

ISSUE SEVEN | 2022

THE chronicle

of RIDGE ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

LIFESTYLE | DESIGN | DEVELOPMENT | ENVIRONMENT

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PORSCHE



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LEGACY YARD a good excuse to get out!

Buried inside the Umhlanga Arch is the Legacy Yard. A kind of 'secret garden' you can't see from the street.



THE RIDGE CHRONICLE

RIDGE ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

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GATEWAY shopping MALL...

a world-class attraction, home to the best local and international brands and an unrivalled shopping experience.



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STREET TREES

Our street trees are a statement about who we are and our vision of the future.



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Radio has the power to influence almost every sphere of our lives.



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New Ridgeside residents, Crookes Brothers Ltd (CBL), grow some of the best fresh produce in Southern Africa.



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ERKY Wood

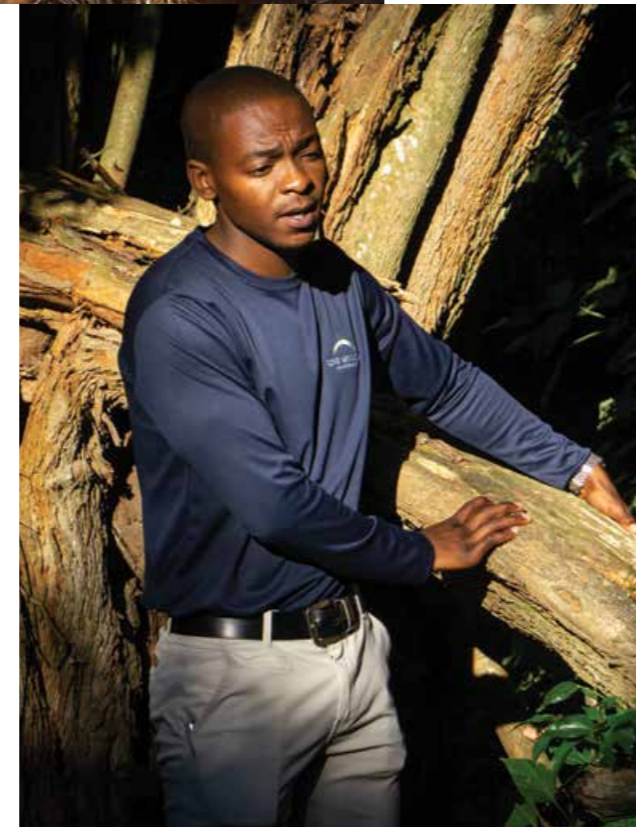
Umhlanga Ridge, a retrospect of what might have been done differently



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KZN to KGALAGADI

A visual journey into the sixth largest desert on earth and the second largest in Africa.



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ON THE COVER

TEXT MALCOLM ST CLAIR IMAGE: NICHOLAS CARROLL



Umhlanga Ridge Town Centre – 'Shark's Teeth'

The cover of our 2022 edition of the Chronicle is the iconic stainless-steel element located at the entrance and exit to the Palm Boulevard in the Umhlanga Ridge Town Centre. They are known as the 'Shark's Teeth' and are an integral part of the overall design of the Palm Boulevard. Designed by GAPP design and architects, they are internally lit at night to show them off to best advantage. The next time you enter the Palm Boulevard, be sure to identify these sentinels for yourself.



from the GENERAL MANAGER'S DESK



Our seventh edition of the annual Chronicle publication

Sitting at our vantage point overlooking the Crocodile River, which is the nominal southern border to the majestic Kruger National Park, I could not but draw a parallel between the observed calm which could erupt at any moment, and the floods which devastated parts of KwaZulu-Natal in April this year. We were in many instances, still piecing our lives together post COVID-19 and the horrific events of July 2021.

South Africans by nature are incredibly resilient and somehow manage to 'find a way' despite the complex challenges we face, however, the repository of goodwill left by the Nelson Mandela years is running precariously low and it is now time that all South Africans roll up their sleeves and commit to building a brighter future for the next generation. We are the current custodians of the hope and promise that was entrusted to us in 1994, and we must make good!

Compiling the annual Chronicle of the Umhlanga Ridge is a source of great pleasure to me and my team of seriously talented people. Erky Wood is on record as having said that the assembly of the various precincts that make up the Umhlanga Ridge is a celebration of many architects and ideas which comprise the extraordinary whole. This statement comes alive when one observes the change in architectural language which reflects design trends over the twenty plus years of Umhlanga Ridge development.

Many will know that Erky Wood formally retired from GAPP Architects in 2021 but thankfully, he has committed to being available to the various Ridge precincts as we assemble this city. Nick Carroll who has kept us captivated through the magic of his camera lens, encouraged Erky to write his article from the point of view of 'what he might have done differently on the Umhlanga Ridge' had he the benefit of hindsight. This is a seriously good read.

The precincts that make up the Umhlanga Ridge are dynamic in nature; constantly evolving with new developments coming on stream, new owners taking up residence and open spaces being improved by the management team. Each association deserves a 'chronicle' of its own, and to this end, I have shared main events that have taken place in each during the year.

Malcolm St Clair

GENERAL MANAGER
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Feature articles for this edition include an article on the tourism industry and how it is slowly recovering after COVID-19, the value of street trees in our precincts, and how we should manage change. Events over the past few years have compelled us all to rethink what we understood as normal, and adjust our lives and priorities accordingly. Some of you may own an EV, or electric vehicle, and like it or not, we will see ever increasing numbers of these vehicles on our roads! The insightful article tracing the pioneers in this field of technology and where we are headed, is showcased in an article simply entitled 'The Electric Vehicle.'

We are delighted to include a magnificent portfolio of wildlife photos by Alan Crawford who is a first time contributor to The Chronicle. In support of this special inclusion, Nick Carroll has written an article for all us 'amateur' photographers out there, setting out the basics to achieve consistently good photo results.

There are many other fascinating articles that I invite you to share with us, so find the time to hit pause for a few hours, and enjoy what is on offer in this edition. After all, The Chronicle is so much part of the bigger story and each association member, developer and shopkeeper in some way is part of this story!

We would love to hear from you!



The offices and staff of Ridge Association Management (RAM), looked after the affairs of five management associations in 2022 namely, the Umhlanga Ridge Town Centre, The La Lucia Ridge Business Park (also known as the Millennium Bridge Business Park), Parkside Umhlanga Ridge, Ridgeside and the Cornubia Retail Park. Even though each association is unique in its offering, the objectives of good precinct management, a secure environment and aesthetic excellence remain common to all.

Ridge Association Management's (RAM) board consists of directors who represent each of the five associations. Each association's interests are presided over by a board of directors who are elected at the respective annual general meetings. Management and assets of RAM are shared resources to ensure efficient service delivery to all members, with total transparency of cost allocation between the associations being a key objective of Ridge Association Management which exists with 'no profit' as a founding principle.

In addition, RAM is set up to best manage important processes found in all associations such as contracts with key service providers, provide a unified voice in matters that include eThekweni local authorities and remain active in matters of environmental concern. Risk mitigation is an important responsibility of management.

Due to significant stress experienced by the primary developer, Tongaat Hulett Properties, over the past few years, the associations have increasingly taken on non-core responsibilities, ensuring that the integrity of the intended development framework remains. Thankfully, management is able to call on the services of the two senior urban planners and design review panel architects who have been involved since inception of the greater Umhlanga Ridge. We are yet to fully understand what the future implications of the primary developer's business rescue announcement may have on the associations, but your Directors will ensure that to the best of their ability, they will responsibly navigate this time of uncertainty.





UMHLANGA RIDGE *Town Centre*

Our mixed-use area known as the Umhlanga Ridge Town Centre featuring the Gateway Theatre of Shopping as its hub, continues to develop and mature with very few undeveloped properties remaining. Speaking of Gateway, we celebrate with Old Mutual the 21st year of their existence as a dominant national shopping complex. One can only imagine the number of people who have passed through this shopping extravaganza over the years!

The April floods tested the Town Centre's infrastructure and it is most satisfying to be able to report to our members that all systems passed with merit. We are mindful of so many areas in and around eThekweni that suffered devastation not experienced since the Demoina floods of 1984. Your board of directors was quick to respond with humanitarian aid in the form of food parcels and mattresses for those whose lives had been instantly affected. Direct consequences of this flooding are still being experienced today as our ability to extract irrigation water under license from the oHlanga River system has all but ceased. Our landscaping suffered accordingly during the recent dry months. We are looking at alternatives to secure our future irrigation water needs.

Development was muted during the year with one new residential scheme known as Space Apartments being completed, and a new residential scheme called The Millennial commenced. We welcome the new members to the Town Centre and trust that all that the Town Centre has to offer will validate their decisions to invest.

With any maturing precinct, comes the inevitable challenges of a social diaspora which seeks to embrace all participants whether business, resident or visitor. The open access nature of the Town Centre does mean that all are free to come and go as they may wish. Our large investment in security systems and personnel discourages crime and general lawlessness to a large degree, but given the tremendous socio-economic challenges facing our country, we must acknowledge that we will not remain unaffected. To this end, management and your board are constantly reviewing our systems and operational procedures to keep mostly opportunistic crime at acceptably low levels. The Umhlanga Ridge continues to be a sound investment choice as it experiences very low levels of crime.

2023 will be a very challenging year with the primary developer Tongaat Hulett Properties, having announced on 27th October that it is in business rescue. This will place added responsibilities on management and the board to ensure that the Town Centre is completed as intended. There is much to thank Tongaat Hulett Properties for and it is now up to all of us to deliver on the compelling legacy that remains.



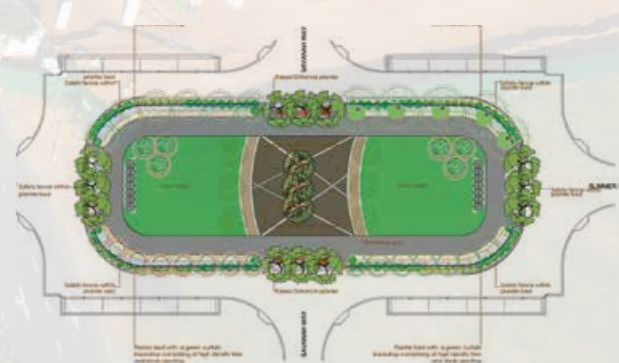
Parkside UMHLANGA RIDGE

During the past few years, we have noted a steady stream of new residential developments completed. This fact strongly supports indications that families are moving from suburbia to the strong value proposition on offer in Parkside. Very few undeveloped stands remain and we are able to report that at least two new developments are in the design review process.

Summer Square, Summer Ridge and Ridge Town Central have now been completed with Bellagio and The Onyx currently under construction. Parkside was envisioned as a 'safe, walkable' precinct with the added attraction of two savannah parks situated on Summer Way. The association's design review panel has recently signed off the first phase of an exciting new development that will commence on East Row in the new year.

During the year, management completed the first of the two parks which will be known as Aurora Park. The last remaining item is the installation of the park's conduct rules which will then allow us to open the park for the enjoyment of the public. We ask our residents to be considerate of others when making use of this facility in the near future. The park will be under CCTV surveillance day and night to assist our security team.

The delivery of the second, Savannah Park, is under review and management hopes to be in a position to deliver this feature park to members during 2023.



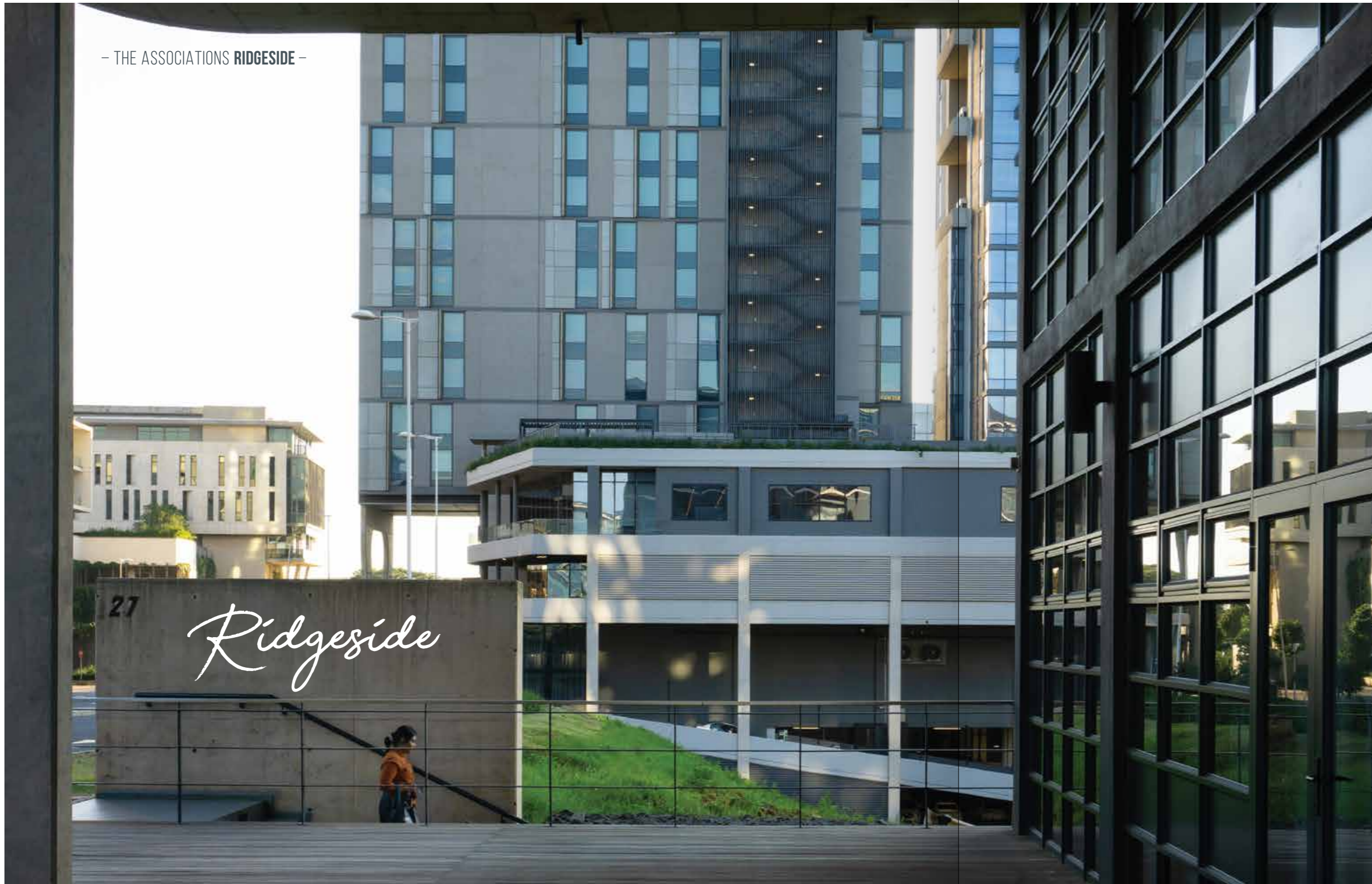
It is appropriate to advise our members that the primary developer, Tongaat Hulett's Properties, has been placed in business rescue and while details are fairly sketchy at present, we can assure all that your Board of Directors will act in the best interest of association members. There is significant key infrastructure outstanding from the primary developer in the precinct and management together with the board will ensure that it is adequately appraised to make key decisions regarding the successful completion of Parkside.

MILLENNIUM BRIDGE *Business Park*

Some of South Africa's most recognizable brands are situated in the Millennium Bridge Business Park and have traded successfully since the park's inception in 2001. Many of these brands are home grown with second and third generation families at the helm of operations. From small beginnings, they have established significant retail footprints throughout the country. These businesses sit comfortably beside other national brands all of whom contribute to the unique service and product offering of this node.

Management successfully completed the upgrade of the existing perimeter fence line, which included compliant electrification of the security barrier and the switch to a new digital SCADA platform for monitoring purposes. Additional fence surveillance units are currently being installed and will be completed in 2023.

Signage pylons will be installed at the entrance to the Business Park shortly. Our application to eThekweni Planning has been approved and the fabrication of these pylons will be under way by the time you have this edition of the Chronicle in your hands!



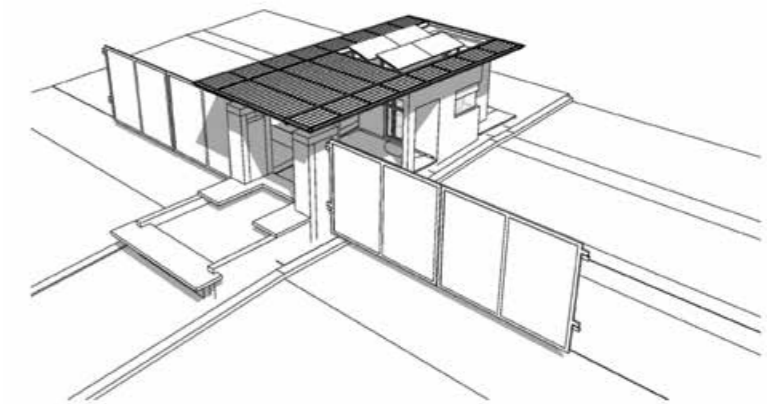
During the year we witnessed two major buildings completed in Precinct 1 namely, The Skye mixed use development and the third building on what is now the very impressive Rewardsco campus. In addition, we note the commencement of building activities in the The Sanctuary Private Estate. The first apartment block is planned for completion in 2023. This will be a gated estate within Precinct 1 and will offer an exceptional lifestyle value proposition. Ridgeside Residence is a new development which is situated between Vuna Close and Ridgeside Drive. The developers have broken ground and we can expect construction activity on this site through 2023 and perhaps into the early part of 2024.

Major infrastructure works are currently under way. The first project relates to the construction of a road which will ultimately link the various precincts to one another via a bridge over our causeway known as the 'green T.'

This road will be a double carriageway in both directions in its final version, but will be delivered as a single lane in both directions for the time being. This new section of road will allow a left in, left out access/egress off the Umhlanga Rocks Drive approach from the M4.

The second major infrastructure project involves the installation of a pressurized sewer line in the servitude adjacent to the coastal forest. This line will connect under the M41 and cause minimal disruption to the precincts.

Management will continue with its betterment program along Vuna Close which includes landscaping, irrigation and street furniture installation. Vuna Close is to be developed as the 'high street' in the precinct and will be pedestrian friendly.



Management plan to significantly upgrade access to the Ridgeside Office Park with the introduction of guard houses to both entrances. The architectural plans have been completed and we await the transfer of the property to the association in order for us to submit plans to the city for approval.



Cornubia RETAIL PARK

The Cornubia Retail Park has not seen any new development during 2022. This retail node is characterized by a large shopping complex known as the Cornubia Mall which features any number of national retail stores together with dining and entertainment offerings for the whole family.

The association's design review panel has been fairly active in that a number of new scheme proposals were tabled, and the board of directors tabled a motion that the panel review and make recommendations to the existing signage policy of the association. Retail signage trends have changed significantly over the last five years and the brief is to consider these new trends and if acceptable, to implement them in an orderly and respectful manner.



– THE ASSOCIATIONS CORNUBIA RETAIL PARK –

One key project is the introduction of surveillance systems which will significantly enhance our security effort in the precinct. This project is to be delivered by the primary developer and management have engaged with the project manager on regular occasions. The planned completion date for installation is May 2023.

Post the July 2021 civil unrest, the oHlanga River system has not been available to the associations with regard to irrigation water extraction. This situation remains and management is considering alternative options to secure our future irrigation water needs. Most of the irrigation water utilised in the Cornubia Retail Park is in fact harvested off the vast roof of the Cornubia Shopping Mall and stored in large tanks ready for use. During the recent floods, we were able to assist the shopping mall with harvested water for certain non-potable applications.

This precinct is certainly attractive to 'big box' retail outlets and while this may be a departure from the existing precinct development framework, members can be assured that the association's design review panel will ensure that any scheme is responsibly integrated into the existing precinct fabric.



OUR CONTRIBUTORS

featured contributor

ERKY WOOD

A key pioneer behind the Umhlanga Ridge urban design and development, Erky Wood was part of the original design team in charge of the La Lucia Ridge Office Estate, Umhlanga Ridge Town Centre, Millennium Bridge Business Park and Parkside, considering and designing an all-encompassing urban development plan, down to the last sign and unique street furniture. Erky was a founding member and director of award-winning GAPP Architects and Urban Designers, a firm that maintains the ethos of creating better spaces, which he fully embraces. Retired from GAPP Architects and Urban Designers, Erky now has his own practice called Urban Praxis.



featured photographer & writer

NICHOLAS CARROLL

Photographers and writers discover that the improvement in both crafts is subject to natural human processes. Every time you pick up a camera, you do a little better with image capture than the previous time. The end result is becoming less of a surprise because you know what you've captured. With writing, you constantly look for ways to 'show' readers what you mean through the visual scenes and emotions you describe. The people and places on The Ridge are beginning to show their real faces through time behind the lens and through constant crafting and shaping of words.

featured graphic designer

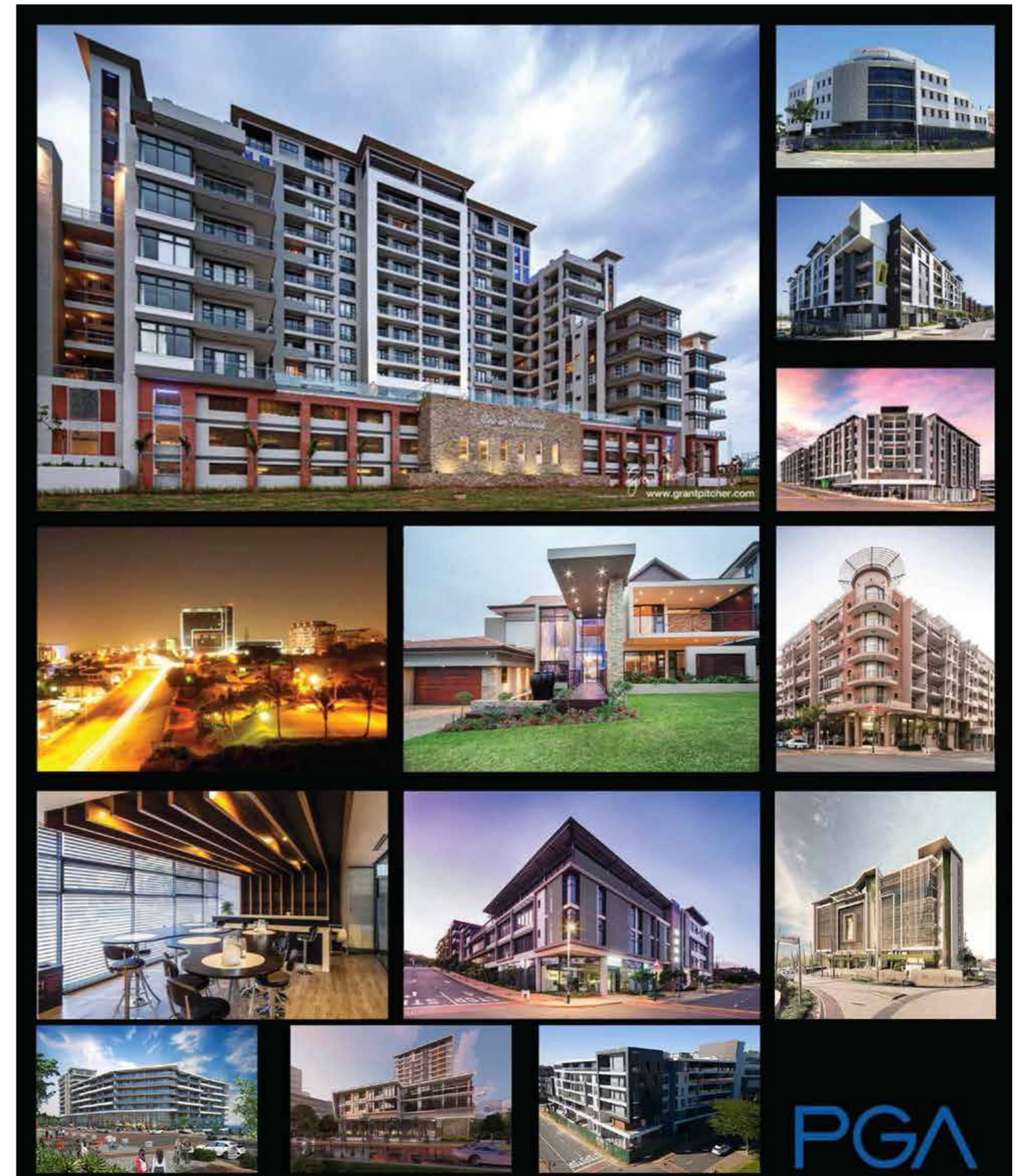
SUZANNE VORSTER

Design, like art, is such a subjective concept. Some may glance at a layout and think it's great, others will think they have seen better... these are the challenges of a designer – the need to be constantly looking at ways of engaging with the audience, and keeping them interested. It makes a designer's job so much easier when using images that have unique perspectives, and to be exploring articles that make one think about the world around us... thank you Nick for making my job so much easier – I have no idea where you get the inspiration from, but your articles are always so interesting!



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Confidence IN THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL



“Our decision to invest in Umhlanga, even during this difficult time, is testament to the confidence we have in South Africa’s ability to recover economically,” says Nassimov. “The Umhlanga project will position the Premier Group as a firm favourite amongst holiday makers as well as corporate, government and international clientele – as we strive to secure a hotel presence in every major city.”





The Premier Hotel Group built a new hotel on Umhlanga Ridge in 2020. This was a clear indication of their confidence in the tourism sector and South Africa's ability to recover the economy. It is also a reminder that Umhlanga Ridge continues to grow, attracting more businesses that want to be based in an efficiently run and beautiful town with sea views.

With a passionate staff complement of 1500 and 30 years experience in developing and managing hotels, conference centres and restaurants, they have emerged as one of the country's fastest growing, privately owned hospitality groups.

From humble beginnings in East London in 1997 with a 40 bedroom hotel, the Premier Hotel Group now offers a bedroom count of over 2000 between 24 hotels and resorts nationwide. Their Umhlanga investment includes the 4-star Premier Hotel Umhlanga with 127 bedrooms all with sea facing views and the 3-star Premier Splendid Inn with 63 bedrooms. The Premier Splendid has its own 50-seater restaurant and spectacular conference facilities, with jaw dropping sea views. Part of the Group's strategy is to have a hotel in every major business hub in South Africa.

SITTING IN THE TERRACE BAR WITH 180 DEGREE VIEWS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN, WE WERE SUCCESSFULLY TRANSPORTED TO THAT 'OTHER PLACE' THAT HOTEL GUESTS EXPECT WHEN THEY WALK THROUGH THE DOORS.

The Premier Hotel is undoubtedly in one of the best locations on The Ridge. To the right, Umhlanga Arch is clearly visible and, as the evening descends, nightlife at the Legacy Yard beckons.

Some hotel statistics from around the world:

- It is estimated that there are around 17 million guest rooms in about 187 000 hotels worldwide, but no one really knows.
- The Marriott Group alone has about 1.4 million of these.
- The hotel industry, until COVID hit, was about 10% of global GDP. Down to about 5.5%.
- Full recovery worldwide is expected some time in 2023.



"AT FIRST PEOPLE REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT A STRANGE NEW THING CAN BE DONE, THEN THEY BEGIN TO HOPE IT CAN BE DONE, THEN THEY SEE IT CAN BE DONE — THEN IT IS DONE AND ALL THE WORLD WONDERS WHY IT WAS NOT DONE AGES AGO."

— Quote from the novel
The Secret Garden



Legacy Yard

A GOOD EXCUSE TO GET OUT!

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL



Not too long ago a group of people met on a small piece of fresh brown earth in the exact same spot where the Umhlanga Arch is now. Brochures were handed out and mostly tucked under arm for later reading as at least one free hand was needed for drinking champagne with the rising sun and the developers.

The visuals were marvelous and not too exaggerated. Three years later it came to pass just as it was written in the brochure. The Umhlanga Arch grew from the earth to meet a growing skyline that was becoming as recognisable as the Moses Mabhida stadium from cruise ships in the bay and flights from Johannesburg.

They raised the bar with this one, way beyond the notches that hold it up. As they say in design circles; "inspiration is not a prerequisite for good ideas, our creativity is a tap that has to be turned off at the end of the day". For an idea whose time has come, the designers were paying close attention to the ether, and nailed it.



Buried inside the Umhlanga Arch is the Legacy Yard. A kind of 'secret garden' you can't see from the street. A bit like the secret garden at the Mariannhill Monastery (just off the N2 on the way up to Hillcrest). You only know about it because you've been told. Gardens are usually our happy places, where we can stop for some peace and smell the roses. There are enchanted, hidden gardens all over the world just waiting to be discovered. You can add the Legacy Yard to this list. Some visitors pass casually through to admire the boutique shops and the stunning views, while others meet to enjoy some of the finest street food in KZN.

IF YOU CLIMB THE STAIRS TO THE LEVEL ABOVE THE YARD, YOU WILL BE REWARDED WITH 180 DEGREE, UNRIVALLED VIEWS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN.

This is the place to rendezvous with friends, disappear for a few hours or just suck in the ocean air to ward off depression and recharge your batteries. Your secret garden by the sea. Reminding you that life is for living and we are not made of glass. Even if you snatch some for yourself, a few moments at a time.

Diverse in culture and style, you will find something to love in the street food offerings. Bachao for example, offers Indian street food. Things you should try on their menu – everything! This stunning location is further elevated to dream status by ambient lighting that glows just right when the sun goes down. The Legacy Yard has ambience in bucket loads. At dusk, it becomes a symphony of the recognisable sounds of satisfied souls and warm welcoming colour: The tinkling of glass, easy laughter and the air thick with atmosphere. The novelty of the Legacy Yard may never wear off.



The Legacy Yard is the brainchild of Durban based Sphere Design & Architecture.



The Legacy Yard and interiors have a distinct industrial feel, cleverly conveyed through raw concrete, exposed aircon ducts, piping and face brick. The skilled draughtsmanship in the street art installations on the exposed brick keep the atmosphere fun and less formal, but unmistakably stylish. The intention was to create a street food market concept.



— LEGACY YARD RIDGESIDE —



*The Estonians
believed the
Aurora lights to
be magnificent
horse drawn
carriages carrying
heavenly guests
to a spectacular
celestial wedding.*

WE can't wait
for AURORA PARK



AURORA PARK

Celestial origins

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

Aurora Drive runs from the fountain circle at Gateway to the edge of Parkside, almost 1km away. The road culminates in a rectangular green space called Aurora Park. Green spaces are a vital part of town design and this one, modest in size, delights the senses with soft meandering pathways, trees for shade and a lighting array that will draw you in like a magnet when the sun goes down. We want you to stay out longer, meet other people and recharge your brain.



Aurora is the Latin name for gold and for the Greek goddess of the dawn. Apparently she renews herself every morning by travelling East to West, her tears making up the dew. The Aurora Borealis was named by Galileo in the 1500's, who thought the lights dancing in the sky were the sunlight reflecting in the atmosphere. Wasn't he some kind of genius? This misconception was corrected by Kristian Birkeland in 1902, who concluded that aurora was caused by currents flowing through the gas of the upper atmosphere, exactly how our modern-day neon lights work. The person who named Aurora Drive should take some credit for influencing the designers of Aurora Drive Park today. Look what they made them do.

Spaces like Aurora Drive Park were built into the plan years ago. We had to wait for Parkside to develop and populate before the lines got drawn and the grass and trees planted. These green spaces are of paramount importance, with far reaching, positive benefits for everyone. For a start, being outdoors makes us feel good, alleviating the symptoms of stress and depression. You are more likely to kick your legs up and get your blood flowing whilst outdoors than sitting at home on a comfy sofa thinking about it. In a previous article in The Chronicle, we spoke about outdoor patient convalescence where hundreds of hospital beds were rolled out on sunny days onto vast lawns to hasten the recovery of the war wounded at the turn of the century. You don't have to check that on Google, the benefits of this fresh air and sunlight are well known and entirely factual.

Much like modern buildings, Umhlanga Ridge has been built around people and how they experience the town and all its amenities. Plans for any addition to the town go through a design review panel, whose first question is: how is it going to affect the people that live, work and play here? This is not to deter anyone's new ideas, rather it opens up discussion on the why, how, who and when, so that developers, designers and architects can be guided by the grand plan.



We are not aiming for utopia, the preference is for an environment where human well-being is the priority while nurturing the surrounding natural environment. We humans are wired to nature. Our brain's frontal lobe, the part of our brain that's engaged in modern life, deactivates a little when we are outside. It makes us happy. Our brains are not tireless, they actually fatigue and that's why we take time out from work. When we stop being busy and spend more time in a green space, we become more attentive, creative and even intelligent. Brain restoration occurs and the quality of our thinking improves.

By connecting people with green spaces again, we are taking care of a list of items that will benefit many rather than a few. Firstly, the effect of green spaces on our mental health cannot be overemphasised. More than just a feel good experience in fresh air, the green space breaks down social barriers, opening it up to people of all socio economic levels. In dog parks all over the world, it is the animal that often brings people together. Instead of introducing ourselves to humans, we often enquire as to the name of the pet "look at you – are you enjoying your walk in the park?" and "who's this – what a lovely animal". And so it goes. It is likely that the same people soon connect again with others through their animals.

"there's no such thing as the light at the end of the tunnel, you must realize that you are the light."

– Anonymous



— GREEN SPACES ON THE RIDGE AURORA PARK —



The art of healing comes from nature, not from the physician.

AURORA PARK

We shouldn't ignore the fact that Aurora Drive was possibly named after a loved one and what a beautiful name it is. When the sun goes down, the lights in the park can be seen by Parkside residents in the east facing apartments, a warm inviting glow "lets become night owls and congregate around the lights of our town. Without us, the light has nowhere to go".



Contemporary pole LED lights

Contemporary pole LED lights

Dry river pathway

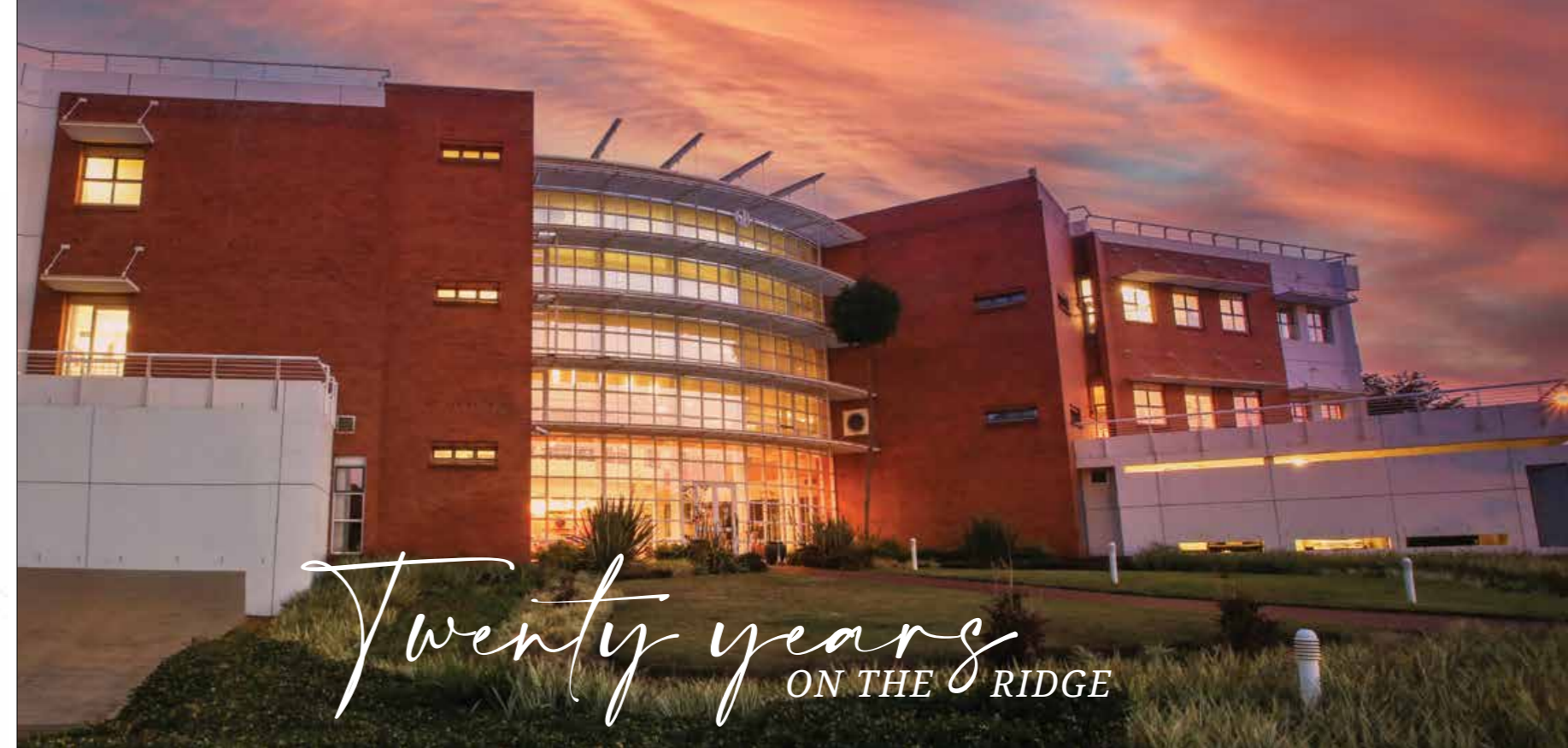
Safety fence feature

Raised berm with shade trees for seating area

Proposed retaining seating

Pedestrian walkway

Safety fence



Twenty years
ON THE RIDGE

GARLICKE GB BOUSFIELD
ATTORNEYS, NOTARIES AND CONVEYANCERS

Among the pioneers of the great migration from the Durban city centre to La Lucia Ridge in 2002, G&B regards that decision, something of a calculated risk at the time, as one of the best they have ever made. This move followed the opening in 1995 of their small satellite office in the Umhlanga "village" devoted principally to property law, which gave the directors clear insight into the vision for the future development of The Ridge. Collaborating closely with the developers and being involved in the establishment and ongoing operation of the various Ridge Management Associations, the Firm committed itself to the logistical and jurisdictional changes required at the time for legal firms moving a distance away from the Courts.

The firm dates back to 1867, the year diamonds were discovered in South Africa and a year before the typewriter was patented. To have stood the test of time over a period which spans three centuries, tells its own story. "Recognising historic roots is only a celebration if those roots have not impeded progress or restricted change. Progress or change is not something the Firm has ever shied away from," says Yvonne Boden, the current CEO, who has been a director of the Firm since 1991. "The ever-increasing pace of change challenges us daily, and whether it is new technology, new legislation, new compliance requirements or the evolving needs and requirements of our clients, we have to be able to respond positively and constructively. In the past three years we have demonstrated that we are able to operate in any environment and under extremely restrictive circumstances, without sacrificing the interests of our clients. Within a legal framework requiring original documents and original signatures, we have navigated the measures required to ensure that online meetings and electronic methods of operating could occur with no risk to our clients or to the ongoing safety of their confidential information," says Yvonne.

With much being said and written about the new hybrid method of operating partially remotely and partially onsite, it came as a surprise to the Firm's Executive Committee that as the lockdown restrictions eased, the staff were eager to return to the office environment on The Ridge. "It is a great environment to work in," says Bongani Mgaga, the firm's Chairman, "easily accessible and secure, and we found that our team were delighted to be back, feeding off the energy created from sharing ideas and brain storming issues."



Dwelling on historic change is one thing, but what lies ahead? As with any business, moving with the times is vital to remain relevant. It is a process of constantly adapting not only to new technology and legislative regulation, but also to the vibrant socio-political developments in our country. Contributing to the community is a responsibility that the Firm takes seriously, with ongoing involvement in a number of community-based projects ensuring that G&B is not simply paying lip service to its commitment.

That the Firm is here today, with a most enviable list of loyal clients, that it has a committed and supportive staff and that it has contributed in many ways to the development of our city and province, is testimony to the Firm having remained relevant by providing top-class legal services and remaining true to its mission:

"TO SERVE OUR CLIENTS' NEEDS WITH LEGAL EXCELLENCE, EFFICIENCY AND INTEGRITY".



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Street TREES

TEXT NICHOLAS CARROLL

IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL & BRENT BADENHORST

We've written about trees in all seven issues of The Chronicle. This conversation must never end – our lives may depend on it. It is estimated that over 98% of us can't name five trees or flowers.

A party of five went on a tree walk around Umhlanga Ridge Town Centre a couple of years ago. One of the attendees had this to say: "What I learnt in that single morning has never left me. That short walk literally reconnected me to nature". Trees not only have scientific and common names, but are also numbered and appear in the South African register of trees. Some have GPS coordinates so you can look up their age and seasonal characteristics – social media for trees. The estimated cost of all the trees on Umhlanga Ridge is somewhere between R15 and R25 million. Don't go carving your initials into them, please.

In 1973 Antonio Vincente bought a patch of land in Sao Paulo, Brazil and used it to plant a forest. People thought he was mad, Sao Paulo is surrounded by forest. As a child he had watched his father cut down trees to make charcoal, on behalf of a farmer. The result was that the water springs dried up, never to return. More than 40 years later, Vincente has planted over 50 000 trees on his 31 hectare property. Where there was no water on his property in 1973, there are now three waterfalls. In a statement by Brazils' Conservation International on the subject of concrete over nature "Without forests, water, food and a pleasant climate are just not possible."



"50% OF URBAN DESIGN IS STREET TREES"
– Henry Arnold

Head of Umhlanga Ridge's landscaping department, Justin Newcombe-Bond, says that the annual landscaping plan, which includes tree planting, is an ever evolving and changing one. "When a new building goes up, what was a sunny pavement is now in shadow for half the day. We have to adapt to the changes the town goes through. Global warming has changed the way we plan everything. I won't be around to see most of the young trees we have planted come to maturity, but that is the nature of the job. We think 20 to 30 years ahead. None of us would venture outdoors if it wasn't for trees. Not in this climate anyway".

"We know the condition, age and location of every tree on Umhlanga Ridge. Their well-being is our concern. We quickly pick up any issues like disease or damage. Disease is rare as trees have remarkable mechanisms to protect themselves. Street trees have made Umhlanga Ridge a tougher, more resilient town. Trees protect it from the elements, splintering the glare from the sun, causing dapple across the walkways and buildings. They can lower the 'heat island effect' in towns by up to seven degrees – 35°C on the beach, 28°C in town.



Our street trees are a statement about who we are and our vision for the future.



“YOU WON’T FIND FRUIT BEARING TREES IN UMHLANGA TOWN CENTRE — WE DON’T WANT BIRDS MESSING ON YOUR CARS”

— Justin Newcombe-Bond

TREES PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE ECONOMY OF ANY TOWN.

They make it beautiful. The more beautiful the town, the more businesses want to be part of it. Umhlanga Ridge is home to the offices of some of the most influential brands in the country. They simply want the best.

A beautiful town is somewhere special, a place people desire to be. In 2022, a South African street was nominated one of the 10 most beautiful in the world. Herbert Baker Street in Pretoria came in 4th. Centenary Boulevard from Umhlanga Rocks Drive down to Equinox Drive is well established with trees and more are being planted. It is going to be a strong future contender, with the same sense of awe as the best in the world. Its unique design can be viewed from halfway up the Nedbank building at Park Square, or from street level. If you lean out far enough from the second floor, you can almost touch the leaves. It’s gentle meander and pedestrian walkway bring everyone together under the same shared roof – the canopy – one of the main purposes of street tree design. The canopy is teeming with life yet to be discovered by most of us. Please look up at every opportunity.



The benefits of street trees:

- Economically they add value to the town. Places of beauty attract people and businesses who want to be part of somewhere special. Places that are considered to be the best.
- They hold stormwater and clear up pollution. We were extremely fortunate to have a solid, efficient and surprisingly simple stormwater solution.
- They soak up carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas partly responsible for global warming. From this they create breathable oxygen. These are working trees.
- They cut cooling costs by as much as 35 percent. Meaning that we reduce our use of aircon. Glare from the sun reflecting off buildings adds to rising heat. Street trees manipulate the light by breaking it up into dapple and cooling it overall.
- Flowering trees beckon us to spend more time outdoors. Take a look down Palm Boulevard on any sunny day to see where people congregate.
- In winter, some of the trees lose their leaves to let the sun through the canopy to warm the pavements and buildings.
- Drivers have been known to cut their speed along tree lined streets. If you drive around town with a heavy foot, this article is for you too. Slow it down and take it all in. Street trees play a role in traffic calming.



There are some tight parking places on Umhlanga Ridge because of the location of some of the new trees. An average sized car can fit in with a bit of concentration. (These days you are considered fully present when parking without scrolling through your cell phone). Larger cars will battle a bit and may sit with a bumper up against a young sapling because the car in front has not parked evenly in its space. This is not a parking design flaw. Smaller parking spaces are the future. In some European countries your vehicle road tax is based on your car's carbon emissions. The higher the emissions, the more you pay. The really clever countries have installed parking meters in towns that can read your car's specifications and charge you parking, once again, according to your emissions. Smaller is the future but we can't seem to break the habit of bigger is better.

The CBT is a tax imposed in response to climate change. It's aim is to reduce greenhouse gases and car emissions in a fair and sustainable way – the polluter pays more, ensuring that people and organisations take the negative costs associated with climate change into account when laying down future plans for production, consumption and investment.

Without trees, the rapid rate of global warming is going to continue unabated. We will never be able to plant enough of them to ward off the inevitable, but where it matters most – in the places we live and work, there are people working tirelessly to get as many into the ground as possible.

Change YOUR MIND

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

Transforming or changing an organisation is never easy. It is estimated that two out of three organisational change projects fail. It appears, in some cases, that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

“In today’s environment, change agility is no longer a luxury but a necessity. The winners of the future will be those who can out-change both the competition and external forces. The current velocity of change leaves us at the doorstep of a new world. In this environment of bigger, faster and more complex change, agility is not an option but a required core competency”

Tim Creasey - 2015



Hundreds of books have been written on change management and the guidelines for creating successful change are well documented. You can find perfectly usable change programs online. They may appear different, but all follow a similar approach to change. Change management programs are usually implemented when a company is battling to survive, needs to keep ahead of the competition, or modernise. Organisational change can take a few months or be rolled out over years through numerous change initiatives. Ask any major bank how many change initiatives they are running simultaneously. Most banks are undergoing complete technological and digital transformation to stay ahead. This kind of change affects thousands of people and requires expert management.

Some of the biggest organisational change stories of modern times include Netflix, Lego and Coca Cola. Netflix started out delivering movies to subscribers’ front doors in the late 1990’s, switching to streaming in 2007. Had the leadership of the time not possessed the skills and desire to lead change, Netflix would be long forgotten. Lego has been hailed as one of the biggest turnarounds in corporate history. For nearly 70 years the company never posted a loss. A few short years later, with losses over 800 million dollars, their change program rapidly saw them overtaking Ferrari as one of the most powerful brands in the world.



Change is inevitable and employees should prepare themselves for the fact that change will occur, with or without them. "Fit in, or find work elsewhere". We interviewed Mr P Moss who was part of the 1000's of employees who underwent a massive change program in a local organisation. He had this to say:

"I joined this company halfway through their 3 year cultural change program. Having never experienced change on this scale before, I was overwhelmed by the massive transition and unprepared for an environment whose identity appeared unhinged. The old and new cultures were existing side by side.

T-shirts with the theme of the intended new culture were issued for Friday wear making Friday's the most abhorrent day of the week for me. The garment was ill fitting, badly cut and I hated being told what to wear. I was unaware at the time that my resistance to this change program was causing me emotional turmoil and affecting my overall work performance. I felt exposed and uncomfortable and was not enjoying my job. I felt 'outside' of everything.



During a special rhapsodic conference to embed the change even deeper, I felt my regional manager's gaze from across the room. Our eyes locked briefly and we both recognised that I was purposefully resisting this change. I continued to mumble through the proceedings like an international sportsman unfamiliar with the words of their beloved anthem.



The theme of this change programme was rebirth. Planting new seeds - awakening new life within the organisation with the expectation of growing into something stronger and more unified, with greater profits and higher yields for shareholders. I had neither asked to be reborn nor did I feel the need for it. Looking back on the experience I realise that no one could really help me adopt and embrace these changes. The change team engaged with me periodically, ultimately I had to make the leap for myself - fit in or accept the consequences. I must have taken the leap unconsciously because it all worked out in the end. I changed my own mind. Not about accepting rebirth, but resigning myself to the fact that I simply had no choice and the best thing was to get on with the job. My own insecurities about my job, in an environment in great transition, was my stumbling block, causing me to resist change on a grand scale.



Shortly after the program's final stages were implemented, the company refreshed the brand and a new CEO was appointed. Its current financial status proves that with a clear plan, committed leadership, a deep understanding of what needed to shift and enough time to make the changes, effective and lasting change is possible. Although at the time it felt like we were pushing big rocks up a slippery hill"



RESISTANCE TO CHANGE IS NORMAL, EVEN FROM LEADERSHIP

The simple fact is that we don't like change. In the case of Mr Moss, he may have experienced a smoother transition had he joined the company before the cultural change program was rolled out. It is evident that most of the staff in Mr Moss's organisation had adopted and embraced the change, so its successful transformation was imminent. Mr Moss's resistance could easily have been a major disruptive force had he occupied a more senior position at the time. Or he could have just been one of those people who go out of their way to derail the process. Effective and lasting change will not take place unless adopted by everyone. All change programs have an adoption process built in. It is vital that we all recognise that businesses must evolve to remain agile and competitive. The change program itself does not have to be complex at all, just very detailed in execution. The more detail, the more likely the change will take hold. At first, the need for change may not be evident to everyone. They may not see the broader organisational needs and feel that as long as their system is working, why change it?



Communication during change plays a critical role, it cannot be emphasized enough. Most change programs fail because of inadequate communication. The more detailed the communication plan, the better. You need to work out what needs to be communicated, by whom, to whom and when?

The acquisition of one company by another and their subsequent merger creates an environment where a dedicated change management plan is critical to success. Everything changes, from reporting lines to roles and responsibilities, even physical locations may change. A change plan would help the both organisations to re-align their respective cultures, leadership styles and general behaviours. Ultimately, only one culture can prevail in this environment and that is a new one.

An effective change plan does not plough through the steps to change regardless of the state of the organisation at each landmark. If the adoption rate is not 100%, or at least close, the next step should not be implemented, until the targeted adoption rate is reached. An acquired company often has to live under a different brand and adopt the values that it represents and the additional ones acquired along the way. Change like this can often be experienced as a clash of two cultures, and if not expertly managed, can cause severe disruption for years to come, or fail altogether.



THE Hirsch's Method OF CHANGE

Companies going through massive transformation will often experience the change rising up into 'business as usual' like a spring tide. The change can overwhelm everything, propelling leadership into uncharted territory and shattering the comfort zones of all. That's the thing about change, it shines a very bright light on everything you do. To get through it you have to meet it head on with acceptance and agility.

Companies like Hirsch's rise to meet the needs of consumers as lifestyles and habits change. As Richard Hirsch comments, "As people in Umhlanga have opted for a healthier lifestyle and built new homes there has definitely been a move to bigger fridges and washing machines and yes, bigger TVs. We love change".

For some companies, ongoing change is normal, seamless and welcomed. One such company is Hirsch's, one of the early pioneers on Umhlanga Ridge. Suppliers are constantly updating their product ranges and store concepts. Anyone working in this environment becomes accustomed to ongoing change.

When you are changing and expanding for as long as Hirsch's have been, it becomes the norm, for everyone. You could say that Hirsch's are permanently out of their comfort zone - the place where great things happen. Richard continues, "My folks have been in this business for 43 years and have developed a sixth sense for what is going on in the market. We are constantly evolving and embracing change. But we stick to our values at the same time, and our roots are really strong".





There will be pitfalls and challenges along the way to lasting change and no two change projects are the same. What is certain is that the basic stages to successful change remain the same: Awareness of the change to come; acceptance and adoption of the change. Change management has been described as “A discipline, based on psychological principles that uses tools, processes and techniques to engage with people and lead them through change, to achieve business objectives”. A great example of not giving sufficient attention to human psychology during change can be found in the case of a bank that determined that managers were spending way too much time on administrative tasks and not enough with actual customers exploring their needs and matching them with more of the bank’s products. The change team decided to solve the problem by re-engineering the administrative processes, freeing the managers to spend more time with customers.

The result was the opposite: Fewer products were being sold and managers did not find more time to spend with customers. Upon further enquiry, they discovered that managers did not really enjoy the customer interaction part of the job, preferring instead to sit behind a screen.

“If we hope to be prepared for change, we need to develop the requisite skills and competencies, supported by the organizational policies, practices and procedures that will institutionalize our organization’s change capacity, agility and readiness”

— Jonathan H. Westover, Ph.D

For change management to be effective, an environment needs to be built where people are motivated to adjust to shifting circumstances. Leaders need to be clear on their roles in the change process, as the trust of employees will be dependent on the degree to which these leaders live the values that the organisation subscribes to. Ideally, change needs to occur with as little disruption to the organisation as possible. Creating a change ready organisation requires an investment in training and development to begin with (see below). Short courses on change management are the best place to start and will create an awareness of what to expect and how to prepare the organisation for radical change if necessary. Once an organisation has gone through change successfully, they are more likely to adapt to future change more easily.

With sufficient preparation, any organisation is capable of leading change themselves without help from external consultants. The point is that change should not be seen as an event separate to the day to day activity of the organisation. Rather, it should be considered a relatively normal occurrence, periodically more intense than usual.



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AS WELL AS PROFESSIONAL POLISHING.
WE COME TO YOU, WE QUOTE,
YOU APPROVE, WE REPAIR ON SITE.
NO MESS NO FUSS!**

CONTACT SEAN SUTTIE 079 492 8774



Ridge Security vehicles form an integral and vital part of our overall surveillance and crime prevention strategy.

These vehicles are owned and managed by the Associations and as such are maintained to a very high level of serviceability due to the 24/7/365 nature of their taskings.

All minor damage to paintwork and/or plastic trim is immediately dealt with to ensure that our vehicles remain in perfect condition. Sean Suttie, owner of Highway Auto Plastics (HAP), is contracted by the Associations to attend to these minor issues.

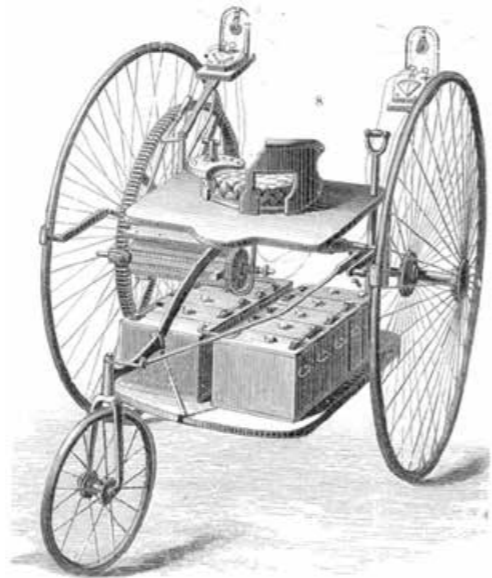
Ridge Association Management is able to attest to the excellent service given by Sean, and recommend that you consider giving him a call for any similar damage you may have on your vehicle.



THE Electric VEHICLE

TEXT NICHOLAS CARROLL IMAGES SUPPLIED

The recent advent of the electric vehicle (EV) is a sure sign that the wheel is slowly turning to favour the environment. It could have turned a lot earlier had it been allowed to, almost 200 years ago. The first full sized EV was produced back in 1832. It was more of a carriage and made quite a change from horse drawn vehicles. By 1884 the first electric production car with rechargeable batteries appeared in London, while the USA saw the first electric wagon introduced shortly afterwards.

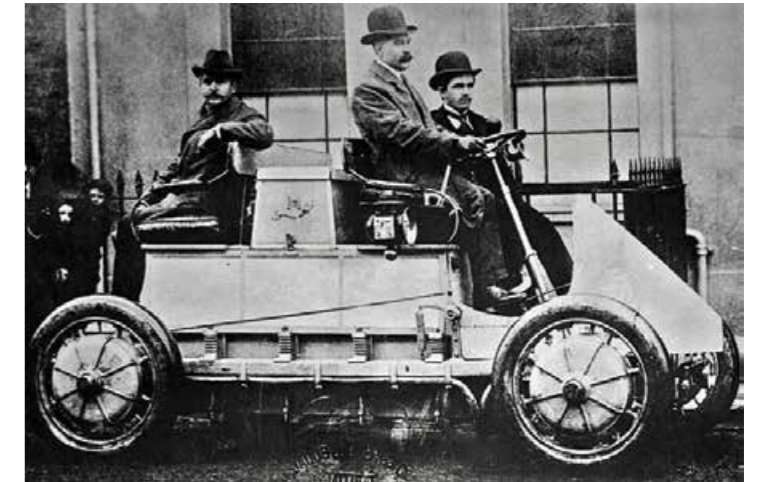


These events sparked huge interest in EV's and they quickly became the preferred method of transport. They were quiet, easy to drive (no gears) and had no pollutants. Between 1900 and 1912 over one third of all vehicles on roads in the USA were powered by electric motors. Even the White House garage had one, driven by the first lady. Thomas Edison, the prominent inventor, loved them so much that he envisaged that they would become the method of transport worldwide. He was a little early in his prediction because Henry Ford brought out the Model T. Not only was it affordable, it was also easy to refuel, with petrol. That was in 1908. It was so successful that it killed the EV.

From the 1960's to the 1970's, oil prices went through the roof and there was a real opportunity to bring the EV back. Unfortunately not much progress was made as governments and multinationals were not backing the technology. Nasa was the only company that forged ahead with an EV at this time, they built the moon buggy to transport astronauts around the moon. In fact it was a collaboration between Boeing and General Motors. The batteries it used were non rechargeable and had a range of 92km. After which the buggy was rendered useless at a price of about \$142 million. They manufactured four of them.

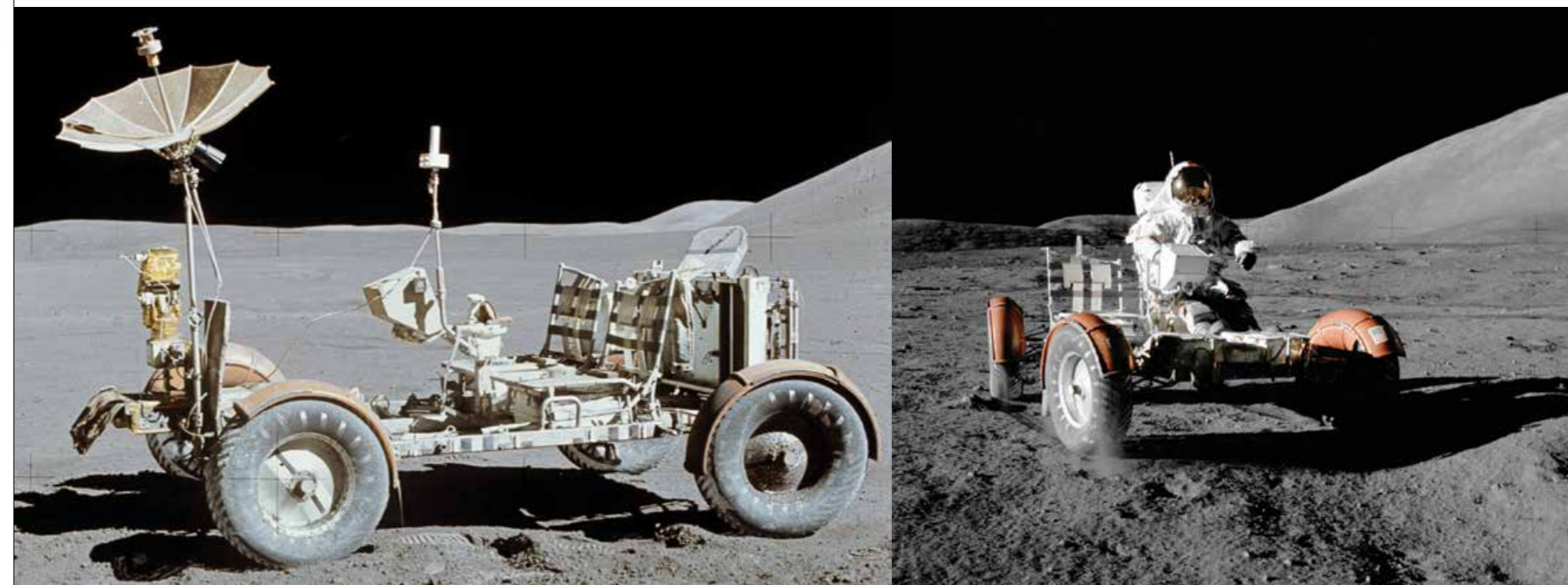
Slowly but surely the technology for EV's began to gain momentum, the big breakthrough coming in 1973 when British-American chemist, M Stanley Whittingham invented the rechargeable lithium-ion battery. It was another 25 years before Toyota introduced the Prius, which sparked the final push to get back on track with EV's. Whittingham's battery technology first ended up in our cell phones and cameras. His invention earned him the Nobel prize in chemistry.

Enter Tesla Motors in 2003. The startup was struggling to get all the elements of the electric car to work. They called for funding from various quarters, even the government, which should have been very interested in what they were trying to achieve. Someone suggested they approach Elon Musk, who was heading for the stars with Space X. Musk put up the much needed funding, but the results were not fast enough. He eventually 'moved in' and took over the reins. What followed was the mother of all roller coaster rides where they were constantly fighting to keep the doors open. The man from PE would stop at nothing to get the EV on the road.



In a rush to appease outside investors and stick to the promised delivery date, the first cars were not well put together. Body panels did not line up and they were plagued with a string of mechanical problems including fires caused by batteries. Oddly, the first owners of these cars seemed to take these issues in their stride. They wanted to be part of the electric vehicle (EV) revolution and gave the company miles of latitude to fix the problems. Musk being Musk, he always found a way to make it work.

In his book, "Powerplay" an account of the rise of Tesla, Tim Higgins reports "Tesla was building the airplane as Musk was heading down the runway for takeoff." The book is more about Tesla than Musk himself. But the man is never far from the limelight. He was brutal in his management of the company, many people were fired on the spot for not being 'inventive enough' or simply 'not knowing enough'. Some of these highly talented and capable victims now work for companies directly opposing Tesla. One day, Musk and Tim Cook, CEO of Apple are talking on the phone. Musk is looking for ways to stay in business. Cook suggests that Apple buys Tesla. Musk is interested, but on one condition "I become CEO, of Apple". The call ended abruptly.



Social Media

MAKE THE MOST OF IT!

TEXT NICHOLAS CARROLL IMAGES SUPPLIED

Advertising on social media is the fastest way to grow your business. If you are a marketer, it is no longer optional to use social media, it is an absolute necessity. With some practice, you can develop your own campaigns without spending a cent. Paid for advertising on social media will change your trajectory in a much more dynamic way.

The statistics on social media usage are startling but not surprising when most of the world is focused intently on device screens. Some people can even drive a car while scrolling through LinkedIn or Facebook. Around 70% of all adults who use the internet are on one social media platform or another. This is your audience. They spend on average 3 hours per day engaged in social media activity. If you are watching or reading the news on your phone, you are using social media. Look no further for new business.

In a recent global survey, 79% of professional marketers reported buying paid advertising on social media platforms. An even higher percentage of those said that short videos were the most effective type of content. Quality is everything when it comes to advertising on social media. In another survey, most respondents said that they didn't mind ads that were carefully thought out and not presented in a disruptive way. Many of these respondents also said that they had made purchases based on ads they had seen while watching YouTube and scrolling through Facebook or LinkedIn. The challenge is to get through to your audience without being disruptive or irritating. The more polished and thoughtful your ads, the more successful they will be.

There are two types of social media ads: Organic and paid for. Organic is DIY and usually brings satisfactory results. It is more for keeping your existing customer base up to date and top of mind. Paid advertising brings far better results and more companies are apportioning a budget to social media advertising. If you think that this is about following the crowd, think again. Try reading the print media around you. Laborious right? Far too much information. Social media marketers have perfected the art of grabbing your attention in a second. 1.7 seconds on average to be exact.

Instagram is used by people to discover new products and services. Many of them make purchases after seeing the information. Video ads are king on YouTube and more companies are investing their advertising budget on this platform. Take a few minutes to watch a couple of YouTube clips to see the quality of the ads. Take time to read them as they pop up and take note of the wording and imagery. Irritating ads still come up from time to time, but mostly they are professional and informative with just the right amount of information. If you are not advertising on these platforms, take some time to learn from these advertisers, they know what they are doing.

There is a fear that social media may cause more damage to your brand than good. The last thing you want is an angry customer running your business into the ground in front of the entire world. More survey results show that around 80% of consumers expect you to get back to them within a day of sending a complaint or request. Just do it and embrace this new world.





ALGORITHMS DIRECT YOUR CONTENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO USERS.

They are a set of mathematical rules that help sort the order of content to user feeds. So, if you are watching AGT on YouTube, an algorithm will determine in what order the ads appear and for how long. This is supposed to bring logic to the order of your viewing experience. Test this by going onto YouTube. After a while you will experience the work of the algorithms. Artists, designers, and writers build a scrapbook of ideas as they come across them. These serve as reference material for new ideas in the future. To get a head start on advertising your business on social media, engage with the different platforms and observe how the ads are used. Note the frequency and quality. Take screenshots of the ads. Try to read every word. Remember that many of these ads are made by marketers who have devoted their working lives to grow the companies they work for. You can only learn from them. These are wordsmiths of the highest order.

The best way to put this to the test is to pay for some social media ads and analyze the results. You will see a significant difference in reach and overall engagement with your content. By having a social media presence, you are already deemed legitimate by viewers. Instant credibility. That's how the digital population makes decisions. Keep an eye out for your competition on social media. There is a good chance that they understand their audience and know exactly what to say to them.

There is no one approach to fit all needs but the guidelines on which platform to use for your business are tried and tested. You will not be stabbing in the dark. This is what we know: In the world of short attention spans, video is king. The shorter the better. Forget all the lifestyle elements that you may have used in the past, go straight to the product. A bit like starting with the ending. You only have a second to attract their attention. You will want to use more than one platform to get a feel for responses. Don't get stuck in a comfort zone by using only one.

You may find this interesting:

- With over 50% of the world using social media, it is expected that ad spending will double in the next 5 years.
- B2C companies should be on Facebook and B2B on LinkedIn.
- Oldies use Google to search for products or services, while 16 – 24 year old's use social networks to search for brand information.
- R65 Trillion was spent purchasing online consumer goods worldwide in 2021.


FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Rainmaker Marketing
+27 (0) 31 101 3100 | rainmakermarketing.co.za

– PUT YOURSELF OUT THERE! –

“THE CHANCES OF GOING VIRAL WITHOUT PUTTING SOME MONEY ON THE TABLE ARE SLIM”

– Haylee Reed



“IN THIS DIGITAL WORLD, THE FIRST PLACE PEOPLE WILL SEARCH FOR YOUR BUSINESS IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A PRESENCE, YOU WILL NOT BE FOUND”

– Rainmaker Marketing

@GagasiFM



Radio is more powerful the closer we mimic the way we actually speak to each other

– Ira Glass



Live
FROM CORNUBIA MALL

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

South Africa has the fastest growing radio listenership in the world, consistently higher than the global average. If you want to reach the a broader audience, do it through radio. People are listening much more than anyone anticipated and whatever you say to them should come from a place of deep responsibility. You don't need a script for that kind of broadcasting, it should be live within you before you go on air.

Trusted and fact checked, breaking local news is what people are looking for and stations that do this well will see a rise in listener numbers, higher consumer activity and brand adoration. Growth will also rise where listeners are informed by trusted presenters with whom they already have a relationship. And if you can manage to sound like your audience, the sky's the limit.

During the 'Mid Morning Hang Out Show' on Gagasi FM, two presenters were discussing how they monitor what their children listen to or watch on their cell phones. It's not a new topic but hearing it spoken about with such authority (both were parents) is a reminder to all of us not to loosen the reins too early. The presenters may have planned to include this topic, or it simply materialised. Either way, this is testimony to the quality of Gagasi FM programming. Go onto Gagasi's website: www.gagasiworld.co.za and hit the "Listen live" button, now – or scan the QR code at the end of this article. Browse through their weekly programming schedule to pick something that appeals. "The Uprising" from 6 – 9am with Felix and Njabs will remind you that life is what you make it, moment by moment.

Radio has the power to influence almost every sphere of our lives including education, culture, religion as well as our thoughts and beliefs. Beginning originally as a medium for entertainment, radio quickly proved to be a powerful conduit for educationalists. Beyond the traditional 'classroom' environment, education through radio now encompasses the very essence of what we think and how we feel. We get to choose who influences us, hopefully by being discerning and allowing the opinion of presenters to resonate with our own so we can filter what is for us and what is not.

Minenhle Dlamini, MD of Gagasi FM, says that their average listener age is 31. "We are a highly influential medium and what we do goes way beyond radio. In essence we co-exist with the core people of KZN, particularly the younger generation. There is no Gagasi FM story without KZN. JHB used to be the place to go to become famous. The tide is turning and KZN is catching up and becoming a region that 'has it'. We matter".

Gagasi started out in 2006, experiencing rapid growth from the beginning. “We knew how to connect with our audience.” It is estimated today that Gagasi has over 1.4 million listeners. More than just radio, they have become a highly respected lifestyle brand, serving the needs of many significant KZN clients. “We speak like our audience,” says Minenhle, “and by sounding like them, our connection with them grows ever deeper. Gagasi mixes isiZulu and English. It’s just how we’ve grown up, with English coming from school, society and work”. If you are not an isiZulu speaker, the mix of English will quickly give you the gist of most on air conversations.

On the subject of what their listeners want to hear; “*We are continually guided by research into what they want and who they are. Our listeners are aspirational, they have dreams,*” continues Minenhle. Gagasi’s advertising department relies just as heavily on audience research as do their program producers. Minenhle describes it as a very efficient machine that drives Gagasi, with lots of great people working flat out behind the scenes. “*Our content is very specific to KZN with our social media platforms contributing to how we connect with our audience on multiple levels.*”

“Leyo yindleal enhle yokuxhumana”
(Thats a great way to connect)



WHY WE LISTEN



SCAN ME



Radio is the theater of the mind, and one medium that be consumed while doing other things (multi-tasking).

Gagasi's shows are hosted by some of the most knowledgeable presenters on the continent. As one puts it: **"You have to have a passion for music and know all there is to know in your field"**. The Top 30 Urban Chart on Saturday's from 10am to 1pm is a great way to kick off the weekend with local and international sounds blending beautifully together. Well known musicians phone in to engage in lively, relevant talk about music. Show host Njinga "The Icon" Mpanza recently opened a conversation with; **"It's a very special show namhlanje"** as he introduces music super star Mr JazziQ. **"How did you develop this golden ear for music?"** he asks. **"My family was big into music so it was around me all the time"** responds Mr JazziQ. And so the show went on with Njinga asking one greedy (for information) question after another and promoting Mr JazziQ's new album 'Party with the English'. Listen to Gagasi FM and your knowledge of music will grow exponentially.

"We take great pride in unearthing musical talent, and celebrating it" says Minenhle. "By growing talent, we grow the station. You don't have to be in KZN to enjoy Gagasi FM. Many people who have moved to other regions can still tune in via the Gagasi FM app. Each music track played on the station is selected by a panel. The range and quality of music is reflected in this approach and it is evident that they want you to 'feel'.

Some news broadcasts are in English and Gagasi is always on the ground reporting on events in KZN, including the recent floods of 2022. Their popularity and reach enables them to bring awareness to these events, which in turn directs assistance to where it is most needed. During lockdown, they ran podcast lessons for school kids.



*Singayenza
Kanjani
ibrand yakho
izwakale
ekzn?*

*How can we make your brand
resonate with KZN? Minenhle
Dlamini – MD Gagasi FM*



*"Yini enye ongayilindela kwiGagasi"
(what else would you expect from Gagasi FM)*

www.gagasiworld.co.za



STILL Shaking

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

The Lucky Shaker featured in the 2018 issue of The Chronicle, entitled “Could this be the best bar in SA?” Four years on and the Lucky Shaker still oozes warmth onto Park Drive, from 3:30pm to 10:30pm (1.30am on Fridays and Saturdays). We went to see if it was still as good as we said it was, and to find out how they survived the disruption to the liquor industry.



Upon entering, the bartender immediately made eye contact, simultaneously reaching for a bottle of filtered water and drinking glass. This was placed in front of me on a coaster. Your water is constantly topped up, “we don’t want you to get too out of it” says Bruce Dorfling who has been with the Lucky Shaker since it opened nearly 5 years ago. Someone is always watching to make sure you have everything you need.



Emerging a little shaken after lockdown, nothing seems to have changed at this establishment. The Lucky Shaker is one bar that is destined to succeed. “So how did you survive?” we blurted, while perusing the cocktail menu. The summer menu had some interesting new items – three took my fancy. I ordered them. One had a hint of parmesan cheese and the other the whiff of bacon. After our last visit in 2018, we had learned to pace ourselves to experience – and remember a cross section of the menu. It never works, once you get a taste of these fantastic cocktails, all reasoning departs.



BRUCE TOLD US THAT THEY CONTINUE TO INVENT THEIR OWN COCKTAILS, SERVING THEM IN THE SAME PROFESSIONAL MANNER AS THEY HAVE DONE FOR THE LAST 5 YEARS.

People come back for the same meticulous service standards. “We are doing nothing new” continues Bruce, “and we keep bringing out new creations”.

At the peak of Lockdown, they started an online cocktail making program which garnered much support from anyone lucky enough to stumble into their digital lab. “We simply did what we had to survive”. For the umpteenth time, I lifted my drink to take a sip and placed the glass down next to the provided coaster. The barman was at my elbow in a flash with a fresh coaster under my drink. By the way, it takes an average of 26 sips to finish a cocktail. Personally it was more like 14 on the first drink, 11 on the second and so on.

“Don’t you get tired of repeatedly replacing people’s coasters?” we ventured. Paul explained that providing coasters was very much part of the service. It also protects the bar. The invention of coasters can be traced back to 18th century Germany. These were the original beer mats and were used for all manner of drinks. One story goes that they had paper versions that were used to slide the cognac, brandy and wine around the dinner table when the staff went off duty.



FOR MORE INFORMATION Tel: +27 84 567 2565 | www.luckysaker.com



There are many things that make the Lucky Shaker still the best bar in South Africa. “If you pay attention” says Paul, “you will notice that there are usually two people involved in the preparation of your drinks order. It makes things go much faster, that’s why you never have to wait. This is teamwork at its best”. Venture into the food menu, whilst keeping an eye on what’s coming out of the kitchen and onto the tables. The food is fantastic and looks as good as the cocktails. Try anything and go from there. The fish tacos are sublime as are any of the burgers. That’s all we’ve tried so far.

On the wall is a new mural designed and painted by local artist Mandy Brockbank. “It sort of encompasses everything The Lucky Shaker stands for”, says Bruce, “Cross cultural influences, artistic license, style, uniqueness, enjoyment, celebration”.



– 21 YEARS OF GATEWAY SHOPPING CENTRE –



*A SWEET SUPER-REGIONAL:
From Sugar Cane to*

Shoppertainment Success

Turned 21 in September 2022, Old Mutual Properties' bold decision to build a super-regional mall in a field of sugarcane in 1998, pre-empted Umhlanga Ridge's boom. Now surrounded by burgeoning upmarket residential and commercial properties and upgraded access roads, Gateway is a world-class attraction, home to the best local and international brands and an unrivalled shopping experience.

CELEBRATING 21 YEARS

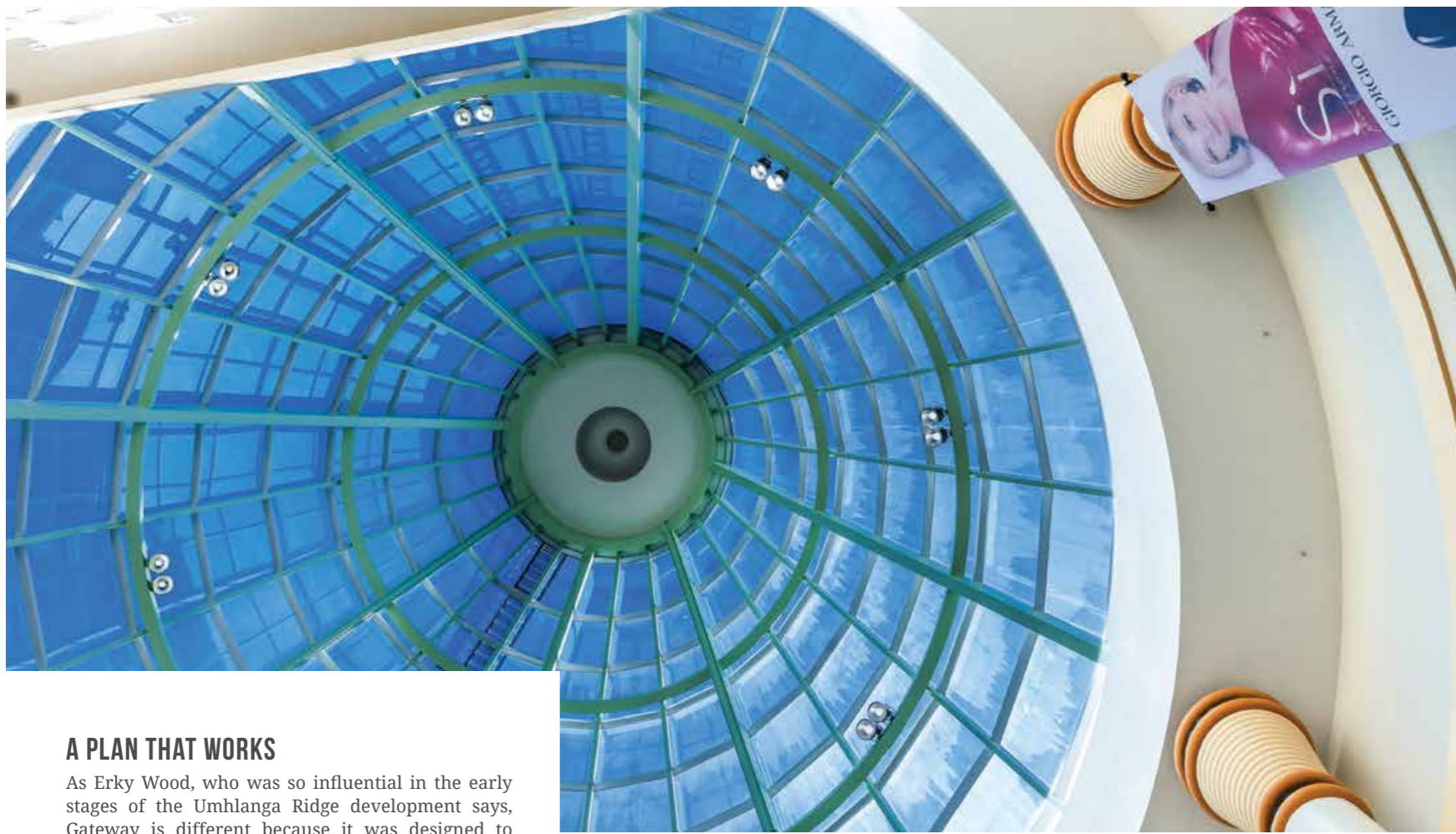


When Gateway Theatre of Shopping opened 21 years ago, it promised to be 'everything that you could want, more than you could imagine'. It was the largest mall in the southern hemisphere, with an initial 118 000m² footprint and an investment of around R1,4-billion. The flash new mall embodied a whole new concept of retail and how it integrated into the places and spaces around it.

As a retail concept, Old Mutual Properties' (OMP) Managing Director at the time, Ian Watt, championed the development of what was going to be far more than just a regular mall. With a staggering 40% of the space dedicated to entertainment, Gateway introduced 'shoppertainment' to South Africa. "In the late 90s, the landlords themselves were not investing in entertainment," says Gateway General Manager, Feysel

Potgieter. "There were cinemas and a few tenants adding to the entertainment mix, but no one was backing entertainment on this scale," he says. "When Gateway opened with the largest man-made stationary wave in the world, a skate park designed by the world's best, a fountain that danced and shot 16 metres into the air, it caused a sensation," he says.

Some naysayers predicted its rapid decline, others were dismayed, but it didn't take long before Gateway became the place to be! There were so many reasons to spend more time there. To bring the kids, it was somewhere you could spend the entire day, lose track of time and have fun. The relaxed, no-hurry vibe at Gateway is due in no small part to the way the building and precinct are designed.



A PLAN THAT WORKS

As Erky Wood, who was so influential in the early stages of the Umhlanga Ridge development says, Gateway is different because it was designed to 'crack open' onto Palm Boulevard. It was planned to integrate with the precinct and not be another 'isolated mall in a depressing sea of parking'.

As the 'anchor tenant' to the New Town Centre, OMP had no way of knowing whether this new urbanist project would succeed. The investment proved to be the catalyst for an accelerated boom on The Ridge. As Michael Deighton described it in a previous Chronicle piece: "Gateway, which has driven a uniquely urbanist concept that generates and attracts energy into an area, was always part of the originally conceived plan for uMhlanga New Town Centre but was developed with a fair measure of risk at the time."

GATEWAY TODAY

Gateway Theatre of shopping has taken on a life of its own over the past 21 years, establishing its prominence not only in KZN, but as a leader in the South African property space.

The two biggest expansions were completed, in 2008 and 2018. OMP invested R250-million in extensions to the South Mall in 2008, and the Gateway Hotel and Virgin Active node were developed ahead of the 2010 World Cup.

To increase capacity, the new Woolworths node was created in 2018 and the food court relocation included an outdoor area that floods the indoor space with natural light. The Palm Court entrance from the iconic Palm Boulevard was completely remodelled with the two-level Starbucks now acting as a focal point.

Investing approximately R700-million in this development project, Gateway's current retail footprint is over 175,000 m² and is the third largest mall in South Africa. Gateway attracts over 25 million visitors a year, which is over 2 million per month, and this swells to 3.2 million over the festive season.



Images by Rory Baker Photography

AN ENVIABLE TENANT MIX

Opening with just around 117 stores ready to do business, 52 of those original tenants are still trading today. The mall has attracted top international and local brands, making it a convenient one-stop destination for discerning shoppers who travel from around KwaZulu-Natal to access wider ranges, flagship offerings, niche brands and a world-class shopping experience.

International trends, and enviable brands make their way to Gateway as a priority. Fashionistas can shop at

Zara, Ted Baker, EA7, Armani Exchange and Versace Jeans to name a few. In fragrances and beauty, Skins Cosmetics, Dior, and ARC are on trend.

There's no reason to leave, with over 70 eateries at Gateway, ranging from fast food to sit-down restaurants indoors and out. Hosting international brands is a feather in Gateway management's cap. The facility has to pass stringent environmental scrutiny before it is given the green light.





GOING GREEN IS A PRIORITY

Even though Gateway's footprint has increased by over 50%, the mall has cut its energy consumption by 30% over the past 21 years. It's part of OMP's philosophy to aim for carbon-neutrality within the next 20 years. In pursuit of this goal, almost everything in the mall has been replaced or is in the process of being replaced/upgraded to incorporate latest technologies and efficiencies – from lighting to sanitaryware, escalators, lifts, and air conditioning chillers, every upgrade is an opportunity to implement something more intelligent and sustainable.

Operating on the scale of a small city, Gateway can trade through electricity and water disruptions. Solar panels and backup generators keep essential services functioning. Grey water is recycled for use in gardens and other non-potable applications and an emergency water supply is stored onsite. Plans are well underway to increase the facility's solar capacity significantly and to operate a black water recycling plant. With a zero-to-landfill target as its long-term goal,

Gateway works with its tenants to sort recyclable waste at source in a voluntary program. Food waste is managed on-site where up to five metric tonnes per month, are composted with woodchips to create fertiliser for the plants surrounding the precinct.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

An aesthetic upgrade of the Great Hall around Gateway's entrance axis as well as the two adjacent vaulted wings is due to get underway in mid-September 2022. Planned to be completed in two phases before and after the festive break, the remodel includes a glamorous triple-volume faceted glass façade around the main lifts.

"It's going to look magnificent," says General Manager, Feysel Potgieter. "Curved organic ceilings, geometric tiling, column cladding, sweeping lines and timber accents will give Gateway a fresh modern look." The second phase will focus on the adjacent wings and be completed in 2023.



21 YEARS OF GATEWAY SHOPPING CENTRE

FROM SHOES TO BAGS & LUGGAGE:

A Durban Retail Trail from Beatrice Street to Gateway Theatre of Shopping

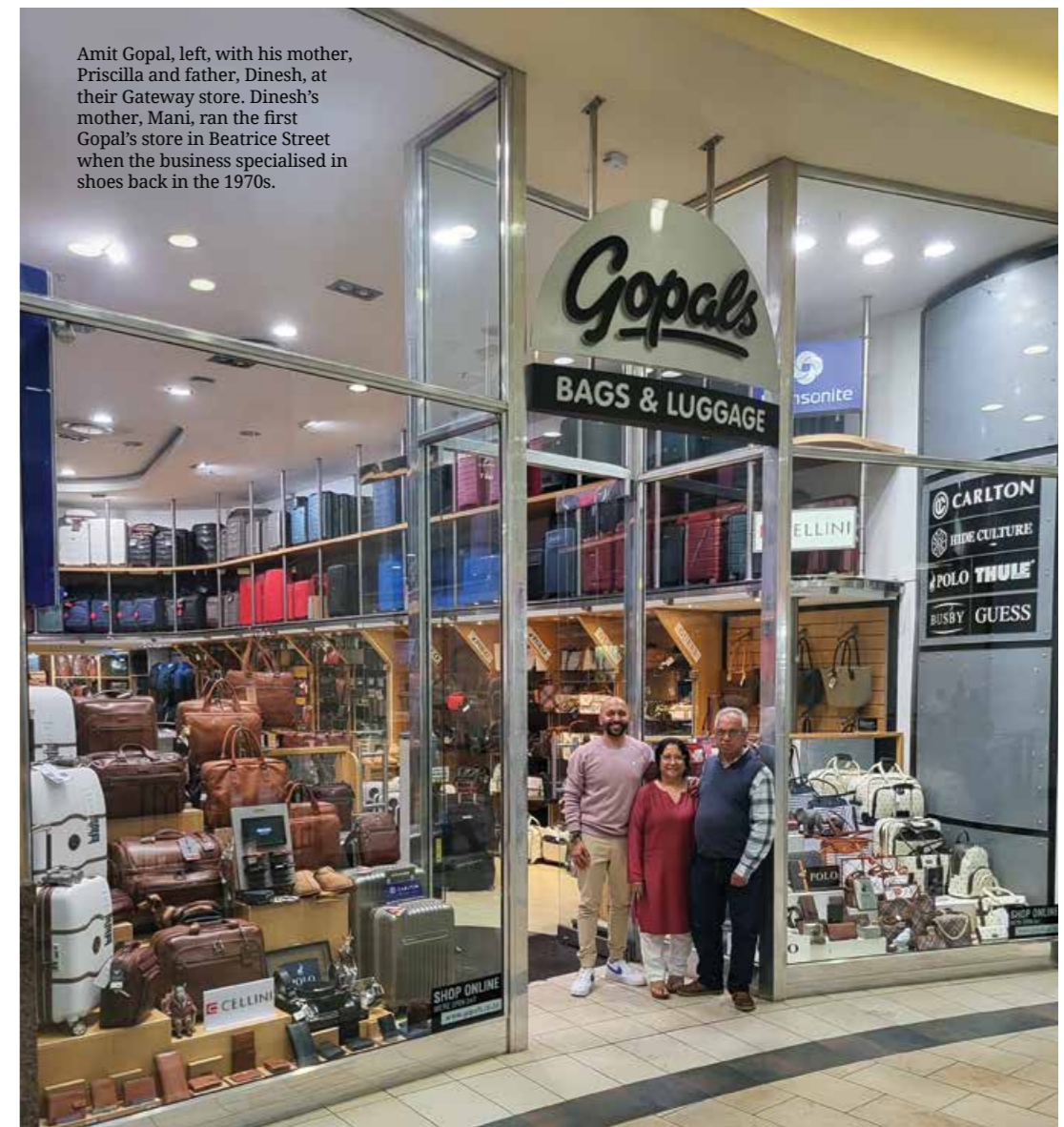
Starting with one shop near the bustling bus rank in Beatrice Street, Gopal's is well-known today as a premium luggage and handbag retailer located in four KwaZulu-Natal malls.



Knowing what customers want in a handbag, Priscilla Gopal assists a customer in the West Street (now Pixley ka Seme Street) store in the mid-1990s.



Durban's CBD was the focal point for shopping. With a store in West Street (now Pixley ka Seme Street), Gopal's was at the heart of it in the mid-1990s.



Amit Gopal, left, with his mother, Priscilla and father, Dinesh, at their Gateway store. Dinesh's mother, Mani, ran the first Gopal's store in Beatrice Street when the business specialised in shoes back in the 1970s.

Moving ahead of consumers' migration north, this family business opened its Gateway store in 2001, when the mall started trading. "It was tough at the time," says Amit Gopal whose parents built the business started by his grandmother, "The store was our biggest and it took a good 3 to 5 years for the mall to get established. My parents took a chance at the time, and it's been well worth it. In the Woolworths node, trading alongside international brands, interesting window displays catch discerning shoppers' attention.

"There's a sustained energy about Gateway," says Amit. A varied tenant mix, dining and entertainment attract shoppers. It's bright and airy, a nice place to meet.

LUGGAGE IS A PART OF THE PLAN

Good instore advice can save the stress of awkward luggage on planes, trains and metros, as well as packing and unpacking in small spaces. Gopal's staff are known for taking an interest in their customers' needs. Everyone buying luggage has a story," says Amit. "Whether they're going to visit their daughter in Australia, or to a wedding in India, their luggage becomes part of the plan. What they are taking and where they're going." That 81 cm hard shell spinner is great for a long hotel stay, but not ideal on a Tuk Tuk in Thailand. And popping two smaller duffels in a Fiat 500 could keep the romance alive in a couple's escape around France.

Gopal's staff will point out that bags with a middle zip are easier to pack and unpack but not practical in a tiny London apartment or cruise cabin.

MOVING TO WHERE CUSTOMERS SHOP

Initially stocking shoes, Gopal's diversified into handbags when they opened a second outlet in Victoria Street Market. Expanding to another store in West Street (now Pixley ka Seme Street), their first mall store opened in The Workshop in 1996. As shoppers moved out of the CBD to malls, so did Gopal's. "Familiar customers from the CBD were coming to the mall stores. They had moved and we'd moved with them," says Amit.

Trendy handbags, purses, wallets and business portfolios and accessories complete the range stocked. Amit's mother, Priscilla, keeps the handbag range on trend, knowing what local buyers want. Internal zips are a must-have here, but not a priority overseas.



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The Business Evolve 35 is a bundled package for businesses that have lower transaction volumes and it offers fixed-fee banking to support cashflow and budgeting needs; whereas the Business Evolve 60 package is more suited towards medium-sized businesses with higher transaction volumes.

And lastly, the Business Evolve 90 package is tailored for businesses with larger transaction volumes.

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“TO RAISE A NATURE-
BONDED CHILD IS TO RAISE
A REBEL, A DREAMER, AN
INNOVATOR... SOMEONE
WHO WILL WALK THEIR OWN
VERDANT, WINDING PATH.”

– Nicolette Sowde

LIVING LA vida natural

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

FWJK

DANIEL GARDNER OF FWJK

‘Reducing our impact on nature’ is the ethos that drives most eco lifestyle estates. Eco living evolves over time and one doesn’t glide in on a palm frond to take up an immediate position at the waterhole. Eco living begins with a promise of horned animals scratching a hind quarter on your washing pole and a home that is barely discernible through the tall grass, beneath the forest canopy.

When the boom goes down behind us, we breathe a sigh as we hand ourselves over to uniformed men and women who are tasked with our safety. The kids roam free and wildlife has been instructed not to cause any harm: No biting, kicking, stinging, scratching or charging, and please don’t get snagged on a fisherman’s hook – the discarded ones that dangle from low hanging branches. We will not be forgiven on the day that the resident fish eagle swings lifeless by the neck from a tree overlooking everyone’s favourite dam. It’s going to happen.

“Due to the overpopulation of red duiker, we are going to release a pair of leopards onto the estate until the numbers are at an acceptable level”. This went out on an estate Whatsapp group one April fools day. The resulting scenes were hilarious, especially with an estate speed limit of 40km p/h and kids fishing and cycling across a tract of land where the fence line is 8km long. Had we achieved higher levels of eco-ness, that prank should not have gotten by the gate guards.

On the same estate, on the 1st of April the following year, a resident purchased a 1.4m, 70kg African Catfish, proudly displaying it overhead at one of the fishing dams while a friend snapped the scene with a cellphone camera. This too was broadcast on the group. Hours later, the main dam clocked a record turnout of nonchalant fishermen and women of all ages who appeared to be taking advantage of particularly mild late summer weather. The joke was on us.

You qualify as an ecoist when you have stood still long enough, more than once, to let nature come to you. Monkeys are always going to pose

a challenge until you understand their role and responsibilities. The females of the troop are actually bound to the area by a bloodline which can be traced back hundreds of years. They physically cannot leave. The males of the species are free to come and go as they please. We had them all named, Bart was our favourite. He was more interested in toying with our cats’ tail than begging at the kitchen window with a starved look in his eyes – just like the others. Their wet fur smeared all over newly polished window glass. When they do breach the property, everything in sight is fair game, including junk food and medicine. There is a story about a troop of monkeys and a box of tranquillisers – we have to do much better than that. We are not the protected, but the protectors.

Zero tolerance to rule breaking is the only way to protect the eco environment, at least until knowledge and understanding prevail. People will still let their dogs foul the pathways when no one is looking and cigarette butts will find their way into the water system. Report them to the authorities. Eco estates are allowed to impose fines for all kinds of infringements: Speeding, excessive noise, unlawful disposal of garbage and unruly teenagers. The most valued estates in the future will be the ones that score high on the eco scale, not for the size of the houses or the most expensive cars in driveways.

When the day’s work has come to an end and the noise on your eco estate quiets down, you will realise that nature is already in your home. Windows and doors won’t keep it out, but do open them all to listen to the whole of it and you will never forget that you and nature are one.



Welcome to
– YORK SANCTUARY
PRIVATE ESTATE –
a new development by FWJK





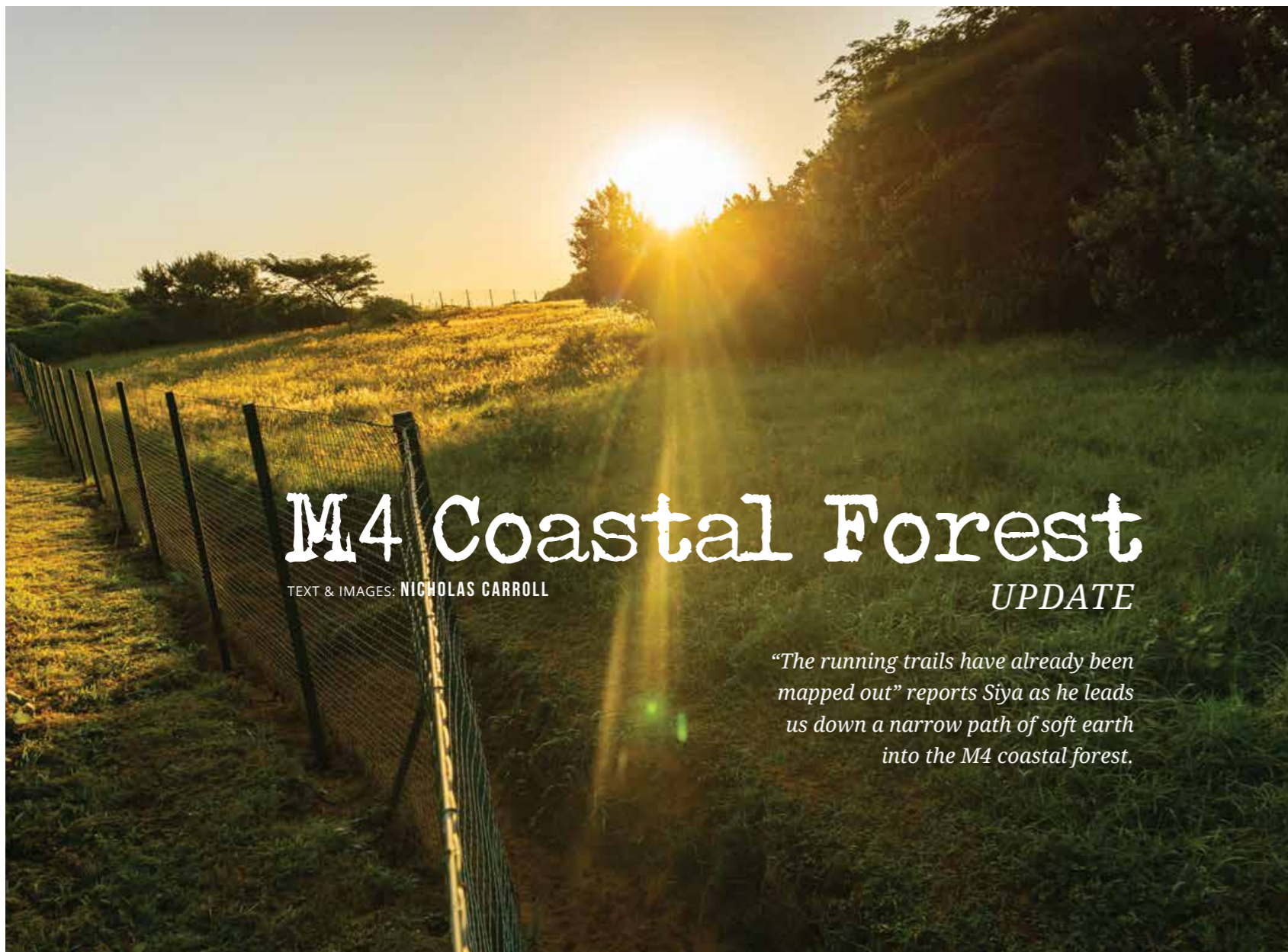
A simply stunning collection of residences centrally located in uMhlanga Ridgeside. Sanctuary Private Estate offers a luxury and vibrant urban lifestyle of 1, 2 and 3-bed apartments which flow between the built and natural environments with ease. York, nestled within Sanctuary Private Estate, is paradise park-side, an architectural masterpiece and the perfect place to secure a truly unique residence in one of Durban's most sought-after locations. Enjoy unique access to the adjoining greenbelt, including wildlife and recreational activities, such as trail running and fishing, right from your doorstep.

YORK
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YORK SANCTUARY PRIVATE ESTATE —





M4 Coastal Forest

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

UPDATE

“The running trails have already been mapped out” reports Siya as he leads us down a narrow path of soft earth into the M4 coastal forest.

A cool sea breeze wafts through the dense warm air, lightly fanning exposed skin as the early morning sun struggles to make an impression high up in the canopy. We began writing about this ancient forest remnant along the M4 coastal road about six years ago. Back then, the only way in was to lift and crawl under a heavy curtain of alien invasive species (AIS's). Today, the forest breathes much easier, liberated by a small band of dedicated men and women who have worked tirelessly to extricate the AIS's by hand. The difference is palpable and you can smell the air, laced with wood, soil and vegetation. Spending time in a forest is a healthy pastime, the Japanese call it shinrin-yoku - forest bathing” or “taking in the forest atmosphere”. They have made an industry out of spending time in the forest. It heals, rejuvenates and energises.

Siya Gumede is part of the landscaping team at Ridge Association Management. He hasn't stopped talking since we entered the forest, his outpouring of knowledge and information is impressive. In this wild camouflaged world we might perceive things as random and without pattern. This is Siya's domain, every leaf, tree trunk and track in the red earth tells a story different from yesterday. As if plugged into nature, he glides easily along the forest floor, describing how man and nature will co exist when they open the running trails. He would not look out of place here in a suit and tie.

The winter air above the canopy is still cool and it will be a few hours before the KZN coast reaches the usual level of discomfort, sending most scurrying back to air conditioned spaces. There is a lightness to this cool forest air that seems to permeate every organ. Our mood is high and Siya continues to explain. “Halfway through the day, the forest releases its air from the night before which rises up to warm the buildings on lower Ridgeside. This is especially noticeable in winter”.

Just ahead, Vuna, a member of the forest clearing team, had been slashing lightly at the ground in front of him with a panga since we entered the forest. We are not in any way challenged by tangled vines or low hanging branches. Why is he doing it? “He is activating the sleeping puff adders” offers Siya. “They will move away from the path so we don't step on them”. Our senses are miraculously heightened and we sink even further into this living and breathing world that has been here forever. Much has been written about the KZN coastal forest and it is hard to imagine a time where it was teeming with wildlife like hippo, leopard and buffalo. They were wiped out by the early settlers who found sport in shooting everything that moved. Mind you, the leopard had reportedly eaten all the settlers' domestic dogs. Not a good enough reason.

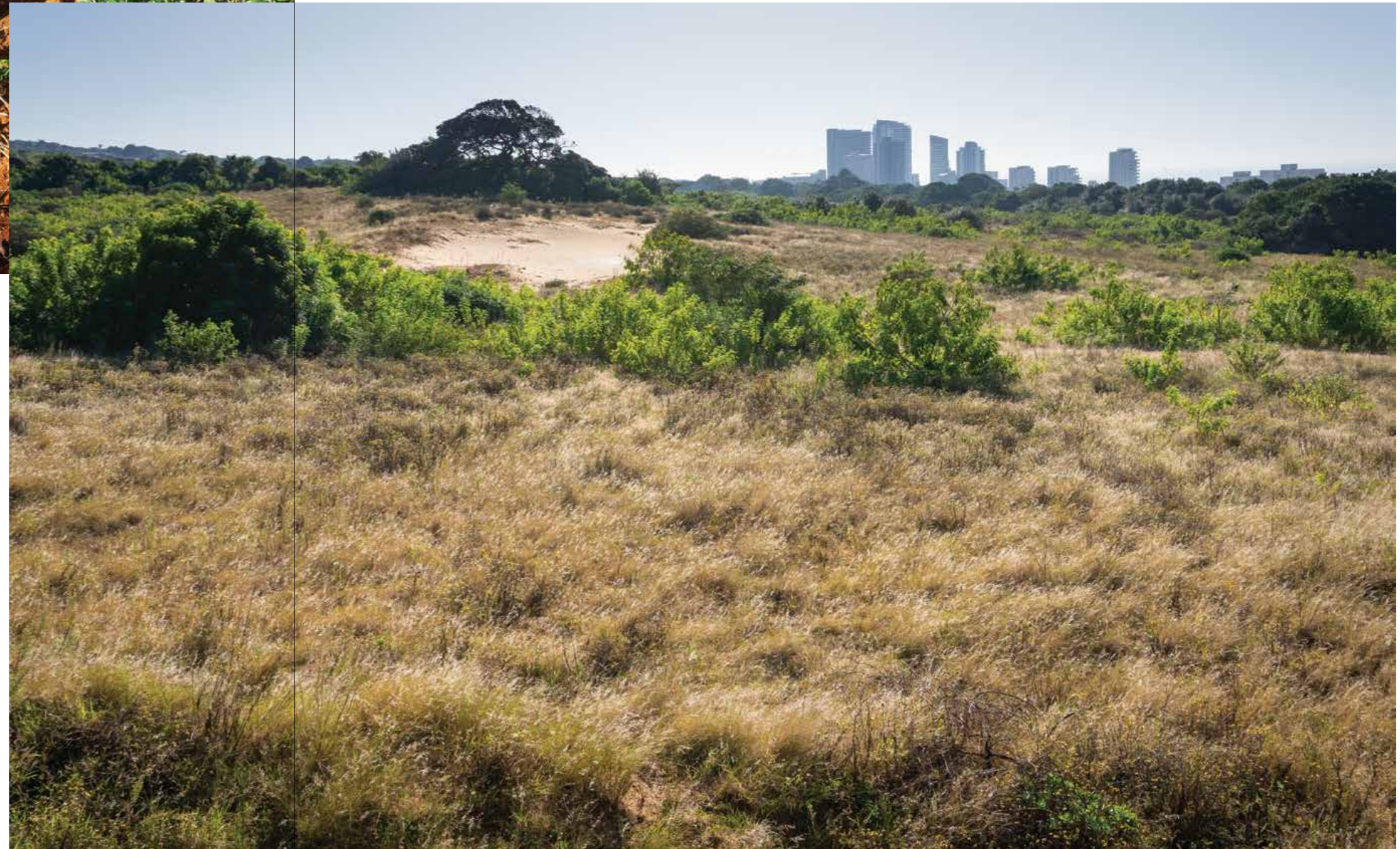


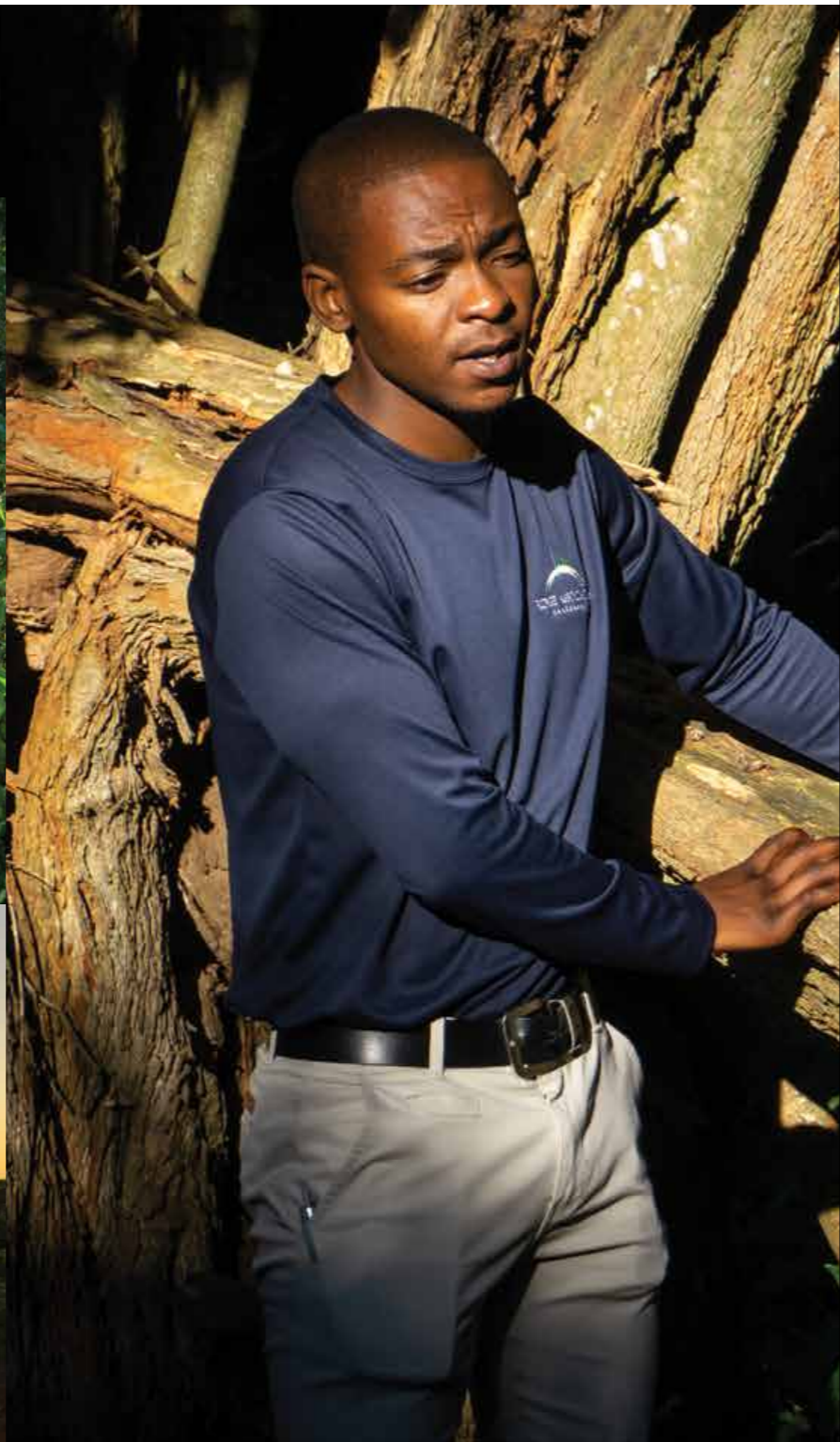
— M4 COASTAL FOREST UPDATE —



Back on the trail, we exit the forest and head towards the long arm of the Green T. (The Green T is the area of vegetation that stretches from the forest up to Umhlanga Rocks Drive). The cross of the T is made up of the forest which stretches from the M41 as it meets the M4 up to turnoff to Umhlanga Village. Siya waves an arm over an area of sand dune in the basin of the T. "Nothing grows here. We've tried planting all kinds of things, nothing takes. It is like a tiny inland desert".

Turning his back to the ocean and looking back up to Ridgeside, "there are plans for this area" he says, with another sweep of his arm, "right down to what stays and what goes. We are able to target very specific AIS's without harming the indigenous grasses and plants". He runs a hand over the soft grasses as if feeling their temperature, listening for clues in a delicate ecosystem that could have been lost forever, had we not recognised its value, preventing indiscriminate development.





ACCORDING TO RESEARCH, IT TAKES PRECISELY 120 MINUTES FOR THE BENEFITS OF BEING IN A FOREST OR NATURE TO KICK IN

Nature is not only nice to have, but it's a have-to-have for physical health and cognitive functioning. The reason we keep on writing about green spaces on The Ridge is because academia has finally woken up to the importance of nature in our lives with the research pointing to the fact that we cannot live without it. Prior to 2008, only a handful of reports existed on the health benefits of nature. Siya Gumede has the appearance and all the traits of a regular guy, but there is so much more to this young man who immerses himself in the natural world daily. We doubt he left a footprint as he glided along the forest paths as if he was responsible for every living thing in it.



Through their involvement in a number of significant projects, Anvil Commercial Property Smiths have created an ever widening ripple on Umhlanga Ridge. There are several commercial property companies servicing the area, Anvil does things differently and it shows.

Commercial property letting is a tough industry and to stay in front you need to work smarter and faster than anyone else. As one employee put it “The corporate culture is amazing and you truly feel like you’re part of a team. Be ready to work hard though, Anvil operates in a highly competitive industry so bringing your A game is essential”.

If you want to lease out your commercial property, or move into one, you need the professionals on your side; people who have had time in the market and are expert in every step of the process. We tried in vain

to find online complaints about Anvil – there simply aren’t any. There were, however, glowing testimonials from current and former staff. Everyone agrees that the pace of work is demanding, but in this climate, anything short of giving it your all will not produce satisfactory results.

Anvil moved into Umhlanga Ridge to be at ground level to take advantage of new developments. If a building is on the rise or ready for tenants, Anvil will be involved either through leasing, sales, property management or advisory services. They will even assist you with office fitment through their subsidiary – Iron.



“THE BEST INVESTMENT ON EARTH IS EARTH.”
– Louis Glickman,
American Business Executive



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“WEALTH IS THE TRANSFER OF MONEY FROM THE IMPATIENT TO THE PATIENT.”

– Warren Buffe

Regional manager for KZN, Tanis-Leigh Williams says “we are in the fast moving commercial rental business”. Anvil has harnessed the power of market intelligence and technology to stay at the forefront of the industry, offering clients individualised solutions that can meet their exact needs. The team at Anvil rigorously maintains a comprehensive database of national properties. In any business that connects people to products and services, an accurate database is an asset, and in some cases the greatest, after the company’s people. Managing and maintaining a database can be a tedious job, but staying on top of it will result in a valuable asset.

Anvil will reshape your commercial property decision making and open you up to new possibilities. It’s all in the minute details and in leveraging data analytics. Go onto their website and type in a few simple requirements like preferred location and office size, you will immediately be shown several high quality images and descriptions of properties that match your search. Tanis-Leigh explains that they demand high standards of photography from their agents, going so far as to offer training on how to make the perfect picture. Property photography is notoriously difficult as you don’t always have control over the most basic elements like angle and weather conditions.

Most professional photographers have the luxury of waiting for the right light and scouting different points of view when shooting buildings. Agents at Anvil don’t have that kind of time on their hands - the sooner a property can be listed, the sooner it can be rented out. That’s how you stay in front. Considering the obstacles, the agents at Anvil do a great job of capturing these properties.

There was an exodus of law firms from the city to Umhlanga about 10 years ago. “They want the best, with sea views,” says Tanis. Their database of properties includes new developments on Ridgeside with views looking out over the M4 coastal forest to the Indian Ocean – only the best. By leveraging the power of technology and market intelligence, Anvil can swiftly get to the core of clients requirements, enabling them to make smart property decisions every time.

There are only a handful of global property companies that use technology and data analytics in this way. It takes courage to commit to data and market intelligence. Anvil is the future of the property industry.



ANVIL IS DRIVEN BY THE VISION TO EMPOWER CLIENTS WITH PROPERTY MARKET INTELLIGENCE



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact Tanis-Leigh Williams at Anvil Umhlanga +27 (0) 87 057 1382 | www.anvilproperty.co.za



Their expertise has led CBL to expand into other crops like macadamias, bananas, apples and pears, with operations in other regions of South Africa, Mozambique, Eswathini and Zambia. Like any sensible business, they spread their risk by diversifying their crops and geographical locations. When there is a drought in one region, crops are flourishing in others. CBL has learned to work smart and adapt to changing conditions. It's not just weather and climate that can be unpredictable, the politics and market conditions of countries can affect them too.

Welcome to RIDGESIDE

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

There is nothing tastier and more refreshing than eating an apple picked straight off the tree. Your eyes will roll back in your head and you won't care how much juice splatters over your clothing as you fill your mouth with one of nature's healthiest fruits at the pinnacle of its ripeness. Nothing tastes better.



New Ridgeside residents, Crookes Brothers Ltd (CBL), grow some of the best fresh produce in Southern Africa, including apples and pears in the Western Cape. Their founders arrived on the shores of KZN during the 1850's and against all odds, built one of the most successful South African based agricultural companies. 'Against all odds' is not an exaggeration: they arrived on wooden sailing ships from Europe with a few trunks of belongings, a pioneering spirit and an assortment of skills. Some drowned at sea, others succumbed to diseases, known and unknown. But they prevailed where most would have given up and returned home. They had no choice, they had to make it work.

The vast sugarcane fields of the KZN south coast are the original home of Crookes Brothers Ltd. Here they brought up their families and worked tirelessly to perfect the art of growing sugarcane. Some of the original buildings remain as a testament to the extraordinary bravery and determination of these early pioneers. The quality of sugarcane on the Crookes Brothers plantations everywhere can be attributed to making sure things are done the right way. They have the benefit of 160 years of experience.





AS THE POPULATION OF THE WORLD CONTINUES TO GROW AND MORE AND MORE FOOD IS NEEDED, COMPANIES LIKE CBL PLAY A KEY ROLE IN OUR FOOD SECURITY.

Teaching others to grow their own food is an integral part of their plan. As they grow their people, their people in turn grow food. CBL's modern farms around southern Africa utilise cutting edge technology to maximise crop yield and quality. Some of their produce is exported – you will find their delicious apples in most Tesco supermarkets in the UK. Locally produced bananas head for our Woolies stores. As you know, Woolies do not compromise on quality, ever.

Doing things the right way is essential if the agricultural sector is going to lead the way in creating a sustainable future for everyone. Crookes Brothers Limited are able to maximise crop yield while preserving precious water resources with innovations like the 'drip system'. This method of irrigation sends just the right amount of water and nutrients to the roots of each plant, at the right time, saving billions of litres. The drip system was invented in the 1950's by accident when a small leak in an irrigation pipe allowed a plant nearby to flourish, with just a few drops of water moistening the soil around the roots and nowhere else.

Some of their farms have been fitted with solar arrays, allowing them to generate their own power for some of their vast operations. Highly innovative and modern farming methods adopted by CBL ensure they remain at the forefront of their industry. The pioneering spirit of their founders lingers in their DNA, a legacy which has caused a surge in the number of young people seeking careers with CBL and the sector in general. Agriculture addresses all of our most current and urgent needs from food security to sustainable practices. There is strong evidence to suggest that this urgency will be adopted by the fast emerging, new generation of young farmers, some of whom will hopefully be imprinted with CBL's knowledge and experience.





**CBL ACHIEVED
100% CONFORMITY
IN 2022 FOR THEIR
DECIDUOUS FRUIT
FARMS IN THE
WESTERN CAPE**



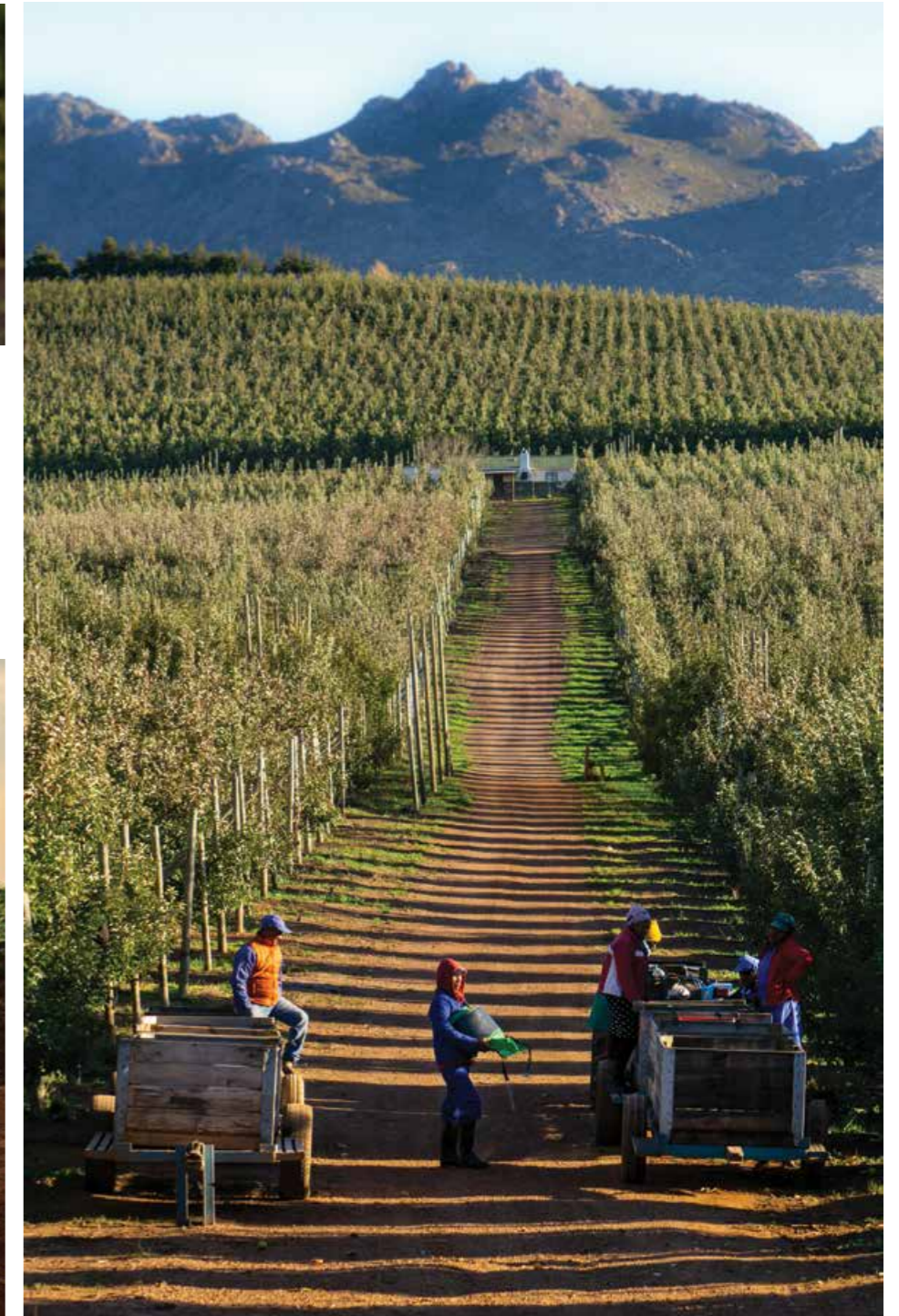
Over half of all CBL's agricultural projects are operated through joint ventures with the local communities. Not only do these communities benefit from rentals, dividends and employment, they are also uplifted through skills development and education. In addition, they run several learnership programmes. At Khulisane in KZN, an organisation supported by CBL, they teach disadvantaged young people the business of farming. Through the program, many of them have started their own small scale farms to benefit their communities, while others have been employed at Crookes Brothers. Teaching people to grow their own food is the first step in alleviating poverty.

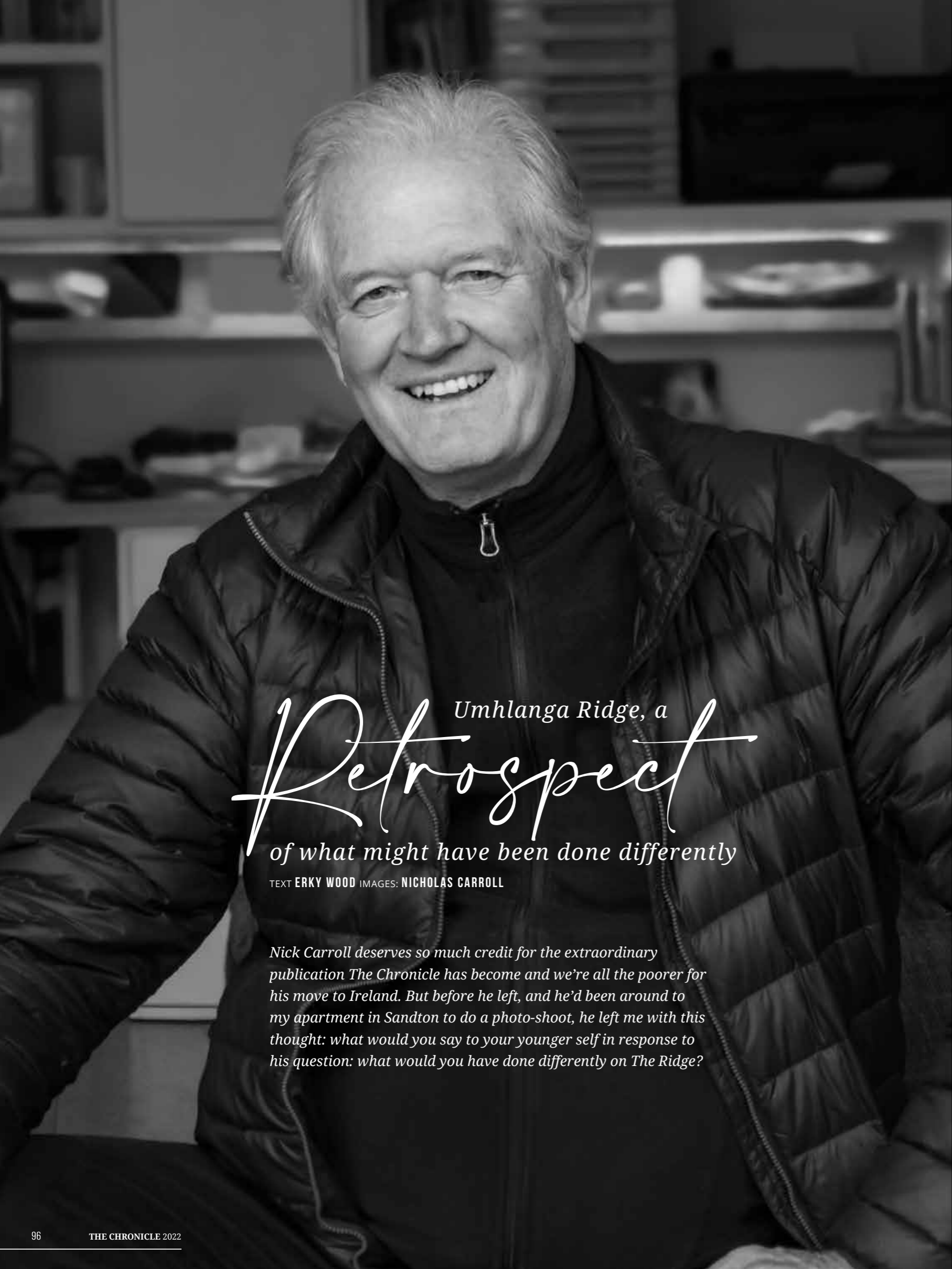


Acting with integrity in the pursuit of excellence will earn farmers 100% conformity in a much coveted Global G.A.P. accreditation. Global G.A.P. is the international standard for farm management practices. CBL achieved 100% conformity in 2022 for their deciduous fruit farms in the Western Cape. The accreditation places great emphasis on four categories: Women in Agriculture; Agricultural impact (monitoring and evaluation of water and biodiversity); Capacity Building on smaller farms and Innovation for Sustainability.



The weight of responsibility for companies like CBL is enormous as they navigate through uncertain climatic conditions and a global expectation to continue providing food security, simultaneously reducing the impact on natural resources. It's a massive task, but with over 160 years of experience and an unwavering determination to be the best farmers they can, CBL are the ones to watch. *Welcome to Ridgeside!*





Umhlanga Ridge, a
Retrospect
of what might have been done differently

TEXT ERKY WOOD IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

Nick Carroll deserves so much credit for the extraordinary publication The Chronicle has become and we're all the poorer for his move to Ireland. But before he left, and he'd been around to my apartment in Sandton to do a photo-shoot, he left me with this thought: what would you say to your younger self in response to his question: what would you have done differently on The Ridge?

And that's quite a daunting question: there are always so many things we would do differently, with the benefit of hindsight. And one's mind quickly goes to those things I've had so far as negative feedback: I guess I'd have been less concerned with my determination to define the street as an intimate, narrow space and allowed for more generous sidewalks; I wish we'd started on the premise of a cycle-friendly town with cycle lanes (even though that wasn't really on the agenda at that time when starting out); yes, I would have made the kerbside parking bays longer to allow for easier parking between the trees (as opposed to removing the trees, which would never do); as much as we escaped the strictures of traffic-oriented planning dominance, before becoming subject to the eThekweni Transport Authority (ETA), we were still obliged to be too traffic-first in our thinking rather than people first; etc.

But, you'd have to say, these are pretty facile takes on what is, after all, the really BIG enterprise of designing cities. So I've left Nick's question on the back-burner for some time so I can be more circumspect and, now, with publication deadline looming, here goes, and, quite naturally, it involves a much wider soul-search.

I'm reminded of that time when, before becoming a rehabilitated workaholic (when I found myself sneaking into my study at 3 o'clock in the small hours of a Jo'burg winter morning, not because I needed to meet a deadline but because I needed the hit of having done some work), the pop-psychology of the day was the saying: no one, on their death-bed ever said "I wish I'd spent more time at the office". To which I'd retort as follows: "Firstly, I'm seriously angry to be on my death bed at all but, secondly, although I don't wish I'd spent more time at the office away from my family and a more socially balanced life, I so wish I could have managed to get more very special projects I'd fallen in love with to see the light of day: there's a lot more I would have wanted to get done."

Maybe this somehow comes from a time when I was going through the iconic social housing work that

the celebrated Dutch architect Michel de Klerk had done in Amsterdam: he was part of the so-called 'Amsterdam School' of socially-focused architects that was pivotal in the whole Dutch social housing programme, in the 1920's and beyond, that so changed the housing landscape for lower-income people worldwide. His work is truly amazing and the attention to detail, and the making of frescos in the brickwork, just spoke of something that needed hundreds of hours of painstaking and blood-draining thought and work. How was this possible, thought I (at that time probably in my late forties and wondering why I couldn't possibly have achieved this stunning contribution to a life's work) and then comforting myself in thinking that he'd probably spent his whole life doing only this sort of work in those days before the awful 'time-is-money' revolution took place. It was, after all, in his day, before television and what else did he have to do with his long days into his dotage anyway? So it was with great surprise and belittlement, in reading up on de Klerk after I'd seen this amazing repertoire of an extraordinary, time-consuming, life's work, to find that he'd died at the age of 39...

I WISH WE'D STARTED ON THE PREMISE OF A CYCLE-FRIENDLY TOWN WITH CYCLE LANES AND ALLOWED FOR MORE GENEROUS SIDEWALKS

I'm on record in several articles and talks now as saying that, although I regard, for the moment, my work on The Ridge as 'my life's work to date', I certainly hope to achieve more than this in the 40 or so summers hopefully left to me (that is, assuming full retirement at 110 or so). And calling to mind de Klerk's achievements in such a short life, I should and am really getting ahead with several really fascinating big-scale projects both in South Africa and Ghana: these include the Westown development at Shongweni with Tongaat Hulett and Fundamentum; Omne City south-east of Pretoria city centre with Guy Gordon of Concept Property Solutions; the so-called Lanseria Smart City for the Presidency and the Gauteng Premier's Office; and a 'smart village' re-imagined for Akosombo in Ghana based on the Volta River Authority's hydro-electric scheme at the Dam wall of Lake Volta done in the early 1960s. I remain humbled and honoured to be in these arenas.

And, in this regard, I would be very quick to say to my younger self, in extolling the importance of not throwing away or overlooking experience, that working across a broad array of projects, there is a fundamental need and responsibility to sense how to adapt experience to each and every project focused on what is contextually appropriate at any given time and place. Although fundamental principles and guidelines apply, nothing can replace the value of going back deeply to first principles in each case (often at risk of that 'near-death' experience of complete and utter confusion) so as to come on an authentic, appropriate response rather than trying to redefine a "problem" so as to match some pre-determined "solution" which sadly, happens all too often.

So there are certainly lessons to learn from our work on The Ridge and the Umhlanga Ridge Town Centre in particular as noted in the opening couple of paragraphs above and of course there are many things we still have to finish off in the Parkside precinct of the Town Centre and now (being lucky and privileged enough to be working with Monica Albonico) in Ridgeside. Some of the lessons are possibly now not easy to retro-fit to The Ridge itself (one thinks mostly of how much more needs to be done for the 'people-first' approach to design around safer, more convenient, more direct facilities for pedestrians, bicycles and e-cycling systems).¹

Other things certainly are able to be pursued more vigorously with the Ridge Management Associations (who, under the management of Malcolm St Clair and Colleen Harborth, have already gone so far beyond simply administering a town to enriching it with layers of added value in the form of social amenity and events facilitation). It is these layers of accretion that will ultimately give the Town Centre the patina of maturity and a coming-of-age: a properly curated and managed open-air market in Palm Boulevard that works in synergy with Gateway and broadens the social and economic inclusion of its profile; a specialist art, antiques and book market in Campanile Court; street performance and artist-in-the-sun along the median walkway embedded within Centenary Boulevard; a more diverse and more frequent staging of events in the Chris Saunders Park.

It will, I think, be on this basis that one of the most profound re-discoveries in the Town Centre's design will come to the fore: rather than a powerful set of miscellaneous market forces simply intersecting haphazardly to produce what is largely an unplanned 'exclusive club' bereft of a real 'public environment' (which is how I think of Sandton), the whole armature around which the Umhlanga Ridge Town Centre evolves, grows and consolidates is indeed its public environment – the lanes, streets, avenues, boulevards, circles, urban spaces, squares and parks, all providing the platform for building response and a place for its nascent citizenry to imbue and endow with meaning, significance, social and cultural cross-over.

¹There's a truism that goes around inner-city transit conferences: there are only two kinds of city-mayors around the world: those that *have* a shared e-bike system in place and those that *wish they had* a shared e-bike system in place.

This should and will be the arena where the public environment transcends its basic function of city-building to become the stage on which the city-users become the joyful players – a place where fun, exuberance, street art, street performance and, above all, urban dignity is bestowed on them by virtue of them being a meaningful part of it. And, who knows, I just may still be able to wheedle budget from whomsoever to finally construct, as far as I know, the only stand-inside kaleidoscope in the world to top off the Campanile in Campanile Court.

Those who know the Campanile know its spiral staircase at present only goes up one level: it is designed, however, to rise all the way through the tower, past the bell, into the lantern section at the top. En route, it would go through a vertical, free gallery for art students who could display their art on cables tensioned into the volume simply with a contact number: interested would-be purchasers would then be able to make direct contact with the artist and negotiate the sale without gallery fees.



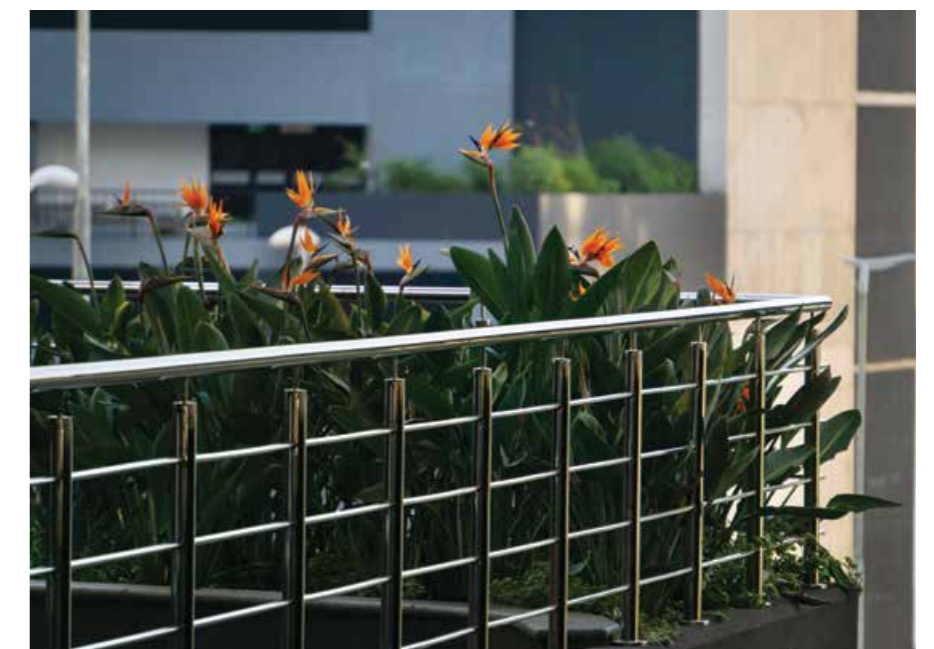
But wait! There's more! Having got to the upper lantern zone, the visitor would be standing entirely within a giant kaleidoscope (a kaleidoscope being probably one of the few human-designed things that, to all intents and purposes, delivers an infinite set of images without possibility of duplication): standing within this volume, one would, in effect, be part of a holistic collage of imagery derived from three outer-discs above the kaleidoscope that are turned by wind power and geared to turn counter to one another at variable speeds; the first disc is a colour filter, another a pattern filter and the third is an opacity filter and these collectively interact to create an infinite array of discrete, truly individual images, each there briefly, only once and never to be seen again. We'll of course need to figure out a night-time light source that renders it endlessly usable 24/7. This seems to me to a project worth getting up for in the morning or failing to go to bed the night before.

And then there's the perennial issue of *pissoirs* (or lack thereof) that I'd love to design and dot throughout The Ridge urban fabric as a most elegant and necessary social facility. The *Pissoir* in French (public urinal) or *plaskrul* in Dutch (literally, a pee curl) was, and still is,



a common, simple and free sanitation facility in Paris and Amsterdam (although the more modern public toilet installations are now more gender- and disabled-friendly, but generally coin operated and, so, less often free). Surely, in a South African city context, where so many people have inadequate sanitation 'at home' and by far the majority of public toilets are in semi-public places, largely inaccessible for many, such as shopping centres and restaurants or offices, the installation of free *pissoirs* should be a default public installation in any urban environment, let alone one of the stature of The Ridge. Perhaps Nick Carroll should, on his travels, do an article on this and pioneer a groundswell of demand for them on The Ridge.

But from the little to the big: possibly the biggest urban revolution I will witness in my life time will be waterless sewer reticulation in urban areas and mitigation of the extraordinary environmental damage and wasteful water usage of present systems (noting water – or lack thereof – to be the predominant scarcity in urban agglomeration the world over, not just in arid areas). It is, in orders of magnitude, true to say that if I knew



then what I know now, it would have been possible to design the Umhlanga Ridge Town Centre without a reticulated sewer system at all, let alone a reticulation system based on wasteful use of water and further reliance on expensive, environmentally degrading regional sewer works. This is too vast a subject (not to mention, offensive to the squeamish), to go into here but, suffice it to say, we are on the cusp of less of a technological revolution as rather a thought-paradigm shift that will make it possible to do things like the town centre in marvellously better environmentally, sustainable ways and making urban living so much more affordable from a services point of view. In all of this, I see no reason, going forward, why this shouldn't be easy to achieve as a retro-fit to the Town Centre, particularly in the face of effluent challenges that drive the headlines that festoon our newspapers daily.

Far more important, and sadder than the lack of *pissoirs*, is the need for GBV (gender-based violence) 'hubs' or installations as a whole new addition to city amenities; and by this I don't just mean a clip-on, 'sensitised' SAPS unit at the local police station; there seems to me, literally, to be a need for complete 'hubs' in our parks and street-corner cafés that are professionally staffed 24/7 within a 2 to 5 minute walk covering the entire Ridge area. These would be safe havens in fleeing threat, reporting abuse and violence, being able to be tested thoroughly, counselled and being set on a track of appropriate legal recourse. The security/ablution/pump house facility in Chris Saunders Park would be an obvious opportunity; the children's park on Centenary Boulevard and the 'savannah' parks in Parkside, together with an all-night installation clipped onto Gateway, would provide an important initial coverage for this most distressing of societal need. Clearly this cannot be funded by an overstretched city, provincial or police fiscus and The Ridge would be a pilot scheme for corporate involvement and sponsorship (and potentially administered by the Ridge Management Associations).

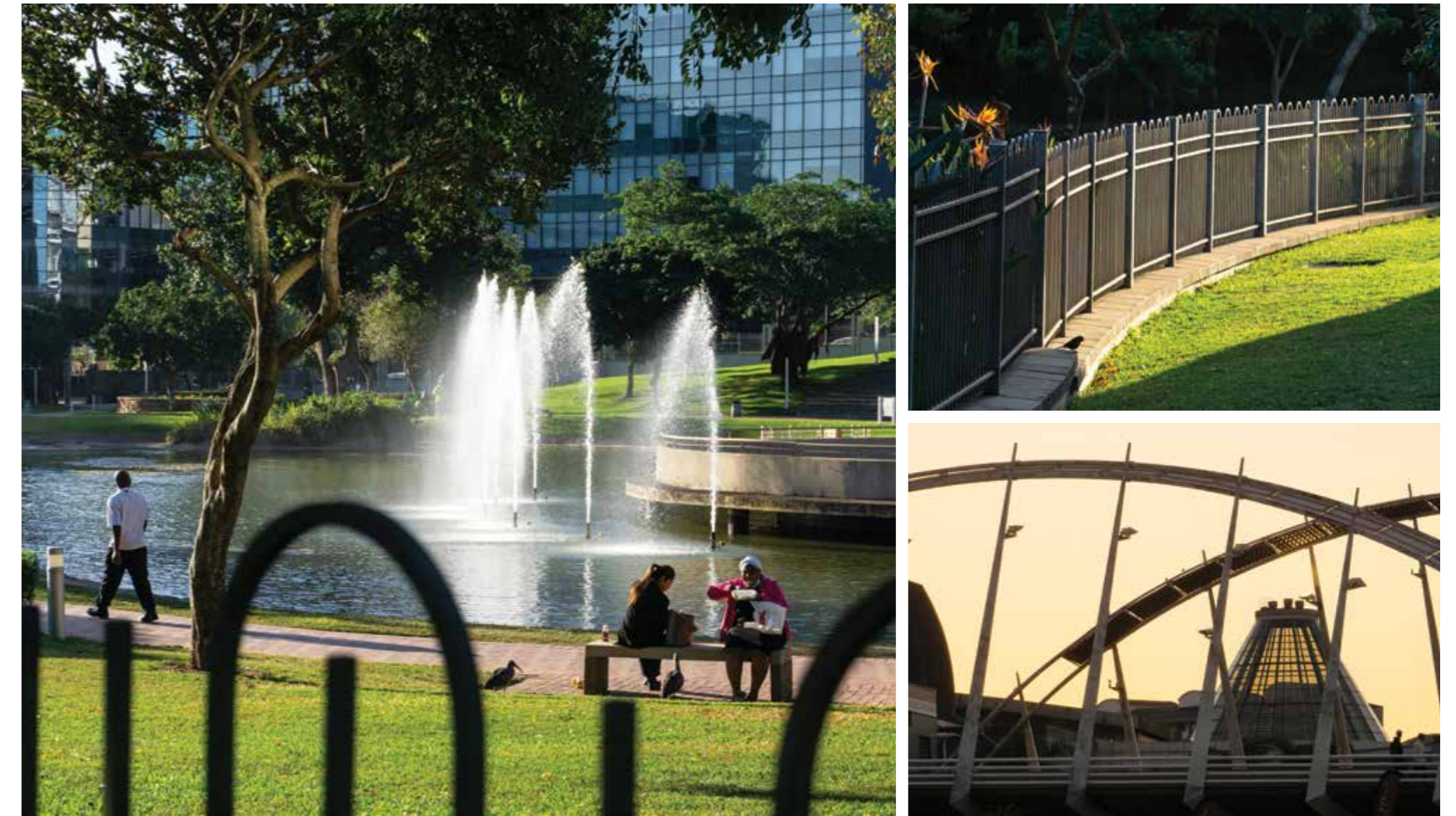




But if my younger self was to ask me what leaves me with the biggest disappointment so far with my involvement with the Umhlanga Ridge Town Centre, I'd have to respond as follows:

Firstly, how I wish that the city authorities would embrace the real contribution and value The Ridge makes to the wider metropolitan area (and by this I don't mean the rates contribution to the entire metropolitan fiscus – although this, too, at approaching 10% of the entire city rates base, is not without importance) through the Town Centre's re-discovery of the principles of city-building and the care and nurture of community in human habitat. Inherited as it was from the previous, much smaller North Local Council jurisdiction, there has always, for me, been a nagging sense from the metropolitan

authorities that: (a) it's some kind of inherited aberration (a 'child of a lesser god'); (b) it's not based on the "norms and standards" that the metro system would have placed on it; (c) it's a kind of "island of exclusive privilege" (notwithstanding that every road is public and handed over to Council); and (d) the 'car-first' planning paradigm, that the Town Centre's planning largely escaped, should have applied. In essence, there seems to be a grudging acceptance of what is actually an extraordinarily successful node of urbanism rather than a determined embrace of this and trying to see, more appropriately, how to replicate this success. Instead, as things stand, it would be hard to design another town centre under 'ruling' city-official mindsets (which is what, in my view, Monica found in Ridgeside).





The car-first planning paradigm is, of course, the basis of my second disappointment. How I wish the traffic engineering fraternity would see the Town Centre for what it is and accept that, in urban nodes of high-intensity mixed-use human habitat, mobility refers more to accessibility to opportunity and the growth of urban prospect for all (what cities really do) and not just to pander to those who own cars (and those who are obliged to unnecessarily scrimp and save to own a car so that they can access the present dysfunctional urban systems that keep the majority out and perpetuate inequality). The stark urban disparities between Umhlanga Ridge Town Centre and, right across the road at Ridgeside (and further north at Sibaya), show nothing if not the kind of successful urbanism we are capable of creating if we don't allow any single discipline to optimise just one aspect at the expense of the myriad, more complex set of semi-lattice like relationships that define urban complexity. Dave Dewar and Roelof Uytendogaard's maxim "in optimising nothing, we optimise everything" applies: instead we continue to optimise one thing and compromise others. Road engineers should only be allowed to fundamentally pre-design the city once they demonstrate that they also did three years of urban sociology, three years of urban economics and three years of urban geography. Of course, traffic movement and circulation is an important aspect of urbanism, but it's just one of many: it cannot be allowed a disproportionate importance as a tail that wags a very big dog; and it certainly cannot only consider vehicular traffic as the prime focus of work rather than all mobility in its entirety, including pedestrians, cyclists and animals. Sadly, this debate doesn't arise and my abiding sense is that whatever now happens on The Ridge happens in spite of, rather than because of planning.

However, the real hindsight, I think, that I'd be leaving in response to my younger self are the indulgences that inevitably come with age and, dare I say, experience born of life lessons. Two things happened over the last two weeks that come from polar opposite places to intersect in an important personal insight for me:

The first was sitting, as one does on trips such as my most recent to Ghana with a team that is entirely new to me and spending every long day in each others' space with an intensity 'just this side of intimacy' (as Leonard Cohen would have said), finding each other and the values and principles that define and drive us and having those important conversations around just what, exactly, are we doing and the meaning of it all in a wider context. And it seems that what

distilled out of that, this time, was for me the sense that, if we just put enough energy and consciousness into what we do, somehow, possibly, just possibly, we imbue a vibration of conscious place-making that resonates forever. In effect, we make the shell of place that drives attachment to the earth (and, by extension, the planet) for generations to come: and those meanings will be theirs, not ours; that significance will be theirs, not ours; and the opportunities that emerge will be as rich, as diverse and as unintended and open-ended in growth possibilities as we'd always hoped but could never even imagine.

The second is far more profound. Those close to me (the family of GAPP Architects & Urban Designers that I retired from just over a year ago) just lost Sanjay Bhowandas, a wonderful colleague and friend who worked at GAPP for 16 years with a beautiful spirit, energy, humour and peace before being tragically killed in a motorbike accident. Inevitably, this gave pause for very deep introspection on meaning: do we, on departing, simply leave a brief ripple on the surface as we withdraw our hand from this bucket of water before it becomes still again, with no memory of us ever having participated? I think not, because of what happened in Ghana: Sanjay left a vast amount of himself in that bucket and we demean ourselves and our purpose to conceive it as nothing more than a bucket of water. It may well be a bucket of water but it is a bucket that is continuously close to overflowing by virtue of the very volumes our contributions take up before we release them, leaving them there, before withdrawing our hands.

And so, at the risk of becoming maudlin and, worse, cheesy, it seems to me terribly important to go back to those words from the 1969 film *Goodbye Mr Chips*:

IN THE EVENING OF MY LIFE I SHALL LOOK TO THE SUNSET... AND THE QUESTION I SHALL ASK ONLY I CAN ANSWER: WAS I BRAVE AND STRONG AND TRUE — AND DID I FILL THE WORLD WITH LOVE MY WHOLE LIFE THROUGH?

— RIGHT ON OUR DOORSTEP —

the LITTERBOOM PROJECT

TEXT NICHOLAS CARROLL IMAGES SUPPLIED

Over 90% of all the plastic in our oceans comes from river systems. It enters via stormwater drains, rubbish in close proximity to rivers and direct dumping - with all hell breaking loose at times of flooding.

HUNDREDS OF SEABIRDS WERE RECENTLY FOUND STARVED TO DEATH BECAUSE THEIR STOMACHS WERE FILLED WITH PLASTIC SEGMENTS. IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR AN INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT, THE LITTERBOOM PROJECT SHOULD TICK SOME PRETTY BIG BOXES AND COULD SET OFF A TREND AROUND THE COUNTRY.

There are many global initiatives underway to collect the plastic that is already in our oceans. If we take action now, ramping up the effort to stop it from entering via rivers, we stand a chance of reversing what is already an eco disaster of epic proportions. We may not be able to reverse global warming as easily, but we can definitely minimise the flow of plastic into the oceans. One less thing to fix. If we do not intervene now, by 2050, the weight of ocean plastic will be greater than the weight of all the fish in it. We need all hands on deck.

If you are looking for an initiative to support, The Litterboom Project (TLP) should tick some pretty big boxes and spark a trend that could travel around the entire world. Your assistance will increase the scale and effectiveness of the project by enabling them to employ more people who in turn can collect more river borne plastic through the deployment of more Litterbooms. We can do this.

The Litterboom Project was initiated in 2017 by people who are passionate about clearing up ocean plastic. Active in 10 rivers around South Africa including six in KZN, TLP has collected and prevented over 300 tons of plastic from entering the ocean in the last 18 months alone. Every bit of assistance allows them to employ and train more people. Projects like these are going to get bigger as the alarm around the issue of plastic cleanup becomes ever louder.

TLP's physical solution is simple: A large pipe is anchored across a river which catches all surface plastics. These pipes are placed strategically where they can collect the most litter possible. A team from TLP then collects, sorts and sends plastics off for recycling. Whilst this solution is constantly evolving, remarkable strides have already been made in improving the quality of river water and the amount of plastic being pushed into the ocean.

During the KZN storms and subsequent flooding in April 2022, the amount of plastic blocking the Umhlanga River was estimated at 3m deep, extending 70m upstream. This equated to hundreds and thousands of kg's of plastic pollution. LBP sent out appeals via social media, raising R200 000 from local and international contributors, allowing many more people to be employed and resources to be acquired.

Plastic pollution begins on land. TLP has a team of wastepreneurs from our neighbouring communities of Waterloo and Blackburn who are being trained to establish community based SME's that look at creating products from plastic to sell to within the community and beyond. These wastepreneurs, equipped with new skills, will be guided by TLP to establish off-take arrangements with local companies to be able to succeed in this emerging, decentralised business space. The contribution of the informal economy is not underestimated and by nature, is in a position to encourage a culture of 'NO LITTERING'. TLP is confident that these wastepreneurs, alongside community based reclaimers, will become a vital component in the retention, compensation and beneficiation of plastic that is drastically increasing in communities along the Umhlanga River. The Ridge Association Management landscaping division is sponsoring the training of the Waterloo team, allowing TLP to intensify efforts further inland. RAM's CSI program sponsor two river wardens on the Ohlanga River. Watch this space.

If you are caught producing, selling, or even using plastic bags in Nigeria, you risk imprisonment of up to four years or fines equivalent to R650,000!



NO BUTTS

Here's one that mankind got wrong: The most littered item in the world are cigarette butts. Made from cellulose acetate (plastic) which remains the polymer of choice today. The filters contain microplastics which never really degrade and can linger for thousands of years. Microplastics are tiny particles designed for commercial use in things like cosmetics, clothing and cigarette butts. About 4.5 trillion butts end up in the environment every year and as we have never pointed to the butt as an item of litter, people continue to discard them out of car windows and onto the ground at their feet. It may be too late to save us from butts. A possible solution is to eliminate cigarette filters altogether. And E Cigarettes are not the answer either as they are largely made of plastic too.



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Contact Cameron Service +27 (0)78 238 7313
cam@thelitterboomproject.com
www.thelitterboomproject.com

We can definitely do this. The sheer volume of plastic pollution may be overwhelming, but the Litterboom Project has shown what can be done very quickly, with scant resources to avert disaster. We have to remind ourselves of our own contribution in minimising ocean pollution from Umhlanga Ridge. The first task of the landscaping team who attend to all our green spaces is to collect litter which prevents it from entering the stormwater system. The unique design of our network of stormwater drains enables us to catch the storm water in several reservoirs on The Ridge, which in turn is used for irrigation purposes. We are not water users in the strictest sense, but rather collectors and reusers of rainwater.

IT TAKES MORE THAN ONE VOICE TO CHANGE THE PATTERNS OF HUMAN BEHAVIOUR.

Sometimes though, a small piece of the truth at the right time is enough to alter the course for all of us. One of the youngest congresswomen in US history, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (AOC), working on climate change policies, stated the obvious when she said "We're going to pay for this whether we pass a Green New Deal or not, because as towns and cities go underwater, as wildfires ravage our communities, we are going to pay. And we're either going to decide if we are going to pay to react, or if we're going to pay to be proactive". Either way, we are going to pay.

It was estimated in 2015 that there were 150 million metric tons of plastic in our oceans. It is estimated that this figure could reach 600 million metric tons by 2040. We read the statistics and shake our heads in disbelief, sending the blame elsewhere. It is on all of us to change this course. What we do now about plastic waste will have an impact on our future - the degree to which will be in proportion to our concern and subsequent effort. Greta Thunberg, at the age of 16, summed it up beautifully in 2019 when addressing the United Nations. "This is all wrong. I shouldn't be up here. I should be at school. For more than

30 years, the science has been crystal clear. How dare you continue to look away, and come here saying that you are doing enough when the politics and solutions needed are still nowhere in sight".

Time after time we see individuals standing up when the national or global response lacks urgency. TLP believes that true intervention starts with public citizens engaging in meaningful projects, be it sacrificing time to join them for clean-ups or donating to their cause. There is something endearing about TLP's solution. "Necessity is the mother of invention". They were not asked to provide a solution. A call to action comes from within, especially if you have ties to the ocean, as we all do, by virtue of our proximity to it. We can't not be affected. For those of us that don't feel it as deeply, TLP's solution should be enough to awaken us to the truth that our future is literally in our own hands and we need not venture outside of our environment to find answers.

Some countries have taken drastic measures to curb plastic pollution. Kenya for example is considered to have some of the world's toughest laws against plastic bag use. If you are caught producing, selling, or even using plastic bags, you risk imprisonment of up to four years or fines to the equivalent of R650 000.

Bans on plastic and single use items (straws, food containers etc) is not enough. Only 9% of all plastic produced is recycled. The remaining 91% can be found in dumps and landfill sites. And a staggering 32% of all the plastic produced finds its way into our oceans. You may be surprised to know that the average time a plastic bag is used is just 12 minutes.

It is probably not fair to say that nothing is being done to curb plastic pollution and waste. The truth is that not nearly enough is being done. But here in the greater Umhlanga area, we could be on our way to greatness.

"TO FREE OUR WORLD FROM THIS POLLUTION, WE NEED TO KEEP PLASTICS CIRCULATING IN THE ECONOMY, WHERE THEY BRING VALUE, NOT ON OCEAN CURRENTS, WHERE THEY BRING HARM."

— Inger Anderson

— RIGHT ON OUR DOORSTEP THE LITTERBOOM PROJECT —



we can do this!



Excerpt of speech by Inger Anderson at the One Ocean Summit 2022

We are here because of a dysfunctional economic system that manufactures products from a versatile and durable material, only to quickly throw them away – as though this disposal has zero cost. But there is a cost, to the whole of society and the environment. The cost of waste collection, health impacts, loss of natural capital and loss of plastics value amounts to trillions of dollars.

To free our world from this pollution, we need to keep plastics circulating in the economy, where they bring value, not on ocean currents, where they bring harm. A systemic transformation would create a booming circular plastics economy. We could reduce the volume of plastics entering our oceans by over 80% by 2040. Lower virgin plastic production by 55%. Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% and create 700,000 additional jobs, mainly in the global south.

SURROUNDED BY



TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

winners!

How we treat each other in marriage became the basis for groundbreaking customer service training for a small country hotel. The first module required staff to work in groups to brainstorm ways to make the guest experience the best they possibly could.

One suggestion at Town Lodge Umhlanga Ridge was to “use guests names when greeting them”. Some head shaking from the rest of the group prompted the facilitator to ask what the issue was with this idea. One delegate replied that the only way to do that was to ask the guests to wear name tags. “Just ask me”, replied a triumphant receptionist who had joined the training. “I know all their names. Just don’t shout them out across the foyer”.

Using the guest’s names became the first item in a refreshed approach to customer service, spearheading a massive change at the hotel. A change that turned good service, (which no one ever raves about), into exceptional service where guests tell their friend’s “you have to go there, the service is amazing”.

Nothing changed in this hotel’s offering. The rooms were still the rooms and the menu throughout the day continued to be simple, tested food that never failed to please. The big shift was an awareness that every guest was important – all the time. “From that point onwards”, related the facilitator, “every item they created read like a marriage vow”.

The staff at Town Lodge Umhlanga Ridge are renowned for honouring their vows too. A photographer rented their conference and boardroom

facilities to build a makeshift photographic studio to create portraits of award winning business women. Standard bank hosts the annual KZN Top Businesswomen awards, and the nominees were photographed over four days.

The subjects were travelling to Umhlanga Ridge from all over KZN. Somewhere safe, comfortable, convenient and a little private (for the camera shy) was needed. Upmarket does not always mean 5 star facilities with expensive furniture and a menu to match. Town Lodge has a three star rating but has been elevated to luxury status on several occasions by guests on Tripadvisor. They all mention exceptional attention to detail and service levels worthy of a doting partner in marriage.

The team forgot to pay for some additional refreshments on the first day. An email came through to their desk from the duty manager the next day, gently enquiring if they’d realised they’d forgotten to settle the bill. No demands, no accusations, no eyebrow raising, just a gentle, respectful enquiry. All the signs of a healthy and potentially long marriage? How often do we hear that the smallest consideration, the tiniest thing is usually what made our partner glow with appreciation and deepened their love for us?





A male delegate from the country hotel training described how he had received a bunch of flowers from a female work colleague on his birthday. “I was taken aback by the gift of flowers and secretly thrilled at the same time. That person is still in my thoughts, even though we lost contact over 10 years ago”

Setting up the specialised lighting for black and white portraiture requires some careful testing with a patient stand-in model. At 10pm with only the night staff on duty, the team asked if anyone was free to sit for them while they carried out the tests. “We will send someone down to you” advised the manager’s office.

Five minutes later, the elevator doors to the ground floor conference area opened and out stepped Patience, striding confidently into the studio space. Patience is a natural beauty and admitted to having done a little modelling in the past. Her pictures say it all: dedicated, willing, enthusiastic and definitely present. The things we do for each other. How much more could go right in this relationship?

Umhlanga Ridge was the perfect location for the nominees who were driving in from all over KZN. All they had to do was swing off the N2 to be safely parked and seated within five minutes. Over a four day period, the City Lodge staff provided everything the team could possibly ask for.

“To have and to hold from this day forward” is a key part of the wedding vows, if not the central message. A promise that as of today, you are a team, facing the world together. The City Lodge Group have positively guided their staff for years with fundamentals that are not just words on the walls of the back areas, but real values that guide them to be the best they can possibly be. During four days of photography, the City Lodge staff stood shoulder to shoulder with some of the most extraordinary women in business, equals in their chosen role of being in service, unconditionally.

SOME OF THE WINNERS...



LAURA KELLY – INTERNATIONAL TRADE, INSURANCE AND ENERGY LAW PARTNER AT COX YEATS ATTORNEYS

“What is key for your client is the ability to be readily available and responsive. We live in an extremely fast-paced world and clients expect no less when it comes to service delivery. It’s important to identify those times when your client needs you to be available 24/7 and to step up and provide that level of service during those periods. However, you have to maintain a balance. No car can run without fuel and we are the same; you have to exercise, eat healthily and spend time with your family.”



Laura Kelly from Cox Yeates Attorneys on Ridgeside and Mfundo Xaba, broadcaster at Gagasi FM in cornubia were two of the nominees for Top Businesswoman.



MFUNDO XABA – BROADCASTER AT GAGASI FM

“Every story needs to be told, every person needs to be heard. We are not spending enough time with the older generation, to hear them and have that transfer of knowledge happen.

Women, give yourselves permission to lead. I am ambitious and I want to be known as someone who respected their craft, and someone who wasn’t afraid to speak up and address inequalities

My family is my absolute centre. Life needs you to be present. We are living in country where the innovators need to stand up! An imagination is not reserved just for children”.

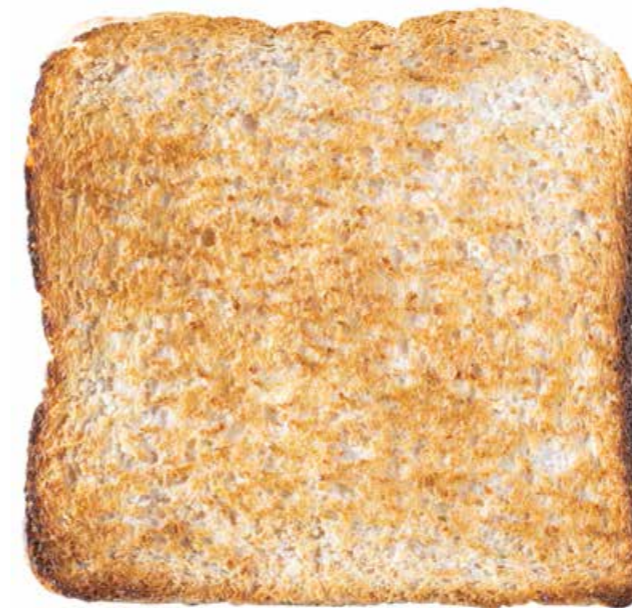


GUEST FEEDBACK FOR TOWN LODGE UMHLANGA – FROM TRIPADVISOR

“I appreciate their eagerness to help me with anything, and the hotels are of a supreme standard, while also remaining on the more affordable side”

“Something other than perfect aesthetics that tugged at my heart strings were the staff. From the hotel manager who actually served me coffee herself, to the receptionist whose name was Patience , she definitely lives up to her name”.

“I just want to salute the manager, Lizelle Henze, for her professional approach to a problem I raised. In the end, it had nothing to do with the hotel, but she carried out a full investigation. I travel a great deal for work, and I have rarely seen such follow up”.



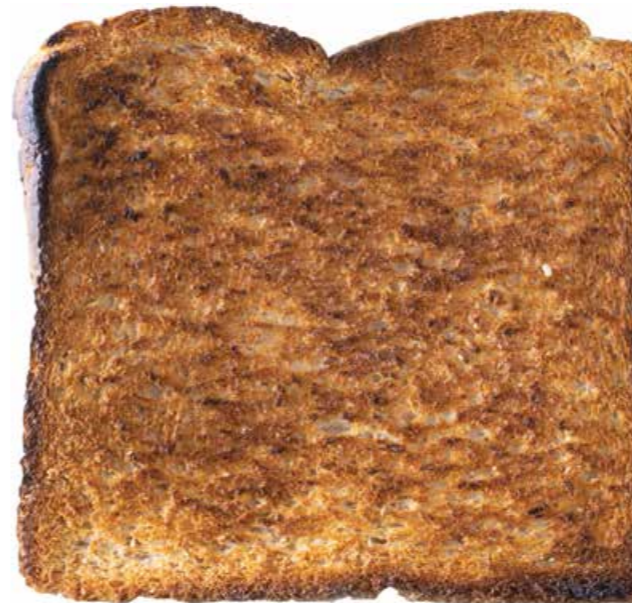
“THE WHOLE POINT OF TAKING PICTURES IS SO THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN THINGS WITH WORDS.”

– Elliott Erwitt

Exposed

TEXT & IMAGES: NICHOLAS CARROLL

‘Exposure’ refers to the process of opening the camera shutter to let in enough light to create a photograph that is viewable. If you fully understand the principles of exposure, explaining them to the uninitiated is often a complete waste of time.



Before the advent of digital cameras, most owners of so-called ‘vintage’ film cameras had access to the inner workings of their cameras when they loaded a new roll of film. They knew what happened inside the camera when they squeezed the shutter button or changed a setting.

The guts of modern digital cameras comprise as much complicated circuitry, inch for inch as the international space station. The more advanced we’ve become, the more complicated and ‘sealed off’ our technology. There is a good reason for putting some effort into understanding how a camera works – it will free you up to take the pictures you’ve always wanted.

Modern cars are like digital cameras – try changing a spark plug, if you can find your way into the sealed engine casing. Our daughter used to stall her car on our steep driveway when she first learned to drive. I explained that it was an explosion inside the engine that caused the car to move forward. I must ask her how she thought the thing actually worked.

Today’s digital cameras are so advanced, it’s not surprising that there are thousands of them gathering dust in cupboards all over the world. A source of frustration for their owners – who only wanted to pursue a passion to make great pictures, because they could ‘feel’ them inside. Instead, the manufacturers drowned us in functionality, most of which we will never use.

The principles of exposure are very simple, when explained in the light for which they were intended. Before cameras automatically set the exposure for us, we had to do it ourselves. In some cameras, there was no battery, light meter or autofocus. We got our instructions from inside the little box the roll of film came in.



“THE PRIMARY RAW MATERIALS OF PHOTOGRAPHY ARE TIME AND LIGHT.”

– John Berger



Find out how your camera works – that’s the only way you are going to free yourself up to take the pictures you’ve always wanted to.



“Taking pictures is savoring life intensely, every hundredth of a second.” – Marc Riboud

– SUNNY 16 RULE –

THE SUNNY 16 RULE

The Sunny 16 Rule was a guideline to help consumers (owners of vintage film cameras) create the perfect exposure. You can still set your camera by this guide today, by turning the function wheel on top to ‘M’ – manual, or (me) – you can easily take full control if you give yourself the chance.

If you snapped off all the buttons on your digital camera (there at least 15 on an entry level camera) ripped out all the dials (6 on mine), the switches; wheels; LCD screens (usually 2); all the international space station circuit boards; silenced the audio blips; extinguished the warning lights; glued the little pop up flash down, you could still take amazing pictures. If only the camera would let you. Have you ever tried to push start an automatic car?

Where we trip up on understanding exposure is in reference to different sets of numbers like 1/125th, F16 or ISO400. Forget the meaning of the individual numbers, think of them as 1, 2 & 3, or A, B & C. There is nothing more going on inside the camera than dropping a slice of bread into a toaster and turning the dial through 1 – 9. Depending on the toaster, 1 may give you a lightly tanned slice and the highest number will most likely incinerate it.

When you turn your shutter speed dial in one direction, your image will be darker, the other direction will make your pictures brighter. F stop numbers do the same thing, in a slightly different way. That is all you need the camera to do: allow a certain amount of light in, for a specific amount of time. It does not really do anything else. Your luxury car may have heated seats, Satnav, ABS brakes, but all it really does is move forwards or backwards and turn and stop when you need it to. The end result is the same, you get to go somewhere.

98% OF THE FUNCTIONS ON MODERN CAMERAS ARE HARDLY EVER USED BY CASUAL PHOTOGRAPHERS

Some professional photographers may only use 10% of a camera’s functionality. An example of redundant functionality: Pick up your camera, look down at the top plate, with the lens facing forward. Somewhere along the back edge you will see a tiny icon O. This is a relic from film camera days that indicated the exact position of the film plane in the camera. It helped the photographer to work out the distance between the subject and the film in 1955. Now it indicates the exact position of the sensor. **Who cares?**

There are two things that make a usable picture in the eyes of the world: It must be bright enough so you can see what is going on; it must also be in focus to the degree that you can make out the detail in the shapes and forms. Where you point it is entirely up to you.

The “shutter” opens and closes when you squeeze the shutter button. “Squeezing” the shutter button as opposed to pushing it will help prevent picture blurring. You can hear the click of it inside the camera. Snipers are trained to breathe and steady themselves before gently squeezing the trigger. Otherwise they miss the target. The steadier you can hold your camera, the sharper the picture. Let’s call that rule #1 in getting good pictures.

“PHOTOGRAPHY IS A LOVE AFFAIR WITH LIFE”

– Burk Uzzl





"IF I HAVE ANY 'MESSAGE' WORTH GIVING TO A BEGINNER IT IS THAT THERE ARE NO SHORTCUTS IN PHOTOGRAPHY."
- Edward Weston

The camera shutter is a cloth or metal curtain that opens and closes to let light in, long enough to burn an image onto the sensor. The longer the curtain is open, the brighter the image. Long exposure to sunlight causes an image to be overexposed, or too bright, so you can't make out the details. Think about the last time you woke up with a blinding hangover and opened the bedroom curtains to let the sun in. It burns.

The reason why 100th of a second was used in the sunny 16 chart, was to allow you to hand hold the camera to take the picture. That is the speed at which most people can hold a camera steady. Slower speeds will cause the image to blur. Slower shutter speeds include 1/60th of a second, 1/30th, 1/15th and even 1s (second). These speeds are used in low light (indoors and out) to allow enough light to enter the camera. Anything below 1/60th requires a tripod to eliminate camera shake. The human eye blinks open and closed in about 1/10th of a second - still too slow to freeze movement.

The principles of exposure can be so hard to grasp for the casual photographer that photography courses are offered everywhere, not

to learn how to take the pictures you want, but how to navigate the functions of the camera. This is the fastest way to lose your passion for picture taking. Remember all those expensive cameras gathering dust?

Understanding f-stop will complete your knowledge about making correct exposures. Revert back to the sunny 16 chart to see the correct f-stop settings for various lighting conditions. The f-stop numbers (f5.6, f8, f11 etc) are simply increments in the size of the aperture that lets light in. Their names have no significance except to indicate a particular sized aperture (hole) through which light travels through the lens and onto the camera sensor. On a cloudier day, at 100th of a second, the camera will most likely select F8 to create the correct exposure. You can of course do this yourself to see how accurate this system is - switch to 'M'. In this case, the smaller the number, the bigger the aperture. And this has been the source of much confusion for decades. Forget the numbers. All you need to know is that the smaller the number, the bigger the aperture and the more light will enter the camera.

Larger Aperture
More light



Smaller Aperture
Less light

This is where most traditional photographers would end the conversation. There is however one more element to exposure and that is ISO (International Standards Organisation). On the sunny 16 chart it was called ASA (American Standards Association), same thing, different era, and refers in this case to the sensitivity of film. Manufacturers made some film a little more light sensitive for photographers working in low light conditions, usually indoors. It meant you could hand hold a camera in low light without blurring the image - if you were careful. Higher ASA numbers indicated higher sensitivity. This increase in sensitivity came at a price - the printed pictures contained a little more grain than usual. In the case of modern digital cameras, this sensitivity system (ISO) also comes with a price when using the higher ones - evidence of digital noise - especially in the shadows.

THE BASE ISO IS 100

This will give virtually noise free images. When you set ISO to automatic, the camera will sometimes take it as high as 3200 which will all but destroy your images out of an entry level camera. Call it degradation of quality. Try and avoid high ISO's. The best way is to secure your camera on a tripod and keep ISO at 100.

With some practice, you will find a happy medium with ISO. The more pricey cameras handle high ISO's better than the cheaper ones. You can take it higher so you can photograph in low light conditions, just don't let it become your go to solution for all low light conditions. One

day you will want to print one of your masterpieces. This is where high ISO's become evident - smeared pixels and your disbelief that the industry did not highlight the dangers of high ISO.

If you really want to get the most out of your camera, not all the complex technology, you have to do a little work to find out how it works. If it was easy, everyone would be doing it successfully. So dust off that camera and get back to finding that feeling you had when you knew you could be as good as the best.





KZN TO THE Kgalagadi

TEXT: NICHOLAS CARROLL
IMAGES: ALAN, DEBBIE & KEEGAN CRAWFORD

The Kalahari is the sixth largest desert on earth and the second largest in Africa. Covering much of Botswana, parts of Namibia and South Africa. In the Northern Cape, it is not entirely a true desert due to the amount of rainfall parts of it receives.

Local businessman Alan Crawford and his family have made about 30 annual trips to the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park. Alan's passion for wildlife photography is evident in the skill with which he captures images of the animals in this extraordinary environment that covers nearly 38000 square km's. In May 2000, what was previously the Kalahari Gemsbok National Park, was amalgamated with Botswana's Gemsbok National Park to form a Transfrontier park. This has made it one of the biggest National Parks in the world. Whilst he considers himself a hobbyist, the only thing separating him from the professionals is that he doesn't get paid to do it.

Like anyone serious about photography, Alan has learned to use specific camera functions to get the kind of pictures that he wants. Most hobbyists may not have a use for the camera's "histogram" but in a place of high contrasts – deep shadows and extreme highlights, it is an essential guide in determining what to preserve in the final image. Unlike the human eye, the camera is limited (for now) in its ability to record both and will not give you shadow and highlight detail in equal amounts, one of them is always sacrificed. A brighter picture will preserve shadow detail while a darker one will help in retaining details in areas blasted by direct sun. The benefit of the histogram is revealed during image processing in Photoshop or Lightroom. The histogram is a great example of technology furthering art.



"You don't want to be fiddling with camera settings as the wildlife is putting on an extraordinary show at waterholes" comments Alan. "You have to take the time to learn how the exposure settings work". When asked if he considered himself good at capturing the moment – he expanded by saying that he had learned a lot about animal behaviour and usually knew what was going to happen next. Like the jackal attacks when the Cape Turtle Doves stick their heads into the water. Alan has become a true 'witness' to nature.

This "seeing" state can make hours go by in a flash. All that separates you and your subject is the glass of the lens, while your index finger rests gently on the shutter button ready to squeeze when the moment presents itself. "We go to the Kgalagadi in December," says Alan. "That

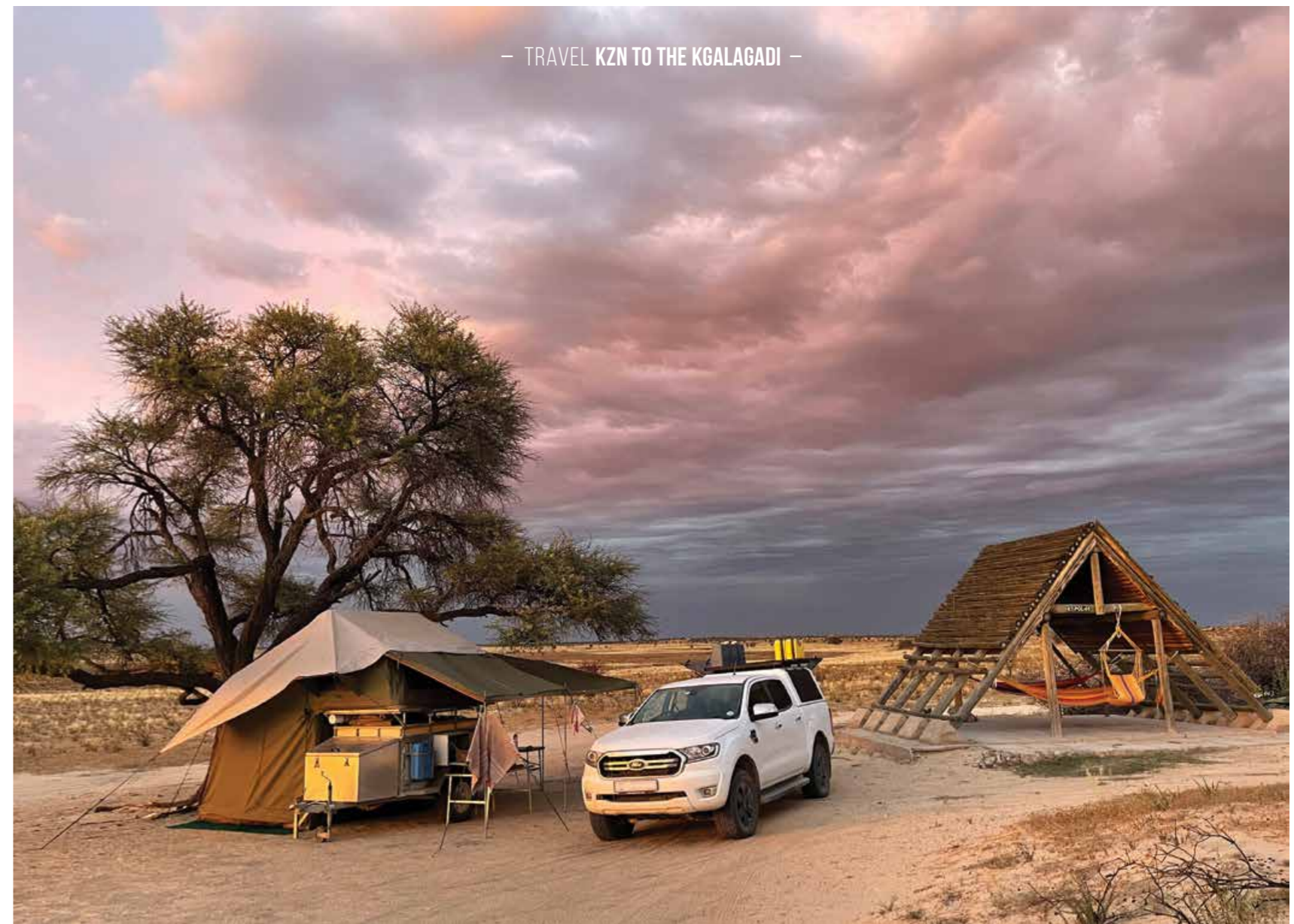
is when you see the most animals congregating around the waterholes. The perfect stage for great photography". The trip from KZN takes about three days, going via Bloemfontein or Kimberly and into Upington. From there, another 250 KM or so brings you to the entrance to the Transfrontier Park, in the Kalahari.

"The colours in the Kgalagadi are unbelievable" continues Alan, "especially when dark grey storm clouds roll in, providing the dramatic background for sparse green foliage and golden sand dunes. It's not always about the action with the big animals, the little things are fascinating too – like watching scorpions being hunted by meerkats. Or the amazing plant life that suddenly pops up everywhere within a day or two after rain".





— TRAVEL KZN TO THE K GALAGADI —



The Kalahari is teeming with birds of prey, some migrating from as far away as Russia. It was only in the 1970's that ornithologists became aware of this rich profusion of raptors. According to some of the world's top bird photographers, learning as much about their behaviour, habitat and even calls will give the photographer endless opportunities to make stunning pictures. Alan has been a bird club member for decades and easily switches between wildlife on the ground to birds in flight.







Being patient is key when capturing images you already have in your mind. “There have been a few occasions when we have sat for up to 5 hours waiting for the moment when a leopard climbs down a tree. Waking up at 4.30am to be the first out of the camp gate ensures that one can pick up the fresh predator tracks in the sand. The golden hours, an hour after sunrise and an hour before sunset are the best times to capture excellent images, without the high contrast that comes later in the day”. It can take months and sometimes years to bring your vision into reality. The cornerstones of achieving great wildlife photographs are understanding your equipment and the effects of light and exposure. There are no shortcuts in photography.

It is inevitable that nature's curiosity will bring man and animals into close proximity. Alan has dozens of close encounter tales. Like the evening a huge Cape Cobra took an interest in their dinner preparations. Alan's headlamp caught the shiny golden snake as it slithered towards him, 2 metres from where he was sitting. It changed its mind at the last minute, swiftly departing. Only to return a few minutes later. You'll have to ask Alan what happened next.



MAKE YOURSELF famous

It only takes the click of a button to connect with 1000's of people we've never met. Through these social media connections we influence thinking, change minds and sell things.

This is a challenge to those who gather these connections with the ease of a child filling a bucket with sand on the beach: Right now, we are in the best position we are ever going to be to influence each other to drastically reduce litter and hopefully eliminate it altogether.

Will you remind us to think about where we are going to dispense with the empty food packaging before we hit the Drive Through? Will you frequently alert us to the fact that many beaches have one litter bin per 1000 people and that if we bring anything disposable with us, we should think about how those items are going to impact that one single bin?

Will you help us get over our chronic self-consciousness at the thought of bagging the dog & *^% and carrying it with us when our beloved pooches have no choice but to do it when it comes on, wherever that may be. It is not a good look for sure, but those in the know will silently applaud. When the wind snatches a dozen serviettes from our hand and scatters them over the verdant green grass of our favourite park, will you remind us to wince in guilt and run after them anyway, mostly in vain, like a complete idiot?

And when the kids in the car in front toss a white plastic bag, with 'whatever' inside, out the window, can you give us the courage to give the driver a flash from behind to let them know that something is afoot? And not be fearful that some gun wielding, axe spinning, dart throwing, wring necking monster is behind the wheel. Maybe the kids just need a klap to remind them that this is their world too.

It has to be you. You have proven that this world is navigable online and that connections are actually real ones, not to be mistaken for replacements for the real thing. You are in possession of the most potent weapon man has ever summoned. Put it to use for all of us. We have tried everything else, to no avail. I dare you to be the social entrepreneur that rids our world of litter at the click of a button. Make yourself famous.

Whatever you do, don't forget about cigarette butts. In our stupidity we allowed the cigarette manufacturers to distract us with other things while they silently hoped that we would not notice that they are one of the most littered items on the planet. They are also one of the most toxic. There is no legislation to say we can't discard butts. Fight for one. We are counting on you. Nothing else has worked so far.

"YOU CANNOT GET THROUGH A SINGLE DAY WITHOUT HAVING AN IMPACT ON THE WORLD AROUND YOU. WHAT YOU DO MAKES A DIFFERENCE AND YOU HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT KIND OF A DIFFERENCE YOU WANT TO MAKE."

—Jane Goodall



Photo: John Cameron

THE CHRONICLE

PUBLICATION FOR MEMBERS

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Please help us fund our new generation of SEARCH AND RESCUE VESSELS

The National Sea Rescue Institute is the only maritime rescue service operating in South African waters. For the safety of our rescue crew, all of whom are unpaid volunteers, we need to modernise our Search and Rescue fleet. We have started replacing our 10 metre rescue boats, which on average have served Sea Rescue for over 30 years, with the latest craft designs that are well suited to our sea conditions. After extensive research and development the vessel that we have chosen to fulfil this role is the French 14 metre ORC.

It is our vision to support local people and local industries by having our rescue boats built in South Africa. If you would like to hear more about our SAR (Search and Rescue) ORC's please contact Alison at alison@searescue.org.za.

Every cent counts with a project of this size. If you are able to help, please donate via our website (www.searescue.org.za) or scan either one of the QR codes below and help make our next generation of Sea Rescue SAR vessels a reality.

