

Cheetah repopulation initiative in the Greater Makalali Nature Reserve

Mark Bishop

In a significant conservation effort, the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), a leading conservation NGO with over 50 years of experience in southern Africa, in collaboration with the Greater Makalali Nature Reserve (GMNR), is spearheading a project aimed at revitalizing the cheetah population in the GMNR. This initiative is part of the broader Carnivore Range Expansion Project, which focuses on species conservation across South Africa and neighbouring countries.

Olivia Sievert from EWT explains that their work involves collaboration with various reserves—both private and governmental—throughout South Africa. The project also extends to partnerships in Mozambique, Zambia, and Malawi. “Cheetahs are facing a multitude of threats, including habitat loss, conflict with humans, and competition with other predators,” said Olivia. “Relocation efforts are crucial to maintaining genetic diversity, re-expanding their range and ensuring the species’ viability.”

Discussions began with the Makalali team two years ago, following a dramatic decline in the local cheetah population due to an overabundance of lions in the area, which had led to significant pressure on cheetahs and in fact a population crash around 2018.

A project like this one, involves carefully selected cheetahs being relocated to reserves where they can thrive and contribute to genetic diversity. There is an immense amount of ecological, habitat, predator and animal population data considered for any cheetah relocation – it’s not a matter of ‘we don’t have them, let’s put them in’.

As of 2023, with only two cheetahs remaining on the reserve, a new plan had to be developed. Antony Collett, the Warden of GMNR was already in discussion with EWT concerning relocation of cheetah



onto the reserve. With only two resident individuals there was little chance that the population would bounce back. GMNR took the decision, in consultation with EWT, to initiate a program to bolster the dwindling cheetah numbers by relocating individuals from larger reserves that had experience with lion interactions.

Four cheetahs - a female and her two sub-adult daughters and a male - were identified and successfully relocated from Tswalu Nature Reserve to GMNR. While the male cub tragically fell victim to a leopard, the remaining females have adapted well to their new environment and are now ready to breed.

To strengthen the population, a coalition of four male cheetahs, led by Stompie (so called because of his short tail), was identified and moved from Nkomazi Game Reserve near Barberton, and recently released onto the GMNR. Stompie joined the coalition of three males – he is unrelated, and was a singleton male – and they have all been together for the last five months. The relocation process involved a meticulous planning and execution phase, with the cheetahs being carefully transported and acclimated to their new surroundings. The hope is that the coalition will successfully integrate into the GMNR ecosystem and contribute to the growth of the cheetah population.

“We are committed to protecting the endangered species that call our reserve home,” stated Antony. “The introduction of these cheetahs is a strategic step towards restoring the balance of the ecosystem and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our wildlife.”

Cheetah cubs typically stay with their mothers for 13 to 16 months, forming strong sibling bonds... Cont. on page 3

The cheetah coalition
Photo: Supplied

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From the Editors desk

Welcome to the ‘Great Summer Bake-Off’!

As we inch further into summer, it seems Mother Nature has decided to crank the thermostat up to ‘broil’. Forecasters are predicting a sizzling season ahead, one that promises to make last year’s heat feel like a cozy afternoon in a Scandinavian sauna. If you thought the climate was merely warming up for a pleasant picnic, think again—this summer, it’s all about survival of the fittest (and the most sunblock-savvy).

Picture this: our lawns may go from vibrant green to a crispy, golden brown, faster than you can say ‘global warming’. The birds might just start a new trend of using sunscreen—who needs to tweet when you can send a selfie from the beach with a lobster-red beak?

As we dive into the impending heat, let’s consider some vital summer survival strategies. First, invest in an inflatable kiddie pool. Not only does it double as a personal waterpark, but it also becomes an ideal spot for those ‘no pants’ meetings we’ve all been dreaming about. Second, learn the fine art of popsicle production—if life hands you lemons, freeze them, and call it a gourmet treat!

So, grab your shades and ice-cold beverages, folks! This summer is shaping up to be hotter than a ghost chilli pepper. Embrace the heat and remember hydration is key - preferably with a splash of something fun. Cheers to entering a summer of sweating, splashing,

quaffing, and perhaps a little bit of roasting!

But beware. As summer descends upon us like a cheerful pooch, many of us may find ourselves in a heated love affair with our beloved brewskis. However, before you guzzle that frosty pint like it’s a long-lost friend, let’s take a moment to address the sun-soaked elephant in the room: the fine line between fun and ‘why did I think it was a good idea to wear flip-flops’?

Imagine, it’s a balmy afternoon, you’re basking in the sun, and the beer is flowing like the Nile. Fast forward a few hours, and suddenly you’re trying to convince a squirrel to join your impromptu dance party while wearing a sunburned smile that screams ‘I regret nothing’.

The reality is that while that refreshing larger may taste like summer bliss, the aftermath can resemble a bad rom-com. You might find yourself with an impressive array of tan lines and an even more impressive array of bad decisions, including the infamous ‘I can totally eat that questionable hot dog’.

So, dear readers, as you raise your glasses to sunny days, the second thing to remember is that moderation is key. Cheers to sun and suds, but let’s save the shenanigans for another day—or at least until we’re back in the shade!

Be safe, be savvy, and enjoy the read.



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Fire hazard time

The press and social media have been abuzz with the news of several fires in the Kruger National Park. Whilst some may have been runaway fires, there is little doubt that some are caused by unattended fires. Here are some basics to adhere to in this dangerous season:

Always obey the cautions of the authorities regarding the safety of open fires

Children should never be allowed to start or play around fires

Fires should be well away from flammable materials and vegetation

Never use a flammable liquid (e.g. petrol or paraffin) to start a fire

Fires must always be attended to

No fire may burn through the night unattended

Always soak the coals of a fire with water before you discard them or cover them for the night

Always be cognisant of the weather when

making a fire – do not make an open fire in windy conditions

Please take note of these points and be safe.

Hoedspruit Private Hospital

Watch the Kruger2Canyon News next month for the ‘great reveal’ – very exciting news ahead.

Hoedspruit Cab Co

To my surprise, I stumbled on a car parked near PME Supplies very neatly identifiable as the Hoedspruit Cab Co. What a great idea to be able to get a cab, at an affordable rate, from one side of the town to the other! Clean, respectable and safe, this is the answer to many a local and tourist wish – ‘get a cab’. To the initiator of this venture – well done and good luck! Let’s support them and ‘upgrade’ the town with a fabulous cab service! So hop into an eco-friendly cab and cruise through town in style, with free WiFi on board!



October - trivia questions

- 1

What began on 24th January 1848 below Sutters mill, thanks to John Marshall?
- 2

What is the SI unit of power equal to 1.341 horsepower?
- 3

Anna Maria Louisa Italiano changed her name to what?
- 4

In Scandinavian mythology what is the day of final doom called?
- 5

In what country is the world’s largest pyramid?
- 6

What was/is the giant Musashi built in Japan in 1974?
- 7

In sporting terms, loose on left, tight on the right - who is in the centre?
- 8

Who made his debut in a 1955 Warner Brothers cartoon?
- 9

What is the English title of ‘Voyna i mir’?
- 10

‘The stuff that dreams are made off’ – was a line in what film?
- 11

Sir Peter Scott proposed the Latin name Nessiteras rhombopteryx for what?
- 12

In the game of Bridge, what are the first six tricks won called?
- 13

Batrachophobia is a fear of what?
- 14

What was the name of Alistair Macleans first novel?
- 15

In what sport would you find a chistera or cesta punta?
- 16

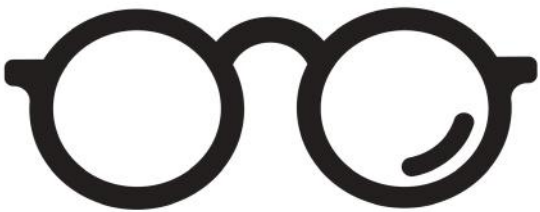
Eddie Slovik was the only American to do what on 31st January 1945?
- 17

Seen on Egyptian rivers what is a shadoof/shaduf used for?
- 18

The old Arabic word for palm of the hand is what in modern sport?
- 19

What biblical city was the code name for RAF bombings of Hamburg in WW2?
- 20

In WW2 the Germans used the Enigma coding machine – who invented it?



Cheetah repopulation initiative in the Greater Makalali Nature Reserve



Cheetah arrival (left), ready for release (above) and the release (below)
Images: Mark Bishop



Cont. from page 1

Cheetah cubs typically stay with their mothers for 13 to 16 months, forming strong sibling bonds until they are ready to establish their own territories. This relocation strategy ensures that the males remain a cohesive unit, promoting social stability and survival in their new home.

Collett emphasizes the responsibility of reserves as custodians of endangered species, highlighting the need for sustainable land management practices. He noted that the past lion population was higher in the GMNR, but that between 22 – 25 lion is considered as the ultimate goal and as a sustainable lion population for the reserve. This change, part of a collaborative effort with the Lion Management Forum, aims to maintain ecological balance and enhance the reserve’s biodiversity.

In addition to managing lion populations, GMNR is implementing a five-year burning protocol and bush clearance program to create more suitable habitats for cheetahs and other plains animals. The long-term vision is to maintain a healthy, sustainable population of big cats, but also to ensure the survival of the cheetahs through opening up more areas thereby creating more favourable cheetah micro-habitats.

Currently, GMNR is home to five females (one of which is currently in a large ‘lion-free’ zone’ and which has just given birth to cubs) and the newly introduced coalition of males to add to the one currently on the reserve, which is the father of the newly born cubs. The hope is that the introduced coalition of cheetahs will successfully breed and contribute to broader conservation efforts by helping repopulating other reserves. This marks an ambitious first step toward

establishing a self-sustaining cheetah population on the GMNR.

The relocation process involves a short acclimatization period in a boma, allowing the cheetahs to adapt to their new surroundings before full release. EWT’s approach ensures that the cheetahs are well-equipped to thrive in GMNR.

As GMNR continues to expand - soon to add 6 000 hectares (30 000 hectares in total) including two river systems - the potential for multiple cheetah coalitions becomes increasingly viable. The reserve aims to create a self-regulating population, a rarity in conservation efforts.

Antony is adamant that “as a nature reserve, we need to be protective of the land and the animals in the area.” He emphasized the importance of sustainable wildlife management and habitat preservation in supporting the cheetah population.

The successful introduction of these cheetahs will be measured in several phases: their ability to adapt post-release, establish comfortable territories, breed with the existing females, and ultimately have their cubs survive to adulthood. Achieving these milestones would not only signify a triumph for EWT, GMNR and the efforts of the Warden, Antony Collett, but also mark a pivotal moment in the conservation of this iconic species in South Africa.

“We are committed to protecting South Africa’s threatened species and ensuring their long-term survival,” said Olivia Sievert. “The cheetah relocation project is a significant step towards that goal.”

The successful relocation of the cheetah coalition marks a promising development in the ongoing efforts to conserve this iconic species in South Africa.

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Tensions rise over unfenced Kruger Park after predators kill cattle

State vet warns that livestock wandering into the park pose significant disease threat



Farmers from Mbaula Ranch and Phalakubeni villages near Giyani, Limpopo, say they've lost about 60 cattle to predators in the Kruger National Park and traps set by illegal hunters

Photo: Thembi Siaga

Unfenced areas bordering the Kruger National Park are leading to tensions between farmers and park rangers. Farmers claim that livestock have been killed by lions. They complain that they are prevented from retrieving their cattle when they wander into the park.

According to farmers from Mbaula Ranch and Phalakubeni villages (50km from Giyani, Limpopo), they have lost about 60 cattle to predators in the park this year and to traps set by illegal hunters.

A state veterinarian at Kruger told GroundUp that having livestock enter the protected area poses a significant risk of disease and could harm conservation efforts.

Across boundaries

The battle over unfenced boundaries around Kruger National Park has been ongoing for well over a decade.

SANParks spokesperson JP Louw said the state veterinary department under the Department Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development was responsible for erecting the western and southern boundaries of Kruger as a disease control fence around 1960.

The government decided to fence the east-

ern boundary of the park in 1974, he said. Around 2003, part of this fencing separating Kruger from the Limpopo National Park was removed to create wildlife corridors within the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park.

Louw said the remaining part of this fence will also be removed as part of an agreement with Mozambican authorities.

He said the fence on the western boundary, which separated the park from other conservation land, had also been taken down to incorporate these areas into the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Conservation Area. These areas also border the 8,000-hectare Mthimkhulu Game Reserve and the 42,000-hectare Letaba Ranch Game Reserve area (where Mbaula Ranch and Phalakubeni villages lie). The reserves are part of the transfrontier park and fall under the jurisdiction of Limpopo's economic development, environment and tourism department.

Demand for fences

Now farmers are calling for these fences to be reconstructed to allow their cattle and livestock to graze freely without the risk of them wandering into protected areas.

"Since there is no fence, our cattle are sometimes killed by animals like lions or by traps set by illegal hunters," says farmer



A big male tusker outside Shingwedzi camp in Kruger National Park. The Department of Environment told GroundUp that fencing challenges at the Letaba Ranch was primarily caused by elephants

Archive photo: John Yeld

Billy Mkansi.

Some farmers also complained that they are being prevented from reclaiming cattle that enter the park. "More than 100 of my cattle entered Kruger National Park on 1 September, and I cannot retrieve them because rangers prevented me from doing so," said Mackson Ngoveni.

Letter Mabunda, secretary of Stock Forum Farmers, said that after the fence was dismantled, they tried to restore it but they could not maintain it.

The management of livestock that stray into protected areas is governed by laws aimed at protecting wildlife and managing disease risks. The National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act restricts the recovery of livestock within these zones.

Dr Lin-Mari de Klerk-Lorist, state veterinarian at Kruger, said livestock care is the farmers' responsibility. She said that issues with the fence had been raised with the community.

Regarding protocols for reclaiming livestock, De Klerk-Lorist said removing animals from a disease-controlled area is not allowed. Authorities can seize and destroy strays due to concerns over disease control.

"If a cattle owner can prove through a registered stock theft claim that their cattle was stolen or driven into the park, our

department will assist to capture and bring them to a quarantine area for at least 28 days. If the owner is not prepared to feed the cattle in quarantine, then the cattle will be sent for slaughter," she said.

Isaac Phaahla, SANParks spokesperson, said Kruger has recorded numerous crimes along its western boundary and increasing pressure from elephants. He said it is irresponsible of cattle owners not to secure their livestock at night, as strays face predation and disease. The park is budgeting to restore sections of the fence under its responsibility, he said.

Zaid Kalla, spokesperson for the Limpopo economic development, environment and tourism department, acknowledged fencing challenges on one side of the Letaba Ranch, and said it was primarily caused by elephants. He said that an electrified fence has since been installed but human interference remains a significant issue.

"Community members continue to cut the remaining fence to allow livestock grazing and facilitate illegal access for poaching," he said.

Kalla urged the neighbouring communities to work with park rangers and the authorities to ensure the safety of all.

This article was previously published by GroundUp

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GRIETJIE, GREATER KRUGER, R 18 900 000
BIG 5 Beds 8 | Baths 6.5 | Reserve: 2,800 ha

An architecturally designed property set on the banks of the Olifants River and built to the highest standards. The home has a gourmet kitchen & many additional features. Main house is 520m², the cottage is 230 m² and a staff house is 80 m².

Yvette Thompson - 083 655 7176 Ref: 2213336



NDLOVUMZI NATURE R 4 458 000
RESERVE Beds 4 | Baths 4 | Floor: 176 m²

This tranquil home is situated overlooking the Olifants River and is surrounded by large riverine trees and rocky outcrops. The open plan living, dining and newly fitted kitchen are all under high vaulted ceilings that make this home light and bright, which makes this home appealing.

Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2152063



WILD FIG APARTMENTS, R 750 000
HOEDSPRUIT Beds 1 | Baths 1 | Floor: 65 m²

This ground floor apartment is well positioned within the complex and has an open plan living area with lounge and kitchen. Ground floor units have the benefit of applying to have a pet. One small dog or cat is allowed with permission from the board of trustees. Communal pool and braai facilities.

Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2325962



RAPTORS VIEW WILDLIFE R 4 900 000
ESTATE Beds 3 | Baths 3 | Floor size: 360 m²

This spacious home is located in a quiet area. The living area has an open plan lounge and kitchen with a loft. The neat scullery has ample storage. The dining area and guest bathroom is set to the side of the living area. The main patio overlooks an attractive rocky outcrop, pool and boma area.

Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2218613



KHAYA NDLOVU GAME R 10 900 000
RESERVE Beds 4 | Baths 4.5 | Floor size: 450 m²

Beautiful home set on the banks of the dry riverbed. The large open plan entertainment area consists of a dining room, lounge and open plan kitchen. Khaya Ndlovu is a low density residential reserve with only 35 stands on 1,305 ha; it is home to 4 of the Big 5 animals.

Yvette Thompson - 083 655 7176 Ref: 2209629



KAMPERSRUS R 2 450 000
Bedrooms 3 | Bathrooms 2 | Floor size:120 m²

This home is a great option for first-time home buyers or those looking for an investment opportunity. The home has an open plan living room with the kitchen set to the side. Above the kitchen is a loft area which can be utilised in various ways. Property is fenced and pet friendly.

Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2247851



JEJANE, GREATER KRUGER, R 8 500 000
BIG 5 Beds 4 | Baths 4 | Traverse: 2,700 ha

A spacious, low maintenance home situated in a Big 5 reserve. It has wraparound patios, walkways, two boma areas and a viewing deck above the patio. It has a spacious lounge with an open plan kitchen. The home is fitted with 16 solar panels, inverter and batteries, as well as water storage.

Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2289549



LEOPARD ROCK NATURE R 3 500 000
RESERVE Beds 2 | Baths 2 | Floor size: 152 m²

Spacious and inviting, this home provides a peaceful and serene atmosphere. The open-plan kitchen and living room feature high, vaulted ceilings with wooden beams, natural tones, custom-made light fixtures, and unique design elements. The design seamlessly blends indoor and outdoor spaces.

Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2329290



KHAYA NDLOVU GAME R 9 500 000
RESERVE Beds 3 | Baths 3 | Floor size: 481 m²

The home is privately located, as well as tastefully decorated, and sold fully furnished and equipped. The open plan living area comprises lounge with fireplace; dining area and kitchen with separate scullery and pantry. Khaya Ndlovu Game Reserve is a low density, Big 4 estate.

Michelle Severin - 083 469 3821 Ref: 2327492



HOEDSPRUIT WILDLIFE R 5 200 000
ESTATE Beds 6 | Baths 6.5 | Floor: 350 m²

Located in a great area within the estate with lots of space and accommodation. The large open-plan entertainment area consists of a lounge, dining room and kitchen with separate scullery. There is a large covered patio area overlooking the courtyard and pool area. Staff room, storeroom and 5 carports.

Yvette Thompson - 083 655 7176 Ref: 2258479



BLYDE WILDLIFE ESTATE R 5 100 000
Bedrooms 4 | Bathrooms 4.5 | Floor size: 320 m²

This spacious home offers you an open plan kitchen and living area which leads out to an elevated covered patio with views over the pool, boma area and trees around the home. The garage has space for 4 vehicles as well as a covered carport. Under the patio is a storage room and a bathroom.

Jason Jones - 083 267 4794 Ref: 2268885



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

This lodge consists of a main owner's house, central lodge area and 5 luxury treetop chalets. Sold as a going concern; this lodge has bounced back after Covid and has great potential. There are future bookings and well-trained staff. Movable items and furniture included, as well as a bakkie.

Rob Severin - 083 469 3820 Ref: 2160187



NDLOVUMZI NATURE R 15 000 pm
RESERVE Bedrooms 2 | Bathrooms 2

Available 1 Jan 2025 - 31 Mar 2025, furnished, not pet friendly - This wooden house offers a secluded escape into nature for those seeking peace, privacy and creative inspiration. The living area consists of a cozy kitchen and living room with basic amenities including a gas stove.

Michelle Herb - 071 652 9140 Ref: 2326788



SUNSET VIEW OFFICE PARK R 16 800 pm
HOEDSPRUIT Commercial | Floor size: 210 m²

Available immediately - Well positioned in central Hoedspruit, in a very well managed complex with a variety of businesses. This large upstairs unit offers an open and airy feel. There is one private office/boardroom. There are 3 female and 3 male toilets in the unit, a kitchen and storeroom.

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Khetha outreach initiative inspires young minds, unleashing passion for conservation



Students at Moses Mnisi High School in Cottondale in the Greater Kruger vied for prizes awarded by the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) for the best personal essays to Mother Earth or journalism-styled stories on why wildlife matters
Photo: Risuna Mashele | SAWC

Roving Reporters

A pilot writing competition in the Greater Kruger, Voices of Future Conservation Leaders, sparked a wave of creativity, opening the door to similar outreach initiatives.

If we can't imagine a better world, how are we ever going to create it? Writing is an immensely powerful tool for sharing our experiences and shaping the world.

So says Sboniso Phakahti, the lead adjudicator of a pilot writing competition that invited learners from the Greater Kruger area to share their personal connections with nature. They were given the option to write letters to Mother Earth or journalistically styled articles on why wildlife matters. The initiative, titled Voices of Future Conservation Leaders, is part of the Khetha 2024 Story Project, aimed at enhancing media coverage of wildlife crime and conservation challenges in the region.

Genesis

"The pilot competition was designed to unearth unfiltered personal accounts from young people living near protected areas and provide insight into the stories and experiences that have shaped their views," said Phakahti, who coordinates educational outreach activities for the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) under the Rural Enterprises for Sustainable Development (RISE) umbrella.

"It was also about encouraging young people to envision a future where taking care of nature and community development go hand in hand — and to start imagining possibilities for themselves within that," said Robert Inglis, director of Jive Media Africa which manages the overarching Khetha 2024 Story Project.

Outreach

Following educational outreach presentations at schools within a 30 km radius of the college, learners had the July holiday to craft their submissions based on writing guides provided by Roving Reporters.

In total, 48 submissions were received. Out of these, 25 scripts from the following schools were shortlisted for prizes: Dayimani High School on the fringe of the Manyeleti Game Reserve, Mahlale High School in Welverdiend, Sokisi High School near Andover Nature Reserve, and Masingitana Secondary School and Moses Mnisi High School in Acornhoek.

Heartfelt submissions

Standout submissions included heartfelt reflections on the wonders of nature and calls to action to protect wildlife and natural resources. Among them were poignant

apologies for humanity's impact on the environment.

"Mother Earth, you provide us with everything we need—air, water, and food—yet we often neglect and harm you. We apologise for our negligence and pledge to reduce plastic use, conserve water, and promote recycling," wrote Faith Mkansi, a Grade 11 learner at Masingitana High School.

"Dear Mother Earth, we have caused you great harm through pollution . . . Our commitment to protecting you is a step toward ensuring a healthier planet for future generations," wrote Kendith Ntebogeng Mduli, a Grade 12 student from Dayimani High School. "When the competition began, I didn't believe my English was good enough, but in taking part I gained more confidence and self-esteem," said Mduli.

In her prize-winning entry, Khanyi Penelope Sibiya, a Grade 12 student from Mahlale High School, provided a personal reflection on the calming influence of nature: "My connection with nature is profound. It offers peace and comfort, helping me feel grounded. The sights, sounds, and smells of the outdoors soothe my soul, reminding me of the world's beauty," wrote Sibiya.

"I want to be a teacher, and was so happy when I saw the Voices for Future Conservation Leaders poster at school. I like reading and writing stories, but I was also nervous because this was a competition," says Sibiya.

Two other shortlisted finalists, Dzunisani Praise Mkansi from Moses Mnisi High School and Ntshuxo Ziane from Sokisi High School, also conveyed a deep appreciation for the natural world. Mkansi reflected on family outings as a young child: "Walking through the Andover Game Reserve, I was mesmerized by the cool air and the diverse trees. Observing colourful birds and experiencing nature's changes deepened my appreciation and commitment to protect the environment. Nature has taught me patience and the importance of growth, inspiring me to respect it."

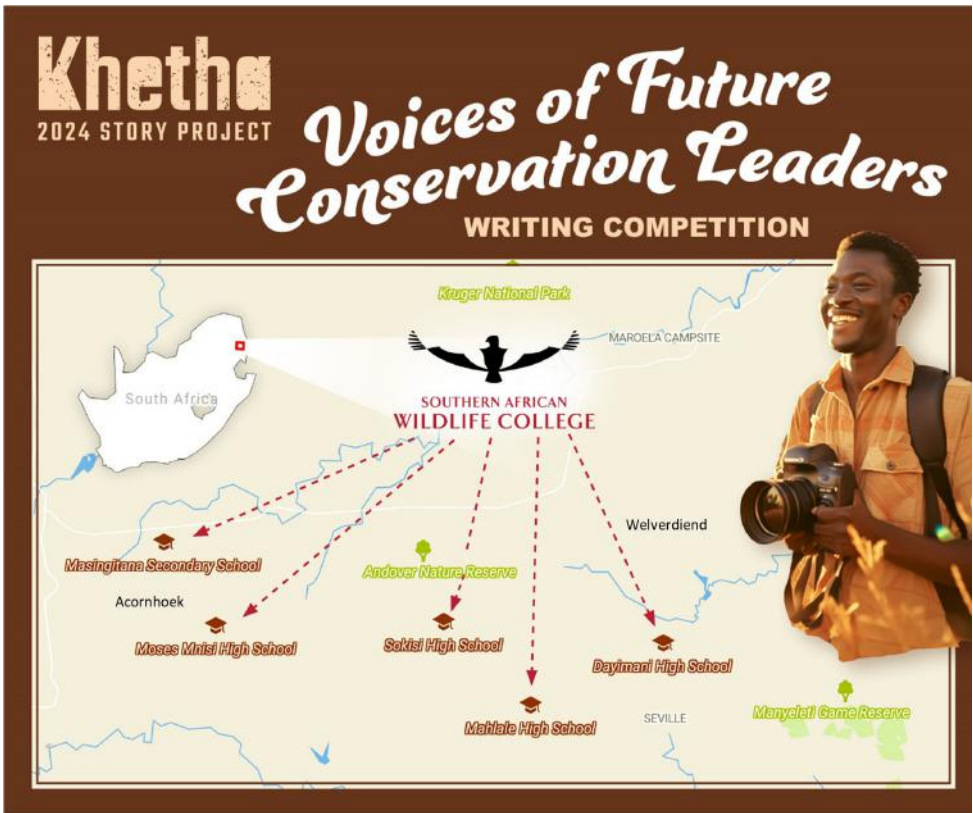
Describing his personal connection to nature, Ziane wrote: "Nature is like a warm embrace from the earth, offering peace and comfort. It teaches perseverance and interconnectedness, reminding us that our actions impact the world around us. Preserving nature is vital for our planet's health, and I hope others will appreciate and protect nature as I do."

Prize giving

At an interactive prize-giving ceremony hosted at the Wildlife College, Ziane won the first prize, taking home R5,000. Second prize went to Mduli (Dayimani High School), who received R1,500, and the third



Rural resilience: Evelyn Mthombheni wheels packets of sweet potatoes for sale near Mahlale High School in Welverdiend. Life is tough in rural communities bordering game reserves in the Greater Kruger, but this has not dampened the enthusiasm of many young learners with hopes and dreams for a better future
Photo: Fred Kockott



This map reflects the location of schools that submitted winning entries for the pilot Khetha outreach initiative
Graphic: Roxanne Joseph and Mirubrand

prize was awarded to Sibiya (Mahlale High School). Runner-ups Dzunisani Mkansi (Moses Mnisi High School) and Faith Mkansi (Masingitana Secondary School) received R500 each. The remaining 20 shortlisted entrants each received R125.

Invited to a recent Khetha Game Changers gala event, Ziane choked up with emotion when addressing more than 58 leading conservationists who had gathered to pay tribute to unsung heroes in the Greater Kruger area. "I don't have words. I was not expecting this," said a tearful Ziane.

Reflecting on the outcomes, Jeanné Poultney the SAWC's executive manager: marketing, fundraising and media relations, said: "Initially imagined as a slow-burning project, this initiative exceeded our expectations in both scope and success."

"The high quality of submissions highlighted the students' interest in conservation . . . It was a remarkable display of youthful understanding and environmental passion," added Poultney.

Cont. on page 7



Environmental education: SAWC deputy registrar, Fortunate Mathonsi, shared a few Roving Reporters writing tips with learners from schools that participated in the writing competition
Photo: Lofty Mnisi courtesy of SAWC

The red bush willow - *Combretum apiculatum*



Nature Correspondent

One of the commonest and best-known trees of the bushveld. It is regarded as one of the local dominants, probably surpassed only by the mopane. These trees are found in a very particular in habitat, only on well drained sandy, gravel or rocky soils.

It is an attractive small to medium sized (up to 10m) deciduous tree. It has a curved, spreading trunk with an irregular canopy. The bark is grey to grey-black, and when old peels off in thin, flat flakes. The bark is used for tanning leather.

The upper surface of the leaves are pale-yellowish green and sometimes slightly sticky, and the leaves have sharp, twisted tips. Leaves have antioxidant compounds, and a decoction of the leaves has been used as a steam bath and as an enema to relieve stomach disorders and microbial infections. Inflammatory conditions resulting in headaches and toothache are also treated.

The individual florets are frequently red-dish-purple as buds, but when open are pale yellowish-green, and heavily scented.

The red bushwillow tree - *Combretum apiculatum* (left) Image: Safaria

The red bushwillow seed pod (insert) Image: JMK-Feedipedia

The flowers usually appear in spring, sometimes in August and as late as November. Bees and ants are attracted to the flowers.

The fruits are four winged and in clusters, the wings change colour from green to red-brown, and when mature eventually dark brown. The central portion of the fruit, which is a single seed, is initially green but later turns to pale brown. They ripen in late summer and autumn, and often persist until the next flowering season. The seeds are reputed to be poisonous but are eaten by brown-headed parrots.

The air-dry timber is one of the heaviest in the area. It is hard and strong with particular pale sapwood and dark (to black) heartwood. It is very good firewood and makes great charcoal. The wood is very hard, making it resistant to both borers and termites. It provides useful fencing poles, mine props and wheel spokes, and makes good, small furniture. As treatment for conjunctivitis, an ash from the burnt stem is mixed with white clay and water and the resulting paste is spread over the face.

The red bush willow is a valuable fodder tree for browsing animals. Mature green leaves are eaten by kudu, bushbuck, eland, giraffe and elephant. Cattle like the leaves when they are about to fall or have fallen, especially when they are least nutritious.

Khetha outreach initiative inspires young minds, unleashing passion for conservation

Cont. from page 6

Future plans

In follow-up engagements with Roving Reporters, Ziane and other prize winners expressed interest taking part in follow-up initiatives proposed by the SuperScientists and Write Away Magazine, a voice for young African writers.

To date, the SuperScientists programme has reimagined more than 60 scientists as superheroes to educate and inspire young people about the power and importance of science.

More recently, as part of the Khetha 2024 Story Project, Superscientists profiled Kruger wildlife veterinarian, Dr Lufuno Netshitavhadulu. He now features on more than hundred posters being distributed through Kruger National Park’s education programmes, alongside “trading cards” that give insight into his work.

On a Wildlife Warriors poster designed for young primary school learners, Netshitavhadulu states: “I didn’t even know what a wildlife vet was. Now I love it. Dehorning rhinos and darting animals from helicopters is intense and fun, but my favourite is saving animals from snares”.

He also provides poignant advice to learners. “My top tip: Nothing is easy, and nothing is impossible. Get out of your comfort zone and believe in yourself.”

“We were really excited extend our programme into the Greater Kruger,” said Justin Yarrow, the founding director of CodeMakers which drives the SuperScientists programme.

Yarrow now plans to link up with Write Away Magazine and Roving Reporters to develop on the success of the SAWC’s Voices of Future Conservation Leaders writing competition.

“Wildlife conservation, climate change, and other environmental issues are at the forefront for many young people,” said Yarrow. “Over the forthcoming December holidays we want to give school learners the opportunity to share their ideas and concerns, and do so in a way that lets loose all that creativity in them. We hope to get many different types of submissions - art, writing, poetry and more - and share their ideas across multiple platforms.”

“Write Away has already started engaging with the Voices of Future Conservation



(Above) While Dayimani High School security guard, Josia Sehlangu, erected this poster, Grade 10 learner, Dzunani Nyathi, articulated on his dream to become a wildlife vet Photo: Fred Kockott.



Competition winner, Ntshuxo Ziane who aspires to be a Town and Regional Planner said his mother’s confidence in his writing ability had inspired.. “When I told her about the competition, she just said ‘My boy, you are going to come back with something, I know . . . Go reap what I have sowed.’”

Leaders prize winners,” said Write Away editor Nyameko Bottoman. “And they are keen to take part”.

“What I liked the most was getting the chance to meet other people who also want to improve their writing skills and English,” said Mdluli. “Taking part in similar writing projects, will surely bring out the best in me.”

– Roving Reporters

Editors note: Extracts from the prize-winning submissions for the Voices of Future Conservation Leaders writing competition were slightly edited for clarity.

The Khetha 2024 Story Project is supported by the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Kendith Ntebogeng Mdluli (right), from Dayimani High School, won the 2nd prize in the Voices of Future Conservation Leaders writing competition. Penelope Khanyi Sibiya, (left) from (Mahlale High School took home the third prize.



Kruger National Park wildlife veterinarian Dr Lufuno Netshitavhadulu (right) was drawn as the Super Scientist “Trank”, by the NPO initiative Super Scientists. Character art: Clyde Beech for Super Scientists Photo: SANParks



Dr Lufuno Netshitavhadulu also features in posters of “Conservation Champions” currently being circulated in the Greater Kruger as part of a drive to encourage learners to pursue careers in conservation

Common purple-glossed snake -

Amblyodipsas polylepis



Common purple-glossed snake (above) and showing large scales on the head (above right) - Johan Marais

Luke Kemp
African Snakebite Institute

This bulky, slow-moving snake is a fossorial species, spending most of its time underground, beneath logs and rocks or in thick leaf-litter.

In warm, moist conditions following decent rains, these snakes may be commonly seen moving on the surface. They are often found moving at night in these conditions or early mornings on overcast days. They feed on a variety of prey items from

skinks to other snakes but are partial to the large giant legless skinks (*Acontias plumbeus*) which are also seen moving on the surface after rains. There are many great videos from the Kruger of this snake and these large skinks in a writhing battle, both animals biting one another and twisting until the snakes' venom takes effect and the skink succumbs.

Purple-glossed snakes are considered mildly venomous to humans, likely causing some mild swelling and pain. Medical attention is not required for bites from this snake and bites are rare. It is an inoffensive snake,

and if encountered, it may move erratically or hide the head beneath coils of the body, often lifting the tail into the air and waving it about to distract predators or threats from the head.

Being a black, glossy snake, it is easily confused with the venomous stiletto snake. The purple-glossed snake usually has a stubby tail and a more robust build. The head also has large plated scales which can easily be distinguished from a stiletto snake. The purple-glossed snake averages around 40 - 60cm in length but may exceed one meter.

The common purple-glossed snake lays

up to seven elongated eggs in early summer. When the eggs hatch, the juveniles are replicas of the adults. The young snakes are quick to musk if handled or harassed, emitting a foul-smelling liquid to deter threats.

These little snakes are not commonly encountered and sometimes tricky to identify, often confused with a variety of other small dark snakes in the area. They are not dangerous to humans and best left alone.

Check out the website on www.africansnakebiteinstitute.com – and get your FREE App on the link <http://bit.ly/snakebiteapp>

No reason to get ticked off

Tim Baynham
Wildlife Safety Solutions

The mere mention of the word tick triggers revulsion and horror in most people. And to be fair perhaps this reaction is somewhat justified, having a creature stealthily attaching itself to your body, sucking your blood, while at the same time potentially transmitting a disease, is not exactly an endearing thought.

Anyone who has spent time in the bush will be well familiar with the so called 'pepper ticks'. Pepper ticks are in fact the larval stage of the tick. They are tiny and often cluster on grasses and other vegetation in a behavior known as *questing*, waiting for an unsuspecting animal or human to brush past where they can then attach themselves to the host. The presence of pepper ticks upon your person is typically 'announced' when quite suddenly one is overcome by an intense and uncontrollable itch emanating from between the toes, around your ankles or if you are unlucky from let's say the more 'sensitive' parts the body. More than a few guides have had to rapidly exit the presence of their guests to relieve 'the itch'.

What is perhaps not well known about ticks is that they are arachnids, with adults usually having four pairs of legs. They differ from other arachnids in that their cephalothorax and abdomen are completely fused with no body segmentation. All ticks are ectoparasitic and feed on the blood of their host animal. Their life cycle includes an egg stage, six-legged larval stage, one or more eight-legged nymphal stages, and finally the adult stage. Depending on the species they may utilize one, two or three host animals to complete their life cycle. An interesting fact is that a single impala at any given time, may have up to 5 000 ticks and a single Cape Buffalo anywhere from 10 000 to 20

000 ticks!

Ticks are well known as vectors for several diseases that can infect both humans and animals. In southern Africa there are two tick-borne diseases that are commonly transmitted to people. Boutonneuse fever - like tick bite fever (BFL-TBF), caused by the zoonotic bacterial pathogen *Rickettsia conorii*, and African tick bite fever (ATBF) caused by *Rickettsia africae*.

Tick bite prevention

Wearing long pants and closed shoes when walking in the bush will help prevent ticks gaining access to the skin. Applying an insect repellent to your legs and feet will help deter ticks from attaching and feeding. Physically checking your body for the presence of any ticks after potential exposure, is a very effective preventive measure and highly recommended. If you suspect that you may have tick bite fever, seek medical attention as soon as possible.

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)

Close up of a tick on a human (above) and a tick feeding (right)



Images: Johan Marais

A Star is Born



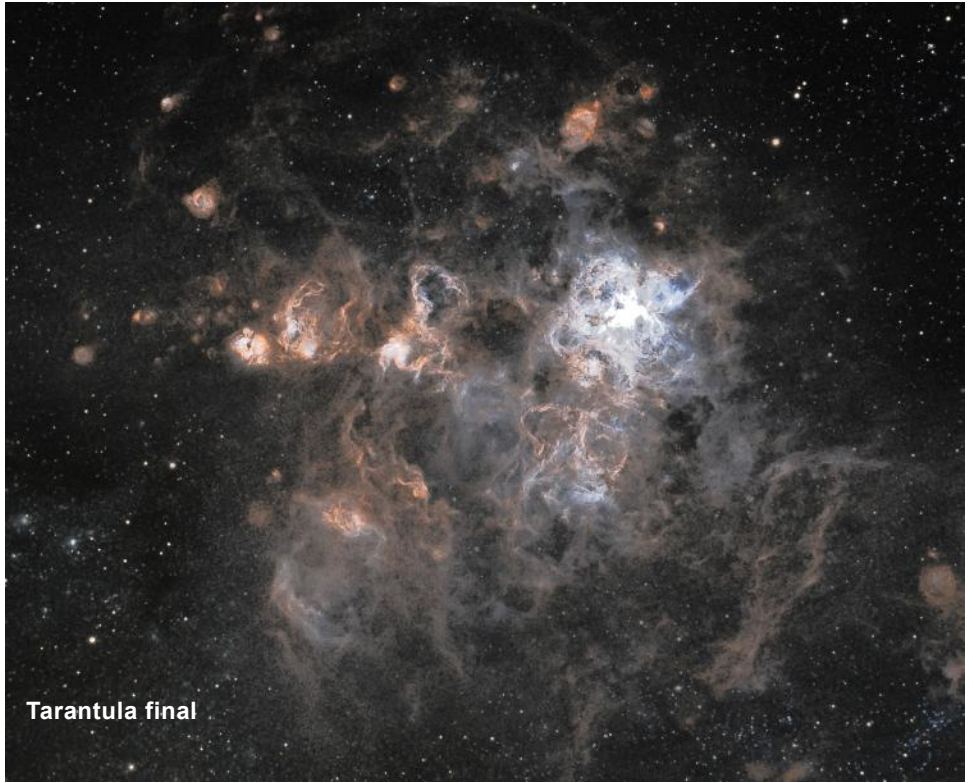
M 42



New Carina



Lobster final



Tarantula final

Ben Coley

Each and every night, our planet is bathed in starlight; an eternal vigil held by the countless members of our galactic community. But it is easy to forget that our Sun is just one of many... The Milky Way is thought to contain up to 400 billion stars, yet within the cosmic web of our Universe, there are as many as 200 sextillion stars. This is an incomprehensible number, the equivalent of 10 times the number of cups of water in all the oceans on Earth!

Despite their unfathomable numbers, stars have lives. Just like us, they are born, mature into their adult years, and ultimately succumb to Father Time. But have you ever wondered how these innumerable building blocks of our Universe blink into existence?

Stars are born from giant molecular clouds containing mostly hydrogen, the first and simplest element on the periodic table, interspersed with a dappling of other more complex elements. Most of the hydrogen in space was created in the aftermath of the Big Bang 13,8 billion years ago. These great clouds can be seen with the naked eye under dark skies. One only has to glimpse the great swathes of dust lanes slicing through the Milky Way to see them. These snaking channels of darkness are not patches of empty space. They are in fact ancient, inert clouds of dust and gas silhouetted against our galaxy's spiral arms.

Space is cold - very cold - hovering at only a few degrees above absolute zero, and when

atoms are cold, they do not move. Left untouched, these gas clouds simply remain suspended in the frigid expanse of the cosmos; but if something agitates them – such as the gravity of a passing star, or the shockwave of a nearby supernova, magic starts to happen...

The atoms of hydrogen start moving and bump into each other, forming molecules. Over time, these molecules grow in size and mass, imparting a gravitational influence on the area around them, attracting more matter towards them. The object now begins to grow exponentially, gravity sculpting it into a rapidly rotating sphere, forming the core of a developing proto star.

Under the intense pressure of their own gravity, the atoms in the core are crushed together, and should the force be great enough, hydrogen atoms combine to form helium atoms in a process known as *nucleosynthesis*. This nuclear fusion produces heat and light and marks the moment a true star is born.

The runaway fusion in the core of a star is the fuel that will last it throughout its life. Its lifespan will ultimately be dictated by its mass, or the size of its engine. Larger stars burn through their fuel in only a few million years, whilst smaller stars are more economical, sipping at their fuel-load, extending their lives into potentially trillions of years. But these small stars are not to be scoffed at! Our Sun, categorised as a yellow dwarf, will likely reach the ripe old age of between 8-10 billion years before exhausting its fuel reserves; yet its fusing 600 million tons of hydrogen into helium

every second (no, that is not a typo ... every second)!

Whilst still in its gaseous incubator, the intense radiation produced by a young star ionises, or 'excites', the surrounding hydrogen gas, causing it to glow. These areas of active star formation are known as *emission nebulae* (from the Greek word for 'cloud'), and manifest as some of the most beautiful structures in the cosmos. Many are visible to the naked eye, binoculars, and telescopes, but are best appreciated in long exposure photography which is able to pick up the delicate pinkish-red hues given off by the excited hydrogen.

Here in the southern hemisphere, we are privy to see many of the most prevalent emission nebulae in the sky, and over the years, I have been able to capture some of these cosmic birthplaces in all their glory. It is a humbling experience to witness creation on a such a vast scale and offers a great sense of perspective into the insignificance of our lives.

As the winter constellations sink towards the western horizon, we begin to say farewell to the Lagoon and Eagle nebulae (home to the famous 'Pillars of Creation') in Sagittarius as well as the aptly named Lobster nebula in Scorpius. However, they will soon be replaced by some of the most exquisite sights in the summer skies. In the coming months, we will welcome the Great Orion Nebula (the closest emission nebula to Earth), the mighty Carina Nebula, and the spectacular Tarantula nebula which resides in the neigh-

bouring dwarf galaxy known as the Large Magellanic Cloud. This gaseous behemoth is so large, that if it was the same distance from us as the Orion nebula, it would occupy the same amount of sky as 75 full moons, and be bright enough to cast shadows on Earth.

Stars are the largest single entities that we know, some spanning billions of kilometres in diameter, yet they are forged from the simplest element known to science. Their development is slow, but their influence on the Universe is legion. Their presence in our heavens has allowed us to predict weather patterns and develop the language of time. They have helped us to figure out our place in the Universe, and their catastrophic deaths seed the cosmos with the raw materials to create new stars, planets and even the elements we ourselves are made from.

Next time you look up in the wonder at the stellar tapestry above your head, take a moment to appreciate not only their intrinsic beauty, but also the origin and cosmic importance of these twinkling wonders.

All images supplied by Ben Coley
Contact Celestial Events SA for more information at +27 (0)79 575 0900 email: celestialeventssa@gmail.com



2 minute summer cooler



Beat the upcoming summer heat with this mint ‘lemonade’. Feel the instant refreshing effect on your body. Here it is, very simple and quick. This literally takes 2 minutes and is a double serving.

Ingredients

- 2 cups fresh mint leaves
- 5 tsp lemon juice
- 1 ½ cup water
- Rock salt to taste
- Sugar to taste
- ½ tsp fresh ginger
- 5 - 6 ice cubes
- Lemon wedges for garnishing

Instructions

- In a mixer jar add the lemon juice and the ginger.
- Add the washed mint leaves to it with salt and sugar (to taste).
- Then add 3 - 4 ice cubes and the water.
- Blend it all together and strain to remove residue.
- Pour into a serving glass with remaining ice cubes and garnish with lemon.

To change it up a bit, try this with ruby grapefruit. Instead of lemon juice, use freshly squeezed grapefruit juice. Substitute the ginger with pineapple juice and enjoy this refreshing cooler !



Lady Godiva and your November 2024 horoscopes

Overall: We all must embrace the energy of November and make the most of the opportunities that come our way!

Scorpio: Dive deep into your passions. This is a transformative month; embrace the intensity of your feelings and let them guide your journey.

Sagittarius: Adventure awaits! Be open to new experiences and spontaneous trips. Your thirst for knowledge will lead to exciting discoveries.

Capricorn: Hard work pays off this November. Stay disciplined and focused on your goals. Your efforts will begin to bear fruit by month’s end.

Aquarius: Innovation is key. Think outside the box and share your unique ideas. Your perspective can inspire those around you and spark change.

Pisces: Trust your intuition and creative instincts. Dive into artistic endeavours, as they will provide clarity and insight. Embrace your dreams this month.

Aries: This month ignites your ambition. Focus on your goals, and don’t hesitate to take the lead. Opportuni-

ties for growth are on the horizon.

Taurus: Change is in the air! Embrace new experiences and let go of what no longer serves you. This is a time for personal transformation.

Gemini: Communication flows effortlessly in November. Use this energy to collaborate on projects and deepen connections with those around you.

Cancer: Prioritize self-care and emotional well-being. Reflect on your needs and set boundaries to create a more peaceful environment.

Leo: Your creativity is at its peak! Share your talents and express yourself fully. This is a great time for artistic pursuits or starting new projects.

Virgo: Organization is essential this month. Tackle your to-do list, and a sense of accomplishment will boost your confidence. Focus on health and wellness.

Libra: Relationships take centre stage. Nurture your connections and seek harmony in your interactions. Open dialogues can resolve lingering issues.



Trivia answers

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|---|
| 1 | The gold rush in California | 11 | The Loch Ness monster |
| 2 | A kilowatt | 12 | Book |
| 3 | Anne Bancroft | 13 | Frogs and other amphibians |
| 4 | Ragnarök | 14 | HMS Ulysses |
| 5 | Mexico - The Great Pyramid of Cholula, also known as Tlachi hualtepetl | 15 | Basque pelota – a ball game |
| 6 | A crane | 16 | He was executed for desertion during WW2 |
| 7 | The hooker - in rugby | 17 | Water bucket on pole - a hand-operated device for lifting water |
| 8 | Speedy Gonzales | 18 | A racket |
| 9 | War and Peace – by Leo Tolstoy | 19 | Gomorrah |
| 10 | The Maltese Falcon (1941) | 20 | A German engineer Arthur Scherbius, shortly after WW1 |

The importance of career guidance early in high school

The Independent Institute of Education

Many students reach senior high, or even matric and beyond, without knowing what career they would like to pursue after school. Unfortunately, leaving this planning too late can cause great stress for both parents and students, and will likely limit one's potential options, an education expert says. This is why early career guidance is vital during the early high school years - firstly to determine a student's passion and purpose, and then to align their high school path to future qualification opportunities.

"Career guidance allows students to be fully informed about their choices, and to make strategic decisions that will broaden their opportunities and set them up for success throughout their academic journey and career," says Dr Bronwyn Le Ann Batchelor, Head of Faculty: Law at The Independent Institute of Education, SA's leading private higher education provider.

"While many parents and guardians adopt a 'wait-and-see' approach, the reality is that insufficient early exposure to relevant career guidance puts students at risk of making ill - or even misinformed education and career choices. Without adequate awareness of their abilities, potential opportunities, and the structural challenges to employment, the challenges of transitioning to higher education and the world of work can become daunting."

Dr Batchelor says that having a clear idea of one's general future direction, helps students establish the path towards a meaningful career, as well as find purpose in their school studies.

"Once you know what qualifications will be required for your future career field, you can then work your way back to ensure you pursue the correct subjects and perform in line with the entry requirements at higher education institutions."

"For example, if you want to enter a legal career and ultimately become a lawyer - whether an attorney or an advocate - it is important to know that the only qualification that allows this progress is the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree. Students who are not adequately informed may incorrectly believe that they can enter a legal career with a Bachelor of Commerce in Law or a Bachelor of Arts in Law. Although these degrees allow further progression and articulation to a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree, it is only the Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree that would allow ultimate entry into the legal profession."

Staying with the legal example, students who aspire to run their own law firm and have been given proper guidance will know that it may be necessary to opt for a longer study route to ensure they obtain all the necessary entrepreneurial, business, management, and legal subject matter expertise. This could include completing a Bach-

elor of Commerce in Law first and after that pursuing a Bachelor of Law.

"A career is more than just a job; it is a lifetime pursuit that provides fulfilment, purpose, and financial stability. The importance of choosing a career lies in its ability to provide direction and focus for your life goals and aspirations," says Dr Batchelor.

"In high school, students are often only aware of the popular and common career choices or those which their social circle or family are associated with, whereas there are many more career opportunities in today's working world with this list growing daily."

Career guidance normally begins with an assessment of a student's skills, interests, and strengths. This information is then used to identify potential career paths that may be a good fit. A career counsellor may provide information about various occupations, such as job requirements, growth potential, and earning potential. They may also help students explore education and training options and offer advice on how to gain relevant work experience.

"The good news is that career guidance is accessible to everyone," says Dr Batchelor. "Any reputable higher education institution will have a career guidance or counselling office. We therefore encourage students to make an appointment and consult with a counsellor as early on in their high school education as possible, in order to ensure

that they are fully equipped to make subject choice decisions that align with the entry requirements into the qualification they need to fulfil their academic and career aspirations."

The Independent Institute of Education (The IIE) is a division of the JSE-listed ADvTECH Group, Africa's largest private education provider. The IIE is the largest, most accredited registered private higher education institute in South Africa and is accredited by The British Accreditation Council (BAC), the independent quality assurance authority that accredits private institutions in the United Kingdom (UK). <https://iieworldofwork.iie.ac.za> or www.iie.ac.za



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Hoedspruit Medical Rescue	072 170 0864	
Hoedspruit Paws	078 431 3161	
Hoedspruit Town Watch	072 812 2172	
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Hospital Tintswalo	013 759 0645	
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Hospital Tzaneen Mediclinic	015 383 9400	
Maruleng Municipality	015 305 8536	
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What will the World look like in 2054?

AI perspective ‘correspondent’

As we gaze into the crystal ball of the future, it’s impossible not to be both excited and apprehensive about what the world will look like in 2054. Advances in technology, shifts in societal norms, and the ongoing challenges of climate change are set to shape a vastly different global landscape.

Technological advancements

One of the most striking changes will likely stem from rapid technological advancements. Artificial intelligence (AI) is expected to be deeply integrated into every facet of life. By 2054, AI systems will not only assist in everyday tasks but may also possess decision-making capabilities that influence business, healthcare, and even personal relationships. Autonomous vehicles could dominate our roads, reducing traffic accidents and congestion, while smart cities equipped with interconnected devices will optimize energy consumption and resource management.

Moreover, the rise of virtual and augmented reality will transform how we experience everything from entertainment to education. Classrooms may become immersive environments where students can explore historical events or complex scientific concepts in a hands-on manner, fostering a more engaging learning experience.

The changing workplace

The workplace will also undergo a radical transformation. Remote work, accelerated by the pandemic, is likely to become the norm rather than the exception. Flexibility will be key, with workers having the option to choose their work environments—be it a home office, a co-working space, or a coffee shop. This shift could lead to a better work-life balance and increased job satisfaction.



However, as automation takes over routine tasks, the demand for human skills will evolve. Creative problem-solving, emotional intelligence, and complex interpersonal skills will become more valuable, prompting a shift in education and professional training to focus on these attributes.

Environmental considerations

Perhaps the most pressing issue will be how humanity addresses climate change. By 2054, the impact of our current environmental policies will be evident. If significant changes are made, we could see a world that prioritizes sustainability. Renewable energy sources like solar and wind may dominate the energy landscape, significantly reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Cities may adopt green infrastructure,

featuring vertical gardens and green roofs that promote biodiversity and improve air quality. Urban planning could incorporate extensive public transport systems, making it easier for residents to reduce their carbon footprints. If we fail to act decisively, however, we might face severe consequences—rising sea levels, extreme weather events, and widespread habitat destruction could redefine life as we know it.

Social dynamics and demographics

Socially, the world in 2054 may be more interconnected yet paradoxically more fragmented. The internet will likely evolve into a ubiquitous presence, connecting people across the globe. However, this connectivity may also give rise to echo chambers, where individuals become increasingly insulated

in their beliefs, potentially leading to greater societal divides.

Demographically, the global population is expected to age, with more people living longer lives. This shift will pose challenges for healthcare systems and pension schemes, requiring innovative solutions to support an older population. At the same time, younger generations will advocate for their needs, pushing for changes in policy and governance to address issues such as climate change, equality, and economic stability.

Health and well-being

In terms of health, advancements in biotechnology may lead to significant breakthroughs. Personalized medicine could become standard, with treatments tailored to individual genetic profiles. Telemedicine may expand access to healthcare, allowing individuals in remote areas to consult specialists from around the world. Mental health awareness will likely continue to grow, with society increasingly recognizing the importance of mental well-being as part of overall health.

Conclusion

While it’s impossible to predict every nuance of the world in 30 years, one thing is clear: the future will be shaped by our choices today. Whether we harness the potential of technology for the greater good, prioritize sustainability, and foster inclusive societies will determine the quality of life for generations to come. As we stand on the brink of these changes, it is our responsibility to envision a future that reflects our highest ideals and aspirations. In 2054, may we look back with pride at the progress we’ve made and the challenges we’ve overcome.

Credit: ChatGPT 4o mini - chatgpt.com

My 5 sent

Oupa Bobbili

Kom ons praat bietjie oor tegnologie. Nou om mee te begin, ‘n vis weet meer van boom klim as ek van die tegnologie af. Kom ons wees eerlik die geite het sy voordeel en ook sy nadeel. En baie mense het hulle sê al gesê oor selfone en al daai goeters. Selfone maak ons lewe makliker en ook moeiliker. Die voordeel om met geliefdes oor die waters te kan kommunikeer maak die lewe makliker, maar moeiliker in die sin van, jou baas kan jou orals in die hande kry. Wat dit egter van ons steel is die samesyn. As jy in die ou dae verjaar het, was die koek reg want die kloppe aan die deur gaan gebeur. Familie en vriende het kom

geluk sê. Almal was altyd welkom, en die kuiertjies was altyd lekker. Vandag op ‘n spesiale geleentheid is ons al so gewoon aan die boodskappe op die foon dat ons se vrouens nie meer kan koek bak nie.

Baie mense, en ek is een van hulle, stuur in die oggende mooi boodskappies met prentjies aan die geliefdes om hulle ‘n mooi dag toe te wens. Sommer ook ‘lekker slaap’ boodskappies ook in die aande. Sondae kom die Liewe Jesus boodskappe deur. Die hartseer gedeelte hiervan is die kerke loop leeg, want ons kyk sommer ‘n preek in ons nagklere op YouTube. Wat dit makliker maak om af te sit as die prediker goed sê waarvan jy nie hou nie. Jy kan nie sommer uit die kerk uit stap nie, maar You-

Tube sit jy vinnig af.

Tegnologie maak ons lui om te dink ook. Vroeër jare het almal baie mense se telefoon nommers uit ons kop uit geken. Vandag soek jy dit op die selfoon op. Ons het geskryf op pen en papier, nou tik ons op die rekenaar en die geite se ink raak nie klaar nie. Ons dink nie meer om basiese sommetjies te maak nie, maar die rekenaar op die foon doen sy deel om ons breins ‘stupid’ te maak.

Die bietjie tegnologie wat ek ken gebruik ek lekker tot my voordeel. Ek neem genoeg kiekies op my foon. My musiek beweeg saam met my, kiekies van my kinders en kleinkinders se gesiggies is net ‘n druk van ‘n knoppie vêr. Ek kommunikeer met my

dogter hulle in Nederland sonder probleme. My jongste dogter is naby aan ons en ons gesels ook elke dag, te danke aan tegnologie.

Gebruik jou tegnologie, maar los hom as jy saam met die familie in die restaurant sit. Sit en gesels met jou vrou, jy sal agter kom sy is eintlik ‘n oulike nooi. Luister na jou kinders en leer hulle ken. Maar vang daai video waaroor julle as gesin later sal kan lag. Hou die familie balans, deel die drukkie uit en kyk mekaar in die oë. Opas vir die skelms op die internet. Vang die mooi oomblikke vas, maar moet nie uit mis op ‘n samesyn nie.

Gebruik jou tegnologie vir die mooi daarvan en geniet dit. Groete.



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