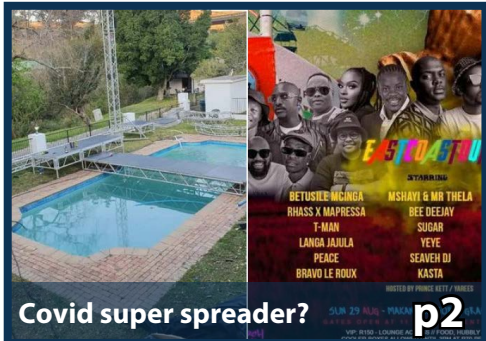


GMDIRECT

Friday 3, SEPTEMBER 2021



Covid super spreader?

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United front for Makana

p4



Scraps for strays

p8

Dashing creatives



Danika Lensley, a Grade 8 learner at Victoria Girls' High School, shows off her colourful illustrations for a book called *Fighting in the Farmacyard* at the Makhanda Book Dash event at Amazwi last week. Danika loves to draw and wants people to know that age shouldn't determine one's capabilities. Eager teams of volunteer creatives converged on Amazwi to create a rich collection of new open source children's picture books. See the full story by Phetolo Phatisibi on pages 6 and 7.

GMDirect

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Resort in the spotlight after music event

By **SUE MACLENNAN**

A Sunday afternoon shattered by music so thumpingly loud that it rattled the windows of passing cars, and a sleepless night thanks to revelling that continued well after midnight are the least of Makhanda's concerns, say people affected by a music event at Makana Resort last weekend.

Everyone involved – from officials to organisers – insists they did what they could to ensure the event was compliant with bylaws and Covid regulations. But community members are left frustrated and dreading what disturbances the coming weekends may bring.

On Sunday 29 August, the Makana Bar Lounge hosted a popular music event. Titled East Coast Tour, it was organised by Cape Town events company ChurchGrooves and Shaya Records and followed a session at Brick & Mortar in Gqeberha the day before. It featured a host of artists, including Mshayi and Mr Thela, Kasta and Yeye. Gates opened at 11 am Sunday for a midday start, with a "corkage" of R70 per cooler box.

Makhanda's most glamorous were there for the first big bash in months after lockdown restrictions were eased. People GMDirect spoke to who attended said it was a party of note.

But according to some who were there, masks were few and far between. Estimates of the crowd size vary between 250 and 500. According to the Alert Level 3 Disaster

Management Act regulations currently in place, there is a limit of 100 people at outdoor gatherings, and venues must close at 9 pm to allow people to get home before the 10 pm curfew.

But residents as far as 5km from the resort said the revellers had been so loud, it had kept them awake well past midnight.

"The noise was so loud, I couldn't even hear the TV," one resident said. "The music stopped somewhere around 10, but the party went on. We had to work the next day; my children had to go to school – all on less than six hours sleep."

Most severely affected are residents of the Park Homes, metres away across the road from the resort.

"Our little homes literally shook from the noise," said a Park Homes resident. "The party went on well after 10. People were still shouting and screaming: you could hear they weren't wearing masks."

"What worries us most is the number of people there: easily about 450, I would say. If that's not a super spreader event, I will be very surprised."

Host Thami Skweyiya, however, insisted the event complied with Covid protocols.

"There were 100 people in attendance," she said. "There were an additional 15 people who were hosting, including artists and sound engineers."

Skweyiya said there were 20 security personnel, including bouncers and marshalls. "I turned people away," she said. "The event was run at a loss."

Tickets were advertised at R100 each.

The manager of the Makana Bar Lounge, Khaya Kondile, told GMDirect that they charge around R2000 to hire the venue for events. He said the event had finished at 9pm.

"The music stopped at 9 pm. People were packing up the stage, and after that, people were leaving," Kondile said.

Asked to respond to reports from community members that they'd been kept awake by partying well after midnight, Kondile said, "I don't know about any of that. We had bouncers, security to make sure that the event was Covid-compliant."

"To my knowledge, the event finished at 9 pm. But if there was noise after that, then, in that case, we would owe an apology to residents."

Makana Municipality's Covid coordinator, Noluthando Santi, confirmed she had issued the permit for the event. However, she said the municipality's responsibility for the event ended there.

"When we issue a permit, we include in the conditions that the event must be Covid compliant," Santi said. "We can't stop the public from organising an event, and if they

break the law, it is a matter for the police.”

What appears to be a gap in Makana’s by-laws means there is no obvious prohibition on patrons bringing their own alcohol to a public event. And while the Liquor Act stipulates an event organiser must apply for a Special Events Licence 30 days in advance if they want to serve liquor, Kondile pointed out that they weren’t, in fact, serving alcohol; instead, patrons were charged R70 to bring their own cooler boxes.

Makana’s Legal Manager, Nomandla Mbanjwa, confirmed that the municipality was responsible for issuing event permits.

“But if organisers break the law, it becomes a police issue,” Mbanjwa said.

Asked about Makana’s by-laws with regard to alcohol at public events, Mbanjwa said, “Makana will scrutinise the lease with respect to the sale of liquor as well as bringing liquor on to the premises.”

South African Police Service spokesperson Sergeant Majola Nkohli said the police had gone to the resort in response to a complaint from the public.

“The property belongs to the municipality, and the venue was rented out,” Nkohli said. “There were a lot of people there – too many to effectively control or effect arrests.

“However, the police instructed them to disperse, and eventually they did.”

Accountability

Affected residents live in Wards 8 and 12, and councillors currently serving those areas said they would take the matter further.

“I am totally infuriated by the lack of accountability from all stakeholders involved in the Makana Resort issue,” said Cary Clark. Clark is a PR councillor but has been taking up service delivery issues on behalf of Ward 8 residents for the past few months.

“We’re in the middle of a Covid crisis, and nobody wants to take responsibility. We have laws in place that are supposed to protect us and the wider community. There are people living close to that resort who have to endure the noise level and the inconvenience.

“The people who organised the event were responsible for maintaining the protocols. From what I hear, the protocols were broken. They went over the curfew, and something between 400 and 500 people took part.



The Makana Resort: an event there last weekend was labelled a potential superspreader event because of alleged non-adherence to Covid protocols. Photo: Sue MacLennan

“It’s my intention to escalate this to Shadow MEC of Health Jane Cowley,” Clark said. “It’s totally unacceptable in the midst of a Covid spike that we could have an event that could cause a huge spike.”

Mzobanzi Nkwentsha, Ward 12 councillor, said any flouting of Covid protocols, as alleged, was to be condemned.

“I trust that our officials will be investigating the circumstances and will furnish councillors with details of the alleged contraventions. We take this very seriously.”

Asked what a solution for the residents’ plight could be, Nkwentsha said, “The lease agreement for the resort needs to be looked at, so we can see how things can be regulated, so community members are not disturbed in this way.

“But until I know more about the lease agreement, any suggestions I make now will be putting the cart before the horse.”

Earlier this year, Makana Residents Association Chairperson Sally Price-Smith had raised concerns about a large May Day function advertised, as supported by the Municipality, at Makana Resort with both local SAPS and the Municipal Manager.

“It seemed irresponsible at a time when Rhodes graduation was cancelled due to Covid risks that such a function would take place. But no one was prepared to tackle the issue, and the event went ahead, largely funded by a complicit SBDM, as SMME support funds were involved.

“Last weekend, a similar event took place, and the lockdown curfew was also broken. There is currently nowhere for law-abiding residents to turn for help when a selfish few flagrantly take advantage of the current negligent municipality.”

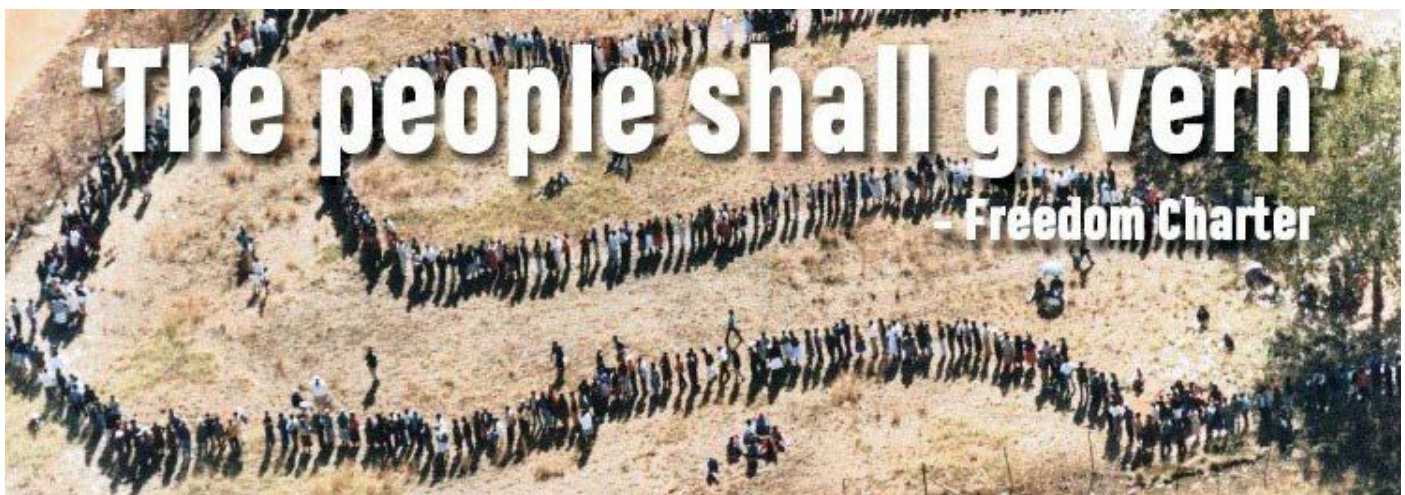
History of the resort

Makana Resort was opened to great fanfare in July 2009 by then MEC of Finance, Mcebisi Jonas, hosted by Mayor Vumile Lwana, after a R20-million facelift funded by the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs.

The three-star resort is advertised as having DSTV reception and air-conditioning in all its units. These are advertised as fully furnished and self-catering. Makana Resort comprises 12 chalets, four cottages, four deluxe units and 16 caravan or camping sites. There are single and double room accommodation units, and each unit has its own entrance.

A conference room accommodates 120 delegates sitting cinema style or 60 people at tables and at the time of the resort’s establishment was fully equipped with state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment including an overhead projector, DVD/cassette player and a plasma screen television. The conference room is fully air-conditioned and has its own kitchen.

The resort is leased by Mthombo Investments Holdings, whose 10 year lease agreement to operate it was extended.



MCF ready for local elections

By **DANA OSBORN**

The Makana Citizens Front (MCF) has registered to contest the local government elections with a diverse slate of candidates representing everyone “from the poorest of the poor to highly qualified professionals, black and white, male and female”.

MCF spokesperson Lungile Mxube said the front was making an explicit bid to “change who is in government and improve service delivery for the better”.

“There is a long history of decline in Makana – RDP houses are no longer built; we are lucky if we get water every second day; our streets and open spaces are filthy; roads are more pothole than tar; and sewers constantly leak, even into homes,” Mxube said.

“We have done everything we could to change government for the better – petitions, letters, court actions, protest, pleading for change every way we could. The Unemployed People’s Movement (UPM) won a court action to dissolve the council and place it under administration. Yet, the government has fought tooth and nail to avoid implementing the judgement. So, we are left with one alternative. Change who is in government,” he said.

The UPM has been instrumental in creating the MCF and has driven several other initiatives within the community. One such initiative was discouraging looting. UPM members distributed thousands of flyers educating the community about the consequences of looting. The pamphlet read: “No to self-inflicted pain... [the ANC is] now fighting openly, each faction of the



Ayanda Kota and Ntomboxolo Manyati at Postnet in Makhanda on Tuesday 13 July. They sent off the registration application for a new party to contest the upcoming local government elections, the Makana Citizens Front. Photo: Sue MacLennan

elite wants to control the state.”

The UPM holds weekly meetings in Jackie Chan/Fingo Square to discuss how to solve Makhanda’s problems. “I think, to me, what the square symbolizes was a rejection of the political parties and formal politics. To say we’ll create our own square, we’ll treat each other as equals,” explained UPM spokesperson Ayanda Kota.

“How do you infuse hope? Democracy should be the power of the people. Not the power of the elite, not the power of the politician but the power of the people... the politics of love, the politics of humanity.”

When asked about the recent turmoil, Kota explained that he believes the ANC nation-building project has collapsed.

“To me, this was an orchestrated open battle between the factions of the ANC... there was no shared vision; it was a collection of individualism, self-aggrandizement... How many people died as a result of the stampede? How many people died as a result of not getting medication? So, I won’t be positive about it. But I’ll be very vocal in condemning the factions of the ANC.”

Kota said this was the difference between the looting and the Makhanda service delivery protests. “I got calls where people were saying my cupboards are empty, I need medication. So, on the second day of the first shutdown, we had to call it off. It was not democratic... It’s a struggle because we are born into a system that is racist, that is capitalist, but we must reject it.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

"We want to see an inclusive Makana"

FROM PAGE 4

"This is our envisioned society; we must embody that which we wish to see."

"The Makhanda we want to see is inclusive. Everyone must be able to say, 'I'm a part of this city, I have a stake in it.' [A Makhanda] that is not racist or exclusionary... The scale is not balanced, so it must be balanced, and we must be biased towards the poor."

Kota hoped that Makhanda would have a transparent municipality, which allowed the community to partake in meetings and understand why certain decisions are being made and interject if they have something important to add.

"To create that push and pull, so, at the end of the day, we will feel all of us are a part of it."

Mxube said: "All of us are committed to serving our people. And we have all signed undertakings that hold us to that."

"And that is what makes MCF different! It has emerged from the community. It is

accountable to the community. There is no party head office in a distant city. The party head office is our own streets. That is where we will be called to account," Mxube added.

Meanwhile, the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) has adopted recommendations by former deputy chief justice Dikgang Moseneke that this year's local government elections be postponed from October to February next year.

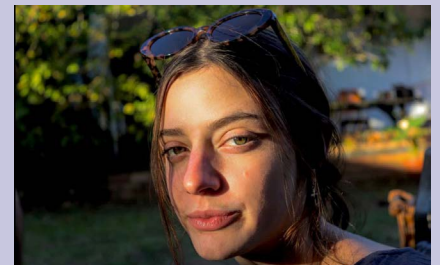
In his evaluation on the freeness and fairness of the elections during the current pandemic, Moseneke acknowledged that the elections should happen soon, but that it simply cannot at this time, stating "on all expert medical evidence, many, many lives are likely to be lost unless we reach a certain level of community immunity".

Experts suggested that the earliest possible time of reaching this immunity would be February 2022.

"The Commission accepts the rational and the central thesis of the report that greater immunity through mass vaccination is a

desirable precondition for a safe, free and fair election to be realised," the Commission said.

Preparations are proceeding for voting on 27 October whilst anticipating the likely deferral of elections to February 2022.



About the journalist

I am Dana Faye Osborn. I am in my third year of Journalism and English at the university currently known as Rhodes. Lover of language, politics, history, art, social theory, film and people. If you would like to share stories or ideas, contact me at danafosborn@gmail.com



LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given in terms of section 93(2) of the Makana By-law on Spatial Planning and Land Use Management (2016) that **M.E.H. SULTER & SON INC.** has applied to the Makana Municipality for a **Subdivision on Erf 6409** into 1 portion and a Remainder and Permanent Departure for Building Lines in terms of Section 59(1) & 76 of the Makana By-Law on Spatial Planning and Land Use Management (2016), located at 11 Worcester Street Grahamstown.

The application will lay open for inspection at the Town Planning Department ("BAB Office") in Joza, daily from 09:00 to 14:00 with Ms N. Ncilata, 046 637 0424/8.

Anyone who has comments or objections to the application is invited, according to section 98, to do so in writing. The application is open for inspection during office hours with Ms Ncilata.

Closing date for objections is **4th October 2021**.

In terms of Section 21(4) of the Local Government Municipal system act, 2000 (act 32 of 2000) people who cannot write may approach Ms Ncilata to assist them to put their comments or objections in writing.

On behalf of:
MR M MENE
MUNICIPAL MANAGER



ISAZISO SASEMTHETHWENI

Kukhutshwa isaziso ngokwecandelo lama-93 (2) loMthetho kaMasipala waseMakana woCwangciso lweMihlaba kunye noLawulo lokuSetyenziswa koMhlaba (2016) lokuba uM.E.H. Sulter & Son. Inc. Ifake isicelo kuMasipala uMakana sokuLwahlulahlulwa kwiSiza 6409 sibe sisiqingatha esinye kunye nokuhamba ngokusisigxina kwemigca yezakhiwo ngokweCandelo 59(1) & 76 loMqgago-nkqubo lwase Makana (2016), ebekwe e-11 eWorcester Street eRhini.

Isicelo sizakuvulwa kwiSebe lokuCwangciswa kweDolphu ("BAB Office") eJoza, yonke imihla ukusaka ngo-09:00 ukuya ku -14:00 kunye noNks. Ncilata, 046 637 0424/8.

Nabani na omezimvo okanye isisichaso malunga nesicelo uyamenywa, ngokwecandelo 98, ukuba enze njalo ngembalelwano. Isicelo sivulekeile ukuba singahlolwa ngeeyure zomsebenzi noNks Ncilata.

Umhla wokuvalwa kwezichaso ngowama- 4th October 2021.

NgokweCandelo lama-21 (4) lomthetho wenkqubo kaMasipala waseKhanya, 2000 (umthetho 32 ka-2000) abantu abangakwaziyo ukubhala bangaya kuNks Ncilata abancede babhale phantsi izimvo okanye izichaso zabo.

Endaweni ka:
MR M MENE
IMPHATHI KAMASIPALA

YOU ARE INVITED

All Makhandans are invited to join *Grocott's Mail's* open weekly news diary meetings. We meet at 10 am on Tuesdays on Zoom. Here is the link: <https://zoom.us/j/91996922011?pwd=RmxuYUdaUFpWYVRPSVhKRDRPQWZMUT09>

Meeting ID: 919 9692 2011

Passcode: 625570

Makhanda's children's book hackathon

By PHETOLO PHATSIBI

Eager teams of volunteer creatives converged on the [Amazwi South African Museum of Literature](#) last week to create a rich collection of new Eastern Cape picture books.

The [Rhodes University Centre for Social Development](#) (CSD) and Amazwi organised the Makhanda Book Dash event to celebrate Amazwi's 20th and CSD's 40th anniversary.

Each team had a writer, an illustrator, and a designer and all teams worked in solidarity, filling Amazwi with creative energy and inspiration.

CSD director Nicci Hayes said the project encouraged children to read more books by creating books they can relate to. The books, written in isiXhosa, Afrikaans and English, reflect the diverse cultural and linguistic heritages of local children.

"We felt that with the help of local writers, illustrators, and translators, the books that we make would resonate more with the children of Makhanda. We sent out a call, and we got 50 volunteers in a matter of a week or two."

The books explore friendship, environmental issues, and identity, encouraging the growth of local children's creativity, education, and social skills.

"[Book Dash](#) gave us ideas on how we should run things, but we had to make it our own a little bit - the process has just been fantastic," Hayes said.

The first group of writers, editors, and illustrators met up on Thursday, 26 August, at Amazwi to start designing high-quality children's books and finish the next day. A second group met on Saturday and Sunday.

"Some participants couldn't physically attend because of Covid-19, so we've tried to make things work through Zoom and WhatsApp groups. We are so grateful to all the volunteers who've given up their time," Hayes said.

"We are hoping that the books will make a huge difference and that they will reach as many kids out there as possible. In the long run, if finances allow, we will print as many copies as we can. While we are still planning



Amazwi's Basil Mills illustrates a children's book at the Makhanda Book Dash event last week.
Photo: Phetolo Phatsibi



Zondezile Matshoba. Photo: Phetolo Phatsibi

to make copies, the books will be freely available online for everyone to download."

Zondezile Matshoba, director of the public and education programme at Amazwi South African Museum of Literature, said a plan was being hatched to turn the books into audiobooks, as well as Braille.

"Book Dash gave us ideas on how we should run things, but we had to make it our own a little bit - the process has just been fantastic."

Meet some of the volunteer creatives



Lalu Mokuku, writer

Selloane Mokuku, aka Lalu, is a writer who is passionate about languages, "mainly because it is a way we create meanings". Her book *Naught, Knotty and Naught* explores the concept of trans-language and how it shapes the South African education system. English is the communication medium in most South African schools, but South Africa is multilingual. Lalu emphasised the importance of translating English books to other languages.

Lalu is an experienced theatre-maker, storyteller, academic, writer and performer. She has worked with and for young people internationally through UNICEF and Save the Children UK. In her day job, she facilitates teaching and learning at Rhodes University's Drama department, focusing on theatre for social transformation.

Danika Lensley, illustrator

Danika Lensley is a Grade 8 learner at Victoria Girls High School. At Makhanda Book Dash, she illustrated a book called *Fighting in the Farmyard* that explores the theme of social skills. Danika loves to draw and wants people to know that age shouldn't determine one's capabilities. "I want people to respect and take my artwork seriously without judging it based on my age," she said.



Basil Mills, illustrator

Basil Mills is a senior tech and environmental education officer for the education public programme at Amazwi. He believes in harnessing children's creativity through visual learning and art. Some of the learners he works with have learning disabilities. Basil said art could be used as a form of expression for children with learning disabilities. In addition to his artistic skills, Basil has extensive knowledge of South African natural and human history, battle re-enactments, animal rescue and rehabilitation work and restoration projects.





The first stray. Photos: Caitlyn Hilliard-Lomas



The second stray.



The third stray.

Scraps for strays

*The street dogs of Makhanda scavenge, scrounge and scamper through our town. This week **CAITLYN HILLIARD-LOMAS** started responding to the strays with a simple idea. Collect ice cream containers. Ask restaurants to fill them with leftovers headed for the bin. Feed the hungry dogs. She plans to continue this programme until the end of this year. This is the start of her journey.*

It is 4 pm on a Saturday. The first sunny day of the week. Overly excited and underdressed, I set out for my first donation of scraps from Gino's, the family restaurant. I arrived with a quirky smile and seven red and white ice cream containers toppling over my arms. My smile soon disappeared after being met with the reality of not having any scraps because most orders were takeaway that day. The friendly Don took down my name and number, and I was off to knock on the doors of other restaurants.

I arrived at Spur and met with one of the managers. He listened to my proposal and happily took two containers from my hands to fill up in the kitchen. He came back with a messy but beautiful assortment of rib bones, mash, strawberries, bread, chips, lettuce, coleslaw, and some other leftovers mashed up together. A meal not fit for human consumption but perfect for some hungry hounds. We happily exchanged smiles, and I was on my way to find the local strays.

The first dog scurries down Allan Street. She's small, frail, and frightened. A closer look at her reveals the dreadful intricacies of her fragile body. Black fur wraps around her stomach, with light shades of brown splattered over her legs, ears, and snout. I can see each muscle in her legs as their imprints push against her thin skin. Her backbones are visible, long, and slender—seven thick ribs pressing against

each side of her spine. Six round, full breasts dangling off her chest.

I want to tell you that she was excited when she saw the tub of food in my hands, but she approached me carefully, and her tail remained tucked between her two back legs. She was timid, and every sudden sound pushed her three steps back. She looked me in the eye for about 30 seconds before she decided that the risk was worth it to end her hunger pangs. She started by picking at all the leftovers. The remnants of what looked like white mash and cabbage dripped off the tip of her snout.

She then discovered the rib bones, which she devoured in the blink of an eye. She backed away for some minutes to allow the unfamiliar bulge of food to settle. She ate until more than three-quarters of the contents inside the two-litre tub were finished. It was hard to say goodbye, and after trotting up and down the street to look for her puppies, I decided to empty the rest of the scraps onto the soil where she was lying. I picked up the tub, gave her a wave goodbye and set out to find the next hungry hound.

The second dog I found happened to be a mother too. She greeted me in slow strides of worn-out stomach growls as audible as sentences from a toddler. She was much smaller than the first, and her breasts were

not as voluptuous. I assumed her pups were in the process of weaning off her milk.

For this reason, I spent more time walking up and down the streets, searching for them. Muddy shoes trailed all along an aisle of old trash and murky waters. To no avail, I turned back and headed for the mother dog. She herself looked like a puppy, perhaps 5 or 6 months old. She had eaten half a tub of food when a much bigger male dog approached us.

He was painted in a beautiful straw-coloured coat. His eyes were murky, perhaps housing old cataracts. He was not as shy or skittish as the other two and had a much healthier build. His bones were not so visible. He gladly accepted the offer of food and soon too devoured one litre of contents from the tub.

After seeing three gorgeous dogs eat some sort of meal, my day quickly turned into an accomplishment. When I started to think of the day as over, Don from Gino's messaged me to tell me that he had collected some scraps.

When I arrived, I met the lovely Anastasia, who led me to the scraps. I filled one tub of what looks like spaghetti and other pasta with a meaty sauce. This will be the first meal I use to feed the next strays I see. A big thank you to Spur and Ginos for happily donating scraps.

Makhanda abuzz with the Buzzer security app

Hi-Tec Security has partnered with a mobile safety app called Buzzer, which has achieved remarkable success in and around Cape Town for the last two years.

Buzzer gives users a personal SOS button and has a community report function for crimes, fires, and suspicious activity. All alerts made through the app go directly to Hi-Tec Security - and the neighbourhood.

The app was designed by a team of Hout Bay residents, developed by an Israeli company and rolled out in 2018. It responds to the need for a solution that could efficiently connect neighbours to neighbours and the local security service providers. Upon sending an alert, the signal goes out to local professional, private and voluntary response teams and the residents of the area where the incident happened.

Both the SOS and report features work in green belts, parks, and most nearby mountain areas with cell phone signals, making the app great for hikers, walkers, and riders.

Hout Bay business partners Keri Cross and Jessica Boonstra organised a workshop with representatives from all local communities. Together with local emergency responders, the residents designed their ideal process in case of an incident, which became the app's blueprint.

Cross said Hout Bay had some of the richest people in the country and some of the poorest, and the idea was to find something that worked for all South Africans.

"Governmental emergency response organisations are often unreliable, inefficient or even completely unavailable in some areas. Many neighbourhoods turn to safety WhatsApp groups which have their own challenges, including the irritations of trivial chitchat and the risks of spreading hatred and division."

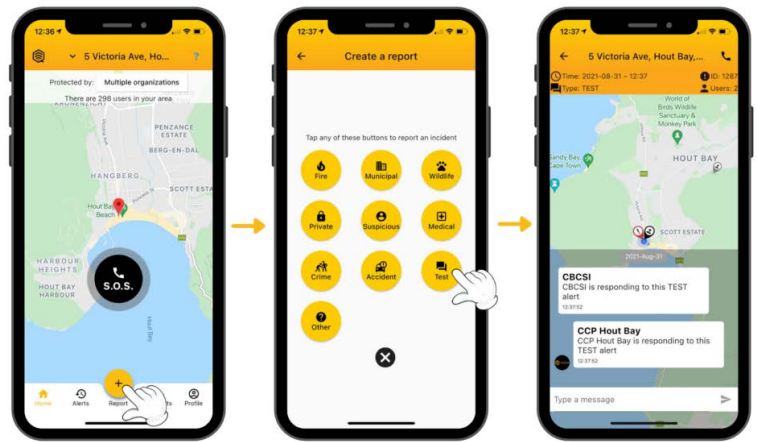
"Given the size of the security market in our country, we expected that an off-the-shelf solution would be somewhere out there, but to our surprise, there was nothing that suited our needs."

Boonstra said Hout Bay residents wanted to build a solution that was freely accessible for everyone, "not just for the happy few who can afford a private security company or an expensive app subscription".

Cross said residents were proud of their app and have used it extensively since its launch in 2018 to respond to 16 fires, 25 crimes, 29 medical incidents and 83 suspicious activities.

Walls, burglar bars, dogs, alarms, private security companies, cameras, and ingenious hi-tech security systems are abundant. However, when something happens in our streets or when we are out and about, who can we rely on?

Ingrid Smith, who used Buzzer to call for help during a break-in: "We had the unfortunate need to use it last night, and the response and support were incredible. Feel much safer having this on hand".



buzzer x Hi-Tec SECURITY

Community Safety & Security
'Revolutionizing Community Safety'


**BUZZER IS LIVE IN
GRAHAMSTOWN!**


Buzzer gives users a **personal SOS button** and also has a **Reporting function** for crimes, suspicious activity, fire alerts and more!


Hi-Tec SECURITY

The app automatically geolocates the user's position and activates a response. The alert goes directly to Hi-Tec Security and their responders so they can coordinate a response!

The app works in surrounding green belts, parks, nature reserves and most nearby mountain areas that have cell phone signal.







The clay teacher

By RYAN JARVIS

Anyone who has come across master potter and artist Meshack Masuku – or, as most people call him, Uncle Meshack – would have noticed that he wears a feather in his hat or hair.

Most people would assume that he has done this as a fashion statement. But it is because he is of royal descent - the feather is a symbol of royalty in Swaziland/eSwatini, and it works as a crown.

For Uncle Meshack, the key to ceramics is knowing one's history and culture. Ceramics has been an integral part of South African life for thousands of years. Clay has been moulded to create functional items, like posts and water jugs, but also as a form of artistic expression.

There is more to ceramics than just sculpting a piece; there is science and skill in knowing how and why clay transforms into something beautiful.

In a world of global supply chains, originality and creativity have been forced to take a back seat.

However, people like Meshack value beauty and hard work. He started his ceramics journey when he was 18. It was one of the first skills he had ever learned, which became his source of income and inspiration.

His ceramics business started in Makanda but later moved to Kenton-on-Sea, where the market was more receptive to his efforts.

The Makana district boasts the largest deposit of kaolin in South Africa. Kaolin is used to make clay for tiles, porcelain and pottery items.

Sadly, no kaolin is currently processed in our district, and Meshack's is one of the few

enterprises creating manufacturing products from it.

He has crafted a life from the skills he has mastered, and he is passing his skillset and mindset on



Meshack Masuku. Photo: Ryan Jarvis

to a new generation. He has laid claim to the title of teacher and passes on his skills to any young person willing to work hard to make a life for themselves.

He has trained over 200 people in the art of ceramics and is now in the process of facilitating other skills, such as compost making, woodworking, and "any other craft that can be done by hand".

He works on a paying-it-forward strategy - he teaches people the skills

for free, and then they will continue his legacy by teaching others.

However, once the student has made a sale, they will share the profits from the works. This helps to fund his life,

the student's life, and fuel the creation of ceramics.

Meshack has a franchise of different types of businesses that were born from his teachings. He rarely makes things nowadays; instead, he teaches and facilitates the students at his ceramics workshop in Kenton.

His students run all of his businesses, except for his workshop.

His philosophy is to enjoy it and to follow your heart - not the money. "Why be the richest man in the grave?" he asks.

He teaches skills because you can lose money, but you can never lose a skill. Anyone wanting to learn or teach a skill need only contact Meshack, as he has a big heart and an even bigger love for teaching.

Visit Lusiba Ceramics just outside Kenton-on-Sea, at the entrance of River Roost B&B. Email: meshacklmasuku@gmail.com Phone: 073 5961341





Ayabulela Bennie about to score Jacaranda Aces' fourth goal from a corner. Photo: Matthew Petersen

Jacaranda Aces win big to stay top

As the local football season heads towards its climax, another round of exciting matches in the Makana LFA Premier League and First Division kicked off on Saturday and Sunday at Extension 7, Fiddlers Green and the JD Dlepu Stadium.

MATTHEW PETERSEN filed this report from the Jacaranda Aces vs New Seekers game.

In a match played in very windy conditions, Jacaranda Aces and New Seekers kicked off in the 3 pm game at JD Dlepu Stadium.

Aces started the match brightly and took the lead in the first 10 minutes through Sixolile Koliti, who used his pace to get in behind the New Seekers defence and finish past the goalkeeper.

As the half wore on, the teams had to adjust to playing in such tricky conditions, and New Seekers should have levelled the game but narrowly put their effort past the post. From the resulting change in possession, Aces were clinical with their next attack, and some fancy footwork in the box from Athekosi Mnyobe saw him beat two defenders and score for his side's second goal of the game.

Aces could have had a third before half-time, but the New Seekers keeper denied them brilliantly.

New Seekers made a bright start to the second half playing a lot more directly to try and get themselves back into the game.

Still, they ultimately failed to score, and their defence was caught napping as Sixolile Koliti sprinted through on goal and lobbed the ball over the rushing keeper to make the score 3-0 to Aces.

Less than five minutes after that goal, defender Ayabulela Bennie scored a header from an Aces corner to put his team 4-0 up with over 30 minutes left to play.

As New Seekers pushed on in search for a goal in the windy conditions, Aces started to ease the pressure and play some breath-taking and skilful football, staying calm and making sure they didn't let their lead slip.

With 10 minutes left in the game, Mnyobe played the ball through to Koliti to complete his hat-trick, with Aces showing their dominance from start to finish to complete a 5-0 victory.

Jacaranda Aces completed a fantastic double-header this past weekend by defeating Cameroon 6-1 on Sunday to cement their place at the top of the table with only a few games left of the season.



About the journalist

My name is Matthew Petersen, and I am a Postgraduate Diploma student at the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University. I am keenly interested in sports and sports journalism, and I aim to produce informative stories that serve the community.

You can contact me at matthewpetersen4@gmail.com

WEEKEND RESULTS

Saturday 28 August

Premier League:

Grahamstown United 0 – 0 Newtown City
Jacaranda Aces 5 – 0 New Seekers
Rhodes University 3 – 4 Young Eagles

First Division:

Makana Tigers 3 – 1 Makana Celtics
African Spears 1 – 2 Lalibela Lions
Pioneers 12 – 1 Mighty Chiefs

Sunday 29 August

Premier League:

Joza Callies 0 – 3 New Seekers
Jacaranda Aces 6 – 1 Cameroon

Grahamstown United 0 – 2 Love and Peace

First Division:

Golden Brothers 2 – 3 Makana Tigers
Black Stars 2 – 0 Santos
Lakhenathi 6 – 1 Mighty Chiefs

Source: Makana Football Association
Facebook page

The passing of a showstopping shot-stopper

By **CHRIS TOTOBELA**

Makhanda's football fraternity suffered another great loss with the passing of the legendary Joza Callies goalkeeper, Misile Krismesi Ntlanjeni.

At the time of his passing last week after a short illness, he was part of Callies' technical team.

Ntlanjeni came from a great footballing family known for producing great goalkeepers - and he was undoubtedly on top of the list. He was one of the great shot-stoppers not only in Makhanda but in the entire region.

On Saturday, 28 August, people came in numbers to bid farewell to this icon who dedicated his life to football development in Makhanda.

Speaking on behalf of Joza Callies, former teammate Likhaya Ngandi told the masses how good Ntlanjeni was as a player and how much he loved his team.

"Krismesi dedicated his life and talent to Callies, the only team he played for since childhood. I would also like to thank all



the clubs that are here today to pay their last respect to one of Makhanda's greatest footballing sons."

Former Juventus defender and current Rising stars chairman Elvis Bill described Ntlanjeni as one of the best opponents he has ever faced and sent his heartfelt condolences to his family.

Another football great, Black Stars chairman and former Royals centre back Andile Mpu-lani, described Ntlanjeni as a rare breed.

"Krismesi was not just a good goalkeeper,

but he was special. He showed his class and talent when the then big four of Makhanda football were in their prime, namely Joza Callies, XI Attackers, Juventus and Royals. His agility and intelligence made it very difficult for opponents to score against him. We have really lost a true legend, and our prayers are with his family," Mpu-lani said.

Speaking on behalf of the only women football side in Makhanda and seven times regional champions African Connection WFC Bongani Dingana praised Ntlanjeni for the work he did on and off the field and the role he played in assisting up-and-coming goal minders.

Ntlanjeni will be dearly missed not only by his family but the entire football family as he was a regular at JD Dlepu stadium, the home of local football.

A few years ago the local football association hosted a pre-season tournament dedicated to him in honour of what he had achieved and contributed to local football.

This was a fitting farewell to a true legend loved by many and who was always willing to extend a helping hand irrespective of affiliation.

Sophia finish in top 4 at EC knockout

By **CHRIS TOTOBELA**

Sophia Young Stars finished in the top four in the Eastern Cape at the Engen U18 knockout football tournament in Gqeberha last weekend. They had to dig deep in the first game to bounce back from a goal down to level matters and eventually won 5-4 on penalties.

Glenville were their next opponents in the quarter-finals. Sophia scored the game's only goal in the second half to book their place in the last four.

On Sunday, they came unstuck against a powerful Real Buffaloes side in the semi-final. They produced an outstanding performance, but unfortunately, it was not enough to see them through as they suffered a 2-0 defeat and ended their hopes of proceeding to the final.

Club chairperson Lindisipho Swaartbooi praised the players for the good fight and commitment they showed. "I think our boys gave an excellent account of themselves



The Sophia Young Stars team that took part in the Engen U18 tournament in Gqeberha last weekend.

and learnt a lot in the process and will take the lessons and use them to take the team forward. I would also like to thank Pick n Pay and everyone who helped us in this trip."

Makhanda football lovers should applaud these young boys for this great effort. Finishing amongst the top four in the Eastern Cape is a big achievement.

Busted! 5 COVID-19 myths

Rhodes University virologist and member of the Provincial COVID-19 Expert Panel, Professor **ROSEMARY DORRINGTON**, addresses some of the myths and misinformation currently in circulation about the COVID-19 vaccines.

There is an ever-increasing number of myths and misinformation doing the rounds, and I am here to set some of the facts straight. Let's take some of the most common concerns and dig a little deeper into each one.

1. The vaccine will not prevent me from dying - FALSE

There have been "breakthrough cases" where vaccinated people contract COVID-19. However, even with the Delta variant, vaccinated people are nine times less likely to get infected, and most of these infections result in asymptomatic or mild illness. The vaccines are more than 90% effective at preventing severe illness and even more effective at preventing deaths from COVID-19. There have been a small number of deaths, though. The evidence is that these were vaccinated people with serious co-morbidities or immunocompromised, so they did not develop a strong enough response to the vaccine. And remember, breakthrough cases do not refer to people "dying from the vaccine" as it is sometimes misrepresented in the media and social media. Breakthrough cases refer to vaccinated people who get infected. And 90% of these infections cause asymptomatic or mild illness.

2. The vaccines inject you with the virus - FALSE

The vaccines we are using in South Africa right now do not contain the SARS-CoV-2 virus. They only contain a small part of the spike protein - one of 25 proteins produced by the virus - that stimulates your immune system to make antibodies to fight off future infection. The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine presents the cell with instructions (mRNA) to produce a part of the spike protein that will build immunity. Over the past 200 years, vaccines have reduced the morbidity and mortality of infectious diseases such as smallpox, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, measles, tetanus, whooping cough and more recently, Ebola and Zika across the world.

3. The vaccine alters your DNA - FALSE

The Pfizer vaccine contains mRNA, which is short-lived and does not alter the DNA of human cells. This mRNA contains the instructions to make only the coronavirus spike protein, and it cannot move from one cell to another. Also, it cannot get into the cell nucleus, which is where the DNA is, and



Misinformation can be bad for your health

therefore it can't interact with the DNA. I like to think of the vaccine as an email message to your immune system that gets deleted after the cell has read it.

4. The vaccine can make your infertile - FALSE

With more than 2 billion people already vaccinated worldwide, there is no clinical evidence that the COVID vaccines affects fertility. Vaccine monitoring has historically shown that side effects generally happen within six weeks of receiving a vaccine dose. Millions of people have received COVID-19 vaccines, and no negative long-term side effects have been detected, including fertility. Studies showed an equal number of people becoming pregnant in the vaccinated and unvaccinated groups.

In fact, a recent report using the v-safe safety monitoring system data showed that 4,800 people had a positive pregnancy test after receiving the first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (i.e., Pfizer).

Globally, we continue to monitor the safety of COVID-19 vaccines closely. If scientists find a connection between a safety issue and a vaccine, the regulators and the vaccine manufacturers will work toward an appropriate solution to address the specific safety concern.

5. The vaccine was approved under emergency conditions and is therefore not safe - FALSE

Vaccines undergo rigorous trials to ensure

they are safe and effective. All vaccines undergo a comprehensive approval process by medical regulators to ensure that they are safe, even when approved under emergency conditions.

The fast development and approval of vaccines is an extraordinary feat brought about by sharing vital information between scientists and pharmaceutical companies. This achievement is indeed worthy of celebration. This has also been possible because we have learned how to make and test vaccines over many decades, and we were able to take those lessons and challenge ourselves to produce a vaccine much quicker. While the specific COVID vaccine is relatively new, the technology (method for delivering the spike protein) it uses is well-established with over 10 years of testing. So, the "vehicle" is well-tested, and it's only the "cargo" that has changed.

The Pfizer vaccine was recently fully approved by the FDA and is no longer considered an "emergency" vaccine.

Sources:

<https://sacoronavirus.co.za/2021/07/23/presentation-covid-19-vaccines-chasing-a-virus-to-control-the-pandemic-professor-glenda-gray/>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafepregnancyregistry.html>

Source: Rhodes University Communications

Your right to value, quality and safety

By **SIZIPHIWE YUZE, Rhodes University Law Clinic**

Buntu purchases a kettle from a retailer. The kettle's element is faulty, and after a few days stops heating the water. He goes back to the retailer after a week to complain. The store tells him that this is "not their problem" as its "store policy" is that it will only consider complaints within five days of purchase.

Is this legally acceptable? The answer is an emphatic "no".

The Consumer Protection Act provides consumers with a right to goods and services of fair value, good quality and safety.

Buntu's kettle is defective, meaning it has a material imperfection rendering it unfit and of no value for the purpose for which he bought it. Section 55(2) of the Act sets out that every consumer has the right to receive goods that (a) are reasonably suitable for their intended purpose; (b) are of good quality, in good working order and free of visible or hidden defects; (c) will be useable and durable for a reasonable period of time; and (d) comply with any standards set out in the Standards Act. Since Buntu's kettle is defective, his rights under section 55(2) have not been met.

This brings into play section 56 of the Act. Section 56(1) reads into every consumer contract a warranty (or guarantee) – a promise that the goods sold by the retailer comply with the requirements and standards set out in section 55(2). In Buntu's case, the retailer has breached this term of the contract.

This provides Buntu with the remedies set out in section 56(2) of the Act, which also attach to the consumer contract by the operation of law, and which cannot be excluded or avoided by the retailer. Within six months after the delivery of goods to a consumer that are found to be defective,

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Free legal services to members of the public who qualify as indigent in terms of a means test.

the consumer may return the goods to the supplier, without penalty, and at the supplier's expense (so, for example, if Buntu had bought the kettle through an online retailer, the online retailer would have to pay to courier the goods back).

Once the goods are returned, the supplier must either (a) repair or replace the failed, unsafe or defective goods, or (b) refund the consumer the price paid for the goods. Most powerfully of all, section 56(2) stipulates in absolute terms that the choice of remedy is that of the consumer.

The retailer or supplier may not dictate which remedy you may choose in this six-month period – the choice is yours as the aggrieved consumer.

It is only if the defect emerges after the six-month period that any further product warranty (for example a two-year warranty on a refrigerator or stove) will be applicable, and any store policy incorporated into the contract – for example, that the remedy will be at the choice of the supplier, and repair will always be the default option – will be applicable.

A further similar warranty applies to any repair done to the goods, and any parts or labour supplied in this regard, for a period of three months, in terms of section 56(3) and s

57 of the Act.

Section 61 of the Act also makes the supplier liable for any financial loss caused by the supply of unsafe, defective or hazardous goods. So, for example, if the fault in Buntu's kettle causes an electrical fault in his home that has to be repaired by an electrician, Buntu could claim this expense from the supplier.

Section 60 of the Act imposes an obligation on suppliers to monitor the safety of their products and to recall goods that are identified as being unsafe or not in compliance with legal standards.

Although the focus of this discussion has been on defective goods purchased by a consumer, section 54 of the Act also provides a consumer with the same rights in respect of those who supply a service – for example, plumbers, electricians or builders. You have a right to the timely performance of such services in a quality fashion, and any installation of goods associated with the service must be done without defects and in good working order.

If you are dissatisfied you may require the supplier to remedy the problem or to refund a portion of the price paid, having regard to the extent of their failure.

SOUTH AFRICAN CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Rhodes University's Professor George Euvrad, psychologist and educator, pioneered the South African Cryptic Crossword series with Grocott's Mail in 2015 and dozens of local crossword fans look forward to the weekly challenge. With the help of the Mail & Guardian, which now also publishes the crossword, we're delighted to present you with the online interactive version.

[Click here for your favourite homegrown challenge.](#)

Calling the parents of young singers

LETTER

The Cathedral Choir of St Michael and St George and Makana Choir School invites all parents of young singers to the Makana Choir School AGM taking place on Sunday 5 September 2021.

The Makana Choir School is a choral programme that aims to educate and enrich young talented individuals into becoming competent singers and choristers. Choristers sing in the context of the Cathedral Choir of St Michael and St George, under the group, Cathedral limvumi.

Choristers receive tuition in theory, sight-reading and choral technique to a high standard and attend rehearsals every Wednesday during term time. New choristers begin at 4.15 pm and are joined by full choristers from 5 pm until 6.30 pm. The limvumi sing on Sunday mornings during term time at the 9.30 am communion service and at special church festivals.

The Makana Choir School has annual full



and half scholarship packages available. There are currently four full scholarship packages for commissioned choristers and four half scholarship packages for four new choristers who progressed through the probationer programme displaying excellent commitment and showing considerable development as Cathedral choristers. The scholarships amount to R5 500 for a full scholarship which goes directly to the learner's school tuition fees.

We welcome all prospective parents of learners from Grades 5–10, and their

children to join us at our AGM meeting at The Cathedral of St Michael and St George, on Sunday 5 September after the 9.30 am Service where parents and learners will also have the opportunity to hear the Cathedral limvumi singing during the 9.30 am service.

The clergy, director of music and choir school committee will be available for any further questions after the meeting.

Kutlwano Kepadisa, Director of Music,
email: i.kepa04@gmail.com

Choosing connection over polarisation

By **Dr NYX MCLEAN, GM engagement editor**

This week's editorial is a little more personal than usual. This week my uncle, Leon McLean, passed away. He was a giant of a man – in height and heart, always friendly, always joking, and always willing to give you a minute (actually, a lot more than a minute) of his time.

COVID-19 has messed with the way we gather as people after someone's passing; it is challenging to navigate being human and wanting to connect and be close to your loved ones during difficult times. What has given me some sense of connection is finding Leon's presence online. Within moments of the news of his passing, someone shared his photograph in the Grahamstown Makhanda Facebook group. It was there that how I remembered him was affirmed – other people spoke of this towering man who was kind and generous and made friends wherever he went. People reached out to the family, and while it was not in person, there was still a gathering of people.

The photograph of him on Facebook is where

he is donating blood, which he frequently did. That simple sharing of an image of him doing something he cared about connected me to his memory. It also gave me a sense of how to honour his memory because that same day, someone else posted in the Grahamstown Makhanda group that there is currently a critical shortage of blood due to the pandemic. These connections to someone are being made possible through social media platforms.

These connections may not always be in the case of a family member's passing but could be in celebrating the efforts of our local sports teams or community projects such as the Makhanda Book Dash. Facebook gets a reach that can almost outcompete the local Pick'n Pay or hair salon news networks.

But there are some things that folks are not willing to connect with us on, such as their hesitancy to get vaccinated. Since the start of August, Rod and I have been asking our readers to share why they may be hesitant to receive the vaccine. We are trying to get both sides of the story, as we have been asked to do by those commenting on our social media posts. Except for only a handful of comments

to posts on Facebook, we have received no responses in our Facebook inbox or our community@grocotts.co.za inbox.

In conversation, this week Rod and I wondered if this had anything to do with perceptions about news and potential worry over having one's name published as having a view that does not align with the current climate of views. We will try to do this a little differently this week and share a link to a concise survey. No personal information will be collected about you – not your name, not your age, not your gender, and not your contact details. The form is entirely anonymous. If you would like to tell us why you are hesitant about getting the COVID-19 vaccine, please let us know by clicking on this link: <https://forms.gle/gZK5vBamJv41tL7R8> and completing the survey.

As I've written about before, social media puts us at risk of polarisation – us vs them – and what we're trying to achieve at Grocott's Mail is a more nuanced understanding of how people engage with issues that impact this community. There is space for your voice, and if you are willing to share, we will listen.

MARIUS BARNARD PLUMBING & RENOVATIONS

Plumbing Services: Bathrooms including geyser installations, Unblocking of drains - 24hr Service and Drain laying and gutters.

Renovations: Built-in braai areas, building of double garages, Fascia Boards - PVC or wood, Corrugated and aluminium roofing, Water tank stands & pressure pumps, Waterproofing of roofs and walls - Roof pressure cleaning.

WE ARE COVID COMPLIANT. ESSENTIAL WORKER DURING LOCKDOWN.

Contact Marius on 079 463 0872 or Whatsapp 071 211 4723.
Email mbholdings01@gmail.com

MAKHANDA TREEFELLING & GARDEN REFUSE REMOVAL

Treefelling and Stump Removal - As per quote
Garden Refuse Removal
Per Load - as per quote Per Bag - R10.00
Pensioners: R5 per bag

WE ARE COVID COMPLIANT. ESSENTIAL WORKER DURING LOCKDOWN.

Contact Marius on 079 463 0872 or Whatsapp 071 211 4723. Email mbholdings01@gmail.com



BID NOTICE / ADVERT

The Makana Local Municipality invites all experience and competent suitable Tenderers that are fully equipped to foTr the below projects

Tender Name	Tender Number
Printing and posting of Municipal Service Debtors Accounts	MLM/2021-22/BTO/001
Debt Collection Service	MLM/2021-22/BTO/002

Date Advertised: 03 September 2021

Closing Date: 04 October 2021 at 12h00
Preference Point System: 80/20

Bidders are required to submit the following documents:

- **Founding Statement (CK/Company Registration Certificate) or certified copy must be submitted, if a sole proprietor provide affidavit confirming ownership.**
- **Bidders to submit a valid SARS Tax status report** Issued with a Pin.
- **Completed and signed declaration of interest MBD 4, MBD 6.1, MBD 8 & MBD 9. Failure to submit will result in disqualification.**
- **BBBEE Certificates original/certified copies must be submitted and failure to do so will result in loss of points.**
- **Original certified copies of Directors/Owners/Partners identity documents.**
- **Billing clearance/lease agreement** signed by both parties the lessor and the lessee. If expired extension of lease must be attached or statement of municipal accounts not more than 3 months old and not more than 3 months in arrears must be attached to and be returned with the Tender documents, if arrangement is done proof must be attached. **Failure to submit will result in disqualification.**
- **NB: JV/Partnership; JV agreement or partnership agreement must be attached, failure to do so will result in disqualification.**
- **Each JV partner or Partnership partner must complete and sign all MBDs and submit billing per requirement above.**
- **Tenderers must be registered as a supplier/service provider on Makana Local Municipality supplier/service provider database and Central Supplier Database (CSD) proof of registration (Makana Database Confirmation Letter; CSD Registration report) on both databases must be submitted.**
- **MFMA Circular 90 will apply/**
- **Tenders which are late, incomplete, unsigned or submitted by fax or electronically (email, facsimile; telegraphic; telex/telephonic), will not be accepted and submissions from Tenderers who arrived late at the Tender clarification meeting will not be accepted.**
- **Documents to be filled with black ink.**
- **Tenders submitted are to hold good for a period of 90 days. Tenders must remain valid for a period of 90 days after the closing date for the submission of Tenders, during which period a Tender may not be amended or withdrawn and may be accepted at any time by the Makana Municipality. Validity period can be extended when required by the municipality.**

PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK ACT NO 5, 2017 (PPPFA) POINTS WILL BE AWARDED AS FOLLOWS:

Received Reponsive proposals will be evaluated based on the following two stages, namely:

- Stage 1 - Functionality
- Stage 2 - Price and Preferential Points

A bidder that scores less than 70% in respect of "functionality" will be regarded as submitting a non-responsive bid and will be disqualified and will not be evaluated further, i.e for price. Only bidders who score 70% or more would be evaluated further and therefore eligible for the award.

EVALUATION FOR FUNCTIONALITY

A detailed Functionality Criteria is on each relevant document.

- **Bids must only be submitted in the format as stated in the tender document and this advert as per tender documentation provided by the municipality.**
- **One envelop system will be followed.**

Bid documents will be available at Makana Finance offices upon payment of R845 for printing and posting of municipal accounts and R1 495.00 for debt collection services, these are non-refundable cash fees for each tender document, available from 08 September 2021 and available for collection also.

Closing date: Completed tender documents must be enclosed in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with tender number and name of the project submitting, should be deposited in the tender box situated on the ground floor, Makana Local Municipality: Finance Department at 86 High Street Grahamstown not later than 04 October 2021 at 12h00

Makana Local Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any bid and reserves the right to accept the whole or part of the bid.

Requirement of sealing, addressing, delivery, opening and assessment of tenders are stated in the tender data.

All Technical Enquiries are to be directed to Project Manager Ms Colleen Mani, Tel 046 603 6130, email: colleenmani@makana.gov.za. All SCM queries are to be directed to Ms Tabisa Mvane 046 603 6222, email tmvane@makana.gov.za

Issues by the office of the Municipal Manager Mr Mene

MR M MENE
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Rainfall report for August 2021

By **ROGER ROWSWELL**

August provided a slightly better monthly rainfall than the previous month, with 34.4mm over 9 rain days, the long term average (LTA) is 50.1mm and long term median (LTMed) 35.5mm over 8 rain days. It is encouraging to note that the August monthly rainfall is only slightly lower than its LTMed.

Of the 34.4mm that fell in the month, 25.5mm fell in a 24hour period on the 12th. This was the best rainfall in a 24 hour period since Oct 2020. The highest rainfall for August was 276.1mm in 2006, and the lowest was 1.5mm in 1989; quite a range. How we could do with a deluge like 2006. However, 50% of August's yearly rainfall lies in the 25 to 50mm range. The deluge that fell in 2006 occurred over 15 rain days.

The trend in the increasing rainfall since June, the driest month of the year, bodes well for some good spring rainfall that will add some inflow to our southern dams. An article in the Farmers Weekly (3 September 2021) stated, "Current predictions suggested that certain regions in the Eastern Cape which had been suffering from a prolonged drought, could also receive good rainfall."



Victoria Primary School

Invites applications for the position of an
Intern for an
Intersen Phase Teacher

Candidates should be currently studying or are about to embark on their studies towards an Intermediate or Senior Phase teaching qualification through any recognized correspondence learning institution.

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Assist teachers where required
- Assist in our extramural programme (please indicate where you are able to assist in this on your CV)

All interested candidates are invited to submit a CV together with three contactable references to:

The Principal, Victoria Primary School,
Beaufort Street, Makhandha

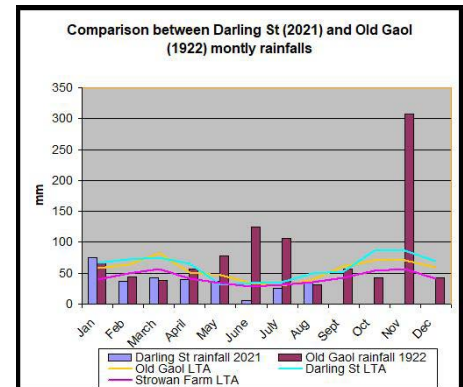
Email: admin@victoriaprimarv.co.za

Closing date: Monday, 1 October 2021.

Should you not have received correspondence by 22 October 2021 your application will not have been successful. We reserve the right not to fill this post.

This follows from SAWS's latest monthly Seasonal Climate Watch report for the period from August to December. It is also mentioned that "the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) was in a neutral state and was expected to change to a weak La Nina".

A figure for the ONI (Ocean Nina Index) hasn't been provided since June when it was at -0.4, so there is a possibility that the weak La Nina has already commenced. As the ONI is calculated as a three-monthly average, a result should be forthcoming by mid-September for July.



HELP BRING JOY TO KIDS IN NEED

SCHOOL TOY/BOOK THEME DRIVE

Child Welfare

Grahamstown is please looking for donations for our 12 theme boxes for Nompumelelo Pre-school children- ages 18-24 months.

Please consider us if you have anything for the following theme boxes that we will be using each year, per month. The 12 themes are as follows: My School, My Body, My family, Colours and Shapes, Transport, People who help us, farm animals, Fruit and Vegetables, domestic animals, seasons, holidays, Christmas.

If you have anything we can use, please drop off at 1 Cole's Lane or call 071 687 4531. Thank you!

