

Walking the sky at God's Window



State of the art facilities

Kabelo Mthoa

The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency recently held an official sod-turning ceremony for the God's Window Skywalk in the Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve. Scheduled to be completed in 2023, the project will allow visitors to experience one of South Africa's most iconic vistas in an entirely new way.

Located at the zenith of Mpumalanga's Panorama

Route, God's Window offers visitors a panoramic view of the Lowveld more than 900 metres down into a lush indigenous forest-clad ravine. On a clear day, you can see as far as the Indian Ocean and Maputo. The skywalk will be a cantilevered glass walkway suspended off the edge of the cliff to give visitors a 360-degree panoramic view. The walkway will protrude about 12 metres out from the cliff and will be about 5 metres wide.

The procurement process for the skywalk, which was first envisioned in 2004, commenced in 2019 following the National Treasury Guidelines and the PPP Toolkit for Tourism to develop a state-of-the-art facility. The development is to be procured using the design, build, finance, operate and transfer (DBFOT) approach. Mapulana Canyon (Pty) Ltd was appointed to invest, design, operate and manage the project, which will be

transferred to the landowners at the end of the concession period.

Mapulana Canyon is a unique partnership between Motsamayi Tourism and Land Claimants from the Blyde River (The Blyde Valley Community Property Association). Initially, the concession for the site will be run by Motsamayi Tourism Group, which has experience in running the Concession funicular at Cape Point which consists of the

funicular and F&B offerings, Kruger Shalati: The Train on the Bridge, The Kruger Station, and the newly refurbished Sanctuary Mandela -- the boutique hotel built on the site of former president Nelson Mandela's Houghton Residence.

The Skywalk is designed to be a global iconic attraction with several activities on-site - the skywalk - a sky bridge - a sky swing - a zero-gravity room - a conference and meeting facility. It is

envisioned that these activities will offer employment opportunities to many of the unemployed youth from the area.

"As vaccination rates around the world pick up and COVID-19 becomes more manageable, we fully expect local and international visitor numbers at South Africa's tourism hotspots to pick up," says **Jerry Mabena, CEO of Mtsamayi Tourism Group.**

Cont. on page 4

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Celebrating our Heritage this month



EDITOR

September is known as Heritage month and for good reason.

With the sounds of "Nou gaan ons braai", in various

of our 11 official languages ringing out all over our land, let us take a moment to contemplate why the humble braai has been elevated to Heritage status. When a public figure with the gravitas of Archbishop Emeritus Tutu thinks that a braai will unite a nation, then we as the Rainbow Nation better pay attention!

He has been quoted as saying "We're going to have this wonderful thing on the 24th of this month... when we all gather around one fire... it's a fantastic thing, a very simple idea. Irrespective

of your politics, of your culture, of your race, of your whatever, hierdie ding doen ons saam (this thing we do together)... just South Africans doing one thing together and recognizing that we are a fantastic nation". But some disagree and say that the braai is only indicative of a particular heritage and that the Day should be celebrated with more awareness for the diversity of cultures that our nation has rather than the single act of cooking meat over an open flame. What about those who do not eat meat? Will they not

feel marginalized?

Is there a difference between heritage and legacy, and if so, what is it?

A legacy is what you hope that you leave behind once you die, while heritage is what you receive from those who have come before you, either family, religion or culture.

"Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Our cultural and natural heritage is both irreplaceable sources of life and inspiration".

UNESCO Heritage Day on 24 September recognizes

and celebrates the cultural wealth of our nation. South Africans celebrate the day by remembering their various cultures and how to make those accessible to all in a dignified and respectful manner. No culture is more important than another and knowing about each other we will probably discover that we have more in common than we realized.

We also need to be aware of those who represent 'living heritage' in every community. Those who

possess a high degree of knowledge, skills and history about different aspects of the diverse living heritage of South Africans.

A good way to celebrate this day could be by visiting one of the many World Heritage Sites in South Africa to learn about other cultures.

I trust that YOU celebrated both the Day and your heritage in a meaningful and respectful manner.

Until next time, stay safe and stay healthy.

David Batzofin

Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor – September 30th 2021



Dear Ed,

The matter of all these trucks travelling our roads concerns me and should concern our whole community. You ran an article on these 'beasts' but little happens. Acornhoek protested against all these trucks, and good on them for doing so. We sit back here in Hoed-

spruit and little happens. Isn't it time that we stand up and be counted? What is the Municipality doing? What are our Ward representatives doing? Come on community – lets get active!

James

To the Editor

I found the articles on spring very interesting. At long last the summer is almost here and I have kept an eye out on all those little things that welcome it in courtesy of you bringing all that to my attention. Thank you and keep it up.

Anne

Dear Editor

What's the story about the business registrations that have now popped up? Is this just another way to get more money to squander? Oh my goodness, we are already taxed to the hilt with few benefiting from the proceeds. How is this going to be monitored in the informal sector or is this just targeted to registered businesses? Please can you investigate this and enlighten us?

Concerned reader

General Knowledge Quiz

1. What is the common name for sodium chloride?
2. What is the currency of Poland?
3. What is the first book of the Old Testament?
4. Who is the founder and leader of Hinduism?
5. Where would you find the Sea of Tranquility?
6. In which Italian city was pizza invented?
7. What is the gift for 10 years of marriage?
8. Who invented the World Wide Web?
9. Which actor played James Bond the most?
10. What is the capital of New Zealand?
11. What is Lady Gaga's real name? (Surname will do)
12. Who ran the fastest women's 100m ever?
13. What are you afraid of if you suffer from xanthophobia?
14. How much does the average cloud weigh in pounds?
a) 1, b) 1000, c) 1 million
15. What does the Greek word 'yamas' mean in English?
16. What is the national animal of the USA?
17. What is Postman Pat's surname?
18. President Joe Biden served as Vice President of the United States under which President?
19. If one side of a square is 10cm long what is the circumference?

Celbux - simple no fuss, no bother wage payment system

Obos

An innovative way to pay wages has been developed that saves money for all concerned. This simple technology is now available through a company called Celbux.

Gone are the days of struggling to pay wages, risking carrying cash around and frustrating administrative problems with conventional systems. Gone are the frustrations of not being able to pay some employees, or incurring exorbitant costs for payer and recipient alike.

Celbux has developed

an alternative way to pay employees and workers, that simplifies the process, removes the risk and saves everyone money. There is no account, no card and no new device or new technology required. Payment is made directly into a wallet linked to a cellphone. Payment can be made from another cellphone or computer directly and instantly to the earners cellphone and they can immediately spend or withdraw the money.

For the last 8 years Celbux has provided a financial solution that is accessible to anyone, anywhere, anytime.

Their customers include many grant and aid distribution organisations, churches and NPO's, as well as wage payers. Organisations and earners benefit from the technology, especially those that need to pay out money to the lower end of the market, where costs are a real factor and often accounts are a constraint. Celbux offers anyone a secure account, linked to any cell phone, opened instantly when money is sent to the recipient with no pre-registration required.

The reduced costs are a major benefit of the Celbux technology, as nei-

ther the payer nor the earner incurs any cost for transactions on the platform. A Celbux account carries no monthly cost, no charge for an unsuccessful transaction and no cost to check ones balance. There are no transactional charges when an earner spends their money at a store or sends some of the money to family or friends. The only time a wage earner will incur a charge is when they withdraw cash from a retailer.

On receiving money for the first time, the wage earner will be notified by SMS of how to access their wallet and

notification of their PIN (password). The earner will be advised of any future payments. The earner can access their wallet from any phone through either a web app or USSD, so all they need is a phone, any phone. Should the earner require to purchase airtime to access their account, they can do so at no transactional cost via Celbux.

Thousands of merchants have been integrated onto the system, so earners can spend at most national retailers such as Shoprite, Checkers, Pick n Pay, Spar, Clicks, KFC and many more. Celbux can sign-

up local stores, including farmers stores quickly and easily.

Another major benefit is the safety and security offered by the system. There is no need to source cash and pay cash. Celbux is completely electronic, which means the money is safe. The earners also do not need to withdraw big amounts of cash, they can leave their wage in their wallet and spend money as they go.

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An equine event that is a barrel of fun



Melissa Swann

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Staff reporter

Local lass Melissa Swan was born and raised in Hoedspruit where her parents Victor (chairman of Hoedspruit Town Watch) & Jeandra Swan, have played an active role in the community for more than two decades,

Melissa is currently Hoedspruit's only Barrel Racer solely belonging to NBHA, and she is well-known by many in the Limpopo region for my unique 'KFC Ride-Thru and town trip expeditions on horse-back over the last few years.

Barrel Racing is an American Rodeo event in which a horse and rider attempt to run a cloverleaf pattern around pre-set barrels in the fastest time.

The National Barrel Horse Association (NBHA), headquartered in Fort Worth,

Texas, is the largest barrel racing organization in the world.

NBHA has thousands of members of all ages across the United States and affiliates in twelve countries, with South Africa joining the organization in 2018.

Swann learned to ride in the English show-jumping style as a child, however, Western-style riding and Barrel Racing has always been a passion for Melissa. In 2018 and 2019, she led in the hosting of two successful Western Games events at The Equine House, Zandspruit, and will continue to host events in the Hoedspruit area.

Swann has always dreamed of competing in the USA at a professional level and now, with the arrival of NBHA in South Africa, her dreams are a step closer to reality.

In 2020, despite Covid's at-

tempt to hinder plans, she managed to compete in four different events held at Tzaneen, Ermelo, Badplaas and Pienaardam.

It was in October 2020, that she created her Barrel Racing persona, 'Melissa Swan – The Barrel Bee', to create exposure for her journey and her future career.

She is not the only member of the Barrel Bee team as it also includes two equine partners, namely Lady Carmen and AK's Ricochet.

It seems that the 'barrel bug' has bitten her dad as well as he too is competing in NBHA events on Ricochet, "I have owned Lady C since she was a 3 year old, and have pushed through many highs and lows with this feisty mare, but through determination and copious amounts of sweat, blood and tears, Lady C is proving to be the talented Bar-

rel Horse I have always believed she is", says Melissa.

On the weekend of the 4th of September, 2021, she took part in an NBHA Qualifier in Pietersburg riding both her horses that landed her three different placings for the day – a first and two thirds as well as two new personal best times.

Thus she was extremely excited to report that both Lady C and Ricochet have earned their place in the NBHA Nationals in December 2021.

From Nationals, her goal is to be chosen as part of the crew headed for the World Championships in Perry, Georgia, USA. Long-term Swann's goal is to start her own Western Riding Ranch in SA, teaching riders – young and old – the ways of western horsemanship, barrel racing, and to ignite the inspiration to chase their dreams.

"Although it is still a growing sport in SA, it has already become popular amongst the mounted-riding community as the events entertain the whole family, whether you are a rider or not".

Swann is immensely grateful that she has made it this far on her journey to World Championships, yet, she is mindful of just how hard she has had to work and the sacrifices she and her family have made to get to this point in her riding career.

Swann expressed her thanks to the Hoedspruit community for their incredible support as well as the local businesses who have stepped in to help carry her load, proving yet again what an amazing town Hoedspruit is. She specifically singled out her current sponsors : EdenLeo Designs, African Dream Horse Safaris,



SupaQuick Hoedspruit, The Cap Company, Total Garage Hoedspruit and Build-It Hoedspruit for their investment in her dreams.

And of course, her instructor and mentor, Traci Thomson, without whom none of the achievements would have been possible.

If you have enjoyed reading about the Barrel Bee journey, you can follow Melissa on Facebook to keep up with her progress.

Hoedspruit Gymnastics is back !

Rinette Whelpton

The good news is that Zanis Gymnastics Academy in Hoedspruit is back in action! The club is located at AgriPark and is offering classes for all ages every week.

Former Protea gymnast and new coach, Rinette Whelpton, has made it her mission to offer professional coaching at the club. Rinette has recently relocated to Hoedspruit and with her knowledge and knowhow, is a great addition to the high standards and quality of the Zanis Gymnastics Academy!

Gymnastics is a fantastic sport that assists with physical development and muscle growth. Gymnasts learn valuable motor skills, balance, spatial awareness, flexibility, strength and most importantly, self-confidence. It is also safe and fun, and the club adheres to all the Covid protocols as required.

The fantastic atmosphere



Left : Anike van Vuren

Centre: Leonara Kruger

Right: Rinette Whelpton

Photos supplied

and top coaching is testimony to the fact that Zanis Hoedspruit has grown from 19 to 41 gymnasts under Coach Rinette's leadership over the past six weeks. It

gets better - in the recent Limpopo Provincial Competition, which took place between the 24th – 28th August 2021, Anike van Vuren and Leonora Kruger

performed admirably, and were awarded for their efforts with Limpopo Colours.

The Club currently provides Women's Artistic Gymnastics (WAG) Level 1

– 4. This focuses is on typical gymnastics for women, developing skills which include spatial awareness, rotations, flips and training on the four main apparatus – vault, bar, beam and floor.

There is also the NinjaZanis for boys aged 6 onwards. The focus is on conditioning and strength, endurance, fitness, skill building (eg: flips) and twists.

Then there is the Pre-School Gymnastics for Boys and Girls. The focus here is on motor skills development, muscle development, muscle memory, balance and flexibility.

Operating hours are from Mondays through to Thursdays from 08:00 – 17:30. There is still quite a lot of space left in the weekly schedule to accommodate additional classes or new ones such as gymnastics for adults should there be an interest.

For more information on the schedule or any other queries please contact **Coach Rinette directly on 082 954 2944 or send an email to hoedies@zanis.co.za.**

Here's hoping to see many of you there!

Walking the sky at God's Window

Cont. from page 1

"We applaud Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency for having the vision to develop one of its most iconic destinations and look forward to playing our role in making God's Window a global must-see location."

"We desire to see this beautiful project acting as an instrument to put the area back into its place as a world-class tourism destination. We believe that this project will energise the area and create new jobs and support other attractions in the area," says Mabena.

"The Blyde River region attracts nearly one million visitors annually," adds Mabena. "Projects like the skywalk will do a lot to increase those numbers and encourage people to explore in the area for longer, which in turn will increase visitor spend to the region while exposing more people to one of South Africa's most beautiful locations. It will also be the first skywalk of its kind in South Africa, and one of a very few to have been built around the

world."

With a 900 metre drop, the God's Window Skywalk will be higher than the Grand Canyon Skywalk, which stands at between 150 metres and 280 metres, and the Zhangjiajie Glass Bridge in China, which is 260 metres at its highest point.

The project is expected to greatly benefit the Mapulana Tribe, which owns the land on which the Skywalk is to be built. While the construction phase will be creating 300-plus job opportunities, it is expected to offer more than 100 jobs once complete and operational. Additionally, the community will get a shareholding in the concession through a special communal property association (CPA) named Blyde 04 CPA.

"The commencement of work on the skywalk project is very welcome, especially given the economic difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic," says Lourence Mogakane, Chair of the Blyde 04 CPA and National Chairperson of the People and Parks Programme. "For the landowners, it's a chance not only to create



Skylight with a view to Heaven

jobs but to benefit from the richness of the land which belonged to their forefathers."

"We're also excited by the potential skills transfer that the project will bring as members of the community are trained in administrative roles, for example," he adds. "We also know that, with Motsamayi's involvement, community members will have the chance to work on a world-class, iconic project. By the time construction is concluded, we hope

that enough people will have been vaccinated for us to welcome people from around South Africa and the globe to see the unique beauty of Mpumalanga."

"This project means a lot to us as a community," says Blyde 04 Community Property Association (CPA) Secretary Hezekiel Nkosi. "It will bring jobs to the community and spark entrepreneurship among young people. We've been waiting for something like this for a long time, and we're very

happy to see work begin on it."

The Skywalk at God's Window is part of a broader effort by the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency to make the province a more competitive tourist destination. The Agency has also unveiled projects to further develop the Barberton Makhonjwa Mountains World Heritage Site and the Railway Heritage Tourism projects.

"Although the tourism sector is currently strug-

gling due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are working hard to turn the situation around," says Johannes Nobunga, CEO of the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency. "We are also working to ensure that all of our ongoing tourism projects create jobs and support emerging black entrepreneurs."

"We believe that the skywalk and the activities around it will encourage visitors to Mpumalanga to add an extra day or two to their trip and explore the province further," adds Nobunga. "There is so much for people to experience here. Whether visitors are after adventure in the form of abseiling, river rafting, fly fishing, rock-climbing and bush walks; scenery - such as at God's Window and Three Rondavels; the Kruger National Park's wildlife and safari experience, which is world-renowned and needs no introduction; culture: most notably in the shape of famous Ndebele painter, Dr Esther Mahlangu; or heritage - Mpumalanga has it all."



"As we celebrate Tourism Month, this is an opportunity to showcase what this project will bring for our tourists and, most of all, communities residing close to Blyde River Canyon Nature Reserve. This will diversify the tourism product offering in Mpumalanga".



The spectacular Skywalk God's Window Development

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Scrumptious butternut fritters



Hayley Cooper

I'm not sure about you, but I love fritters! And I love fritters that are quick and easy to make like these are! They are made with butternut, which is a commonly used vegetable here, but this is

a unique new way of eating them. These are very versatile and can be served as a breakfast, on their own or as part of a larger meal, they could be a starter dish or served as part of the main course. Add a bit more sugar or a splash of maple

syrup & I'm pretty sure you could have them as a dessert too! This will make about 4-6 depending on how big you make them.

I'd love to hear if you made this dish & what you thought of it, the best way to reach me is an Instagram message over at my company page [@wilddreamshospitality](#).

Ingredients:

500g butternut
1tsp ground ginger
1 tsp cinnamon
½ cup brown sugar
2/3 cup flour
1 tsp baking powder
Olive Oil (for frying)
Salt & Black Pepper

To Garnish.

Iceberg lettuce
Pea shoots
Pumpkin seeds
Hummus (vegan)

Method:

1. Peel and chop your butternut and then steam until soft (about 15 minutes)
2. Mash the butternut
3. Add the sugar, spices and baking powder and mix in until fully incorporated
4. Add your flour to the mixture a little at a time, mixing in as you add
5. Heat a good amount of oil in your pan on medium heat (ideally a non-stick pan)
6. Take a heaped tablespoon of the mixture and use your hand to mold it to a fritter type shape
7. Lower into the oil on your spoon and fry for a couple of minutes and then flip and fry the other side for the same amount of time, you ideally want them to go golden but fry for an extra minute if you want them to get a little bit crispy
8. While you are frying your fritters put a generous handful of pumpkin seeds in the oven on medium/high heat to toast for a minute (once I hear mine popping, I know they are ready!)
9. Wash your lettuce and pea shoots and shred the lettuce, put your leaves onto your plate as the base of the dish
10. Once ready take your fritters out of the pan and use a paper towel to blot any excess oil
11. Pile them onto the plate in any way you like & top with a dollop of vegan hummus and sprinkle on your pumpkin seeds
12. **Tip:** Use butternut seeds instead of pumpkin seeds. Butternut skins are edible, if you want you can add a touch of oil & put them in an air-fryer or in your oven & eat them as a snack while you make this or even add them as garnish!

Animalscapes, a new way to see wildlife

Marcus Kapp

Spending time with the animals of Africa is an immense privilege and there is always something we can take back from any encounter with any of these incredible beings.

That being said, whenever we spend time with animals we tend to focus solely on the animals and sometimes forget where we are. What we should do however is remember where we are. We are in an incredible environment, and it is without this environment that viewing and capturing wildlife would prove to be an impossible task.

There is beauty in everything and with wildlife photography the options are endless. This is where viewing the environment as a whole is advantageous for everyone from the novice to the professional. From telephoto to wide-angle lenses we can create stunning images that showcase not only the animals but also their entire existence by including their immediate environment.

Let's call these "animalscapes" as a combination of animals and landscapes. By seeing animals in their entire environment we can also eradicate the age-old

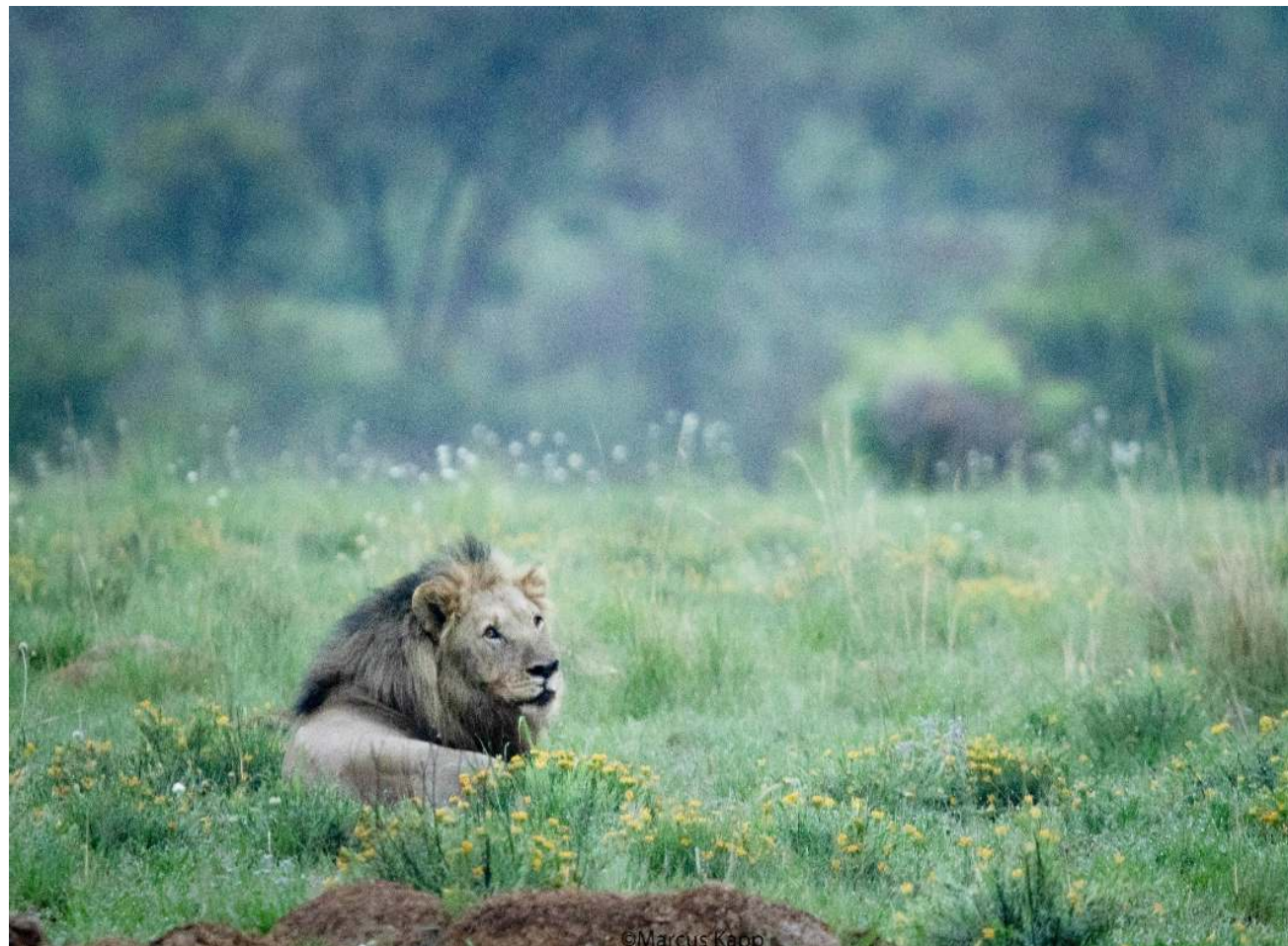
problem of complaining that the animals are too far away for a good photo. Having spent most of my time as a guide in Pilanesberg and Black Rhino Game Reserve, I have been fortunate enough to view animals not only in close quarters but also in some of the most stunning landscapes in South Africa and this has forced me to start appreciating bigger picture scenes. It has turned how I view nature into something incredible by forcing me to look at how I capture images differently.

So next time you find yourself fortunate enough to be spending time with wildlife remember to take it all in and find beauty in everything.

Top tips for creating spectacular animalscapes:

Step back - Take in the whole scene, are there trees or rocks, what else can we include in our frame? Can I capture movement? Look for things to tell the story of where you are by including tall trees, mountain backdrops, rocky outcrops or even look at providing scale by using perspectives.

Shoot Wide - Include as much as you can in your frame. You can always crop



The king of the beasts surveying his domain

Photo: Marcus Kapp

unwanted areas out of your frame. Cropping is an underrated tool in your arsenal and keep that in mind when capturing your image. By shooting wide we can capture more details about the environment. It

also gives you more freedom in the processing phase by giving you different framing options which you may have missed at the moment.

Create space - try and frame your subject in such

a way that it creates a perspective which you would like to portray. Think of what your subject is doing and how you will be able to translate that onto the image.

Contrast - When shoot-

ing wide your subject will easily get lost in the frame, keep this in mind and look for ways in which the subject will stand out in its immediate environment.

Cont. on page 8

Vulture survey revelations



Traditional health practitioners
© N. M. Mashele

N. Mbali Mashele, Lindy J. Thompson, and Colleen T. Downs

African vulture populations are declining, and one of the main threats they face is the illegal trade in vulture body parts, for use in African traditional medicine.

Protected areas are regarded as safe havens for vultures, so it is important to understand how people living alongside protected areas feel about vultures.

Vultures play an important role in the medicinal systems, spiritual practices and occult beliefs of various communities in Africa.

Sadly, their cultural importance may be putting vultures at risk as they are illegally caught and traded for use in African traditional medicine. This practice is widespread in western and southern Africa, but we do not know much about where and how wild vultures are caught and killed, which limits our ability to address this threat.

Vultures are most often used to give clairvoyant abilities, and they may also be used to appease the ancestors, or for good luck, or to cure illnesses. Vultures are poisoned or trapped, either on communal lands or inside protected areas (including the Kruger National Park), and each vulture may be sold for US\$17

to US\$85. Based on the survey respondents' answers, this association of traditional health practitioners could be using 400-800 vultures a year. The traditional health practitioners expressed concern about the poisoning of vultures en masse because declining vulture populations will have ecological consequences and costs to their cultural heritage.

With the help of six Environmental Monitors, we interviewed 248 people living adjacent to protected areas, in Bushbuckridge, Mpumalanga province, South Africa. While it was previously thought that vultures are not used in traditional medicine in this part of South Africa, our

survey clearly showed that vultures are sometimes used in traditional medicine (also called muthi) in this area, mostly to give people clairvoyant abilities.

Our survey respondents were keen to learn more about vultures, and conservationists should capitalize on this level of interest. At the same time, it is important to educate people about the dangers of using poison for pest control, not only because of the risks to vultures, but also because of the risks to other wildlife and domestic animals, and most importantly, to people.

This research was led by South African MSc student, Mbali Mashele, who was awarded a GreenMatter

Fellowship for her project. Mbali was supervised by Prof Colleen Downs at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and Dr Lindy Thompson at the Endangered Wildlife Trust.

Mbali graduated in 2020 with an MSc cum laude from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. She is grateful to the Kukula Traditional Health Practitioners Association (especially the late Rodney Sibuyi, previous Chairperson of the Association, who kindly helped to facilitate access for Mbali and her team), as well as the Mnisi Tribal Community, and the SANParks Rhino Ambassador Environmental Monitors who assisted with the surveys.

Starry starry night - Constellation of the month - Cygnus

Ben Coley

Mythology:

In Greek mythology, Cygnus often represents Zeus in his disguise as a swan. Zeus adopted this to seduce Queen Leda, wife of King Tyndareus of Sparta. Zeus and her husband are said to have both slept with Leda on the same night causing her to give birth to 2 eggs. 1 contained the mortal Castor and his sister Clytemnestra (fathered by Tyndareus) and from the other hatched the immortal Pollux and Helen. Castor and Pollux are represented by the constellation, Gemini.

Other versions consider Cygnus to be the great musician, Orpheus. Orpheus was famed in Greece for his lyre, a gift from the Sun god Apollo, and his musical abilities. His songs saved the Argonaut's ship from the hypnotic sounds of the Sirens and were even able to charm Hades, god of the underworld, to return his wife after her death. All Orpheus had to do was walk ahead of Eurydice, his wife, and not look back

until they were clear of the underworld. Unfortunately, Orpheus turned to check on his wife and instantly lost her forever. He now resides in the stars as Cygnus, while his lyre lies next to him represented by Lyra.

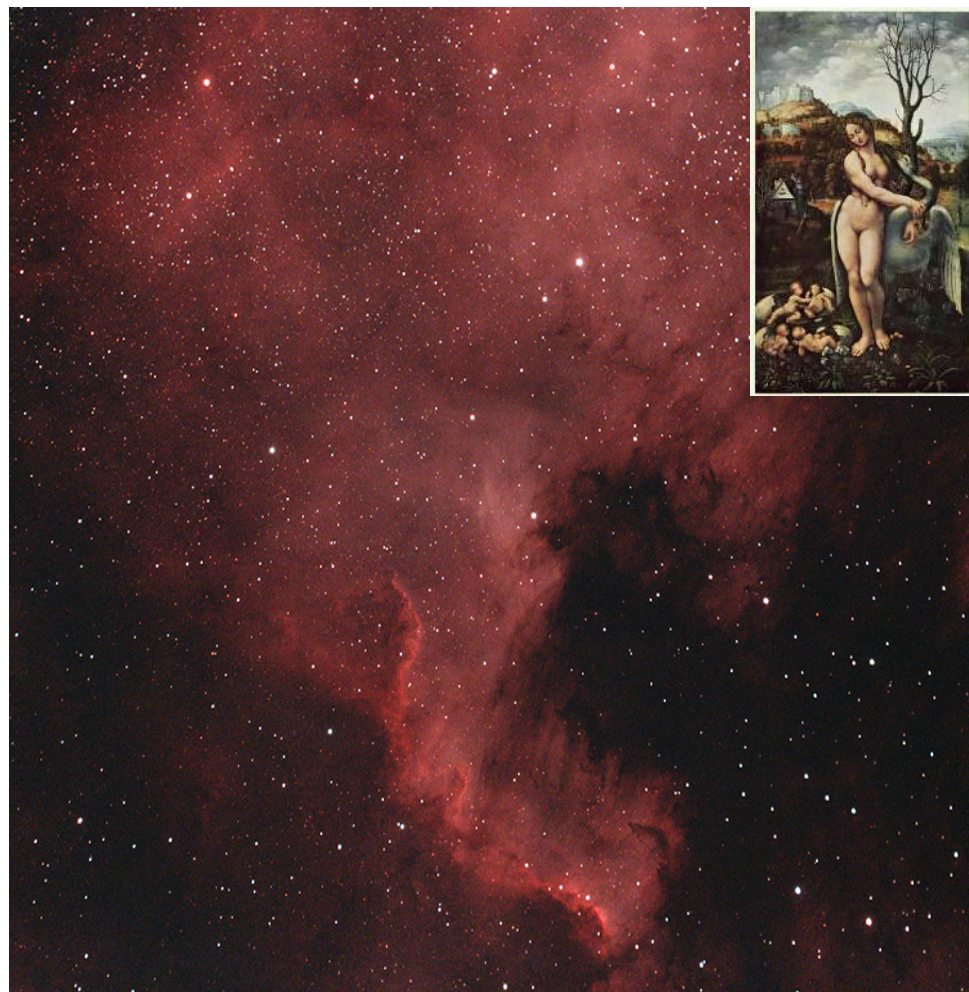
Notable Stars

Deneb is the brightest star in Cygnus and 19th brightest in the sky, despite being over 1500 light-years away. Deneb is therefore a massive supergiant star and if it were the same distance as Vega for example (25 light-years), it would be bright enough to cast shadows at night! Deneb is thought to be between 60,000 and 200,000 times as bright as our Sun.

Deneb also forms part of the Spring Triangle along with Vega (Lyra) and Altair (Aquila). Interestingly, from Mars, it would be the equivalent of Earth's North Star.

Albireo marks the head of the celestial swan and is considered by many to be the most beautiful double star in the sky.

The main member is a striking orange colour, in stark contrast to its com-



Cynus
Images supplied by Celestial Events

Albireo Sky

panion, that shines a brilliant blue. The colours are easily discerned in a moderate telescope.

Deep Sky Objects

The North America Nebula (NGC 2000) is a large emission nebula that can be found close to Cygnus's brightest star, Deneb. It is large enough to take up an area of sky about the size of 4 full moons, but its low surface brightness means that it can only be seen with binoculars under good conditions.

It is however a favourite for long-exposure astrophotography, where the pink hues created by the ionised hydrogen gas become very evident.

"The name stems from its apparent shape which bears a striking resemblance to the North America continent".

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The Greatest migration on Earth ?

Mike Medlinger

Migration is one of the most famous, most studied and yet, in many cases, least understood of all behaviours within the natural world. Numerous species of almost all classes are known to migrate. The undisputable champions however of the miracle of migration are vertebrates within the class Aves, or in everyday terms, birds.

Birds have not only perfected migration but are by far the most numerous vertebrates to undergo these epic feats of physical endurance and risk. Why do they do it? The first reason is that in order to escape harsh winter temperatures which occur in the northern breeding grounds species moved further and further south. The second reason is simply the reverse of this, species reached further and further north from the stable south to new pastures left by the receding winter glaciers and even ice ages, thus finding new food-rich breeding grounds. The spectacle of migration can be seen in a variety of ways. These vary from individuals popping up over several weeks to months, to vast flocks of a number of species moving together all in unison.

Here in South Africa, our migrant visitors include a range of birds that breed north of the Sahara and into Asia which are known as Palearctic migrants. Simply put, they migrate from the Palearctic Realm, one of the earth's eight realms of biodiversity. A large number of other September arrivals simply never leave the continent of Africa. These oscillate north and south over the Equator following the



Common Swift



Steppe Eagle

Photo: Hadoram Shirihai

rains brought by the Intertropical Convergence Zone, a band of warm moist air responsible for our tropical summers.

A third, rarer kind of migrant, altitudinal, are much more local in their scale. These are a handful of species that breed at high altitudes within the country and which move downwards in search of warmer pastures with the onslaught of colder months.

Perhaps the most expansive Palearctic migrant of all is the diminutive, overlooked and yet surprisingly abundant Willow Warbler. This 11cm long passerine that weighs little over a 9 grams, graces almost every tree in the country from October until April and comes from three possible populations. The first from north west Europe, the UK, Germany and France. They are the brightest and most yellow-toned of their kind. A second paler group breeds in Fenno-Scandinavia, places like Norway, Finland and Sweden while the third, and palest population consists of individuals that hail not

just from further east but from the farthest reaches of north eastern Russia, closer to Japan than anywhere else! These champions fly all the way to the Mediterranean before stretching a further 11,000km south to reach the insect rich woodlands of South Africa. That is a total journey of more than 16,000km for a bird the size of a child's palm and they do it in just a few weeks. If you haven't yet locked eyes onto one of these herculean migrants, you are not alone, they are a dull olive to milky-brown that flit swiftly through the branches. Tune into the joyful "chiroy-chiroy" calls they continuously make as they do so.

Another traveller from the northern hemisphere is the Common Swift, the true gold medal Olympian of flying. Over its lifetime, this dull blackish bird with a cigar-shaped body and sickle-like wings, covers more kilometres in the sky than any other. Some estimates have put it at over 1.8 million kilometres! In South African terms this species

is widespread in summer but is perhaps most commonly found on the Highveld. Apart from when they breed, these aerial torpedoes never touch the floor and in fact spend almost all of their lives in the air. When they want to rest they simply fly high into the sky and spiral slowly downwards catching naps along the way. Once they reach lower altitudes they have caught up on some rest and simply carry on along their way.

For other species, such as the now critically endangered Steppe Eagle, particular points like Eilat and the Straits of Bosphorus in Turkey, as well as wintering grounds like the famously protected Kruger National Park offer the best chance of survival for this species. Loss of habitat on the steppes found in Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Russia has become responsible for a 75% decline of the species in the past decade.

For those of us who are fortunate enough in the north east of the coun-



Willow Warbler

Photo: MDP

try, we yearn for that hot mid-October or November morning when we hear our first Woodland Kingfisher or Red-chested Cuckoo. Species that signal to us the beginning of the rainy and thus bountiful season. The puzzle about these birds is that from nothing one day we experience an overnight phenomenon where suddenly all of them have arrived.

All we can tell is that from the months of August to November, the night skies of Africa are filled with hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of individual birds moving between sunset and sunrise. They move under the cover of darkness

for several reasons, one is to avoid the many diurnal predators lining up for a tasty snack, and another is that the cooler temperatures provide more efficient conditions for long expenditures of valuable energy.

As a whole, to us as human beings, avian migration is and always has been one of the most fascinating and familiar of topics in nature. However our true appreciation for what birds have to undergo is becoming clearer and clearer through the help, passion and increase of observers on the ground. Watch out for your first migrants of the summer as they start to arrive.

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Celebrating culture in our Biosphere this September

Marie Tinka Uys

People living in our Bioregion are indeed blessed. Living in a landscape where we are looking towards the west to appreciate the northern reaches of the Drakensberg mountains and looking to the east to reveal the meaning of the savannah, we are immersed in what our natural environment contributes to our common heritage – and our common future.

Let us reflect on the most common cultural identities within our Bioregion:

The Tsonga people are a diverse group of tribes that include the Shangaan, Thonga, Tonga, Vandzawu, Shona, to name a few. Tribal differences often lead to rejection of the title Shangaan, depending on who you're speaking to. The Shangaan were a mixture of Nguni (a language group that includes Swazi, Zulu and Xhosa), and Tsonga speakers, which Soshangane the brother of Shaka Zulu conquered and subjugated. It's important to understand

that Tsonga people share one origin, but each tribe has assumed different identities. Tsonga people can be found in South Africa, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe. The Tsonga people are known for their colourful traditional clothes, energetic rhythm music, dance styles, delicacies, among other interesting cultural facts. Showing respect is an important part of the Tsonga people.

Did you know that women are not allowed to wear pants when going before a chief or to funerals? They always use the right hand when handing over something to your elder. And if offered foods never say no, even if you eat just a little bit.

An annual cultural day celebration where we celebrate our history, chiefs, and heritage. Secondly, lobola and weddings and thirdly the day initiation schools end. Vatsonga people eat caterpillars/worms, specifically Mopani worms that are fried for a delicious meal. Termites are a great source of protein, and the way they are prepared will have you salivating in



Traditional attire

Photo supplied

no time. Other delicacies include the xigugu (corn and peanuts ingredients that are roasted and crushed), Tihove (samp & beans), tshopi, and vuswa (pap) is popular.

Women manufacture household articles such as sleeping mats made of grass, different types of baskets, clay pots, and strainers for beer making. The production of household articles from wood, of which the mortar and pestle used to pound maize are best known, is mainly the task of men.

"Induna" – referring to a community headman. It

is broadly used to mean advisor, great leader, ambassador, headman or commander of a group of warriors. It can also mean spokesperson or mediator, as the Induna often acts as a bridge between the people and the king.

There are also Sepedi that can be found within the region. When greeting elders, the respectful greeting is 'Thobela', a bending of the knee is also a sign of respect when greeting. Women generally wear traditional clothing with a head wrap, whilst men wear long pants and a jacket

as a sign of respect to any official event.

"Dikoma" - This is the initiation school that takes place for girls and boys as their rite of passage into womanhood and manhood. The men wear traditional regalia made out of reeds whilst women wear a blanket throughout the initiation process.

Upon graduation, all-female graduates are dressed and decorated in sweets, whilst the males are smeared in red clay known as 'Letsoku' as a sign of Manhood. This process is a very sacred process by the Pedi culture that even those who do not go through this process are not allowed to be told of the details regarding the process.

Vegetables are a big part of the Pedi culture (Morogo with peanuts). Samp, beans and Marula nuts are known as 'Tshima' (This meal can last long without going bad and with no need for the refrigerator).

Ceremonies, whereby Bapedi communicate with their ancestors, require the environment. Sacred and specific, animals are

used in these processes.

"Lekgotla", which is an official gathering or meeting where a common purpose is discussed. The government has been known to announce official meetings as "Lekgotlas".

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Man and Biosphere (MaB) Programme is celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year.

The MAB Programme is an intergovernmental scientific programme that aims to establish a scientific basis for enhancing the relationship between people and their environments. It combines the natural and social sciences to improve human livelihoods and safeguard natural and managed ecosystems, thus promoting innovative approaches to economic development that are socially and culturally appropriate and environmentally sustainable.

The K2C Bioregion is proud to share the uniqueness of our environment and our people on this international platform.

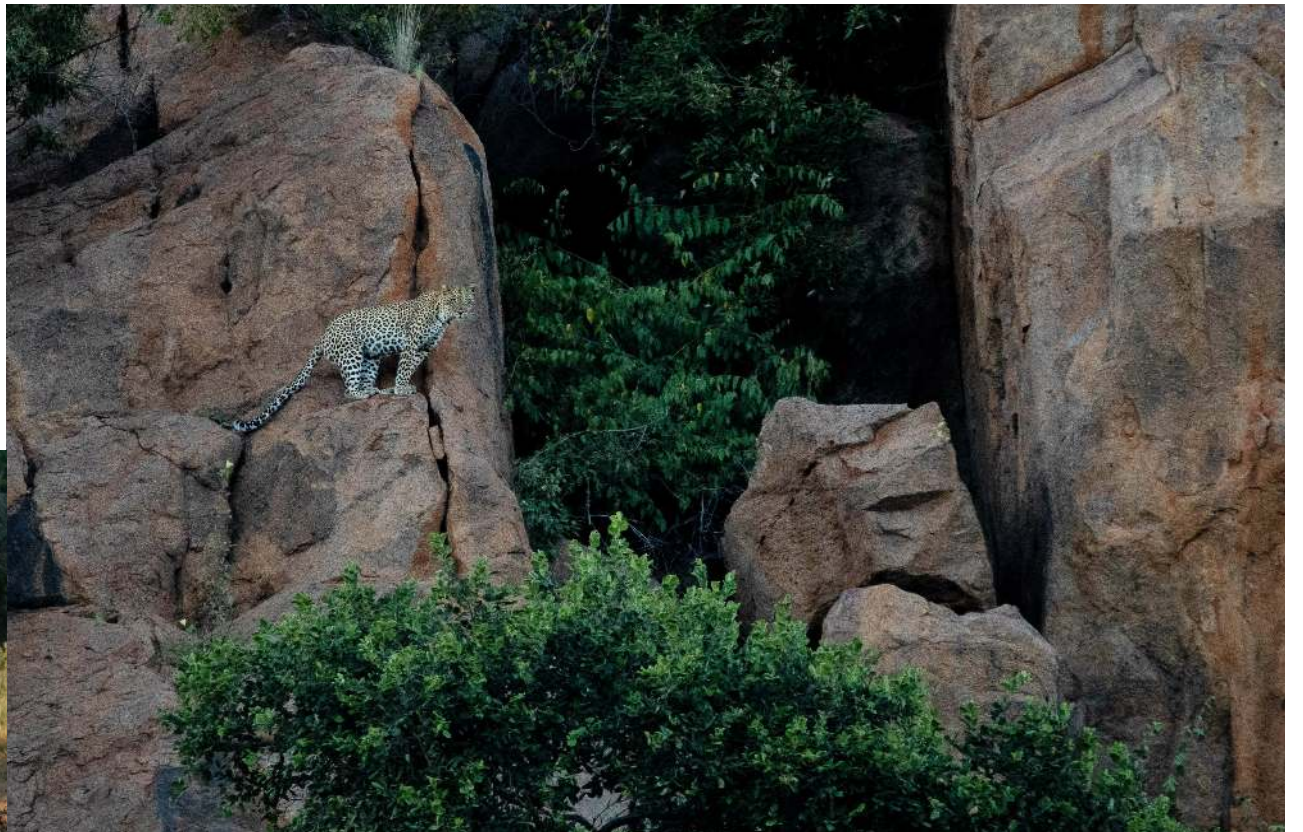
Animalscapes, a new way to see wildlife

Cont. from page 5

About Marcus Kapp

Marcus is a senior guide with over 8 years of guiding experience taking guests on game drives and exploring the wonders that Africa has to offer. Being in the field has allowed him to refine his photographic skills and capture every moment

and splendour Africa has to offer. With a passion for photography and expert knowledge of the bush, his guests are ensured not only the sightings of a lifetime but also a shared knowledge in how to capture these moments, from novice photographers to professionals, hobbyists and smartphone users alike.



Marcus captures these beautiful specimens in their habitats Powerful and dominant

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Heritage Symbols: A representation of cultural and biological diversity

Alex Collett

The natural wealth and preservation of ancient landscapes is something that is characteristic of our beloved country and valued by many.

To honour and protect this natural diversity, South Africa has declared 5 'Living National Heritage Symbols' – most of which are indigenous to South Africa. Additionally, we have our unique national anthem, flag and Coat of Arms to celebrate and honour – in all their history and diversity.

'Diverse people unite' is our motto. Our flag highlights exactly that; the unification of diverse peoples and cultures. The flag is a respectable example of South Africa's commitment to non-discrimination, as it tries to celebrate diversity and calls for the co-operation and unification of people, for the good of all.

All countries have bragging rights when it comes to their national anthem. However, most national anthems are sung in one language – making South Africa entirely unique. Our National Anthem is sung in four out of South Africa's eleven official languages (isiZulu, seSotho, Afrikaans and English) and made up of, what was initially, two different songs.

It has been said that the history of our National Anthem teaches us about compromise and unity. Compromise is choosing to not be the only winner but for everyone to gain something. When we choose unity we look at how we are the same and not how we are different. Prof Mzilikazi Khumalo, suggested a compromise which included the shortening of both anthems ('Nkosi sikelel' iAfrika' and 'Die Stem') and the re-creation of the two songs into a single anthem.

The history of our anthem begins in 1899. Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika, a beautiful hymn written by Enoch Sontonga, was sung for the first time at the ordination of Reverend Bowen - a Methodist Minister at the time. It eventually became the official anthem to be sung at the end of African National Congress meet-

ings - Sontonga sadly was not famous in his lifetime.

The history of 'Die Stem van Suid-Afrika' begins with its author - Cornelis Jacobus Langenhoven in 1918. He was a devoted South African poet and politician, often considered "non-conformist", it was his lifelong mission to get Afrikaans accepted as a language and taught in schools.

We have all seen our coat of arms, but have you ever enquired about its symbolism? The South African Coat of Arms is made up of 8 elements, collectively painting a perfect picture of the South African context.

The first and most evident element is the rising and fanned winged secretary bird. The birds wings are fanned out, reaching for the sky – representing the nation's ability to rise up and protect the lands (and its people) from harm.



The second is the sun. The sun is situated above the secretary bird, shining its light and driving the existence of all life below it. The rising sun is symbolic of novel beginnings – as it rises at the start of a new day, light, life and clear visions of the path to come.

The third element is the king protea, forming the foundations of the secretary bird – grounding it to the fertile earth. The protea is uniquely South African and symbolises our ability as a nation to grow strong. It also symbolises our unique talents and cultures to prosper and for the beauty of our arts and crafts to shine in the world.

The fourth element are the ears of wheat, symbolising fertility of our land, germination, growth and developing potential. It is also a reminds us to respect the earth that sustains us

and to nourish each other.

The fifth element are the tusks of the African elephant. It is said that the African peoples have viewed elephants as symbols of great wisdom, strength, fairness, and eternity. The tusks encompass the entire coat of arms, supporting the secretary bird and protecting its people from harmful forces – by their sheer strength.

The sixth element is the shield, spear and knobkierie, symbolising protection. If you look closely, you will notice that the spear and knobkierie are lying down, not mounted, suggesting that we should choose our battles wisely and not fight, but rather settle disputes through open communication and fair debate.

The seventh, and perhaps one of the most important elements are the Khoisan figures. The Khoisan are the oldest known inhabitants of our beautiful land, characterising our unique cultural history. The figures appear to be respectfully greeting each other, displaying our common compassion and humanity.

The last element in our coat of arms is our infamous Khoisan motto: "Ike e: /xarra //ke" meaning diverse people unite. With these words, we celebrate the differences within our unique South African nation. We are also reminded that we should utilise diversity to co-create a unique culture of peace, co-operation and unity.

Our national bird - the Blue Crane - also known as *Anthropoides paradiseus* – is indigenous to Southern Africa. Blue Cranes prefer dry grassland where they feed on an abundance of insects and seeds. They are often viewed as pests and are killed for destroying crops. However, Blue Cranes face an even greater threat: habitat destruction. As towns and cities of South Africa grow, at an unprecedented rate, they reduce the amount of grassland available for these magnificent birds. As such, the Blue Crane has been declared endangered.

This magnificent bird has long been a symbol of bravery by many Xhosa speaking people. This symbol-

ism has often been used in Xhosa fables. Additionally, it was a tradition to award their feathers (Indwe) to outstanding warriors on the battlefield. Once a warrior received a Blue Crane feather, they were then



Blue Crane

called Izithwalandwe, and regarded as "reliable, outstanding and brave servants of the nation."

Our national flower - the King (or giant) Protea – also known as *Protea cynaroides* – is named after the Greek god Proteus, who was a shape shifter. While the fynbos biome includes a variety of proteas, the King Protea (as its name suggests) is the largest of them all. It is found mostly in the southern areas of the Western Cape, from the Cedarberg up to the Eastern Cape – just east of Grahamstown. Proteas are uniquely South African and are loved and cherished globally.

Real Yellowwood



Protea

Our national tree - the Real Yellowwood – also known as *Podocarpus latifolius* – are ancient hardwood trees that have characterised the South African landscape for over a hundred million

years. Real Yellowwoods cover a large geographical area and are found in various parts of the country - from Table Mountain to the ravines of the Drakensberg. Yellowwood trees can grow incredibly



glorious ships because of the Galjoens strong, healthy, and fighting spirit. The Galjoen is endemic to the South African coast and used to be quite abundant – now falling under the endangered species list. They tend to feed near the shore in shallow waters looking for red bait, mussels, and barnacles.



Galjoen

Our national animal - the Springbok – also known as *Antidorcas marsupialis* – is found mostly in the dry savannahs and grasslands of the Free State, Karoo and the Northwest. Springbok enjoy feeding on grass and can survive for long periods without water. Springboks were some of the most respected antelope as they were/are abundant, providing our ancestors with meat to eat and skins to make clothes, drums, and other creative objects.

Springbok are well known for their elegant leaps into the air, over high fences and thick vegetation. They are also one of the fastest antelope in Africa, reaching speeds of up to 88km/h. They therefore represent agility, confidence, and endurance.



Springbok

And those dear readers are our National Heritage Symbols – facts to ponder and symbols to appreciate.

Images supplied: MDP, Brand SA, Wikipedia

Quiz answers

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Salt | 11. Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta |
| 2. Zloty | 12. Florence Griffith-Joyner |
| 3. Genesis | 13. The colour yellow |
| 4. Ramakrishna | 14. 1 million |
| 5. The moon | 15. Cheers |
| 6. Naples | 16. The bald eagle |
| 7. Tin | 17. Clifton |
| 8. Tim Berners-Lee | 18. Barack Obama |
| 9. Roger Moore | 19. 40cm |
| 10. Wellington | 20. Boxing |



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The Charity Shop soup kitchen



The soup kitchen team

Photo's supplied

Caitlin Dawson

The Charity Shop was created by three NPO's, Greater Kruger Alley Cat Initiative, Hoedspruit Paws and HALO to help raise funds for their work with the animals.

We rely on donations of unwanted pre-owned goods that we resell and we then donate the profits towards the NPO's as well as run various community projects such as the soup kitchen.

The Soup kitchen started in June 2021 as a way to bring some relief to those struggling financially.

It's currently hosted twice a month outside the Charity Shop in the old ABSA building and we feed between 90 and 100 people per kitchen. The soup kitchen is funded by donations from the local community as well as some of the charity shop profits and is staffed by volunteers.

For details on future soup kitchens like our Facebook page "The Charity Shop".

Donations in either cash or kind can be dropped off at The Charity Shop or contact Caitlin on 0788191336.

Celebrate 5 years of Halo

Susan Harwood, Balule Outreach Trust

The Hoedspruit Animal Outreach was established in 2016 to uplift the lives of domestic animals in the rural communities through offering free veterinary care.

These impoverished communities have no veterinary facilities so are completely dependent on HALO for care of their animals. Monthly outreaches are offered to four communities, where owners can bring in their pets for free vaccination, sterilization and emergency treatments. A holding facility with capacity for 40 dogs was opened in 2020 and

is rolling out an education program for the community later this year.

This year HALO celebrates its fifth birthday! In these five years HALO has grown from a grassroots operation to a professional organization helping hundreds of dogs a month. HALO would like to celebrate this milestone with the Hoedspruit community, by hosting a fun filled day for the whole family (dogs included)!

This fun filled day is on the 2nd October and all are welcome from 08:00 - 14:00 at the Unleashed Dog Park. Tickets are available via www.halo-outreach.co.za/party at R50 per person or R150

per family.

There will be baked goods stands, kids activities including a jumping castle from Olipop Parties, face painting, a pageant contest, a dog photo shoot corner, an adoption corner and free dog training by Scallywags. There is also a HUGE dog cake that has been organized for all attending dogs to enjoy! Take part in our dog pageant contest in one (or more) of these categories: funniest dog, best rescue dog, "waggiest" tail dog, best buddies prize (dog and owner) and the wettest nose contest. Stand a chance to win prizes! People and doggies of all ages are welcome to enter.

Donations of food, bowls, beds, blankets or dog toys, are very welcome and can be dropped off at the entrance to the dog park.

Dogs (social and on lead) are welcome free of charge, once inside they are welcome off lead. HALO cannot be held liable for any accidents or liabilities occurring from visiting the HALO celebration day.

Check out the program for the day on www.halo-outreach.co.za/party. Remember it starts at 08:00.

For more information please contact Yvette Hes Hoedspruit.halo@gmail.com or on 079 9437657.

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An Empire under construction

Benedictor Benica Hlongos

I have come a long way, and although some folks think I'm lucky, it is as a result of hard work and dedication that my work has become a success.

I have worked so tirelessly in building this Brand. It was four years ago that I first engaged with Sarah Bergs, founder of Nourish an NPO which is based in Hoedspruit.

Our relationship started when she saw some of the beautiful things I was doing in my backyard garden.

I still remember when I had nothing and I was stressed about fencing my farm, it was Sarah, that through Nourish donated fencing wire to us and that has helped us to kickstart the process.

"Nourishment means flourishment and being a recipient of help means that you should go out and



Benedictor Hlongos

Benica Projects Trading as Benica Fruits and veggies

Photo's supplied

help someone else. This is the glue of society, helping one another so that ALL can be winners."

I'm pleased that our relationship is still intact, and the fact that I recently delivered about 250 Cabbages to Nourish means a lot to me. In a time where most new businesses don't last a year, our, like my cabbages, has flourished over the past years. This gives me courage and proves that I'm capable and

professional and that I can work with big companies.

I was recently asked to share my thoughts on my success in business. The most important rule for me is to mind my circle. I always find people who wish to see me succeed, people who will go an extra mile and will help me grow. I'm grateful for all that I have learned from this organization and its people. #People shall eat. My journey continues.

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Hoedspruit Info

The Timbavati Challenge...running for the rhinos

Hayley Cooper

Starting at 6 am the event was off to a great start with the group seeing a herd of Giraffe as they set off.

At one point the front runners came around a corner and spotted a large male lion that made a speedy departure, luckily away from the group as he was probably more shocked to have his morning disturbed than to investigate who these two-legged intruders were

The runners had a total of 4 cyclists with them on the route, 2 in the front and 2 in the back with 2 vehicles, which included medical support as safety was our main priority.

The route was beautiful and at every water hole, a water station had been set up and stocked with water, snacks and even some beers.

There were lots of exciting animal sightings over the 45km distance including Ostrich, Honey Badgers, Zebra, Wildebeest, Steenbok, some very relaxed El-

phant bulls and then what the entire event was in aid of, a Rhino! This was a very special moment for everyone involved.

All proceeds of the event from the entry fees, the money raised via the raffle and all of the donations will go towards protecting our Rhinos.

Back at the Timbavati Headquarters, to keep the families and friends entertained, there were museum tours, a snake handling presentation, a K9 dog demonstration and some wonderful food and drink stalls.

What did the runners think of the event? Grant Murphy (Head Guide – Kings Camp) had this to say. "The Timbavati Traverse was filled with many unique features for me. I liked the fact it was limited to a very small field, it enabled me to meet and run with every participant and created a very intimate and personal atmosphere. The fact that we all were running for a common purpose, conservation, also created the feeling of being a team.



Big smiles from all the runners

The relaxed nature of the runners and the fact that it was also not a race created unity amongst the participants, who could go out and run in the wild for the pure enjoyment of their love of running, passion for conservation and exhilaration of being in nature amongst its wild inhabitants. I enjoyed the comradery of the entire event, from the pre-briefing the evening before, through the event and until the music stopped and the last beer was consumed at the post-event. It was a relaxed unique event in nature

with the experience of the bush and all it had to offer taking main stage, love, love, loved it and can't wait till next year".

Remember Mashele (Field Guide – Kings Camp) was effusive in his recollection of the event.

"It was great to meet so many other runners, also running as a group was fun. I normally run alone or when I'm at home running there will be a maximum of 5 of us so running with this many people was a different experience for me."

"I also really enjoyed the drink/snacks on the route,

this broke up the run nicely. The scenery was nice and we saw a lot of general game, the experience with the Elephants was great and I also was one of the runners who saw the male Lion, although I think the Lion was just as surprised to see us as he was already running away as we ran in that direction".

Thanks to the sponsors, without whom it event

would not have been possible. Although too many to mention in this article, you can find them all on the Timbavati Traverse Facebook page.

We have received wonderful feedback on the event from the runners with them all saying they want to return next year, and we do believe that this will become a prestigious annual event.



Runners en route

Photos supplied

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Mariëskop Laerskool	079 529 6071				
Mariëskop Pre-primer	082 880 7069				
Perspective Training College	082 787 4471				
Southern Cross Schools	015 793 0590				
EMERGENCY – HELP LINES		TOURISM & THINGS TO DO			
After Hours Emergency Doctors	084 770 1741	Eastgate Airport	015 793 3681		
Air Force Base Hoedspruit	015 799 2911	Hoedspruit-info	078 979 6486		
Africa Safe -T	010 590 6313	Hds Endangered Species Centre	015 793 1633		
Ambulance AFB	015 799 2065	Jabulani Elephant Interaction	015 793 1265		
Alcholics Narcotics Anonymous	082 258 4602	K2C Biosphere Region	015 817 1838		
Ambulance Airforce Base	015 799 2065	Sky-Way Trails	013 737 8374		
Ambulance Services Limpopo	015 793 1581				
Ambulance Tintswalo	101 77				
Ambulance Services Swift	060 528 2784				
Farm watch/ Plaaswag	072 310 0032				
Fire Brigade AFB	015 799 2172				
Fire Brigade Maruleng	015 793 0536				
Fire Dpt Hoedspruit	015 793 0728				
GKEPF Greater Kruger Enviro					
		VEHICLES, SPARES & REPAIRS			
		Laeveld Trekkers	087 806 5616		
		Supa Quick	015 793 0176		
		HDS Number Plates	082 807 4757		

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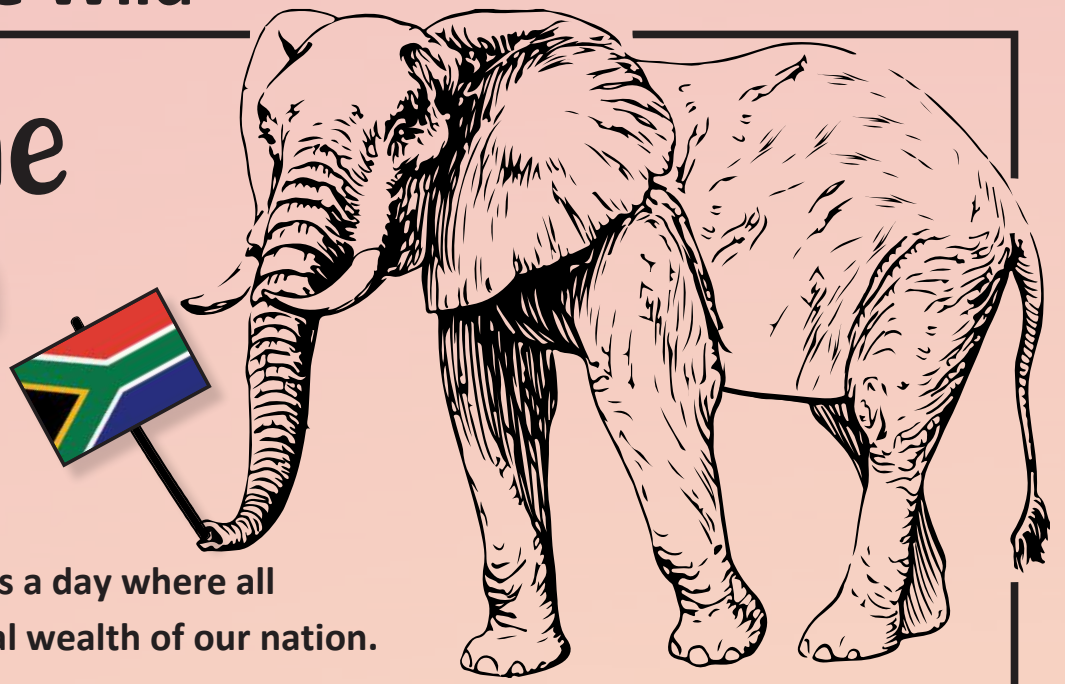
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FGASA Junior & Kids In The Wild

It's time for some SOUTH AFRICAN Inspired Fun!



Every year, on the 24th of September, South Africa celebrates a very special day - Heritage Day! This is a day where all South Africans recognise and celebrate the cultural wealth of our nation.

Let's see if you can fill in the blanks...

There are _____ colours in the South African flag.

The national Fish of South Africa is a _____.

The _____ is the national flower of South Africa.

The national tree of South Africa is called a _____.

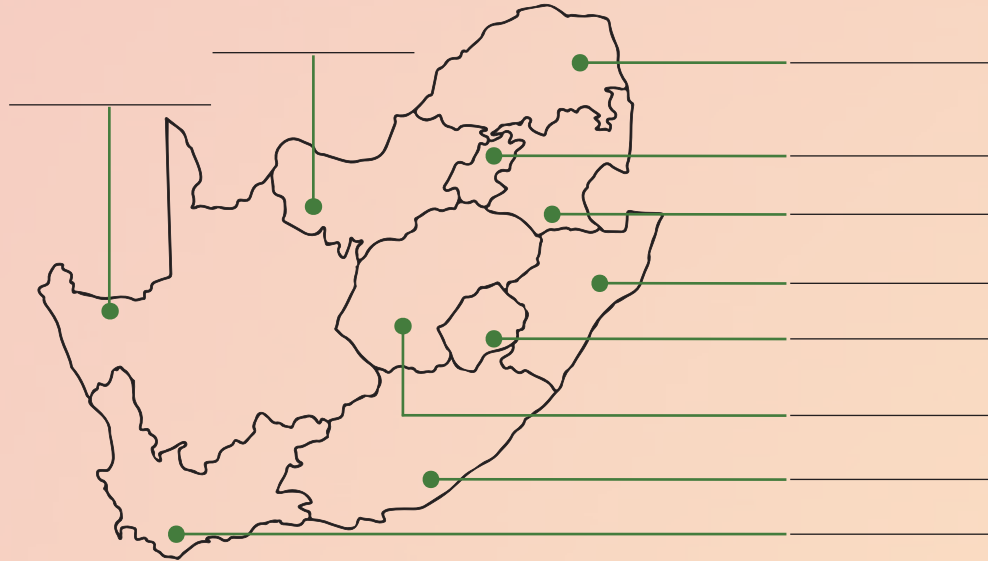
The _____ National Park is the biggest in South Africa.

There are _____ official languages in South Africa.

The __ pr__ ng__ __ __ is part of the gazelle tribe, Antilopini and is the national _____ of South Africa.

South Africa is called the __ ain__ ow _____.

There are **9** provinces in South Africa, let's see if you can name them...



www.kidsinthewild.co.za
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info@kidsinthewild.co.za

www.fgasa.co.za
+27 (0) 11 886 8245
membership@fgasa.org.za

If you love the wilderness, and are passionate about conservation, then we have the perfect thing for you. **FGASA Junior** in partnership with **Kids In The Wild** bring you the new and improved Pangolin Series that will be launching in 2022. **The Pangolin Series** will include an interactive platform for kids to reconnect with nature and the incredible wilderness that surrounds us on a daily basis. We will be offering online live lectures as well as on-demand courses that will encompass many different modules and will also include games, quizzes, homework and so much more.

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