



KRUGER2CANYON

NEWS

March 2025

The Farm House, R527, Zandspruit, Hoedspruit, Limpopo email: editor@kruger2canyon.co.za

Now let's talk about sanitation!



Local correspondent

Access to clean water and sanitation is a human right enshrined in Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa. To give effect to this, the Water Services Act was enacted in 1997 and provides that; everyone has a right of access to basic water supply and sanitation services, every water services institution must take steps to realise these rights, and every municipality must plan in its water services development plan to realise these rights.

Rather than improve matters for the people of South Africa, many municipalities across the country are overwhelmed by the challenges of decaying infrastructure, lack of capacity, competence, commitment, funding, and growing populations. The Maruleng Local Municipality (MLM) and its distant service-providing big brother, the Mopani District Municipality (MDM, based in Giyani, 160 km away)

have not escaped the ravages of time that have come to haunt the residents of the small Limpopo town of Hoedspruit (MLM) where service delivery has failed its residents spectacularly.

In not fulfilling their mandate municipalities have created huge lakes and rivers of raw sewerage across the country which have negatively affected the health and lives of millions of South Africans. In one such incident in Hammanskraal, a cholera outbreak left more than thirty residents dead and 100 hospitalised. The contaminated water came from a source downstream from failing sewage plants. Raw sewerage contains high levels of *E.coli* bacterium which inevitably lead to high levels of pathogens like cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and B, HIV, salmonella, shigella, streptococcus and many more. These result in sustained health threats as these are rarely cleaned up. The National Water Act makes it a criminal offence for polluters not to advise the SAPS or water catchment

authorities of spills. This is never complied with, and incident response protocols are seldom activated.

As is typical across the country, a large part of the services provided (or not provided) to the local community are delegated to a district municipality, to create economies of scale while providing services to smaller communities that would otherwise not be available. Sadly, the finances of many district municipalities are in disarray and with debt levels rising, service levels have declined. Two wards in the MLM contribute an estimated 90% of all municipal rates and taxes, but get about 4% of the municipal budget spent on them. Clearly, this is not a sustainable business plan for a municipality that hopes to attract new business and future investment, while not being able to supply the most basic of services to its citizens.

In the last two years the Department of Water and Sanitation has opened over thirty criminal cases against municipali-

ties across the country, which have led to several municipalities receiving substantial fines. The problem with this is that the municipalities just pass on the fines to the rate payers and tax payers. More recent cases have seen criminal charges laid against individual senior municipal managers which may have more impact.

A stink in "The Hoed"

Residents in the town of Hoedspruit and pupils at three local schools have been particularly badly affected by ongoing raw sewerage spills over many years, from a non-approved waste-water treatment works. The latest such incident, which started mid-January 2025, had an estimated flow rate of 1 million litres a day! This was only resolved mid-March 2025. Water sampling in dams, drainage channels and the Zandspruit (a tributary of the Blyde River) indicated extreme levels of *E.coli* and pathogens such as typhoid, cholera and various bacteriosis. **Cont. on page 3**

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From the Editors desk

Following up on last month's lead article, this month we managed to get some insight into the smelly world of sanitation. It is difficult to determine the willingness and competence of stakeholders to actually get down and do the job. As we said last month – without a commensurate upgrade of basic services at the same time as developments are sprouting up, we are destined for some serious problems that will come upon us like a tsunami!

Let's take note of the following days in April: April Fool's Day April 1st, World Autism Awareness Day on April 2nd, Easter Sunday April 20th, Passover, World Parkinson's day April 11th, Earth Day April 22nd, Alcohol Awareness Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month, Stress Awareness Month, and International Jazz Day April 30th.

Here are some interesting quirks about April: birthstones – diamond, known its brilliance and associated with love and strength. Some Roman authors believed "Aprilis" was related

to the Latin verb "aperire," meaning "to open". The Titanic sank on April 15th, 1912. The flowers of April are the sweet pea and daisy. Robinson Crusoe was published April 25th, 1719. Construction of the Suez Canal began in 1859.

Love The Hoed® Titbits

Airlink increases flight frequency?

Word has it that Airlink is about to increase its flight frequency on the Hoedspruit-Johannesburg route, supposedly to three flights a day. That would be good news, especially for the tourism sector in the area. Due to come into effect in the latter part of March. At the time of going to print we could only find third options with flight times of over 6hours! Unless there was something amiss with the site, I don't think that a 6 hour 55-minute flight Johannesburg to Hoedspruit (1 stop) makes any sense at all.

High protein cheese and egg muffins



Whether you are an elite athlete or need a high protein low carb lunch box filler for your kids, these cheese and egg muffins are quick and easy to make and the whole family will love them. I highly recommend using cup-cake papers or a silicone muffin tray as they do stick easily.

Ingredients:

- 6 x large eggs
- ½ cup cottage cheese
- ½ cup feta cheese or any grated cheese
- 1 x cup fresh baby spinach
- ¼ cup milk
- 1 x clove garlic crushed
- Salt, pepper

Optional add-ins:

Sun dried tomatoes, crispy bacon, ham artichoke chunks...

Instructions:

1. Preheat your oven to 180°C.
2. In a bowl, whisk together eggs, cottage cheese, shredded cheese, salt,

and pepper until well combined.

3. Grease a muffin tin or line with muffin cups.
4. Pour the egg mixture evenly into each muffin cup, filling each about two-thirds full.
5. Add your favourite mix-ins to each cup.
6. Bake in the preheated oven for 20-25 minutes or until the egg bites are set and slightly golden on top.
7. Allow the egg bites to cool for a few minutes before removing them from the muffin tin.
8. Keep stored in refrigerator.
9. Enjoy!

Veggie Diva

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Now let's talk about sanitation!

Cont. from page 1

Periodic spills have been caused by pipe blockages, load shedding, pump failures and capacity constraints of the emergency sewerage overflow tank. In the latest two-month saga, repair crews determined that there was a blockage in the main sewerage pipeline. For weeks large sections of pipeline were dug up, cut open to inspect for blockages and re-joined. Further sewerage spills resulted at several sites.

Eventually, it was concluded that the problem lay in the pumps not meeting design capacity. Two new high-capacity pumps were installed, and the problem was resolved - at least till the next incident. Since March 2024 a new standby genset has sat unconnected in a shed at the waste-water treatment works.

Historically, Hoedspruit sprung up around the SANDF airbase in the town during the 1970's. Due to its origins as a small cluster of houses, a few shops and a railway station, the Defence Force and the Department of Works at the time, generously agreed to supply bulk water and sewerage services to the town through its water treatment facility and sewerage treatment works. The exponential growth of the town came somewhat unexpectedly and has put a huge strain on the facility which now operates at over 150% of its designed capacity.

There is also an understandable increased reluctance by the SANDF to supply these services without compensation from the local (MLM) and district municipalities that inexplicably charge residents for these services.

Residents in Hoedspruit have been communicating with the Regional Director and the enforcement unit of the Department of Water and Sanitation's regional office in Mpumalanga (the enforcement department relates to the Blyde/Olifants catchment area) for over 18 months, only to be advised two weeks ago(!) that they are only attending to the issue of resolving the spills, but **not** the infrastructural challenges faced by the MDM.

The intervention of the Minister of Water Affairs, Ms Pemmy Majodina and the Department of Water and Sanitation Mpumalanga, resulted in a 'panicked' flurry of activity and two new high-capacity pumps were installed at the Leguan Street waste-water treatment works in the town. The Department of Water and Sanitation Mpumalanga, at a meeting with the Mopani District Municipality officials on 26 January 2025, instructed them to provide a plan for a long-term solution to sewerage spills in Hoedspruit by 28 February 2025. Community members with project management experience offered their services to assist in drawing up the plan.

Unfortunately, these offers were not taken up, and the Department of Water and Sanitation rejected the plan submitted by the Mopani District Municipality. They have now indicated that their enforcement action has led to criminal charges being laid against senior officials from the Mopani District Municipality in respect of similar incidents in Namakgale and Phalaborwa, together with the case which Hoedspruit residents laid in September 2023. Those charged include the Municipal Manager, the Senior Manager

of Technical Services, the Chief Financial Officer and the Senior Manager: Water and Sanitation.

A cluttered game board

Sadly, the Department of Water and Sanitation: Mpumalanga, also advised that they are attending to the enforcement action only, not the infrastructural challenges. This is the jurisdiction of the Department of Water and Sanitation: Limpopo, where residents will now have to start afresh with a new player! Eighteen wasted months!

The role players are now: the Mopani District Municipality, the Maruleng Local Municipality, the South African National Defence Force: Hoedspruit Airforce Base, the Department of Water Affairs & Sanitation: Mpumalanga, the Department of Water Affairs & Sanitation: Limpopo, the Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), and the Limpopo-Olifants River Water Management Authority – seven in all.

Where to from here?

There is still no end in sight for the residents of Maruleng. Abandoned projects include a water pipeline from Parma to Hoedspruit, an abandoned waste-water treatment works in Kampersrus, whilst the R1.4 billion Mametja-Sekororo regional bulk water project at The Oaks remains incomplete.

As recently as October 2024, the Minister of Water and Sanitation confirmed: "Public-private partnerships could go a long way to accelerating the provision of water services infrastructure and address

the gaps for which the government did not have sufficient funding or skills."

While this sounds like a great idea, the reality is quite harsh. For starters, how do you get decision-makers from all seven major role-players into one room to agree to a total overhaul of the status quo? Previous initiatives have floundered for this very reason. Perhaps the time has come for the Department of Water and Sanitation to take the lead and set out exactly what their version of a public-private partnership should look like, and then facilitate (drive) the process.

Funding for such a holistic public-private partnership in Maruleng could require as much as R 1.5 billion – including the outstanding debt on the Lower Blyde Pipeline Network. The Municipal Infrastructure Support Agent facilitates processes to support capital-raising techniques, to enhance municipal development needs, and Municipal Infrastructure Grants through financing mechanisms and establishing long-term public-private partnerships. International donor aid may be an option, now that Hoedspruit – developing into a sizeable tourist mecca, the number of foreigners living in the area, the preservation of the Kruger to Canyon Biosphere and job creation for all the residents of Maruleng.

Some serious decisions and interventions and actions need to be taken. A piecemeal approach to solving this pressing issue is not an option. This requires a holistic approach that makes financial sense and is sustainable and replicable. Without strong support from the Department of Water and Sanitation, it is a non-starter.

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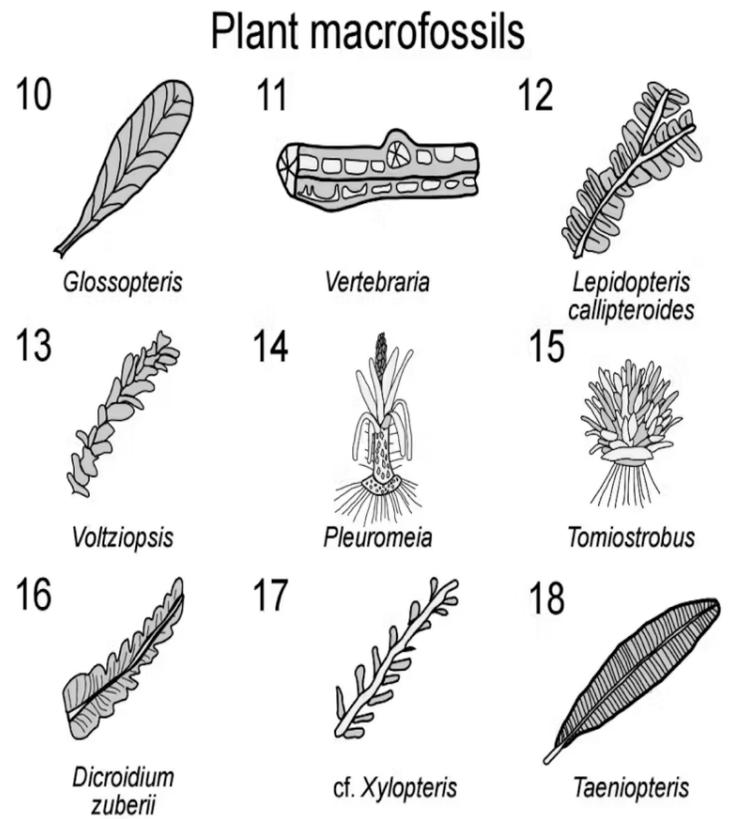
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Plants struggled for millions of years after Earth's worst climate catastrophe – new study



Carbonised impression of a plant fossil on the shores of Long Reef, Sydney, Australia, image - Marcos Amores (above left). The main plant types present around 250 million years ago in the Sydney region, Australia, including clubmosses (numbers 14 and 15), image - Amores et al. 2025, GSA Bulletin

Marcos Amores
PhD Candidate in Palaeoclimatology, University College Cork
Chris Mays
Senior Curator, Palaeobotany, Natural History Museum Vienna

With the world on the threshold of 1.5°C of warming, one pressing question is: how bad can it get? The answer may lie beneath our feet.

Buried underground are rocks, many rocks, and they are old. For palaeontologists like us, they are a vast archive of past life on Earth. In particular, they can tell us how life on land fared during times when the climate warmed suddenly. Our new study showed that plants were severely affected, and forests took millions of years to recover.

About 252 million years ago more than 80% of marine species became extinct. This is known as the end-Permian mass extinction, arguably the most significant climatic crisis since the earliest appearance of animals, more than 555 million years ago. It seems that the prime culprit was the massive amount of warming-inducing greenhouse gas released by volcanoes in a region known as the Siberian Traps in Russia.

Evidence suggests that plants may not

have suffered a mass extinction, but their communities were heavily affected, if not destroyed outright. While the extreme heat would have pushed plants and animals past their tolerance limits, they probably also faced deadly droughts, ozone depletion, widespread wildfires and toxic heavy metal contamination.

Data on how plants fared following the end-Permian extinction are plentiful, but little is known about those located at higher latitudes, where it was cooler. Thriving ecosystems existed at polar latitudes back then, aided by a mostly ice-free polar region. At the end-Permian event, however, this ecosystem was entirely wiped out.

Our work examined the rocks and fossils of the Sydney region of Australia, which was located near the south pole for at least 8 million years following the worst mass extinction in Earth's history. These well-preserved, long-term records provide a window into the recovery of plant communities furthest away from the source of trouble.

The long, unsteady path to recovery

The plant fossils from these Australian rocks showed that conifers, like modern pines or cypresses, were some of the earliest to colonise the land immediately following the calamity. The recovery to flourishing

forests, however, was not smooth sailing.

We discovered that even higher temperatures 2 million years after the end-Permian event caused the collapse of these conifer survivors. In turn, they were replaced by tough, shrubby plants resembling modern clubmosses (like Isoetes). How hot it got in Sydney is not known, but this scorching period lasted for about 700,000 years and made life challenging for trees and other large plants.

The main plant types present around 250 million years ago in the Sydney region, Australia, including clubmosses (numbers 14 and 15). Amores et al. 2025, GSA Bulletin When cooling conditions finally manifested, large but unusual plants that looked like ferns but bore seeds like conifers flourished and established more stable forests in Sydney. This recovery took less than 100,000 years to happen. These plants eventually dominated the landscape for millions of years, paving the way for the lush forests during the Mesozoic age of the dinosaurs.

So, after millions of years, the forest ecosystems of the Mesozoic came to look like those from before the end-Permian event. But crucially, the plant species that made up the new forests were completely different.

The term "recovery" can be misleading.

Forests recover eventually, but extinction of individual species is forever.

By understanding how ancient plant ecosystems weathered extreme climate swings, we, as researchers, hope to learn valuable lessons about how modern plants and ecosystems might cope (or not) with today's climate crisis. With this knowledge, we can inform policymakers of what is yet to come, and help steer a course that will avoid the worst climate outcomes over the longest possible timeframes.

So, fossil records add a data-driven long-term perspective to the climate choices we make today. Ecosystems depend on a fragile balance, with plants as the backbone of food webs on land and climate regulators.

The fossils have spoken: the disruption of these systems can have consequences that last hundreds of thousands of years, so protecting today's ecosystems is more important than ever.

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SOLE MANDATE
BLYDE WILDLIFE ESTATE R 5 500 000
Bedrooms 5 | Bathrooms 4 | Floor size: 450 m²

Well-maintained property with panoramic mountain views from patio, pool and boma area. Main house with 3 bedrooms and a guest unit with 2 bedrooms. Paved driveway and entrance, double garrage, double carport, storage facility, laundry room, staff room and enclosed courtyard. Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2343311



SOLE MANDATE
CANYON GAME RESERVE R 2 800 000
Bedrooms 3 | Bathrooms 2.5 | Floor size: 275 m²

This comfortable home has a lounge, open plan kitchen, upstairs library and large patio. The house has a new thatch roof and there are solar panels, 5kVa inverter and 5kVa batteries. The views from the spacious patio are towards the Drakensberg mountains, and a large Tamboti tree. Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2344618



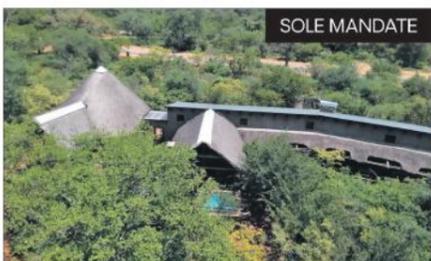
SOLE MANDATE
THE VILLAGE, HOEDSPRUIT R 2 500 000
WILDLIFE ESTATE Bedrooms 3 | Bathrooms 2

This lovely 255m² townhouse is set amongst beautiful trees and has a lovely fenced garden area. The home features kitchen, courtyard and lounge with aircon that leads to the covered patio and garden. Great investment option or an opportunity for first-time home buyers. Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2370806



SOLE MANDATE
WILD FIG APARTMENTS, HOEDSPRUIT R 950 000
Beds 2 | Baths 1 | Floor: 84 m²

Ground-floor apartment offering open-plan living, a private garden area, ceiling fans, ample cupboards, and a full bathroom. The complex has a communal pool, prepaid electricity, municipal water with backup, and is centrally located. Permission may be applied for to keep a small pet. Michelle Herb - 071 652 9140 Ref: 2370410



SOLE MANDATE
HOEDSPRUIT WILDLIFE ESTATE R 4 600 000
Beds 5 | Baths 4 | Floor: 276 m²

This well-located, charming property comprises 3-bedroom house with a rondavel which could be rented out, as well as a flat that is currently rented out. Sliding doors from the main home's living area lead to the covered patio with splash pool. The patio area also features a pizza oven. Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2360126



SOLE MANDATE
HOEDSPRUIT R 4 000 000
Beds 3 | Baths 3 | Floor: 194 m² | Land: 31 ha

FREE STANDING FARM - The property features a main house with open plan kitchen, leading to a lounge and large patio with views onto a water hole and Drakensberg mountains. Another building consists of an inverter and battery room with a large generator, 2 staff bedrooms and kitchen. Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2335158



SOLE MANDATE
LISSATABA NATURE RESERVE R 2 800 000
Beds 2 | Baths 2 | Floor: 140 m²

Lock-up-and-go home with great views! Overlooking the Olifants River this property features a main unit with bedroom, open plan kitchen, living and dining area, leading to a covered patio. A spacious stand-alone chalet with en-suite bathroom and a storage area overlooks a waterhole. Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2355906



SOLE MANDATE
CANYON GAME RESERVE R 3 000 000
Bedrooms 4 | Bathrooms 4 | Floor size: 290 m²

The main house comprises 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, open plan lounge, dining area and kitchen. A covered patio and decked area is found off the living area with a pizza oven and pool. The self-contained cottage comprises lounge, dining area, kitchenette and two en-suite bedrooms. Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2345896



COMMERCIAL LODGE R 10 500 000
Beds 8 | Baths 8 | Floor: 980 m² | Land size: 21 ha

This commercial lodge consists of a main owner's house, a central lodge area and 5 luxury treetop chalets. Sold as a going concern; this lodge has great potential with future bookings and well-trained staff. Movable items and furniture include, as well as a bakkie. Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2160187



MICA, HOEDSPRUIT OUTLYING R 12 000 000
Beds 7 | Baths 7 | Land: 1.3 ha

This private lodge offers a 12-bed capacity and stunning Olifants river and mountain views. The lodge features 3 en-suite bedrooms, a commercial kitchen, bar, lounge, gym, office, and a wrap-around balcony. Two en-suite bedrooms, two pools, and a recreational area add to its appeal. Cherilynn J v Rensburg - 079 894 3974 Ref: 2366727



NDLOVUMZI NATURE RESERVE R 4 860 000
Beds 8 | Baths 7 | Floor size: 420 m²

Set on 21 hectares and overlooking the Olifants river, this property offers four separate residential dwellings. The main unit has a covered entertainment area, two downstairs bedrooms and three on the upper landing. There are three additional chalets, each of these overlooking the river. Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2369777



ORCHARD HILLS from R 2 500 000 excl
New Development Beds 2 | Baths 2

These off-plan, full-title luxury farmhouse-style homes feature an open-plan lounge, dining area, and kitchen with a separate scullery/laundry. The lounge extends onto a spacious covered terrace with a built-in braai, perfect for outdoor living. Calin Leppan - 082 824 9482 Ref: 2269562

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RENTAL
RAPTORS VIEW WILDLIFE ESTATE R 24 800 pm
Beds 3 | Baths 2 | Furnished

Available immediately until 31 March 2026, not pet friendly - Escape to the bush and enjoy a cozy open plan lounge/dining room area leads into the spacious kitchen and scullery. Outside is a lovely entertainment area with covered seating area, decking and pool. Furnished, but excluding linen. Michelle Herb - 071 652 9140 Ref: 2359009



RENTAL
MODITLO WILDLIFE ESTATE R 65 000 pm
Bedrooms 3 | Bathrooms 3 | Fully furnished

Available Mar - Nov 2025, not less than a 3 month lease, not pet friendly - Pristine, modern home in a quiet location. The open-plan lounge, dining room and kitchen area are perfect for entertaining. The 12.5m lap pool is great for daily exercise. All bedrooms and living area have fans and aircons. Michelle Herb - 071 652 9140 Ref: 2348888



Local children from Balule Outreach Trust's dedication



Soccer kids in Sigagule (above), Jungle gym donated by Koru Camp at the Drop in Centre, Maseke (below).

Images supplied

Sue Harwood

In December 2024, 18 learners and two Nature Site guides from the South African Medical Expeditions (S.A.M.E.) Foundation in Sigagule, attended a course at Koru Camp, which was sponsored by Balule Outreach Trust (BOT). Koru Camp is a non-profit eco-camp, which empowers local communities and supports conservation, through education and transformative nature experiences within the Greater Kruger.

Bursting with energy and curiosity, the children and teens experienced team building, fun water games to escape the unrelenting heat, had fantastic sightings, and loved the educational classes. More groups from the S.A.M.E. Foundation are booked to come to Koru Camp this year, thanks to BOT.

Laduma!

In December, BOT organised a visit to Sigagule Village for Boots4Balule. There they distributed several suitcases packed with 'gently used' soccer kit to the children of the S.A.M.E. Foundation. The coaches and team members were delighted with the generous assortment comprising 127 pairs of cleats, ten pairs of sneakers and socks, fourteen shirts, twelve pairs of pants and shorts, ten pairs of shin guards and five pinnies.

The Pamp family, who own a holiday home in the Olifants River Game Reserve, brought the soccer kit from California, where they live. Their son Mitchell, and his friend Winston started Boots4Balule (www.

boots4balule.com) with the intention of collecting 'gently used' soccer kit for the communities in and around Balule. This fabulous initiative has brought so much joy to the sports-mad boys in this corner of the world.

Shirley-Anne Beretta, Director of S.A.M.E. said: "It was such a special day and we thank Boots4Balule for this incredible gift - and the Balule Outreach Trust for organising the visit - and for their continuous support and donations. Thank you to everyone involved for bringing Christmas to these children!"

The Boots4Balule team plan to return this year, and every year thereafter, hoping to cast their net wider and supply more children with decent outfits to wear whilst playing the "beautiful game".

Drop In for more

Besides providing monthly food parcels to the Maseke Drop In Centre, BOT sponsored the repair of the borehole at the Centre. This allowed the Centre to once again provide fresh water to the 200 or so children who come to the centre for afterschool care. The Trust finances the purchase of the daily meal for the orphaned and disadvantaged children who attend the Centre five days a week after school.

The borehole pumping system had broken down, and for over a year the Centre had no water, and could only afford to purchase the absolute minimum, which was carefully given to each child daily. Now they have access to fresh drinking water and water for their ablution and kitchen facilities.

During the recent renovations, Koru Camp in Mvuu donated a beautiful jungle gym



to the centre, which was arranged by BOT, and then collected and re-assembled by staff from JeJane. The equipment replaced broken and unusable swings and slides and has delighted so many children.

For more information check Balule Outreach Trust website: <https://baluleoutreach.org/>
Anyone wanting more information can also contact Sue Harwood at info@baluleoutreach.org



Cyanobacteria and government inaction are threatening the country's water supply



Don Pinnock

Cyanobacteria are probably the most numerous creatures to have ever existed on Earth. They're good for making oxygen but otherwise bad news for most life forms. Through neglect of our water systems they're on a feeding frenzy.

Much of South Africa is facing a water crisis, but it's not just drought or climate change driving the problem. The country's lakes and reservoirs are increasingly choked by blooms of toxic cyanobacteria – commonly known as blue-green algae – making masses of water untreatable for household use.

The problem is exacerbated by ageing wastewater treatment facilities and poor infrastructure management. But, as will be seen below, the crisis is not inevitable. Effective solutions exist and could be implemented quickly if the political will were there.

Cyanobacteria are microscopic organisms that thrive in hypoxic, nutrient-rich waters, particularly in reservoirs and lakes with high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus. These nutrients, often the result of agricultural runoff and untreated sewage, fuel massive algal blooms that spread across the surface of water bodies, blocking sunlight and depleting oxygen levels.

The result is a catastrophic disruption of aquatic ecosystems and a threat to public health. Drinking or even coming into contact with cyanobacteria-infested water can cause severe health problems, from skin rashes and respiratory issues to liver and neurological damage.

In extreme cases, as seen at Zimbabwe's Lake Chivero, toxic blooms have rendered entire reservoirs untreatable for human consumption. Experts warn that South Africa's water sources are heading in the same direction. Official reports reveal massive scale of the waste, pollution and poorly treated water crisis

The failure of government response

For years, water experts and environmentalists have sounded the alarm over the deteriorating state of South Africa's dams and the looming impact of cyanobacteria. Dave Shackleton, a water treatment specialist now working in the United States and founder and CEO of SIS.BIO, has spent more than a decade advocating modern remediation techniques

to address the crisis.

He warns that South Africa's wastewater treatment plants are failing to manage nutrient discharge, leading to an explosion of cyanobacteria in rivers and major reservoirs such as Hartbeespoort Dam and Roodeplaat Dam.

"There's no point waiting for weeds and toxic algal blooms to occur," he says, "then going out to treat them with chemicals or beetles or whatever. That way you just send even more organic biomass down to the sediment to add to the nutrient stockpile that fuels future blooms."

Shackleton says there are effective solutions in the US that could be applied to South Africa's water bodies, but his engagement with South African officials has led to little progress.

"I've had meetings with the Department of Water Affairs, sent emails to officials and even spoken at conferences where Ministers promised action," he told Daily Maverick. "But nothing happens. The bureaucratic inertia is staggering."

The Department of Water and Sanitation disputes this. It says it has made significant progress in monitoring activities, research into cleaner technologies, developing an eutrophication (overgrowth) strategy and remedying issues at Hartbeespoort Dam. It adds that it has been upgrading and modernising many water treatment facilities and has implemented an early warning system for cyanobacteria.

A range of trial cleanups at a number of sites by the Department of Public Works using Shackleton's company in 2017 found that it brought down cost substantially and in all cases brought treated effluent discharge into compliance with regulated standards.

A recent Daily Maverick report highlighted plans to hold municipal managers accountable for the national sewage crisis, but critics argue that enforcement alone won't fix the core problem, which is failing infrastructure and an unwillingness to adopt proven remediation methods.

How cyanobacteria moves

One of the reasons cyanobacteria are so difficult to control is their ability to move vertically through the water column. Unlike traditional algae, which float, cyanobacteria regulate their buoyancy, rising to the surface during the day to capture sunlight and sinking

at night to absorb nutrients from the depths.

This constant cycling means that conventional treatments – such as applying chemical algacides – often fail to address the root cause of the problem.

Research has shown that cyanobacteria colonies contain an entire microbiome of organisms that further enhance their ability to absorb nutrients. This makes them even more resilient and capable of rebounding after failed treatment attempts. Instead of killing off algae with chemicals, Shackleton argues, the solution lies in restoring the natural balance of the aquatic ecosystem.

The key to combating cyanobacteria, he says, is oxygen. Many of South Africa's reservoirs suffer from hypoxia – low oxygen levels at the bottom of the water body. This lack of oxygen triggers chemical reactions in the sediment, releasing more phosphorus and nitrogen into the water and feeding the next wave of cyanobacterial blooms. Over time this sediment can raise the floor of dams, massively decreasing their water-carrying level.

Shackleton's company developed a simple and cost-effective method to fully oxygenate them, preventing this cycle from repeating. Once the water is properly oxygenated, beneficial algae and zooplankton outcompete cyanobacteria, reducing its dominance naturally.

"The solution isn't complex," Shackleton says. "We need to stop treating the symptoms and fix the root cause. That means increasing oxygen levels, restoring the food web and using biological methods to break down excess organic material at the bottom of these reservoirs."

The approach, he says, has already yielded success in the US, where projects in Missouri, Colorado and Virginia have transformed struggling lakes and reservoirs. "In some cases, water quality improved so significantly that local water treatment plants were able to cut their use of chlorine and other chemicals in half, reducing the production of harmful disinfection byproducts."

What this process cannot do, however, is the removal of toxic chemicals or heavy metals contained in domestic/industrial effluent overflowing into the environment from broken or dysfunctional wastewater treatment works. And, of course, oxygenation treats the symptoms not the root causes such as the high volume of organic nutrients (poo),

residual chemicals and heavy metals pouring out of collapsed municipal treatment works into rivers and soils.

A private sector solution?

One of the most promising aspects of reoxygenation, however, is its potential for rapid implementation. Shackleton estimates that if allowed to proceed, his team could make 500 megalitres a day of additional water available to Gauteng – water that exists but is unusable because of pollution. This would be equivalent to bringing a major new dam online, without the massive construction costs and environmental impact.

However, he says, the South African Government remains reluctant to permit private sector involvement in water management. Political concerns, bureaucratic red tape and vested interests have kept effective solutions on the sidelines while the crisis worsens.

"There's a lot of talk about bringing in the private sector to help," he says. "But at the municipal level, there's no accountability. The money collected for sewage treatment isn't reinvested in infrastructure. It's just another revenue stream for struggling municipalities."

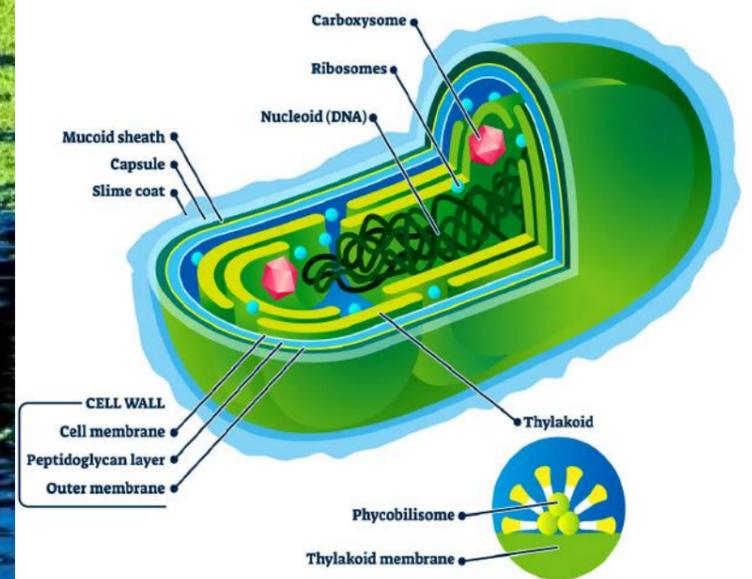
A shift towards privatised water treatment contracts could be one way to cut through the deadlock. The Treasury has already explored the idea of transversal contracts, which would allow government entities to bypass lengthy procurement processes and engage directly with service providers. If properly implemented, this could provide a way to roll out solutions without getting bogged down in political infighting.

Without immediate action, South Africa faces a future in which many of its key reservoirs are too toxic to supply drinking water. The collapse of water security would exacerbate inequality, drive up costs for businesses and households and pose severe public health risks.

Shackleton and other experts argue that the science is clear and that solutions exist. What's missing is the urgency and political will to act. Until that changes, South Africans can expect their water woes to deepen, with potentially catastrophic consequences for the country's future.

This article was previously published in the Daily Maverick/Our Burning Planet/Water Crisis

CYANOBACTERIA



Structure of a cyanobacterium (above).
Image: Wikipedia Commons

Cyanobacterial blooms are threatening South Africa's potable water supply, but experts say that solutions do exist.
Image: Singapore University

The explosive secrets of the bombardier beetle



Bombardier beetle (above left) and blister on skin from the bliter beetle (right)

Images: Canva Kasira5698

Tim Baynham
Wildlife Safety Solutions

Bombardier beetles are found in many parts of the world, including Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. There are over 500 species of these explosive critters, all belonging to the family *Carabidae*. Known for their extraordinary defense mechanism, these small but formidable ground beetles have captured the interest of scientists and nature enthusiasts alike. Aposematic coloration combined with the ability to produce explosive chemical reactions within its own body, provides the bombardier beetle with a formidable defense and exemplifies nature's ingenuity in terms of survival strategies. Their striking coloration - often a combination of reddish-brown and black with yellow spots - serves as a warning to potential predators. It signals danger and discourages attacks from animals that may have encountered their potent chemical defenses before.

They thrive in diverse environments rang-

ing from savannas to tropical forests and even semi-arid areas. These beetles are usually found under rocks, logs, and leaf litter, where they remain hidden during the day and typically emerge at night to hunt and scavenge. They are predatory by nature, preying on small insects, larvae, and other invertebrates. Some species exhibit communal hunting behaviors, particularly in their larval stages, where they work together to subdue larger prey. In addition to hunting, these beetles also scavenge on decaying organic matter, playing an essential role in nutrient recycling within their ecosystems.

The reproductive cycle of bombardier beetles follows a fascinating pattern. Mating typically occurs at night, after which the female lays her eggs in soil or under plant debris. The larvae, upon hatching, are highly specialized predators, often targeting soft-bodied insects such as caterpillars and maggots. The larval stage lasts for several weeks, during which the young beetles undergo multiple molts before pupating. After

metamorphosis, they emerge as fully developed adults, ready to continue their predatory lifestyle. The entire life cycle can vary depending on environmental conditions, but in favorable climates, they reproduce rapidly, ensuring a steady population in their habitats.

What really makes bombardier beetles truly unique is its explosive defense system. When threatened, the beetle ejects a hot, noxious chemical spray from its abdomen. This reaction occurs within a specialized chamber in its body, where two chemicals - hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide - are stored separately. When the beetle perceives danger, these chemicals mix in the presence of catalytic enzymes, triggering a rapid oxidation reaction. This exothermic reaction heats the liquid to nearly 100°C before it is forcefully expelled in a pulsating burst of toxic steam.

This defense mechanism is highly effective against predators such as frogs, spiders, birds, and even larger insects. The sudden explosion of chemicals creates a popping

sound, startling attackers and giving the beetle enough time to escape. The beetle can release its defensive spray multiple times in succession, making it one of the most efficient chemical weapon systems in the insect world.

The bombardier beetle is a testament to the incredible diversity and adaptability of the insect world. Its sophisticated defense system, coupled with its predatory efficiency, makes it one of nature's most fascinating creatures.

For more information on scorpions, snakes, spiders and other venomous animals, awareness training and talks, as well as a professional 24hrs problem snake rescue service, contact the author at Wildlife Safety Solutions: 073 934 6156; info@wildlifesafetysolutions.co.za; www.wildlifesafetysolutions.co.za, FB Wildlife Safety Solutions, Instagram [wildlife_safety_solutions](https://www.instagram.com/wildlife_safety_solutions)

Has the La Niña weather pattern faded and if not, how long will it last?

Ed Stoddard

La Niña is fading — some forecasters say it is already done and dusted — but there are hopeful signs that this weather pattern, which typically brings good rains to southern Africa, will bounce back by spring.

As summer fades in South Africa, a burning question on the minds of many a farmer is how long the La Niña weather pattern will last and when will its dreaded El Niño sibling bare its fangs again?

It is a question ripe with implications for food security, inflation and the wider economy, and the ultimate answer to it will either reap rich yields from the fields or a harvest of sorrow.

To wit, the general view among global weather forecasters is that La Niña - which typically brings good rains to this region - formed in December but is weak and will be short-lived.

But not everyone is on board. Australia's Bureau of Meteorology in an update last week said La Niña was dead in the water.

"The El Niño-Southern Oscillation (Enso) remains neutral despite a brief period from December to February when the tropical Pacific shifted towards a La Niña-like state," the bureau said.

Enso refers to the global climate dance that moves to the beat of sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the tropical latitudes of the central and eastern Pacific. When those temperatures cool, La Niña forms, raising the prospects for rain in southern Africa.

When they heat up, El Niño takes centre stage, and that generally heralds drought in these parts - which was the case late last summer, when critical grain crops across the region were scorchingly hammered.

Between these two extremes, Enso is regarded as neutral and the Australians are saying that is the current state of play.

"SSTs in the central tropical Pacific have risen over the past four weeks, with the most recent value of Niño3.4 (-0.30°C for the week ending 2 March) firmly within the neutral range," the bureau said.

"The bureau's model predicts neutral Enso (neither El Niño nor La Niña) until at least July. This is consistent with all surveyed international models."

If this is correct, what happens after July will be crucial.

The Earth Institute at Columbia University sees Enso in a neutral phase by April with a more than 50% prospect of it remaining until August.

But by September, it sees a switch back to La Niña - just in time for the southern hemisphere spring, with the end of the calendar year having a 55% chance of it remaining in place.

Pointedly, it sees only a 13% chance of El Niño conditions being in place by the end of 2025, with a 32% chance of the year finishing in neutral - which can mean normal rainfall in this region.

The Columbia forecast is the one favoured as the most accurate by the Agricultural Business Chamber of SA (Agbiz).

"We are currently in a favourable agricultural season, a recovery from the drought of 2023-24 production year. It is still early to tell what the next season would look like, but the early estimates we monitor suggest that we may have yet another season of abundance in [the] 2025-26 production year that starts in October this year," Agbiz chief economist Wandile Sihlobo told Daily Maverick.

El Niño, it must be said, does figure more prominently later in 2025 in other reports and predictions and it is too early to forecast what Christmas will bring.

But for now, the signs are tentatively hopeful for the remainder of the summer crop season and the start of the next one a few months'

hence.

With hunger and food security still a major concern in the region - notably in Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi, but also in South Africa - hopefully La Niña will bounce back before El Niño.

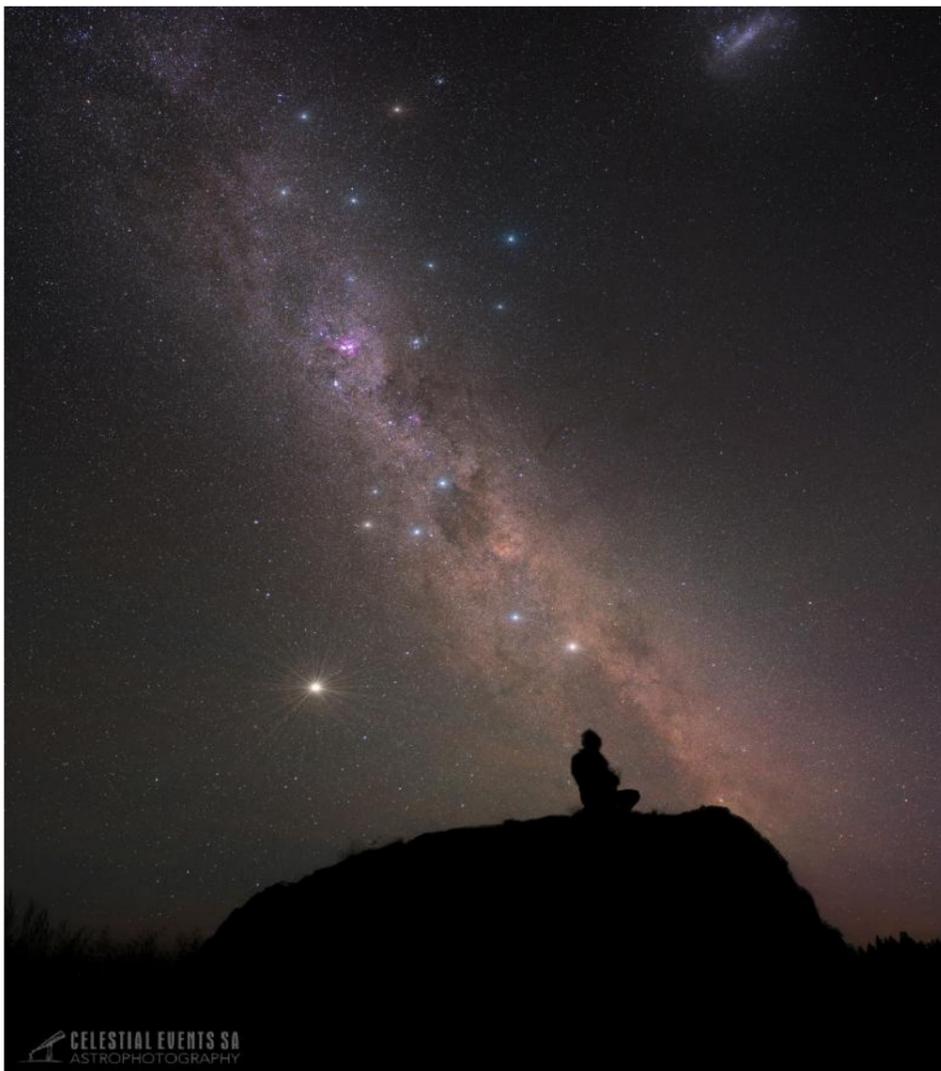
This article was previously published in Daily Maverick/Our Burning Planet



The El Niño weather pattern has faded and its polar opposite La Niña is widely expected to re-emerge soon as the surface temperatures in the eastern Pacific cool.

Illustrative image, Photo -Paola Mier Unsplash.

Are we alone ?



Ben Coley
Celestial Events

Have you ever looked up at the night sky and wondered if someone, somewhere, is looking back? Given the vastness of the universe, it feels almost inevitable that intelligent life must exist elsewhere. The Milky Way galaxy alone has around 400 billion stars many of which have multiple planetary systems. Surely, some of them must have conditions suitable for life?

And yet, we see nothing. No signals, no spacecraft and no alien cities glowing on distant worlds. This puzzling silence is what scientists call the Fermi Paradox - the contradiction between the high probability of extraterrestrial life and the complete lack of evidence for it.

So, where is everybody?

To understand the Fermi Paradox, consider just how many potential alien civilizations could exist. Astronomers estimate there are billions of planets in our gal-

axy that lie in the "habitable zone" - the region around a star where conditions might allow liquid water to exist. If even a tiny fraction of these planets developed life, and if an even smaller fraction evolved into intelligent, technological civilizations, there should be countless alien societies out there.

Some of these civilizations, if they exist, should be millions or even billions of years ahead of us. Given that timescale, they should have had ample opportunity to spread across the galaxy, leaving behind evidence of their presence. Radio signals, massive space structures, probes, or even colonized planets. But still we see nothing.

Why no contact?

There are many possible explanations for why we haven't seen any signs of extraterrestrial life.

We are truly alone. Multi-celled, intelligent life takes a long time to evolve (albeit that we only have a sample size of '1'



079 575 0900



Alien (top left), image-The Telegraph, Radio telescopes with specialized antennas and radio receivers that detect radio waves from astronomical sources (above), image supplied.

Exoplanets that orbit stars outside of our own solar system (above) Image credit HalcyonMaps

to surmise this). The first single celled organisms appeared on Earth around 3.5 billion years ago, whereas complex life only evolved over 2 billion years later. Maybe Earth really is the only place where intelligent life has emerged. If this is the case, we are not just rare, we are unique. Our planet might be the only known sanctuary of consciousness in the entire galaxy.

They're out there, but too far away. Space is mind-bogglingly vast. Even if there are alien civilizations, they could be millions of light-years apart. Their signals might not have reached us yet, or ours may never reach them.

They're hiding (or avoiding us). What if advanced civilizations deliberately avoid contact? Maybe they see younger civilizations like ours as unpredictable or even dangerous. Some theories suggest an intergalactic "zoo" hypothesis, where aliens observe us from a distance without interfering.

Civilizations self-destruct. A darker (and more likely, based on our recent history) explanation is that technological civilizations might not last very long. Once a species reaches a certain level of advancement, it might destroy itself through war, environmental destruction, or even artificial intelligence. If this is true, it would mean civilizations regularly wipe themselves out before they can spread across the stars.

We're not listening/looking in the right way or place. Our search for extraterrestrial life depends on our own limited technology. Maybe aliens communicate and travel in ways we haven't discovered yet. Maybe they use quantum signals, gravitational waves, or something beyond our comprehension. Perhaps they are a microscopically small, using nano-

technology, or exist in some sort of yet undiscovered dimension.

There are many more explanations, but if the first one is true - that we are truly alone, then Earth is the most important place in the galaxy. That realization should change the way we think about our planet.

If we destroy Earth's ecosystems, or if we make our planet uninhabitable, we are wiping out something irreplaceable. If other intelligent beings exist elsewhere, our failure to protect Earth might not matter so much in the grand scheme of the universe. But *if* we are the only intelligent life, we carry an enormous responsibility.

We may be the only consciousness that can appreciate the beauty of the cosmos, the only ones who can explore and understand it. If we vanish, the universe may never know itself.

This perspective makes environmental protection, scientific progress, and sustainable living not just issues of politics or economics, but our cosmic duty. We must ensure that humanity thrives, so that we can continue our journey, and perhaps one day venture to the stars.

The Fermi Paradox reminds us that, despite all our advances, we still don't have the answers to some of the biggest questions about existence. But one thing is certain: this planet is precious. Until we find evidence of others like us, we should treat Earth as if it's the only world that matters. Because right now, it is.

See Celestial Events SA advert for contact details



Championing the healthiest nut for food lovers

Macadamias South Africa (SAMAC) is making waves in the culinary world by partnering with the Chaîne des Rôtisseurs Young Chefs Competition, showcasing macadamias as the ultimate ingredient for chefs and food lovers.

Lizel Pretorius, CEO of Macadamias South Africa NPC, highlights macadamias as a premium, nutrient-dense ingredient with a rich, buttery texture and health benefits, making them perfect for elevating any culinary experience.

As the world's largest producer of macadamias, South Africa continues to meet the growing global demand," says Pretorius.

Chefs are now preparing for the May finals. The winner will travel to France to work with top chefs, introducing macadamias to a global culinary audience.

"Unlike other nuts, macadamias are a powerhouse packed with heart-healthy fats, essential minerals and antioxidants. Low in carbs, sugar-free and energy-boosting, they're ideal for health-conscious individuals," says Pretorius.

Chefs can explore macadamia milk, macadamia butter and macadamia nut cream for enriching soups and sauces. "Macadamia oil is a premium choice for cooking, with a high smoke point of approximately 210°C. It enhances dishes with a delicate, nutty flavour while providing a luxurious and health-conscious alternative to traditional cooking oils," Pretorius adds. "It's an ideal ingredient in macarons or tarts."

Macadamias are the healthiest nuts on the block, and studies show they even surpass avocados when it comes to nutritional benefits.



Springbok tataki

Ingredients

- 200g springbok loin, seasoned and rolled up
- 1 tsp grain mustard
- 1 tsp chopped parsley
- 1 tbsp macadamia oil
- 1 spring onion, chopped
- 70g shimeji mushrooms
- 1 tbsp extra virgin macadamia oil
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
- 1 lime, zested
- Parmesan, shavings for garnish
- 20g Cajun roasted macadamias, chopped
- 50g wild rocket
- ¼ fresh avocado, cut in blocks
- ½ grilled sweetcorn
- 50ml kewpie mayo
- 1 tsp chakalaka

For the dressing

- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tbsp red wine vinegar
- 1 lime, juiced
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

1. Marinate springbok loin in mustard, salt, pepper and parsley. Wrap, rest for 30 min, then sear briefly. Pickle shimeji mushrooms in macadamia oil, balsamic and lime zest.
2. Slice loin carpaccio-style and layer with mushrooms, corn, macadamias, avocado and rocket.
3. Mix dressing ingredients, drizzle over and garnish with chakalaka mayo, lime zest and parmesan. Season to taste.

Special thanks to GT Lundi, Chef and Owner of Zest Restaurant, Nelspruit, and Chaîne des Rôtisseurs member.

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Lady Godiva and your April 2025 horoscopes



April Overview

April 2025 is a month of action, growth, and dynamic shifts. With Aries season fuelling confidence and bold moves until April 19, followed by the Taurus season bringing stability and grounding, expect a mix of high energy and practical planning. The Full Moon in Libra on April 13 highlights relationships and balance, while the New Moon in Taurus on April 27 encourages financial and personal security. It's a time to take decisive steps while ensuring long-term stability. April 2025 is a mix of bold moves and grounding energy. Trust your instincts, take action, and build solid foundations for the months ahead!

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

It's your time to shine! April is full of new beginnings and exciting opportunities. The Full Moon urges you to find balance in relationships - don't let ambition overshadow your connections.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

As your birthday season approaches, focus on personal growth and well-being. Mid-month, unexpected realizations may push you to change direction. Trust the process and embrace stability.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

April sparks deep reflection and behind-the-scenes planning. Use this time to recharge before an action-packed May. The New Moon opens doors for financial and career improvements.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Friendships and networking take center stage this month. Lean on your community for support. The Full Moon may highlight relationship shifts - embrace clarity and communicate openly.

Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Career ambitions are on fire, and you're ready to make bold moves. A leadership opportunity may arise. The Taurus New Moon reminds you to pace yourself and focus on long-term gains.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

April encourages expansion - whether through learning, travel, or new perspectives. The Full Moon brings important discussions about partnerships and future plans. Stay open to fresh possibilities.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

The Full Moon in your sign puts relationships in the spotlight. Whether in love or business, expect clarity and necessary adjustments. The latter half of the month favors financial stability.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Relationships deepen, and meaningful connections become a priority. The New Moon encourages commitment, whether in partnerships or personal goals. Focus on trust and emotional growth.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Work, wellness, and daily habits take center stage. Fine-tune your routine for better productivity. The Full Moon pushes you to find balance between responsibilities and personal freedom.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Creativity and romance light up your month. Whether it's a passion project or a budding relationship, let yourself enjoy the process. The Taurus New Moon strengthens financial opportunities.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Home and family matters require attention. A major shift in your living situation or emotional foundation may unfold. The Full Moon encourages balancing work and personal life.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

April is a month of communication, learning, and exploration. New ideas take shape, and networking brings exciting opportunities. Mid-month, a key conversation could change your perspective.



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The impact of monopolistic pricing in small country towns

AI perspective 'correspondent'

Monopolistic pricing, particularly when employed by certain stores targeting high-income consumers in small country towns, can create significant economic distortions that disproportionately benefit the affluent while harming the broader community. In rural areas where competition is limited, businesses often set prices that maximize profits from wealthier residents, effectively pricing out lower-income consumers and limiting economic inclusivity. Understanding the impact of these practices is crucial for fostering a more equitable economic landscape in small towns.

Understanding Monopolistic Pricing and Wealth-Based Market Segmentation

Monopolistic pricing occurs when businesses set prices above competitive levels, often due to a lack of alternatives. In small country towns, where large chain stores may be absent, local businesses sometimes adopt pricing strategies designed to extract maximum profits from the most financially capable residents. While this benefits store owners in the short term, it can have long-term consequences for the broader community.

Some businesses justify high prices by citing transportation costs, limited supply chains, or seasonal demand fluctuations. However, when prices are intentionally inflated beyond reasonable margins, essential goods and services become unaffordable for lower-income residents, exacerbating economic inequality.

The Economic and Social Impact of Exclusive Pricing

The ramifications of monopolistic pricing in small country towns extend far beyond financial burdens on lower-income residents. There are various ways in which these practices harm communities.

Widening economic inequality: when stores prioritize higher-income customers with premium pricing models, lower-income residents may be forced to travel long distances or settle for lower-quality products. This exacerbates economic disparity and deepens social divisions.

Reduced access to essential goods: in rural towns with few retail options, monopolistic pricing can make everyday necessities like fresh food, medicine, and household essentials unaffordable to many residents, leading to food insecurity and healthcare inequities.

Suppression of local business growth: when certain stores dominate the market with inflated prices, it discourages the entry of new competitors who could provide affordable alternatives. This stifles economic diversity and discourages entrepreneurial investment in the town.

Strain on other sectors of the community: when residents spend a disproportionate share of their income on overpriced necessities, less money is available for spending on healthcare, education, and other community-supporting sectors, leading to an overall decline in town development.

Encouragement of black markets and informal trade: when formal businesses charge excessively high prices, residents may turn to informal trade networks, where products are sold at lower costs but often without quality control or safety regulations.

How technology and policy can address the issue

While monopolistic pricing is a challenge, several measures can help alleviate its effects in small country towns.

Market surveillance and price disparity detection: AI-driven systems and data analytics can track and compare pricing trends across different regions. If businesses in a town are consistently charging significantly higher prices than comparable stores elsewhere, it can be a sign of monopolistic behaviour.

Encouraging competition: local governments can encourage new businesses by offering incentives for entrepreneurs willing to provide affordable options. Supporting farmer's markets, co-operatives, and small-scale retailers can help break price monopolies.

Government price regulation: some essential goods may require government oversight to prevent price gouging, especially in remote areas where alternative purchasing options are scarce.

Community awareness and advocacy: residents must be aware of pricing dispari-

ties and advocate for fair pricing policies. Consumer cooperatives or local price monitoring groups can help ensure stores are held accountable.

Investment in digital and online alternatives: encouraging online shopping platforms that serve rural areas can introduce competition and give residents more purchasing options. Businesses should be incentivized to expand delivery networks to underserved communities.

A Path Toward Fairer Markets in Small Towns

For small country towns affected by monopolistic pricing, the solution lies in a combination of economic policy, technological advancements, and community-driven action. By exposing unfair practices and enabling regulatory bodies to act swiftly, businesses can be encouraged to adopt fairer pricing models. At the same time, local entrepreneurs and cooperatives can help diversify the market and create alternatives for lower-income residents.

Ultimately, monopolistic pricing is not just an economic issue—it is a community issue. Ensuring that all residents, regardless of income level, have access to affordable goods and services is essential for the well-being and sustainability of small towns. By taking proactive steps, small country communities can work towards a more inclusive and economically fair environment for everyone.

Credit: ChatGPT 4o mini - chatgpt.com

My 5 sent

Oupa Bobbili

Bouwerk – In my lyn van werk word daar baie bouwerk gedoen. Die plek nie meer mooi nie, so kom ons plak 'n laag verf op. So word die plek van kop tot fondasie ingekleur. In die proses is dit somer ook gou kom ons verander 'n paar dinge binne die gebou. Of kom ons breek af en bou oor. Las 'n kamer by, ekstra motorhuis (eintlik net meer pak plek). Die teëls is oud en deur geloop. Die ligte lyk nie meer mooi nie. Dan praat ek nie eens van kombuis gedagtes nie. Mamma se speel plek. Dit is haar parkie en dit moet net perfek wees.

So kan ons aangaan en aangaan tot die ink klaar raak op die rekenaar. My vraag is; Bou ons aan ons verhoudings met ons kinders, familie, vriende en somer net ons gemeenskap. Bou ons geloof tot die Vader?

In kerke bou ons denominasies, 'Wow'(!),

want ons is beter as 'n ander gelowige. In ons gemeenskap bou ons die erf se mure so hoog dat die skelm skoon uitasem anderkant gaan uitkom en dan te moeg is om in te breek. En ook sodat ons nie betrokke hoef te raak met die ander se probleme nie. Ja en beslis die bure se skinder tonge stil te hou. Ai die ou skinder tonge, dit is nou 'n nasie of spesie op hulle eie. Dit is die mense wat die afbreek werk doen. Hulle vernietig karakters, maar ook die wat geduldig luister na hulle stories. Die is net so skuldig

Ek het nog nooit iemand gesien bou, wat nie verbeter nie. Dit is mos die hoof rede hoekom ons dit doen. En dit is hoe dit met ons self ook moet wees. Ons moet verbeter, ons moet die tent penne uitskuif en vergroot. Ons moet die kombuis eerste herbou, want dit is waar ons kos vandaan kom. As ons gesonde kos vir ons hart, siel en gees inneem, sal die res van ons huis gesond wees. Dan sal dit wat ons uitgee gesond wees vir ander mense. Ons leef area sal verlig wees en mense wat ons in nooi sal veilig voel, en ons sal hulle kan voed met die positiewe

sonder om geoordeel te word.

Die land is sonder wet en orde, want die media konsentreer op die negatiewe. Niks opbouend nie. Sielkundige kommunisme. As die media vir 'n maand net positiewe goed moet uitreik, sal daai mense nie weet wat om te sê nie. Dit is baie hartseer, want ek glo daar is meer positiewe as negatiewe daarbuite in die wêreld, maar nee die afbreek is belangriker as die opbou.

Met die aanbouings hier waar ek werk kan ek nie wag dat die gaste moet kom deel hê ons stukkie mooi in die bosveld. Ons is almal baie opgewonde daarvoor, maar dit kom deur lang ure se harde werk. Niks het uit hemel uit geval nie, behalwe die gesindheid waarmee ons dit doen. Dit is wat ons opgewonde maak, motiveer en laat glimlag elke dag. Daardie gesindheid gaan lê in elke baksteen, stukkie sement en elke lig wat ons ophang.

Kry jou gesindheid reg, vir die regte aanbouings in jou lewe en die rondom jou. Onthou ander mag aan jou bou deur jou goeie gesonde geregte vir jou siel te mag gee. Ons moet dit net toelaat. Groete

SUDOKU ANSWERS

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



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