stops being a flying club issue and becomes, as it should, a Makhanda issue.”

GM

In loving memory of the late

Elizabeth Clarke

Born: 31 December 1954

Died: 27 October 2025

Service: 08 November 2025

Venue: 65 Caranation Str, Alicedale

Time: 09:00

Siyakubonga

Funeral Services

Let us take you under our wings







Image: Adobe Stock

# High-voltage surges destroying appliances

By Asemahle Vumsindo

Residents across Ward 4 report experiencing repeated high-voltage electricity surges that have damaged household appliances. Multiple residents say power instability has been ongoing for years, but recent surges have caused equipment failures.

One resident described the damage to their household: "We have had this issue for years. My main TV and washing machine broke on the same day, where the TV just went black without warning." The resident said other appliances have also been affected: "Our fridge leaks ever since this problem started, and I've had to replace my eye-level oven as well. The geyser we have is new, but it is making all kinds of sounds because of water plus electricity issues combined."

The resident said the problem started in 2022 and has impacted their home baking business: "I bake cakes in my spare time and have had so many losses due to cakes being baked halfway and electricity going out or voltage being too low to get anything done."

## Recent damage reported

Another resident reported damage over the past weekend: "It happened over the weekend, so we're still establishing the damage and costs. Everything will have to be replaced." The resident listed affected items: "My garage door motor and kettle popped from the power surge, as

well as our complex gate motor and energiser for the electric fence."

Several residents said security infrastructure, including fence energisers and gate motors, has also been damaged.

## Residents point to infrastructure theft

Residents say they believe the problem intensified following the theft of a copper ground or earth wire from poles near Cory Circle. Multiple residents have questioned whether the stolen ground wire could be causing the high-voltage surges.

## Municipality response

Grocott's Mail submitted a media query to the Makana Municipality requesting information about the alleged stolen ground wire, any connection to the reported surges, replacement plans, and a timeframe for repairs.

The Municipality had not responded to these questions by publication time.

On 3 November, the Municipality issued a general public statement on storm damage and electricity restoration efforts. The statement indicated that some affected areas require excavations and recabling work. The statement did not address the specific incident of the alleged stolen ground wire or the reported high-voltage surges in Ward 4.





■ Ikhaya Losizo treated to a good time at the Redwood Spur recently. Photo: Mbali Tanana

# Birthday celebration with a difference

By Mbali Tanana

It was a special treat for 19 children from Child Welfare Makhanda when they were invited to Spur's national 58th birthday celebration where they were also showered with gifts from some of Makhanda's business owners.

The 19 boys and girls are currently placed in the Ikhaya Losizo Safe House as part of a programme by Child Welfare. While some children have been orphaned, others are survivors of gender-based violence and sexual assault.

It was happiness all around when the children took over the Redwood Spur play area, playing games as they awaited their burger meals which were followed by sodas and dessert. Child Welfare coordinator Purdy Saays said they were thrilled at the kind gesture as it was a new experience for most of the children.

"Spur's birthday celebration is always an exciting time in our calendar and while we are invited every year, we always have different children so it's a new experience for them and possibly the only opportunity some of them have to eat at a restaurant.

"The new 'Christmas' clothes and toiletries in the goodie bags collected by a variety of Makhanda business owners are also much appreciated and will go a long way as we prepare to go into the festive season," she said.

## Donations make a difference

Child Welfare marketing manager Debbie Myburg said the organisation was grateful for the relief, as they were overwhelmed with expenses, trying to cater for all the children through the various programmes they are running.

"The Ikhaya losizo Safe House is not funded by any government entity and relies heavily on donations, so the support from the business community is warmly welcome and we hope that this can inspire other businesses to offer support where they can," she said.

We Move It and We Wash It business owner Pieter Kruger said they are always ready to extend a hand to children's charities. "Children's charities have a special place

in our heart. For the past 15 years we have had Home of Joy as our beneficiary for our fundraising initiatives, and we get a lot of support from Redwood Spur which is why we didn't hesitate to join them in celebrating with Child Welfare," he said.

Redwood Spur marketing manager Wendy Brand said the birthday celebrations were part of a national campaign in celebration of the 58 years of Spur in South Africa, since the first restaurant opened its doors in Cape Town. "We have the celebrations annually and we always try to collaborate with the community to make it a birthday celebration with a difference, knowing that the children won't only leave with a full tummy, but that they will also have something to take home and enjoy, especially because Christmas is right around the corner," she said.

Chief marketing officer of Spur Corporation Vuyo Henda said they have often used their birthday to connect with underprivileged children or senior citizens. "At Spur, birthdays aren't just dates on a calendar, they're moments to spark joy and create unforgettable memories. Every birthday is honoured with a special song, bright sparklers, and heartfelt cheer. As Spur turns 58, we renew our promise to keep the joy alive," he said.

## How to win a Spur meal

To spread the cheer, in partnership with *Grocott's Mail* Redwood Spur is giving away a R500 meal voucher to one lucky *Grocott's Mail* reader and subscriber.

To win the voucher you must:

- Be subscribed to *Grocott's Mail*
- Follow the Redwood Spur and *Grocott's Mail* Facebook pages
- Tell us in no more than 300 words about your most memorable memory at Spur

The most interesting essay wins the voucher and will be published in *Grocott's Mail*. Email your essay to [grocottscommunity@ru.ac.za](mailto:grocottscommunity@ru.ac.za) or [grocottseitor@ru.ac.za](mailto:grocottseitor@ru.ac.za) by Wednesday 12 November 2025.



*The life of the late Zola Kolisi has been celebrated across Makhanda and by the South African Municipal Workers Union (Samwu) and the South African Communist Party, which he served. Photo: Facebook*

# A tribute to Comrade Zola Kolisi

**By Staff Reporter**

Condolences to the family, friends and comrades of Comrade Zola Kolisi. As the rank and file of South African Municipal Workers' Union (Samwu) we dip our revolutionary banner in honour of this patriot and son of the soil. Samwu lost a true working class brother, a leader who never compromised the position of workers for his personal benefits and gains. An intellectual of note, a sharp negotiator, a leader who managed to simplify some of the complex issues faced by workers. An ambassador of trade union and skills development activism. He was a think tank of note, a strategist, a leader who paid attention to details, he believed in working in collective as leaders. He didn't have patience for selfish leaders and amaqabane angafuni to learn and read.

This is a blow to us in Samwu and the community at large as he always advocated for the betterment of workers and community at all corners. He was leading at the front for workers for abasebenzi bafumane equal opportunities in particular those from Makana. Comrade Zibha loved his people so much and it frustrated him the fact that people from Makana were excluded from many opportunities in favour of people from other areas. He served in a number of positions in Samwu: as Makana chairperson for three terms, a regional full-time shop steward (Pinky Ntsangani), regional treasurer, and Ward 10 ANC branch chairperson. He also served as a SACP leader

and was deeply involved in the community struggle.

We lost Comrade Zola Kolisi in a very difficult time for the working class, where workers are on the receiving end of attacks. We always consulted him on a number of issues as he was a vault, a clarity with a lot of organisational memory. He never sold out during the difficult times faced by Samwu and leaders, and he was a believer of "you negotiate until you find a common ground so you can find each other".

He never surrendered even in the most difficult times in the struggle of workers. He was once targeted in the legal march workers were embarking on and was arrested by the SAPS Tactical Response Team but they never broke him and he never turned his back on the workers' struggle. It was 'aluta continua' to Comrade Zola. Like Jesus Christ, Comrade Zola was never immune from betrayal and backstabbing from people he thought were close to him as he experienced a lot of that from friends, colleagues and comrades but that never changed him in any way. He remained humbled and focused in the struggle of the workers.

Rest in peace qabane, izithonga zemfundiso zakho zisatsho ezindlebeni zethu. Phumla dibashe usebenzile, you played your huge and important part in the brutal workers struggle. Chair of chairs uzakuphula ngonaphakade ngaphakathi kuthi!!!

**GM**

• This tribute was submitted by Samwu Makana Local





1 Gowie undergoing renovations which are revealing historic stonework. Photo: Supplied

# One community, one vision, one future

*More than anything, Makhanda is an education city. The future of Makhanda is inextricably linked to the prospects and progress of the myriad educational institutions in our city, says **the Gadra management team** who writes about partnership, mutuality and unity*

When John Williams, the chief financial officer of GBS Mutual Bank, phoned the Gadra Matric School (GMS) recently, he spoke about how the principle of mutuality guides so much of our collective practice in Makhanda. He is perfectly correct. For example, when charitable donors visit Gadra Education, they often comment that civil society co-operation is a distinguishing characteristic of the city. Our bonds and bridges frequently overcome deep fissures such as race and class.

### Education at the heart

One of the main aspects of our contemporary solidarity is a shared commitment to educational excellence. The 2024 Makhanda Education Summit adopted the vision that Makhanda emerge as the leading education city in South Africa by 2028. Towards this end, local public and independent schools, Rhodes University, government officials from the St Aidan's Education District Office, local businesses, NGOs, and other organisations are working to make progress at every level and phase of the education system. Our vision is materialising, in relation to numerous indicators such as literacy and retention rates, Bachelor passes and throughput of local students

to Rhodes University and graduation from our university.

### Gadra's pivotal role

The Gadra is playing a crucial role in the revitalisation of education in Makhanda. From its start in 1994 with just 53 students, GMS now enrolls more than 300 students annually. Even more important than these numbers are its academic outcomes. GMS is oriented towards Rhodes University, arguably the best university in the Eastern Cape. We seek to enable both physical and epistemological access to Rhodes for our students and, since 2015, GMS has been the top feeder school to Rhodes. A total of 99 GMS alumni from the Class of 2024 began their first year at Rhodes University in February 2025. Since 2020, GMS has been the school that contributes the highest number of Rhodes graduates – at the April 2025 graduation ceremonies, one in every 28 Rhodes graduates was a GMS student.

The new Gadra Matric School campus is not just a building, it is a symbol of what can be achieved when a community works together for a common good.

### Benefits of ownership

For the past 32 years, GMS has operated from leased premises (initially at Victoria Girls High School and more recently Carinus Art School). Since leasing limits growth



1 Gowie before renovations. Photo: Supplied

and draws resources away from where they are needed most – our students – for the past decade GMS has been looking to establish its own campus. Ownership has many advantages:

- Financial sustainability: No escalating rental costs, freeing up funds for teaching and learning.
- Long-term stability: A permanent base secures a future and allows for bold planning.
- Purpose-built spaces: Classrooms and facilities designed for students’ needs.
- Eco-sustainability: Installing solar and rain-water tanks minimises reliance on municipal service provision and uses eco-friendly power and water supplies.

In late 2023, Gadra was told that the Community of the Resurrection of our Lord (CR), an order of Anglican nuns based in Makhanda, wanted to transfer 1 Gowie Street to Gadra Education. The CR was founded in 1884 to undertake pastoral and educational work. Its educational legacy in the city is vast, including Good Shepherd School and the Teacher’s Training College (now St Peter’s Campus). The reason that it is not selling 1 Gowie on the open market but rather transferring to Gadra is to honour its educational mandate. Gadra deeply respects the strong educational legacy of the CR sisters and is determined to build on it meaningfully.

Education Mile

To ready the property as the new premises of GMS from the onset of the 2026 academic year, in June GADRA appointed AJ’s Building Services CC to undertake the necessary construction and renovation work. The wooden floors, staircases and handrails have been restored to their original glory. Wonderful stonework has been exposed – perhaps a reason for the building being known as ‘Stonehenge’ in yesteryear. So the process of creating a permanent home for GMS is also restoring important educational heritage.

It is exactly one mile from St Andrew’s College (SAC) and the Diocesan School for Girls (DSG) in the north-west of Somerset Street to Hoërskool P.J. Olivier in the south-east. In between lie numerous iconic and significant educational landmarks and facilities, including the South African Institute for Aquatic Biodiversity, Rhodes University’s schools of Languages, Business, and Fine Art, the Music Department, St Peters Campus, Albany

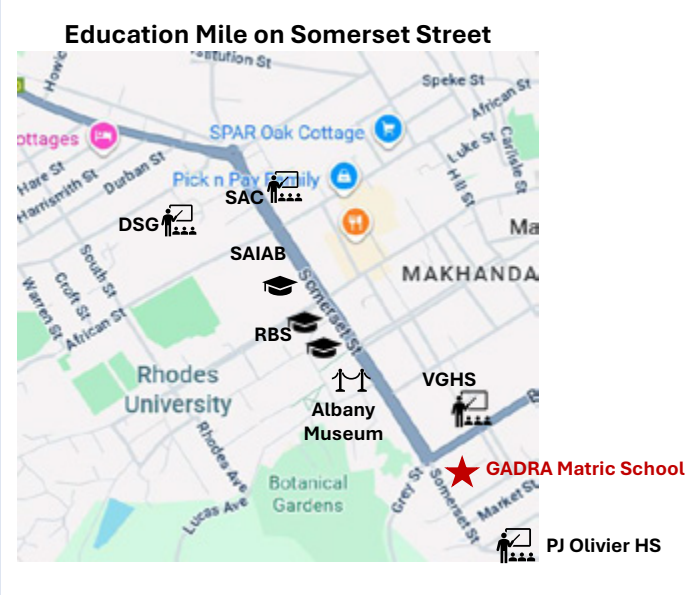
Museum, and Victoria Girls’ High School. For GMS, it is an honour to be joining these institutions on Makhanda’s ‘Education Mile’.

Local financial support

The reason that John Williams called Gadra was to say that GBS Mutual Bank had decided to give them a significant donation towards the renovation of 1 Gowie Street. In fact, several of the most substantial donations have come from local institutions, namely Grahamstown Rotary, the Thelma Henderson Trust, and Rhodes University’s Masakhe project. Several other community members and organisations have also contributed including ITB Software, Les Roberts, Kim Weaver, the Estcourt family, Malcolm Hacksley, Cathy Meiklejohn, Crystal Warren, Katie Appollis, Callie Grant, Carol Thomson, Jon Ebdon and Angie Thomson.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the marvellous renovation of 1 Gowie Street, a project that is intimately linked to our broader, city-wide vision. The new Gadra Matric School campus is not just a building, it is a symbol of what can be achieved when a community works together for a common good. We are almost there, but not quite. If you would like to contribute via our BackaBuddy Campaign: <https://www.backabuddy.co.za/campaign/casting-gms-in-stone>

- This story was supplied by the GMS management team







■ The Andrew Moyake School of Excellence rugby team. Photo: Supplied

# New Makhandahigh school thrives

By Ororiseng Kabelo

The Andrew Moyake School of Excellence aims to excel in all it does, including its extra-curricular activities.

Andrew Moyake is a new high school that opened in January 2023 to help fill the gap of the 150 to 250 unplaced Grade 7 learners at that time. It is growing strong with sports and extracurricular programmes that are highly celebrated.

The school offers a library club, netball, soccer, rugby, an environmental club, chess, choir, drama club, academic tutoring, basketball and aerobics at the indoor centre.

## From primary to high school

The school first started as a primary school in 1927 in Fingo Village but closed in 2020 during Covid due to lack of resources and the low number of learners it had at the time. It now thrives as a high school with a larger number of learners.

Andrew Moyake strives to not be the same mould of township school. They intend to stand out, offering Marine Sciences as a subject and Computer Application Technology, which they had to borrow computers for. They also offer drama as a subject, providing learners the opportunity to study drama and theatre after high school.

## Learning beyond the classroom

Andrew Moyake sports coordinator, Sive Mdidimba, says that because of the benefits and skills acquired through extracurricular activities, he thinks the world would be a better place if every child played sports.

"It keeps you away from trouble, especially ekasi. Kids that play sports wholeheartedly, they're too tired to get up to mischief," he says.

Four learners, Emihle Ngxongo, Qhawe Mzondi, Kamvelihle Nase and Simanyelwe May, said what they love about playing sports is good communication, having fun and the chemistry they have with their teammates.

Emihle says she loves that playing sports helps her to "listen to and understand instructions".

## Funding challenges

According to the Department of Basic Education's School Sport and Physical Education Policy (2012), sports and physical education are essential for the holistic development of learners. Schools are highly encouraged to offer structured extramural and co-curricular activities, integrate physical education into the timetable, and participate in school leagues.

Although this is expected from all schools, funding is not available for non-fee-paying schools to afford the necessary equipment, resources and facilities. Since 2020, no-fee schools have been withheld R5 billion in funding by the Eastern Cape Department of Education to prioritise new projects such as e-learning. Although the national Minister of Basic Education has allocated money to no-fee schools, the ECDOE has withheld 33.75% of that funding from school budgets.

This forces no-fee schools like Andrew Moyake to find other ways to receive resources.

## Partnerships and donations

The school has partnered with neighbouring schools for facilities and, in some cases, equipment so they can take part in leagues.

"We connect with people that have things that we don't have, and we ask for assistance in that way and vice versa," says Hellemann.

Although they often have to borrow, the number one way they receive donations is by playing and playing well. The school's rugby team won a match and through Facebook received recognition which led to a donation of rugby equipment.

"If we sit back and say we don't have, no one's [going to] give something when you're not doing anything," says Hellemann.

The school's environmental club is also an example of that. They currently work together with Professor Brendan Wilhelmi, the head of Biochemistry at Rhodes University, to grow a lettuce garden in front of the school.

# The size of deeply felt things

## MAGNITUDE

### REVIEW

By Benevolence Mazhinji

Poet and Rhodes University lecturer Deborah Seddon launched her debut poetry collection, *Magnitude*, at the Amazwi South African Museum of Literature last week. She was joined in conversation by graphic novelist Nathan Trantraal to trace the contours of her emotionally devastating yet comforting and cathartic poetry.

Seddon's craft is remarkable in its careful balance of precision and intimacy. Each poem feels both meticulously shaped and effortlessly natural, as if the act of writing itself is a process of discovery, unfolding in real time for both the poet and the reader. She said that after her mother died in 2019, while she was in the process of packing up her childhood home in Harare, she felt that the grief was "quite overwhelming". She told the packed venue, "I needed to find a way to write myself back into being able to say anything at all." Writing these poems became an "important means of coping with and processing my devastating loss and grief".

In the conversation, Trantraal noted how her style functions almost as an act of naming and mapping experience through these finely observed moments. Readers encounter unspoken aspects of their own lives reflected to them in her words. He said, "People don't know what they're like until they see themselves presented in a book or see an element of themselves presented in writing."

This careful attention to detail and the layering of personal and universal experience is evident in the very title of the collection. "*Magnitude* contains various associations for me in the wake of my mother's death and other events detailed in these poems," Seddon said. "In physics, magnitude is a unit of measurement used to specify the size or intensity of an event. For instance, seismic magnitude refers to the measurement of the strength of an earthquake. Stellar magnitude is a measurement of the brightness of stars and other celestial objects. Astronomy and the stars fascinated my mother. The title poem of the collection explores what her lifelong interest taught me about the magic, mystery, and complexity of our life on earth, because everything we know is connected to the wider universe."

This awareness of how personal experience resonates within a larger web of connections also frames the collection's exploration of loss in its many forms because, while the poems meditate on the intensity of grief following her mother's death, they equally trace the emotional weight of displacement and capture the dislocation and longing that came with leaving her home country, Zimbabwe. "Perhaps my first audience is always other Zimbabweans, especially my treasured high school friends, most of whom, like me, now live outside Zimbabwe. We grew up together in a country we loved. We have shared in our adulthood a similar experience of loving and losing this country, where most of our parents continued to live."

Her favourite poem in the collection is called *Reggae for Bob*. It is dedicated to a beloved school friend, Gillian Makura, who died in 2015, and the poem depicts a beautiful day shared with her school friends in the Harare Botanical Gardens. Seddon called it "a meditation on



Deborah Seddon at the launch of her debut poetry collection *Magnitude*. Photo: Benevolence Mazhinji

finding and making a new way of being, as a new, multi-racial generation quite different from our parents' generation, after a terrible civil war". The poem captures the intimacy of shared experience, the joys and losses of youth, and the delicate traces of memory that linger long after those days have passed. At the same time, these reflections extend naturally into her present life in South Africa, where her poetry continues to explore identity.

Seddon describes her feelings about living in South Africa as complex. "I'm just as committed to South Africa. I think this country is a miracle. It really is. We have to be more grateful. There's a lot which needs to be sorted out. But there is the opportunity for a viable democracy, a free press, people being able to say whatever they think." She was very honest in saying that, as much as she misses Zimbabwe, she wouldn't be able to be an academic there. "I wouldn't be able to be a poet there. I wouldn't be able to say the kind of things that I can say as a teacher in my classrooms here."

Her work forms part of the important responsibility that writers have to build a linguistic architecture where others can experience emotions they find indescribable. Seddon has been writing poetry since she was a small child. "It is part of who I am, and it is a fundamental way for me to make sense of the world around me," she said. "I hope that my sense-making activity can make sense to other people, too. I want as a poet to communicate something deeply felt, something true, and something that has both personal and political resonance."

*Magnitude* is published by Dryad Press in its Living Poets Series.





■ Xolisa Webb in Somerset Street. Digital art by **Dideka Njemla**

# Humans of Makhanda

*Capturing the spirit of Makhanda through its people and their services to this town*

The current Humans of Makhanda series was sparked by Experimental Portraiture, a personal project of mine, **Dideka Njemla**, that I committed to for six weeks. This project allowed me to immerse myself in a refreshing experience that combined writing, design and photography. While experimenting with these digital treatments, I chose to focus on six individuals, paying particular attention to their occupations. Each week was dedicated to one individual whom I wanted to learn about. Out of curiosity, I shadowed several of them to engage in their work and experience their day-to-day responsibilities firsthand. Through this series, we'll explore how these people of interest are committed to serving Makhanda through their jobs.

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# From crime to courage

## *The rebirth of Xolisa Webb*

**Person of interest:** Xolisa Webb

**Occupation:** Car guard

**Workspace:** Somerset Street

**Human of Makhanda:** 1

Regardless of Makhanda’s heavy rainfalls or scorching days, Xolisa Webb can be found on the corner of Somerset Street, offering a smile and a helping hand in directing drivers into parking spots. Webb’s friendly and talkative nature has a way of lifting moods and his clients describe him as an intellectual individual who is always ready to strike up a conversation about anything to challenge perspectives and encourage thinking. Between guarding cars and greeting his regulars, Webb managed to join me for a chat that unpacked his journey and the life that led him to car guarding.

“I had everything going for me – I did not suffer or anything – but what made my life change is the bad decisions I took in life under peer pressure. When I made those bad decisions, things started changing”

Detailing the entrepreneurial hustle of his daily routine, Webb said that his day begins at 7.30am and ends at 1pm, where he then steps into the duties of fatherhood. “I arrive here and head to the Theatre Café. I always clean there, and she also gives me something to chow and pays me later during the week. After, I go to the School of Languages, ndivase eza moto ze lecturers ne professor. For the rest of the day, ndiba lapha ndi jonge imoto ndip-hinde ndizivase. But after 13h00 ndiyagoduka ndithathe umntanam eskolweni ndihlale naye.”

Raised in a middle-class home in Joza, eRhini, Webb said, “I had everything going for me – I did not suffer or anything – but what made my life change is the bad decisions I took in life under peer pressure. When I made those bad decisions, things started changing.” With only his mother to raise him, Webb had grown up in the absence of a fatherly figure, which he said may have influenced his upbringing. He spoke about his past, where he was involved in activities such as drinking, drugs and crime. “Kwafikela ilixa umamam xaye eyondi visit-ela when I was serving my sentence in Stutterheim wathi ‘mntanam if you don’t change your ways, I will not be here forever. This is what I’m giving you–’ wandishiyela imali wathi, ‘mna ngoku I’m sick, I’m dying.’ Webb said that hearing his mother’s words and seeing her in that state provoked



**Xolisa Webb washing a car in Somerset Street. Photo: Dideka Njemla**

an emotion in him that urged him to transform his life. “When I came out of prison in 2011, my mother was on her deathbed. I literally watched my mother pass away in front of my eyes.”

Following his mother’s passing, he began working at Siyakubonga Funeral Services, owned by Ronel Mostert, who had been his mother’s colleague. “The funeral parlour

“I had to wake up because it reminded me ba if ndiyaqhubeka ngoba bomu then andizazi ndizophelela phi”

that I was working for is the one my mom had a funeral policy with. So, when she passed away, I was able to see her every blessed day at the morgue,” he said. He continued, “I bathed her and clothed her during that time, and I crafted her gravestone myself.” Webb described that time as an emotional wake-up call. “I had to wake up because it reminded me ba if ndiyaqhubeka ngoba bomu then andizazi ndizophelela phi.” But, Webb said, after three years, working at a funeral parlour eventually became overwhelming and grew beyond what he could handle.

“Ndikhe ndahlala elokshini emveni koko ndinga fumani msebenzi. Ndayiva i-unemployment,” he said. Circumstances were tough as neither his brother nor his





**I** Xolisa Webb in Somerset Street. Image: Dideka Njemla

girlfriend had a source of income. "I had to make ends meet every day because I tried to find a job ndabe ndingawufumani." Because unemployment was not an option, he started his own car wash. "Ndingumntu olincoko so ndadibana nabantu aba right, ndaphela ndilapha elihlobo. Ndingasazi isiphelo sam sithini because I can't do this for the rest of my life."

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"That feeling of wondering if I'd get caught or not came with an adrenaline rush. It created excitement for me"

Webb said that, post-high school, he had aspired to become an accountant. "I still do want to become an accountant, but my hands are tied because of the situation that I'm in. I must fend for my kid and my girlfriend."

Looking back on his mistakes, he said, "I started smoking when I was 13 and then I moved onto ganja."

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"Kunzima because uyazama uzitshintsha, but people don't see it that way, they see otherwise"

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"I'd never return to that life because I know the consequences it comes with. Ndisifundile isifundo sam"

Then, when I was 16, I did drugs like Mandrax. Ndaphela ndiba stout because kaloku I had to support my habit. So that was what led me to prison." Webb said that what began as shoplifting had spiralled to robbery, and he served two-and-a-half years of a five-year sentence. "That feeling of wondering if I'd get caught or not came with an adrenaline rush. It created excitement for me. We even used to travel for lanto – aphe Rhini, go to Port Alfred, sihambe siye nase King William's Town. Sihambe siye nase Bhofolo nase East London." Webb admitted that his involvement with the wrong crew led to sentencing at 23 after numerous arrests. "There were seven of us, from the same school and township. Six are dead, and I am the only one left. All of them died. Saphantse sa professional because sasifumana ne orders xasiyo kwenza robberies." He said that two died in prison, two were victims of shootings, and one died in a car accident.

Although Webb has stepped onto a new path, he said that he still carries the discrimination from his past mistakes. "Kunzima because uyazama uzitshintsha, but people don't see it that way, they see otherwise," he said. He continued to say that, though many people have tested him, he remains determined to rise above and hope for a better future.

"I'd never return to that life because I know the consequences it comes with. Ndisifundile isifundo sam." **GM**





**I** Friends of Bots are starting to build bridges between the community and the historic garden. Photo: Supplied

# Bots R Us! A shared vision takes root

**By Olwethu Wessels**

It began as a simple idea between two enthusiastic and optimistic women – geography lecturer Philippa Irvine and Honours student Sonwabise Zothimba – and has grown into a community movement that’s breathing new life into one of Makhanda’s oldest landmarks, the Makana Botanical Gardens, fondly known as Bots.

The spark started when Sonwabise, who has a background of environmental science from her undergraduate studies, joined the Rhodes Geography Department to explore cultural geography for her postgraduate research. She met Irvine, a human geographer whose research looks at gardens as cultural and historical expressions, and who who has a deep interest in heritage spaces. “It was a good combination,” says Irvine. “We’re both passionate about this. The Bots are such a valuable space in town and have so much more potential.”

## Friends of Bots is born

What began as an academic project soon turned into a grassroots initiative aimed at restoring and reimagining the gardens. “The whole idea of this research is that it must have an impact,” says Irvine. “We didn’t want to just publish a paper and move on. The question was: what are we going to do with this information? Are we going to just let it sit, or are we going to do something?”

That “something” happened almost overnight. Within days of sharing the idea, a WhatsApp group was formed, and more than 180 people joined in less than a week. “It showed how much people care,” says Zothimba. “People want to get involved. They’re saying, ‘How can I help?’ Whether it’s cleaning up, planting, improving security, or organising events, there’s good energy in this town.”

The community momentum grew from the researchers’ initial survey, conducted to understand how people experience the gardens. What they discovered was clear:



people love the Bots. "People appreciate it in different ways," says Zothimba. "Many shared special memories or described how they use it to relax, study, or spend time with family and friends. There were also concerns that the gardens could be better maintained, safer, and more active. But mostly, people wanted to be part of something that helps make Bots better."

For Irvine, the feedback reflected something deeper about public spaces. "Green spaces are so valuable," she says. "They're places to connect with nature, to socialize, and to simply 'touch grass,' as people say. I often walk through Bots on a Saturday and see people picnicking, chatting, walking dogs, it makes my heart warm. That easy, relaxed sense of community is what makes the place so special."

### A space steeped in history

The Makana Botanical Gardens were established in 1853, making them the second oldest botanical gardens in South Africa. Originally created as a recreational, educational, and scientific space, the gardens have been managed by Rhodes University under a lease since 2004. Parts of the gardens are even protected as heritage monuments.

For Irvine, it's also about collaboration. "Rhodes manages a public asset, but the gardens belong to everyone," she says. "Friends of Bots is about Rhodes supporting the community, and the community supporting Rhodes. It's a reciprocal relationship."

For Zothimba, the vision goes beyond just maintenance. "If we look at the history of Bots, it once played a big educational role. We'd like to see that return — workshops, botany practicals, cultural events. The more people use the space, the more it builds that sense of shared responsibility."

### Beyond the grassy classroom

Irvine connects this initiative to her other project, Verge of Change, which also focuses on community collaboration for improving urban spaces. "Both are about getting involved," she says. "If you want to make something happen, you need to work with others. You can't do it alone."

To both women, Bots holds deep meaning. "Gardens are cultural expressions," says Irvine. "They tell stories about who we are and what we value. Bots has over 150 years of history, it reflects our town's identity. It's more than grass and plants — it's memories, experiences, and a shared sense of belonging. We can build on those memories and bring new life into the gardens," she says. Zothimba adds, "Things like markets, music events, or educational workshops, they can all bring colour and vibrancy back to the space."



**I** In the shade of ancient trees a new future is growing. Photo: Supplied.

### Making research matter

When asked what keeps her motivated, Irvine says, "I grew up in a home where my mom was involved in community work, so it's something I've always believed in. Geography studies real-world problems, so it's natural to turn that into real world change. The city is my laboratory. When I take students outside, I see how our town itself becomes a classroom."

Both researchers believe Makhanda's greatest strength is its people. "You don't need big money to make change," says Irvine. "Just people who care and are willing to show up. That's how potholes get fixed, how clean-ups happen, through community."

Zothimba was amazed by the spirit of the people of Makhanda through the survey. "Over 270 people took part," she says. "I didn't expect that at all. It made me feel like I belong to something. That's what keeps me going, knowing people care."

They both appreciate Bots. Irvine loves the peaceful energy, "the birds, the greenery, even a simple braai under the trees". Zothimba enjoys spending quiet hours there with a book. "It's calming," she says.

### If not us, who?

Looking ahead, they both imagine a space full of colour, energy and connection. "I want to see something that stimulates the senses, a safe, inviting place for everyone," says Zothimba. "Something vibrant, alive, and full of stories," adds Irvine.

Their message to those who want to help is simple: show up. "You don't have to be a leader," Irvine laughs. "Just come, pick up litter, plant something, meet people. You'll find your place." Zothimba agrees, "Students shouldn't feel pressured to commit all the time. Come when you can, it's a space that welcomes everyone."

"If not us, who?" Irvine asks. Friends of Bots knows the answer. It's us.

**GM**

To join the conversation on WhatsApp, follow this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/Fo9yiTV3bKBewCqUdp79GH?mode=wwt>





Winning women (from left) Annelie Pienaar, who came home second in the 30km race, third-placed Hannah Broad, and Kate Arnold, who came in first. Photo: Nomfundo Mbatha

# ‘Running gave me something to hold onto’

By Nomfundo Mbatha

An event that is as much about community and healing as it is about endurance filled the PJ Olivier Sports Field with people from across the district for the annual Oldenburgia Trail Run on a crisp morning last Saturday..

Hosted by the Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset and Get-Out-and-Run, and supported by For the Love of the Mountain, the trail run welcomed athletes from near and far to take on distances ranging from 3km to 50km. But every step taken that morning moved toward something bigger: supporting the Rotary Club's Miles for Meals project, which helps provide sustainable food support for families in need.

One of the runners, Lizeka Menziwa, who ran the 15km race, said that the race meant everything to her. "I lost my sister three weeks ago. She had just started exercising and was so excited about life again. So today, I ran for her."

Among the notable finishers was Annelie Pienaar, who came in second in the 30km race. For Pienaar, running has become a lifeline. "I began running after going through a difficult period in my life, especially after my divorce," she said. "Running gave me something to hold onto. It kept me sane." Reflecting on the day's race, she added, "It was an incredible run. Challenging, yes, but

deeply fulfilling."

Speaking to Debbie Smuts, project director for the Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset, said this year's trail run had 131 runners, making a substantial increase, particularly in the 30km distance, which drew 34 entries.

"The use of the new pedestrian bridge above Grey Dam, built by Rotary member Luc Marechal, was another highlight for the day, making the shorter 3km and 8km routes safer and more enjoyable," Smuts said.

At the prize-giving ceremony, Rhodes University Geography lecturer Gillian McGregor received the Roger Rosewell Award for her outstanding contribution to environmental education and her leadership in clearing involving alien plants along Mountain Drive. "Her work reminds the community that these trails are

living spaces, cared for and protected, not just used," she said.

## Giving back

The event aims to help maintain and repair Mountain Drive, including the R50 000 raised last year, and to support Miles for Meals, which builds sustainable food systems.

Smuts said, "The Sole Sisters running group also donated R35 000 to FLOM to support trail conservation and environmental education."

GM





Juan Jonas, president of Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset, and Jonathan Gouws, first man home in the 15km.



Juan Jonas, president of Rotary Club of Grahamstown Sunset, and Kate Arnold, first woman home in the 30km.



Juan Jonas and Marck Crandon, first man home in the 50km.



Juan Jonas and Andrew Meiklejohn, first man home in the 30km.



Juan Jonas and Trevor Shuttleworth, first man home in the 8km.



# Split decision victory for Makhanda's boxing champ

By Chris Totobela

Makhanda's son of the soil and the only champion, Bongani "King Killer" Fule, pulled out all the stops when he defeated Gauteng-based Jeff "911" Magagane in their featherweight eight-round bout recently.

Ranked second and fourth respectively by Boxing South Africa (BSA), Fule and Magagane went through all the rounds in their non-title bout. It was a bruising fight as both boxers went toe-to-toe. Magagane won the first four rounds, catching Fule with a straight left on numerous occasions.

Fule had to change his game plan and fight from the inside, landing body blows. The local boy stuck to his game plan until the last round and it was up to the judges to decide. The judges scored the fight 97-94 to Fule, 96-95 to Magagane and 97-94 to Fule, a split decision victory for the Makhanda fighter.

"It was a very tough fight as I fought an awkward opponent. His ring craft is superb and he used his reach advantage very well. I kept on working hard and the speed of the fight caught up with him and I capitalised on that," Fule said after the bout.

He went on to thank his supporters, especially Makhandans "who threw every punch with me and I felt like they were at ringside".

Fule also thanked those who travelled to East London to support him.

He will now spend a few days recovering and will meet with his management to discuss his next move.

GM

*Makhanda's pride Bongani "King Killer" Fule just before his bout with Jeff Magagane in a non-title featherweight bout recently.*  
Photo: Chris Totobela



In loving memory of the late

Ntsikelelo Mgqobele

Born: 06 August 1970

Died: 02 November 2025

Service: 08 November 2025

Venue: 7351 Ext 2, Phumlani Loc

Time: 09:00

Siyakubonga

Funeral Services

Let us take you under our wings







Maru FC's Aviwe "Hotto" Klaas kept Seven Stars busy in their ABC Motsepe League encounter in Makhanda on Saturday.  
Photo: Chris Totobela

# Maru FC edges Seven Stars in ABC Motsepe clash

By Chris Totobela

Hordes of local football lovers braved chilly weather to watch Makhanda's top side Maru FC as they hosted Komani-based Seven Stars in their ABC Motsepe league clash at the Rhodes University Upper Prospect field this past weekend.

Maru FC holds the key to Makhanda possibly tasting professional football in the future and the team has the backing of their supporters who packed the field when the local side took on Seven Stars.

The game started with both teams on attack mode. Seven Stars had the better of the early exchanges, putting the local side under pressure while forcing Maru's goal-minder to come up with crucial saves. The young goal-keeper used his reflexes well to keep Maru in the game. Maru's chances were few and far between and neither team managed a goal in the first period.

In the second half, Maru played with more purpose in search of an opener, but wasted good opportunities. However, the home side finally broke the deadlock in the 73rd minute when halftime substitute Lindokuhle Mdoko steered home a powerful header from a well-taken set piece on the right, to give his side the lead. Seven Stars seemed rattled by the goal and rushed their game, thus committing errors. They were made to pay in the 79th minute when goal poacher Vuyani "Sniper" Skeyi finished

off a great move that left the Seven Stars defence for dead, giving the local team a 2-0 lead.

Maru kept the visitors under enormous pressure, but let them off the hook as they failed to kill the game off. The home side paid dearly for their wasted chances in the last minute of the game when an unmarked Seven Stars left winger scored from six yards, sparking a frantic conclusion to the game.

However, it was too little too late for the Komani outfit as the referee blew the final whistle.

Maru's head coach Siya Dumiso lamented the missed chances, but was happy with the victory. "It was a game of two halves as they took the game to us in the first half and ran at us, but we managed to absorb the pressure." At halftime, Dumiso said he was forced to substitute a young central defender who was struggling a bit and brought on an experienced player. "That move paid off. I also instructed my boys to keep running at them and wear them down as they looked like tiring in the later stages of the game and we managed to score two quick goals. We missed a lot of chances and that is something that we hope to fix at training."

Dumiso went on to thank the people of Makhanda for their support and urged them to keep coming in numbers to support the boys.

This weekend, Maru will be off to Lady Grey to face EMI in their next ABC Motsepe league encounter.

GM

# EP youth cricket teams gear up to defend titles

By Chesley Daniels

The Eastern Province (EP) youth cricket schools have announced their teams for the upcoming Cricket South Africa (CSA) National Weeks, taking place in December 2025.

The EP U/16 and U/17 sides are eager to defend their titles, having emerged as champions in the 2024 events.

## EP U/16 eye Paarl success

Led by Graeme College's Corbin Tidbury, the U/16 team boasts an impressive lineup of local talent, with seven Makhanda players donning the EP colours. The team is coached by Odwa Xonxa and managed by Scott Jackson of St Andrew's College. They'll be heading to Paarl with high hopes of retaining their title.

### U/16 Squad:

1. Corbin Tidbury (Graeme College)
2. Connor Pary (Grey High)
3. Ilungile Arosi (Woodridge)
4. Deanu Bezuidenhout (Pearson)
5. Sibabalwe Deliwe (Graeme College)
6. Connor Holder (St Andrew's College)
7. Caleb Jattiem (Graeme College)
8. Ibenathi Kondile (Graeme College)
9. Matthew Marshbank (Grey High)
10. Kits McConnachie (Graeme College)
11. Aiden Mitchell (Pearson)
12. Cale Price (Pearson)
13. Oliver Whitaker (St Andrews College)

## EP U/17 Rural side ready to shine

Andrew Muir of Graeme College leads the U/17 Rural side, which features seven Makhanda schoolboys. The team is managed by Chesley Daniels of PJ Olivier High School and will be competing in Mbombela, Mpumalanga.

### U/17 Squad:

1. Andrew Muir (Graeme College)
2. Yaseem Kazi (Union High)
3. Enrique Strydom (Graeme College)
4. Christopher Zimmerman (Kingswood College)
5. Jordaan Damons (Graeme College)
6. Keagan Jattiem (Graeme College)
7. Ruan Nel (Nico Malan)
8. Ockert Du Preez (Marlow)
9. Cole Hurter (Marlow)
10. James Meyer (Kingswood College)
11. Joshua Cromhout (Kingswood College)
12. Yonela Wana (Union High)
13. Miquel Ruiters (Cradock High)



## U/19 side aims for redemption

The EP U/19 team, led by St Andrew's College's William Beamish, is looking to bounce back from a disappointing 2024 campaign. The team features six Makhanda schoolboys and will be competing in Bloemfontein.

### U/19 Squad:

1. William Beamish – St Andrew's College
  2. Sulaymaan Gangat – Pearson
  3. Tylo Maleiba – Daniel Pienaar
  4. Owam Malika – Daniel Pienaar
  5. Lophelo Mdyesha – Graeme College
  6. Daveric Peterson – Daniel Pienaar
  7. Miles Samson – St Andrew's College
  8. Samuel Scheckter – St Andrew's College
  9. Randy Syce – Woodridge
  10. Dawid Vermaak – Nico Malan
  11. Rhys Wiblin – St Andrew's College
  12. Cayden Wilson – Pearson
  13. Liseko Zinyane – Graeme College
- Head Coach – Somila Seyinokwe – EP  
Assistant Coach – Corbyn Dolley – Grey High  
Manager – Zarier Stirkhotte – Daniel Pienaar  
Best of luck to EP teams as they represent their province on the national stage.



# WHAT'S ON IN MAKHANDA

THIS WEEK

FRIDAY 7 NOVEMBER

**Chiaroscuro - Lunch Hour Concert**  
Prayer Shwala (soprano). Naledi Hopshire (mezzo-soprano). Garreth Robertson (piano) and featuring: Mihle Njovane and Sphesihle Witbooi. Entrance free | 13.00 | Beethoven Room, RU Dept. of Music and Musicology | Friday 7 November: There Is A Princess In Us All. Presented by Blossoming Rose Dance School and DSG. @ Rhodes Theatre. 18:00. Tickets: Adult: R100, U/12 R80. Bookings blossomingdancestudio@gmail.com. Or 079 113 5141

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER

**Parkrun**  
5km run or walk. Family-friendly  
Dogs on leads are welcome.  
@ The Bot Gardens, Lucas Avenue  
07:45 for 08:00 | Register online:  
<https://www.parkrun.co.za/register/>

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER



**Plant Sale hosted by The Old Power Station Nursery.** Join us for an open day at The Old Power Station Nursery. Plants, compost, freshly harvested organic veg, refreshments, and more will be on sale. 10:00 to 16:00

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER

**Karaoke Night** 21:00 @ Slipstream Sports Bar | Free Entry

**There Is A Princess In Us All.**  
Presented by Blossoming Rose Dance School and DSG. @ Rhodes Theatre. 11:00 and 18:00. Tickets: Adult: R100, U/12 R80. Bookings blossomingdancestudio@gmail.com. Or 079 113 5141



SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER

**Hiking with Makhandu Wild Hikers**  
Crew | Join us for a local hike in Makhandu, for a distance of 5km – 8km. | @ Drostdy Arch, Somerset Street | (meeting point) 07:00  
Contact Malwande on 074 733 7712  
Free entry

TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER

**Texas Holdem Poker**  
The only legal game in town  
@ SSS, 19b High Street  
17:30 for 18:00 R50 buy in / 1 x R50 top-up allowed.

Pub Quiz

Join us for a fun evening of trivia.  
@ The Rat & Parrot, 59 New Street  
19:00 | Table bookings: 046 622 5002  
R50 per person (Cash only)

WEDNESDAY 12 NOVEMBER

**Karaoke Night**  
Sing your heart out. @ SSS, 19B New Street 20:30 for 21:00 | Free entry

THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER

**Grahamstown Bridge Club**  
@ Grahamstown Bowling Club, African Street | 13:15 for 13:30  
Contact Jenny Emslie: 083 226 0266  
R10 for members and non-members

Thursday Pool Competition

@SSS Top Bar, 19B New Street  
18:30 – 19:00 | Contact: Mike Theron  
on 082 477 3689 | Free entry

Thursday Karaoke Night

At Champs Action Bar hosted by Illy.  
20:00-23:00  
@ Champs Action Bar  
Wine Special: R10



COMING SOON

FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER:



Dance/Sokkie.

Presented by Dance With & DJ Frank. @ PJ Olivier Hall. 18:30. R50 per person. Bring your own food and sober-friendly drinks. Tables will be supplied. Tickets available from DJ Frank 083 663 3070 or at the doors. Sunday 16 November: The Brilliance of Italian Style. Presented by Organ virtuoso Salvatore Pronesti. Admission free. Retiring collection. 16:00 @ The Cathedral of St Michael & St George.

WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER

Echoes of Home.

A Concert of New South African Chamber Music. Featuring works by: Paul Hanmer, Stacey van Schalkwyk and Rick van Heerden. Performers: Jenny Brand – clarinet, Stacey van Schalkwyk – flute, Virgil Matrass – piano, Nhlanhla Xipu – violin, Yashin Naidoo – bass and Pete Glover – drums. 19:00 @ Beethoven Room, RU Dept. of Music and Musicology. Ticket prices: R100 (adults), R80



(pensioners). FREE for Schoolgoers and Students & Season Ticket Holders



**BRING YOUR CRAFT**  
to RED CAFÉ at the ALBANY CLUB  
114 High Street

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
14h00 to 17h00

**BRING YOUR:**  
Embroidery, knitting, crocheting, writing, editing, camera, sketch book, paints, scrapbooking or any other craft you have been putting off.

Feel free to bring a flask and snacks!

THREE HOURS OF FUN, PRODUCTIVITY AND AWESOMENESS!  
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE :)

BEHIND THE SCENES  
EVERY TUESDAY

**Craft Get Together**  
Bring your craft to Red Café at the Albany Club. Bring your: embroidery, knitting, crocheting, writing, editing, camera, sketch book, paints, scrapbooking or any other craft you have been putting off. Fee free to bring a flask and snacks. Four hours of fun, productivity and awesomeness. 14:00 to 18:00 Contact Lou on 083 295 1982 for any information. Entrance is free.

EVERY WEDNESDAY



**Nia**  
~ the barefoot art of movement ~

Wednesdays @The Green Bowling club hall-  
Nia WiseMoves 9:45-10:20am (For those requiring a chair)  
Nia (or Zumba) 8:18-8pm  
Wednesdays Nia @ Rhodes gym- 1:10-1:30pm  
Saturdays Nia @ Wellness Studio (next to Posen)- 9:18-10am  
A comprehensive, holistic, fun-factor experience to keep mind and body FIT  
FIT is your best dance partner!

Contact: Liz Campbell - 083214232  
(083214232) (083214232) (083214232) (083214232)  
stitching scale not apply for all participant classes

**Nia – The Barefoot Art of Movement**  
Nia WiseMoves 9:45 to 10:20 (For requiring a chair) | Nia (or Zumba) 17:15 to 18:00 | Contact Liz Campbell 074 315 4232

Wednesday Zumba

@ Grahamstown Bowling Club, African Street | 17:15 to 18:00  
Contact: Di Wilson 083 759 6590  
Cost: Donation Based | Sip & Create @ Red Café, Albany Club. | 17:30 to 19:30 Bring along a creative activity: crochet, sketching, stitching, doodling, etc.

EVERY THURSDAY

**Masithethe @Let's Talk**  
We invite FET learners, College and University Students. The programme addresses mental health, childhood

traumas, depression and anxiety through the lens of God's Word.  
@ Duna Library | 16:00 to 17:00

EVERY SATURDAY

**Grahamstown Feral Cat Project**  
We now have our bookshop where you can browse a small but nice selection of preloved books. All monies raised will go towards sterilizing feral cats and the costs of rescuing abandoned adults or kittens in foster care. All donations will be gratefully accepted and can be dropped at the shop. @ CES Building, next door to Nic's Nest @ 65 African Street  
09:00 – 12:00 Bernadette Emslie (073 277 0577) R10 upwards per book (Cash Only)

**Nia – The Barefoot Art of Movement**  
A comprehensive, holistic, fun-fusion experience to keep mind and body fit @ Wellness Studio (next to Noom)  
09:15 to 10:00 | Contact Liz Campbell 074 315 4232

EVERY SUNDAY

**Soulful Connection**  
Hosted by Admix and Friends @ Rustic Route | Free entry and Free parking | Open till late

**Orders in Makhanda:** On the Way Eatery. Please check out the only ordering site at <https://sites.google.com/view/ordersinmakhanda/home>

**Dance with Frankie – Partner dancing – Ballroom, Latin American and Rhythm Dance lessons (sokkie) & Wedding Dance Choreography (In-person or online) offered by Frankie.**  
Contact 083 663 3070 or [dancewithdjfrank@gmail.com](mailto:dancewithdjfrank@gmail.com)



**Access Music Project**  
End-of-Year Concert

Tickets:  
Adults R 50  
Students R 30

Saturday, 15 November  
14h30

Amazwi  
[amp@accessmusic.org.za](mailto:amp@accessmusic.org.za)  
071 121 4081

Donations Welcome !!

Quicket

**DJ Frank:** is a mobile DJ, offering sound for wedding ceremonies, receptions and events. For more info email to [dancewithdjfrank@gmail.com](mailto:dancewithdjfrank@gmail.com) or whatsapp on 083 663 3070



**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**  
from 17.30 to 19.30

**SIP & CREATE**

**RED CAFÉ, ALBANY CLUB**

Bring along a creative activity: crochet, sketching, stitching, doodling etc.  
Kitchen and bar open for orders



**VARIETY DINNER**  
RED CAFÉ IN THE ALBANY CLUB  
114 HIGH STREET  
SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2025  
Bookings Only! Book by Thursday 6 November

**MENU**

**CHICKEN SCHNITZEL STACK R140**  
2x chicken schnitzels stacked with bacon & cheddar melt sauce

**EISBEIN R140**  
Crispy pickled pork knuckle served with mustard cheddar mash, chef's veg & mustard sauce

**STEAK & CALAMARI R195**  
200g ribeye grilled to your liking with tender calamari strips, red wine chutney sauce, wedges & chef's veg

**MEDITERRANEAN STUFFED ROAST R130**  
Roasted butternut served wedges & chef's veg  
VEGAN / VEGETARIAN

**HAKE & CALAMARI R155**  
With wedges, salad & tartar sauce

For orders or more information contact:  
Louise: +27 83 295 1982 | Morgan: +27 78 658 3447



**CHEF MORG'S 3 COURSE DINNER**  
RED CAFÉ in the Albany Club | 114 HIGH STREET  
FRIDAY | 21 NOVEMBER 2024  
Bookings Only! Book by 20 November

**STARTER OPTIONS:**

- Camembert phyllo parcels with cranberry sauce
- Sautéed prawns & mussels in a garlic, lemon & herb butter | Served with garlic bread
- Moroccan spiced lamb kebab with tzatziki

**MAIN OPTIONS:**

- Beef Wellington: fillet steak encased in blackforest ham, mushroom pate and puff pastry | Served with roast baby potatoes, trio of veg & red wine jus
- Grilled hake topped with garlic, white wine & mussels sauce | Served with roast baby potatoes, trio of veg & red wine jus
- Mushroom Wellington: field mushroom with ratatouille & mushroom pate encased in puff pastry | Served with roast baby potatoes, trio of veg & red wine jus

**DESSERT OPTIONS:**

- Tiramisu
- Poached pear on a brioche pain perdu with whisky & butterscotch sauce
- Chocolate mousse with strawberry compote

**PRICES**

2 COURSE MEAL: R325  
(Starter and Main course OR Main course with Dessert)  
3 COURSE MEAL: R400

For orders or more information contact:  
Louise: +27 83 295 1982 | Morgan: +27 78 658 3447



**Christ Church**  
Makhanda, Eastern Cape, South Africa

**STOEP SALE**

Saturday 29 November 2025  
Outside Hoof 'n Hound  
09:00 to 13:00

-Our Famous Wors Rolls  
-Lovely Soups  
-Books Galore  
-Knick-knacks  
-Christmas trees

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DIARISE IT!**



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Advert design	R500.00	Amendment fee	R150.00
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## The Grocott's Mail Team for 2025

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GM revitalisation strategy

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News and Sports Co-ordinator

**Mbali Tanana:**

Marketing, Events and Community Engagement

**Gillian Rennie:**

People, Arts, Culture, Life

**Rod Amner:**

Education Ecosystem  
Journalism

**Phila-Nathi Mapisa:**

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Malebo PHEME Grocott's Mail reporter and postgraduate diploma student covering World Soical Work Day at Fort England hospital. Photo: Andisine Plaatjie