



# SPOOK RUITERS

Die "Hungry Ghost" het in April maand gasheer gespeel as eindpunt vir 'n groep avontuurlustige 'bikers' wat die 300km 'Ghost Run' spookjag nagrit aangepak het.

Die nagrit is gereel deur CABC ('Cape Adventure Bike Challenges') vanaf George, met 'n roete wat die groep van omtrent 50 motorfietse deur Oudshoorn, Toorwater, Spookdrift en Meiringspoort verby die 'man in die lang jas' onder andere geneem het, en ge-eindig het op Uniondale in die beroemde "Hungry Ghost" familie restaurant en kroeg.

Uniondale is natuurlik ook baie bekend vir die storie van die bruid-spook wat oor menige jare haar verskyning al 'n paar keer gemaak het op verskillende maniere. Tot 'n groot mate is hierdie bekende spook storie verantwoordelik vir baie van Uniondale se toerisme aanloklikheid, insluitend die "Ghost Run" wat hierdie jaar vir die heel eerste keer gehou is, en so gewild was dat volgende jaar se beplanning al begin het. Ten spyte van die weer wat nogal stormagtig was, met wind en reënstorms al padlangs, het al die deelnemers veilig by die bekende eindpunt aangekom.

Die aand was pretvol en van die deelnemers het ook hul foto's laat neem met die standbeeld van die ryloper bruid in Uniondale.

Almal het die aand gate uit geniet en hul dank uitgespreek aan die organiseerders, insluitende CABC, Johann en Carina, asook aan ons eie Anthea en Dawie en die personeel van die Hungry Ghost, wat 'n aangename en plesierige avontuur verseker het vir al die deelnemers.

Een onverskrokke paartjie het tot hulle verlowing aangekondig en ons wens vir Fred en Soekie alles van die beste voorentoe!

Die aand sal vir 'n lang tyd onthou word en ons hoop dit is maar die eerste van baie "Adventure Runs" waarin ons lieflike klein dorpie kan deelneem.

**DENNIS KENT**



**Thank you Davkor, and the Uniondale Pharmacy for your support!**

**\* R5.00 \* theuniondalepost@gmail.com \***

# THE PLANT REPORT



## South Africa's Succulent Smuggling Crisis: The Threat to the Karoo's Unique Biodiversity PART 3

### ***SMUGGLING TO INTERNATIONAL MARKETS***

Succulents are shipped abroad, primarily to buyers in Asia, Europe, and North America. Smugglers use various methods, including shipping containers, air cargo, and postal services, often hiding the plants in shipments of legal goods. In some cases, forged permits are used to falsely declare the plants as legally sourced. For example, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has uncovered several smuggling rings involved in shipping succulents to markets in China, Korea, and Japan, recovering thousands of plants in the process.

### ***DISTRIBUTION***

The plants are distributed through middlemen, who either sell them directly to private collectors or via online marketplaces. These plants are often sold at high prices due to their rarity and the difficulty in legally sourcing such species. Online platforms, including social media and e-commerce sites, have become major hubs for illegal succulent sales, where buyers may not always be aware of the plants' illegal origins.

While platforms like eBay have made strides in removing illegal listings—reportedly blocking over 500,000 illegal items in 2023 alone—the sheer volume of online transactions allows illicit sales to continue under the radar. Other major players such as Etsy, Amazon, and Facebook Marketplace also serve as significant distribution channels for rare plants. The peer-to-peer nature of these platforms makes regulation even more challenging, allowing traffickers to hide illegal plants among legitimate listings.

This issue is further complicated by the fact that many buyers are unaware of the origins of the plants they purchase, making consumer education a critical hurdle in addressing the illegal trade. Social media platforms, particularly Instagram, have also emerged as popular hubs for promoting 'plant porn' through visually appealing advertisements, which increase both demand and the potential for illegal sales.

As conservationists and platforms like eBay work together to develop tools such as FloraGuard, designed to detect illegal listings, further collaboration between e-commerce companies, governments, and environmental agencies like TRAFFIC is necessary to ensure more robust enforcement and better protection for endangered species. Specialised plant platforms, such as Rare Plants Boutique and Succulent Market, cater specifically to collectors, but regulating the origins of the plants sold remains a persistent challenge.

### ***END-CONSUMER***

The final buyers are often private collectors or enthusiasts who value these rare succulents for their uniqueness. Some are aware of the plants' illegal origin, while others unknowingly purchase poached plants without understanding the environmental and legal consequences.

# THE PAGE 3 CUTIE

Hello  
Roxy!



## SCHOOL NEWS



### MAXEME FAITH COETZEE

*Diploma in Agricultural Management*  
*Nasionale Kwalifikasie vlak: 6*

Maxeme is een van ons top akademiese oudleerders wat haar skoolloopbaan by HSU voltooi het. Sy het gematrikuleer in 2021 met die vakke Geografie, Wiskunde, Lewenswetenskappe, en Fisiese wetenskappe. Sy het uitstekende punte behaal. Dit het haar toegelaat om verder te gaan studeer by Nelson Mandela Universiteit. Haar kursus was 3 jaar gewees, en sy het haar finale jaar eind-eksamens suksesvol voltooi. Hierdie jaar doen sy haar volgende kwalifikasie: *Advanced Diploma in Agricultural Management*. Sy het ook 'n projek waaraan sy werk, met betrekking tot plant-interaksies en omgewings omstandighede, en hoe dit 'n impak kan het op landbou, asook hoe sekere aspekte landbou kan bevorder.



### DANE ELDRIDGE DAMONS

*Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Human Integrated Physiology*  
*Nasionale Kwalifikasie Vlak: 7*

Dane is een van ons top akademiese oudleerders van HSU en Dirk Boshoff P/S. Hy het gematrikuleer in 2021 met die vakke Geografie, Wiskunde, Lewenswetenskappe, en Fisiesewetenskappe as die beste leerder. Hy was geaanvaar by Nelson Mandela Universiteit om verder te studeer in wetenskap. Sy kursus was 3 jaar gewees, en hy het sy finale jaar eind-eksamens suksesvol voltooi. Hierdie jaar doen hy sy volgende graad: *BSc (Honours) in Advanced Chemistry*. Sy projek hierdie jaar is gebaseer op medisinale chemie, en die profilering van sekere chemiese groepe van die plant *Strychnos Henningii* wat in die anti-oksidente kategorie val, om 'n alternatiewe kanker behandeling opsie te ontwikkel.



Die Plaaskind Padstal

Sunday Lunch  
Whatsapp Adri to book  
0664398830

**Mains**

Roasted Karoo lamb chops  
Mixed white rice  
Baked Potatoes  
Cream spinach  
Pumpkin fritters with a caramel drizzle  
Greek salad

**Desert**

Sago pudding with  
home made custard

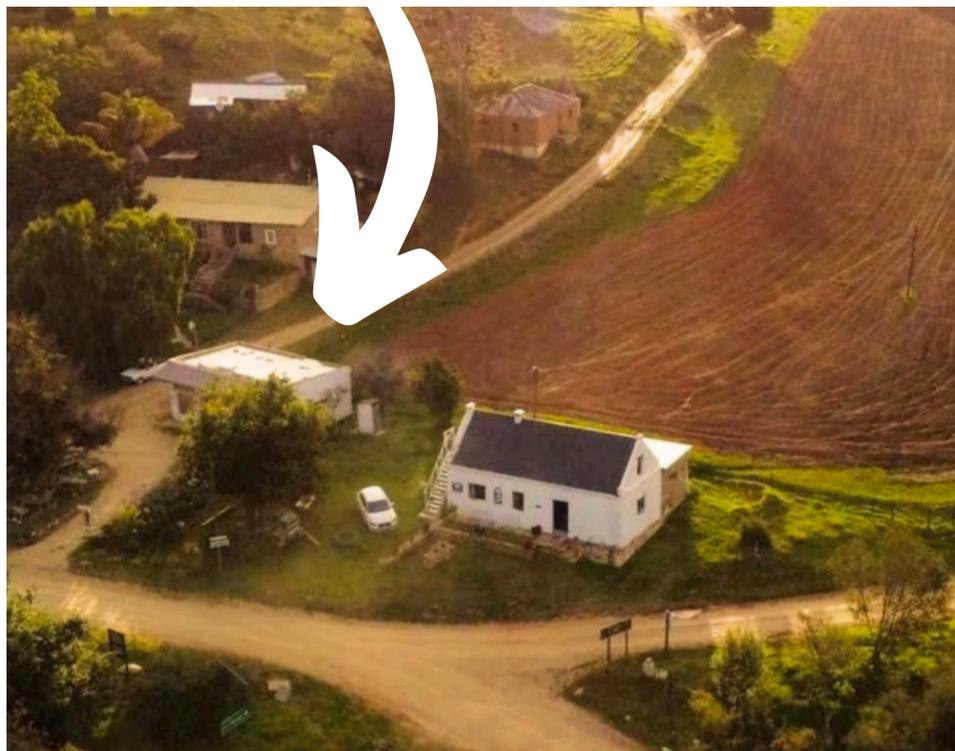
You are welcome to bring your own wine  
R150 per person

## UNIONS IN THE DALE

Jong vrou seek jong man. Velkleur en salaris en geloof maak glad nie saak nie. Ek gee meer om oor hoe jy vir my gaan behandel. Gaan jy vir my koffie bring? Vir my ma se voete vryf? Vir my perde kos gee? My erf water gee? Dis die goed wat saak maak. Sal jy dag en nag daar wees om my te help en bystaan? Ek sal dit die moeite werd maak. Ek maak baie lekker koeksusters.

#soetbekkie

Are you looking for love or friendship or ....(not too many saucy details please). This is a strictly confidential place to advertise your sexy self, and find who it is you are seeking. All you have to do is send me 70 words or less describing yourself and what you are looking for. Include an email adress and a pseudonym please. You don't have to use your real name at any point in your correspondence with me. I will place your ad and if anyone is interested, all they have to do is Whatsapp (074 191 2114) or email me (theuniondalepost@gmail.com) with their response. I will then forward it to the relevant person, if they like the sound of you then they will respond. If not, eish.



## HISTORICAL BUILDINGS OF UNIONDALE - PART 3

### VOORTREKKER STREET

(Tarred in 151, previously the Main road).

Uniondale was originally two villages, Hopedale to the East and Lyon to the West. The streets were laid out at nearly 45 degrees to each other. In time the two villages joined and became Uniondale. The course of the water furrow determined the route of the main road. The Dominee and Attorney lived above the furrow, otherwise the permanent inhabitants lived between the furrow and the river on watererven, which provided all household fresh produce. The dry erven were used for 'nagmaal huisies', for the outlying farmers, public buildings and shops.



The Pink Ladies

## Missing Adult Alert

**PATRICK (aka PAT) ROMAN**  
UNIONDALE WC  
Age: 34yrs  
Gender: male  
Build: tall, slim  
Weight: unknown  
Height: 1.7m  
Eyes: brown  
Hair: black, long, full black moustache & sideburns  
Ears: small, slightly pointed, flat  
Nose: small, flat, rounded tip  
Lips: thick, cupid's bow  
Scars: burn on R shoulder  
Tattoos: none  
Clothing worn: green track pants, tekkies (one brown, one black with white stripe), black Pirates t-shirt, black socks & underpants



**Circumstances:**

Patrick, who is considered to be vulnerable, was last seen at De Hoek, Haarlem on 31 March 2025 at +- 15h00, when he walked off into the bush. He may be headed for Oudtshoorn, but has not been seen or heard from since. Please contact D/Sgt KL Roets of Uniondale SAPS on 072 224 8939 / 044 752 6600 / 08600 10111 / Pink Ladies Org 072 214 7439 (Whatsapp)

**THERE IS NO WAITING PERIOD TO REPORT A PERSON MISSING**

Donations: Std Bank of SA Ltd - Acc No. 271 624 256

Constantia Branch Code 023309 - SWIFT code: SBZAZJ or

Snapscan Link: <https://pos.snapscan.io/qr/LTLjDBFb>

Email: [missing@pinkladies.org.za](mailto:missing@pinkladies.org.za) / [admin@pinkladies.org.za](mailto:admin@pinkladies.org.za)



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**Kontak besonderhede:**  
**Landlyn : 044 752 1200**  
**Selfoon: 064 966 4260**

## A TOAST TO WILLIAM BURCHELL

The WhatsApp text invite pinged cheerfully on each of the Hiking group members' phones: This month's hike...Departs Ribbok Rus parking spot, following the ox-wagon trail taken by Burchell in 1810, to toast the bust erected in his honour at the end of the trail. Hot weather expected. Remember hats and water!

Cassidy called over her shoulder to her longtime friend, Todd, 'Just got a text from the Uniondale hiking group about a hike on Sunday. Wanna go?'

Cassidy had recently moved to Uniondale following a midlife choice (her description) and Todd was there to help her settle in after the midlife crisis (his description).

'Are they supplying the beers?' he called from the bathroom where he was trying to secure a troublesome toilet seat. It had the nasty habit of closing during mid-use, an alarming experience for any man first thing in the morning.

'I'm sure they'll go out for drinks afterwards. It'll be good to get some exercise,' Cassidy added. Cassidy could be quite persistent when she was convinced of what was 'good for' those around her. Todd decided to opt for the sound strategy of: the best defense being offense. 'Sure,' he quipped. 'I'll carry the backpack.'

Cassidy's lips formed a satisfied smile. 'Brilliant,' she said and sent off a reply text affirming their attendance. Despite the upheaval of her move to Uniondale, she felt the rightness of it in her bones. Getting to know the locals was just one step toward a new life.

The mountains were still sleeping under a duvet of low cloud when Cassidy woke on the morning of the hike. It didn't take long to pack snacks, water and the essential flask of coffee into a well-worn backpack. The challenge of the morning was getting Todd up before nine. He moaned when Cassidy called him from the doorway.

'Incentivise me,' he groaned. Cassidy chuckled. 'I've packed the crunchies I baked last night.' She dangled the carrot of coffee and cookies for breakfast before his mind's eye. Todd groaned again but threw off the covers and stumbled, mumbling to the bathroom. A loud list of expletives advertised the fact that his attempted toilet seat repair had failed. At least he'd be awake now!

It was a cheerful group that greeted them when Cassidy and Todd pulled up with sloshing water sounds coming from various backpacks and takkie-clad feet itching to go. Starting with an incline was a good way to warm up the thigh muscles, a bearded and bandanad fellow chuckled, climbing past Todd. Todd bit his tongue just in time but muttered to Cassidy, "I can warm up my thigh muscles under a duvet."

Cassidy laughed and playfully punched him on the shoulder, "Grumpy hikers forfeit snacks," she threatened but Todd was one up on her. "Not when the grumpy hiker is carrying the supplies," he grinned.

Toward the end of the trail, a yellow arrow painted on a stone pointed the hikers down a short path that ended with a bust of the naturalist, William Burchell.

"He was an amazing man," said Sally, the hike leader, who had stopped to admire the view. "He recorded over 50 000 plant species in Southern Africa... and travelled 7000km by ox-wagon to do it. This morning, we've literally walked over some of the ground he covered."

Todd shook his head. "What would make a man do that with his life?"

Sally smiled. "Perhaps he lived with a broken heart and found comfort in living close to nature. He was going to be married when he first began working on St Helena island as a teacher. Then his bride-to-be jilted him for the captain of the boat she was on, headed to St Helena! I think I'd also want to escape the world after that!"

"You have a point," agreed Todd. Turning to the bust, he raised his coffee mug in salute. "Her loss was our gain." He cleared his throat, "Furthermore, I'd like to table a motion that women no longer be allowed on boats. Only causes trouble."

He raised his eyebrows teasingly at Cassidy who looked at him in mock horror, then recovered quickly. "You do know that motions can be killed, don't you?" she said, "...not to mention the motion-maker."

Todd stepped back and coughed, "Burchell, dear fellow, so good to see you again, but I'm late for a picnic." Grinning, he hurried back the way they'd come, shoving his coffee cup in the backpack as he went, the ladies chortles still audible behind him.

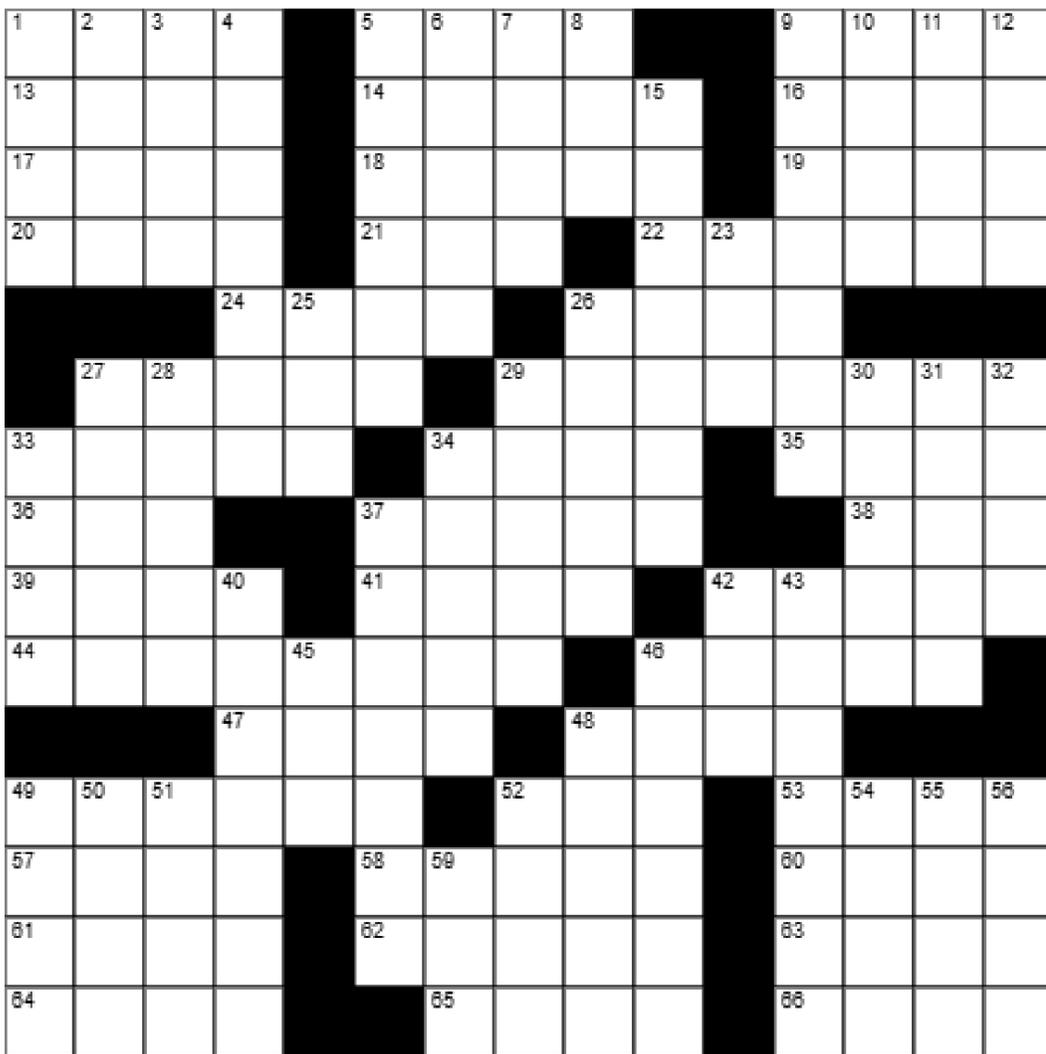
Cassidy looked at the memorial to William Burchell.

"Burchell," she said, "Respect. Descriptions and sketches of thousands of plant species without a camera or laptop! And no research assistant to manage filing and sample collection. I hope, at least, the coffee was good!" With that farewell, she picked up the path, humming the tune that would take her home.





# THE BACK PAGE



## Down

1- Icelandic epic; 2- Den; 3- Jai \_\_\_; 4- 1000 times 1000; 5- Singer Morissette; 6- Additional pay; 7- Ova; 8- Distress call; 9- Conductor; 10- Word-of-mouth; 11- Regal address; 12- Makes brown; 15- Began; 23- Acknowledgment of debt; 25- Devious; 26- Melodies; 27- More adorable; 28- \_\_\_ a million; 29- \_\_\_ mignon; 30- Ice house; 31- Experiment; 32- Scream; 33- String tie; 34- Big cats; 37- Like some jacks; 40- Sorrow; 42- Resort; 43- Short-tempered person; 45- Voice of Bugs; 46- Football, most places; 48- Lobster state; 49- \_\_\_ best friend; 50- Fencing weapon; 51- Kind of prof.; 52- Not barefoot; 54- Even \_\_\_ speak...; 55- Greek portico; 56- Hades; 59- Quattro minus uno;

## Across

1- Jack of "Rio Lobo"; 5- Burrows and Vigoda; 9- The majority of; 13- Surrealist Salvador; 14- Corporate symbols; 16- Oratorio highlight; 17- Clock face; 18- Emo anxiety; 19- Acquire through merit; 20- Seed covering; 21- Frat letters; 22- Bridal paths; 24- Fertility goddess of Egypt; 26- Jog; 27- Loses heat; 29- Posterity; 33- Young rabbit; 34- \_\_\_ dancing is popular with cowboys!; 35- Man-eating giant of popular folklore; 36- Suffix with Capri; 37- Lubricated; 38- Abner's adjective; 39- Fragrant neckwear; 41- Turndowns; 42- Sand bar; 44- Embellishment; 46- Bobbin; 47- Poor grades; 48- Castle ring; 49- Humbly; 52- Pouch; 53- Corned beef concoction; 57- Church section; 58- Moral precept of conduct; 60- Italy's Villa d'\_\_\_; 61- Scottish loch, home to a monster!; 62- Honeybee; 63- Mil. truant; 64- Hardens; 65- Fulda tributary; 66- Distribute cards;

## ADVERTISING RATES

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## CONTACT US



PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES, ADVERTS OR PHOTOGRAPHS FOR INCLUSION IN OUR NEXT EDITION TO

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