

The Hogsback Times

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March 2026

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Dear HB Community,

Big exhale and a sigh of relief. And no... despite my best efforts, I can't blame the planets.

February had teeth...My teeth, specifically. So here it is, clean and simple: I'm sorry. My ego got loud, built expectations and when reality didn't comply, the two of them had a full-blown vloermoer in public. Not my finest editorial moment.

Lesson learnt; nothing humbles you faster than a small town that doesn't bend. What I read as disengagement was, in its own way, restraint. It got me to zero expectations faster. Brutal...maybe; efficient...possibly; necessary... definitely!

Here we go again. A mischievous March HBT, that I am proud to present. My April fool's plans fell through the floor, no one is getting a temporary tattoo of Lynden's name and booking their B12 shot. I'm not pregnant; I didn't find a baby at the VIC and who knows if I resigned from the HTO or not.

But YOU can still play the fool and tell me all about it!

I am grateful to all who contributed this month, I appreciate every reader and I hope this issue educates, entertains and inspires.

Love, Miki.

**A HUGE BIG FAT THANK
YOU TO YOU ALL!**

**FOR PARTICIPATING, FOR
CONTRIBUTING &
FOR READING!**

***If you have any questions or
would like to submit a
story/letter/article please email
miki@hbtimes.co.za. Cut off is
23rd every month!***

By Community. For Community. On Community.

NEWS, UPDATES & FEEDBACK

For Local Residents Only

CPF SAYS

The CPF confirms that Larry remains missing. Following the discovery of his belongings, all procedures were completed, and any new information will now be handled by the Missing Persons Desk at SAPS Provincial Head Office.

In the Plaatjieskraal firearm incident, the suspect has been arrested and released on bail. The case is ongoing, with a new court date pending the return of the docket to SAPS Hogsback.

For clarity: the CPF operates under SAPS Hogsback, while HOGWATCH is an independent neighbourhood watch.

February recorded five cases (malicious damage to property, GBV, two thefts, and a protection order violation). Three arrests were made quickly, one case remains under investigation, and the protection order matter has already appeared in court. Notably, there were no housebreaking incidents reported. March is showing similarly positive signs.

A new Vispol Commander, W/O Zondani, will take up her post from 1 April.

The CPF AGM will take place on 16 April at 16:30 at the Hogsback Inn.

A GENTLE HUG (WITH A FIRM SQUEEZE)

HUG isn't perfect. That's exactly why it works.

(None of this is HUG's official position – just me whittering on. FW)

Hogsback has never been known for playing it safe. We are quirky, passionate, occasionally contradictory, and, when it counts, surprisingly effective. Which is probably why something like the Hogsback Unity Group (HUG) could only have happened here.

The name wasn't chosen after a long evening at the pub (although there may have been pub evenings). It fits: a collection of wildly different, sometimes exasperating, deeply committed humans, offering energy, support, and the occasional squeeze that's a little too tight.

HUG emerged in 2021, not from ambition, but from confusion. One minute, we were wandering happily among the trees; the next, we were staring at locked gates, wondering what on earth had just happened. Four years followed: meetings, research, negotiations, frustration, laughter, a few tears, court appearances, and the occasional theatrical toy-throwing episode. The aim was simple: resolve the access crisis for Hogsback and create a forum to engage with forestry.

And, remarkably, it worked. HUG and AFC now sit at the same Redclay table shaping the way forward together. For those who've been around long enough, that's no small shift. It's a miracle.

But the real story is what happened alongside the crisis. Instead of a one-issue wonder, HUG grew into a space where organisations share information, flag problems early, collaborate on solutions, and sometimes just figure things out together in real time. At its best, it's where Cape Parrot sits next to Hobbiton, St P's next to Bold Point, tourism next to trail maintenance, CPF next to Esikhululweni. People leave with a clearer sense of what's happening beyond their own patch, and what might be possible together. It's not a talk shop. It's a slightly noisy, occasionally messy working room. HUG is still a work in progress. Toes get trodden on, "we've always done it this way" gets challenged, and robust disagreement is usually followed, ten minutes later, by a beer or a hug. Time to set the record straight: no individual has authority within HUG. None. No hidden hierarchy. No lone ranger running the show. It's not a platform for personal agendas. It's a table, sometimes crowded, often lively, where organisations sit as equals.

One thing does matter: who sits at that table. HUG is built on organisations that serve the broader good of Hogsback, not narrow or self-serving agendas. Its strength lies in representing all communities, and that only works when people come willing to contribute, listen, and build. If your sector isn't represented (farmers, small traders, homesteaders, artists?), here's your open invitation. Organise. Show up. Take a seat.

Affiliate representatives are not decorative. They are bridges. They carry your voice into the room and bring information back. And yes, sometimes we hear, "Nothing to report" and can't help wondering if time froze. Chances are, something did happen: a hiccup, a success, a problem, a small miracle. It works only if you stay engaged. Mandate your reps. Ask questions. Expect honest reporting. Tell us what's working and what isn't. That's where collaboration begins.

Of course, there are challenges. Communication isn't flawless. Representation isn't always consistent. Sometimes it feels like we're heading for the same pothole, windscreen slightly cracked, Chocolate Shop coffee in hand. Critics exist, some valid, some from a safe distance. Negativity is easy. Engagement takes effort. Hogsback has never been built by spectators. It's built by people who show up and get their hands a bit dirty.

Join in, swap ideas, lend a hand, listen hard. The table's never full, and Hogsback thrives when we all show up.

PS No, Mark A does not own HUG. He can, admittedly, be a pain in the butt, but Tony C and Xolani N manage him exceptionally well. PPS No, there is no secret "HUG Slush Fund".

Fiona Wallace

By Community. For Community. On Community.

THE SECRET SOCIETIES OF HOGSBACK... 2

For Local Residents Only

Hogsback's Hidden Life

Beyond WhatsApp groups and everyday conversations, lie Hogsback's hidden life...

Gatherings rarely advertised and often only discovered by chance, invitation or mutual friend. Circles form, clubs convene and quiet traditions continue. Most of us don't even know, but If You Know, You Know.

The 'Secret Societies' of Hogsback also include fascinating friendships... small groups forged by favor, flavour and flare. From 'hobo dress-up' dinner parties, Fly-fishing or frisbee, soccer or self-discovery, netball or empty-nesting... You can rest assured, there is always something happening, just out of sight.

I must add that not all of these groups are open to all; but should you be interested in any, ask us... we may just be able to put in a good word for you. (Wink wink)

CHECKMATE AT LEISURE: HOGSBACK CHESS CLUB

The Hogsback Chess club

The Hogsback Chess Club meets weekly...though "meets" might be a strong word. It's more of a slow, strategic gathering where half the players arrive to play chess and the other half arrive to become part of the scenery. That's only if they decide to arrive at all. When they don't leave the comfort of their homes, they meet on a chess game/app. Wherever the weekly wrangle rally... one thing is certain; this is war.

Games begin with fierce concentration and end, three hours later, with someone saying, "Wait... whose move is it?" There's always one board no one remembers setting up, one player who insists they're "five moves from brilliance," and at least two spectators offering deeply unhelpful commentary like, 'Just take the thing.'

It is, without question, the slowest sport on the mountain... and possibly the most competitive way to sit still.

New members are always welcome. Just bring patience, a tiny touch of humour and the willingness to lose to someone who claims they're 'just figuring it out' or 'haven't played in years' while quietly dismantling your entire existence in 12 moves.

ROLLING INTO FUN AT THE HOGSBACK BOWLING CLUB

Your friend invites you to join a bowling club, you automatically think lawn bowls are for a bunch of old farts right? No, you have it all wrong!

Lawn bowls has long been associated with tradition, but a new wave of younger players is breathing life into the greens, at the Hogsback Bowling Club. Our club is not about hushed tones and stiff etiquette - it's about sunshine (when Hogsback weather allows it), laughter, and a community that thrive outdoors. We laugh so much during play and we make friends, not enemies.

Tabs-in days are relaxed, giving plenty of time for conversation and camaraderie. Lawn bowls is easy to learn, yet challenging enough to keep players hooked, and I promise you, you will get hooked on day one. Our games are played under open skies, often paired with music and casual braais. If you are not a fan of wearing shoes, no problem, at our club we welcome the hippies and the barefooters to.

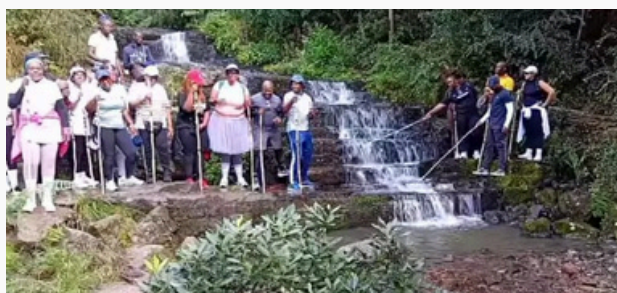
We are planning an amazing bowls tournament to be held on the 23rd of May this year, to date we have 9 teams entered, from all over the Eastern Cape. We are really appreciative of our generous sponsors for this event, to date we have the following sponsors: Body Right Panel Beaters, Hogsback SaveMor, The Print Lab, King's Lodge and Maple Grove. And if you are in a position to sponsor our club with a prize, we would mostly welcome any kind of sponsorship. Paul King, our fellow bowler and excellent auctioneer, will be handling the auction at this event. For more info regarding our club please contact: Melanie de Wit (Club Captain & Secretary) - 0795019165

FROM THE FOREST FLOOR

For Local Residents Only



Adi & Siya's
groups enjoying
the sights,
views and
experiencing
Hogsback
through different
eyes...



FORESTBEING FINDS...

Blessed autumn equinox my fellow Hogsbackians.
With the change of the season upon us, I am reminded of the old saying "chop wood, carry water"
As the cold weather will start to taunt us, nothing beats a cozy indoor fire in the evening, so here is your sign, chop wood!

The autumn equinox marks the astronomical start of fall, occurring when the Sun crosses the celestial equator, resulting in nearly equal day and night lengths globally. In the Northern Hemisphere, this occurs around September 22-23, while here in the Southern Hemisphere, it happens around March 20-21 and it signifies longer nights and shorter days ahead, lasting until the winter solstice.

Southern Hemisphere (2026): March 20, 2:46 pm UTC (21 March 1:46am AEDT).

This is the precise moment when the Earth's rotational axis is tilted neither toward nor away from the Sun, causing the sun to rise due east and set due west and it lasts for approximately 3 months, ending 20 June with the winter solstice here in the Southern Hemisphere.

In the forest you'll notice the leaves changing colours and your hiking daylight times are going to become shorter, so make provisions before heading out on a trail!

Associated with balance (day/night) and harvest, this brings with it the mushroom harvest season in our forests!

With many different varieties popping out at the moment, it is always good advice to make sure that you identify each one, correctly, and when in doubt, feel free to contact me, and I'll help you identify the delicious mushrooms from the purging mushrooms!

Best advice though: take only photos and leave only footprints.

Adi Forestbeing

DID YOU KNOW?

The Outeniqua Yellowwood (South Africa's national tree) can live for over 1,000 years, quietly outlasting entire forests around it.

In places like Hogsback, these giants aren't just trees...they're the memory of the forest, standing long before our little village was established...

By Community. For Community. On Community.

ECHOES & LEGENDS

For Local Residents Only

HISTORY OR HIS-STORY...

Hogsback doesn't stand still...it just runs in circles convincingly enough to look like progress.

Sit still long enough, watching clouds pour into the Tyume Valley like waves of inflammation rushing to heal...and it clicks... it's not just mist that rolls in and out of Hogsback, it's people, plans, a myriad of maps, a collection of local publications and problems. Looping... over and over again. This place isn't frozen in time, it's the same script with a new cast.

Hogsback has always been a refuge for people running from something. In the 1880s; missionaries escaped the heat, war and reality. In the 1940s; war veterans arrive for peace, quiet and neatly trimmed denial. Covid and the year 2020 brought burnt-out humans, rebranding themselves as digital nomads and some of them...still pretend bad WiFi is a lifestyle choice. Run, Recover, Revolt?

We escape to hogsback, then we 'improve' things here, inevitably we mess them up, then we argue about it and then we rebrand and call it a vision....and repeat.

The mountain and nature itself shows a repetitive cycle of human intervention versus natural restoration. We spend our lives undoing the 'progress' of our grandfathers.... Well; SOMEbody's grandfather anyway. In the 1880s, forestry pioneer Joseph Storr Lister looked at the denuded, bare slopes and saw a crisis of timber. His solution was to import civilized trees... 'usable' ones, like pines, wattles and oaks. By molding and managing the land he was the hero of his era.

Fast forward to today; the community is locked in an exhausting cycle of removing those very same species to save the indigenous Amathole forests and the Cape Parrot. One generation's environmental solution is the next generation's invasive villain. We are constantly uprooting the past to plant a future that looks more like the ancient history we once replaced. Replant, Recoil, Remove?

Just like the mist comes back, the wattle grows back and a fresh batch of wide-eyed idealists arrive, convinced this time it'll be different. It won't be.

People arrive expecting transformation, reset and life altering shifts. They get potholes, WhatsApp groups and a crash course in small-town dynamics. Some leave; some stay and start selling the myth to the next batch... at least for a while. Eventually... enough judgement, disappointment and unreciprocated community effort turns them into recluses. Return, Revive, Recluse?

Identity in Hogsback isn't found in the permanence of its buildings or its roads, but in the repeated act of rebuilding them together. Whether it's clearing the Arboretum in the 1920s or fixing trails in 2026, the story is always the same: when the mountain calls, the residents answer.

That is one certainty here... And deserves admiration; when things fall apart, Hogsback rebuilds. Take St. Patrick-on-the-Hill... (Happy birthday by the way!!!) It burned down in 2010 and was rebuilt almost identically by the community. No dramatic reinvention, just: "Cool, let's do that again." And they did!

Same with trails, projects, tourism ideas and newspapers... collapse isn't the end here, it's phase two. Things break, stop working or lose support, then people complain or oppose and then the community quietly fix it themselves. Hogsback isn't mystical, it's predictable. There is a repetition to be proud of... it is the spirit of community-self-reliance. Hogsback has a 100-year tradition of doing it ourselves... not many cities, towns, villages or communities can say that.

By Community. For Community. On Community.

ECHOES & LEGENDS

For Local Residents Only

DEJA VU...

Excepts from the past
that feels strangely
familiar... history does
indeed repeat itself.

Here are just a few of
the examples I found...

Policing woes (Let's enjoy that's we're currently in a better position)

should have been given advance warning.
The most disturbing piece of information was
that the Police were "unwilling to act", since
the "perpetrator" was understood to be
"some important chief" this is
a notion that needs to be firmly added

WHAT ARE THE POLICE DOING ABOUT
THIS ???

Jazz Fest Vibes??

Loud music from a central source plus
from various car radios sound like a total loss
of control of an event - perhaps beyond the
control of the Hogsback Inn, and it is an
honour to host a local chief's wedding.

One solution may be to warn people well
in advance of such a booking, so that guests
can plan a different kind of an evening - i.e. to
sleep in the afternoon and go to a restaurant
at night.

However, before I address this issue I'd
like to thank Mark Anderson for his public
and his personal apology for the loud music.
We appreciated this and it bodes well for the
future.

Curios... What do these
cost nowadays?

- Mountain Petrol Specials
- 500 ml Oil R15 each While Stocks Last
- 5 lt SAE40 R130 each. While Stocks Last

Soccer Report

It's been a good year for Hogsback Lion
Cubs youth soccer teams on the soccer field.

In light of the apathy generally displayed
by Hogsback tourism product owners (and
other property owners) and in failing to define
and agree amongst ourselves exactly what
tourism potential should be tapped into and
what not, we appear to be headed down the
road of "anything goes as long as it is
profitable". We sat by mutely as high-density
for-profit dwellings rose up around us and

re: Loud Music

We have followed the different opinions
regarding loud music with interest as w
one does not always choose to write.

We agree largely with Suzannah Sm
Hogsback is naturally branded for peace,
tranquility, forests and waterfalls. It is n
destination for fenetic activity, but a get
to peace and tranquility. Thus quadbike
loud motor bikes (if they go up and down
instead of just passing by) and loud music all
disturb what we are, essentially, marketing -
from a tourism perspective. Conference
probably fits in fairly harmoniously v

Avery big thank to Ettiene Paroz for doing a fantastic job on the new trail from the
Village Square to the Bluff. This is an hours walk through beautiful forests up to the
Eco-Shrine via the old Military Path. The signs will be up shortly so keep a watch out!
The maintenance is being greatfully sponsored by the Edge.

It may be thought that in these Recollections I have over-
stressed the "good old days" aspect of the picture, and
forgotten the flies and the snakes, the ankle-deep mud and
the transport troubles, but they were accepted as minor
trials and as a small price paid for the joys of a care-free
life shared with congenial companions in such a lovely
setting. There are many today who yearn for that sweet
tranquility which we took for granted.

VOICES, VENTS & VISION

For Local Residents Only

Disclaimer: I will not be editing and removing offensive language or statements. If I chose to publish your vent or letter, it is because you are not the only one upset about the subject matter. Do not read if you are triggered easily.

These ungrateful guests!!

Before plumbing, guests of the Hogsback Hydro use to bathe in the stream and shit in a pot. Nobody gave you a 2 star review for 'lack of hot water'.

Hogsback loves pretending it's mystical; it's mostly just small-town politics in a fog. Same ten people recycling power, grudges, and WhatsApp rumors like it's heritage. Everyone's 'community-minded' until money or ego shows up. Then it's knives out, smiles on. But sure, blame the mist. Easier than admitting you're the problem. Nothing changes because no one wants to lose their seat.

SOCCER IS SOARING



AFC donated to the new soccer league, what a fantastic dream actioned by Sam Tyobeka, Mel and I went to watch the game AFC against the arrows and the netball games that were also being played. We had such an awesome time and were so aware of the fact the Boldpoint community were there in force however the hogsback community were not aware about the fantastic sports happening on their door step! Please lets join in this fantastic initiative and go and support our teams in this new league 🏆

- Tristan

Ex Courier Guy Plea:

Please take your phone out; go to you call screen keyboard or your contacts. Type in 063 204 2197; if you have this number saved; please delete it. They left Courier Guy in 2022 already and still get calls from Hogsback residents.

Birth Announcement

Our youngest community member is about a week old already! Congratulations Nicole, Pearce and family. Welcome baby:

NOVA

Feb Quiz Answers

1

Snoopy / Snoepie
"Mayor of Hogsback"
(Well done and thank you, Eileen!)

2

The Arminel Hotel
Thank you Michelle G

3

Trevor Rossouw

By Community. For Community. On Community.

VOICES, VENTS & VISION

For Local Residents Only

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CORE CONFESSION...

"Love is the Whole thing, We are only Pieces..."

My entire being, this whole vessel; is over flowing with gratitude! I am so grateful for the books, maps, stories, journals, photos and every piece of history that I have been loaned, gifted and given!!

You guys have no idea how much joy it brings me!
(For me... the better we know someone; the good and the bad, the dark and the light...
the deeper we're able to love them.)

Wanting to tell newer locals about the legends and fascinating people, about how businesses and properties have changed and morphed into what they know now... Aiming to share the stories, events and characters that shaped the present and believing the more they know, the more they'll love this wondrous place. Bu

I celebrated 10years in Hogsback this month! (Ironically my 'ten-ure' in corporate carried a way different energy). I LOVE this mountain! I've never stayed and stuck like this, every time I think I couldn't love it more; I learn something new, read another origin story or personal experience and I can't help falling deeper in love with Hogsback.

It's a pity about people, but hey (shrug), we can't always get everything we want... 😊

HAVE YOU EVER LISTENED TO THE RHYTHM OF THE MOUNTAIN?

There is something very special about Hogsback, and it's the sounds. And no, I don't mean the trucks, chainsaws, or any of the other harsh noises. Beneath that lies the natural rhythm of this place. The true, steady heartbeat.

All the different creatures here have their own rhythm. When they wake in the morning, there is an excited chatter, each animal carrying its own happy song. Soft, gentle birdsong begins long before the first light. Then the loudest of the lot, the Hadidas, wake around first light, announcing themselves like forest roosters. Their excitement stirs the monkeys, and then the doggies start up. You can track where the monkeys go just by the barking of the dogs, activating the lively cacophony of morning chatter.

At night, when they all return home again, the chatter is different, and often louder, but deeper. The tone shifts completely, almost eerie and soul-grabbing. That, to me, is the most beautiful part. And it grows deeper the darker it gets. One has to wonder why the song changes. Of course, throughout the day, more sounds from various animals join in, shifting the volume and tempo. The real fun is trying to identify each one. Like the Loeries throwing down a rap symphony high up in the trees, adding a melodic beat. Each place will have its own unique sounds. How much can you hear every day?

There is a rich multitude of natural sounds unique to Hogsback. It creates a rhythm and a living story. The sound signature of the mountain. A quiet beauty we should all experience. So listen deeply, and find the rhythm of the mountain.

by Seeker of Magic

IN THE AIR

For Local Residents Only

This mountain calls you by name...

An exploration of Hogsback's curious roll call.

Call out "Tony!" at the Saturday market and watch three heads turn. Mention Wayne and the reflex question follows: Which one?

In a village as small as ours, the odds of multiple unrelated people sharing the same names across generations, are slim. Yet here in Hogsback, it's commonplace. Strip away name popularity of a said time and family tradition and what remains feels almost like a vibrational blueprint... as if the village isn't just a place, but a frequency we've tuned into.

There's a cadence to our roll call that mirrors the mountain's history. The prominence of names like Mike; the warrior/protector; and Graham; the stronghold, echoes Hogsback's origins as a military frontier, the linguistic ghosts of Fort Mitchell and the ridges we look to for sunrise.

In this informal graticule, many recurring names share a protective lineage:

Mike & Michelle, from Mikha'el, "Who is like God?"

Wayne from the pioneer, the wagon-maker.

Graham/Greame; the stronghold.

Perhaps the land still recruits its guardians. Some names arrive to ground, protect and hold.

The Garden of Grace

Every fortress needs its counterbalance. Names like Carol, Lynn, Anne, Jo-Anne and Faye are all rooted in meanings of song, grace and faith... feels like the emotional glue and softer edges of the village. If the protectors hold the gates, these names hold the heart, anchoring the beauty and enchantment Hogsback is known for?

The Qabimbola Layer

Look deeper and the pattern widens. Jonathan, Rob, Mornay, Tony are all names tied to gift, renown and belonging.

Beneath the colonial name lies iQabimbola; the red-clay landscape of initiation and 'shining', referencing the ochres used in Xhosa rites. The repetition of names meaning gift or renown, echoes this deeper connotation.

The village remains a quiet gauntlet of initiation, its residents the latest custodians of a place that has long asked for presence, care and repair.



The Gathering Effect

Some esoteric thinkers call it collective effervescence... when shared identities cluster, their archetypes amplify...

Whether mystical or merely social, the effect is tangible; a community becomes more than geography; it becomes a magnified character or archetype.

So next time you meet another Rob, Paul or Lyn, don't just shrug at coincidence. Maybe ask why the mountain needed more than one?

Trust her... she seems to know exactly how many of each 'who' are required at any moment. You might even suspect you were name-called here yourself, drafted quietly into someone's story... or at least because you were needed for something only your name can do.

And if another Wayne appears? Well, then we'd better check the roads... with so many 'wagon-makers', you wonder what we're missing? Heck, with the new fuel prices, we should be recruiting Waynes.

Why do you think this village keeps calling the same names?

Tell me: miki@hbtimes.co.za

Even Rev. Lister noted it in 'Echoes from the Past'

For such a small community, the number of name duplications is surprising. There have been three unrelated Elliotts,

two Houghtons, two Wilsons, two Martins, two du Plooy's, two Watsons, two Hunters, two Coopers, two Krugers and two Mullers and strangest of all two visitors to Hogsback, a Heywood and a Lister, unrelated to my cousin and myself.

ON THE GROUND

For Local Residents Only

MAMMAL MEMOIRS...

Contributed by Dogs of Glory; Billy & Gigi

Mammal Memoirs shares the stories of the animals who pass through our village – sometimes briefly, sometimes forever – always leaving pawprints behind.

In a small community like Hogsback, where animals are often as much a part of daily life as neighbours themselves, acts of kindness tend to leave a lasting mark. The story of The Wayne Kent Fund is one such example – a community effort born out of loss, compassion, and a shared determination to help animals in need.

Wayne Kent was a well-known and unforgettable part of the Hogsback community. He had a personality few could ignore: deeply loved by many, occasionally challenging to some, and always capable of getting under people's skin – usually in a way that later became part of the story people told with a smile. It was simply part of who he was. Beneath that sharp edge, however, was someone whose connection with animals was unmistakable. In many ways, the animals of Hogsback understood him best, and he certainly had a soft spot for them.

After Wayne's sudden passing following a stroke, his belongings were sorted by family and friends. When everything had been settled, funds remained that his family neither needed nor wished to keep for themselves. Instead, they left the decision in the hands of friends and the wider community: what should be done with what remained?

A group of close friends – and even a few not-so-close friends – came together to discuss the possibilities. It was one of Wayne's closest friends who suggested that the money should continue doing good by helping local animals whose owners had nowhere else to turn in times of medical crisis. From that conversation, The Wayne Kent Fund was established.

Since 2023, the fund has quietly become a form of emergency medical support for animals belonging to owners who cannot afford private veterinary treatment. Living in a rural area means access to state veterinary services is often limited, delayed, or difficult to reach, and in urgent situations animals simply cannot wait.

A major part of this work has been made possible through the support of Dr. Karl Hagemann, who has assisted repeatedly over the years, often offering treatment at welfare rates to make intervention possible. The fund has also worked alongside other private veterinarians and state veterinary services whenever needed, depending on the nature of each case.

The purpose of the fund has always remained clear: it is strictly for medical intervention. It is not used for food, routine upkeep, or long-term owner support. Its role is to step in when an animal needs urgent medical help and the owner simply has no means to cover treatment.

Over the past few years, most of the money sustaining the fund has come from generous local residents, with occasional contributions from supporters outside the village. These contributions have allowed many animals to receive treatment they otherwise would not have had – often making the difference between suffering and recovery.

As the need continues, so does the importance of building a more stable future for the fund.

We are therefore calling on individuals, families, businesses, and animal lovers who may wish to become committed long-term supporters of The Wayne Kent Fund. Regular monthly donations, annual pledges, or even occasional contributions all help strengthen our ability to respond when urgent cases arise.

Every donation, no matter the size, contributes directly to veterinary care for animals whose owners are facing hardship. For information, support, or contributions, please contact:

Billy Breytenbach – 066 219 2097 / Gigi Breytenbach – 082 524 8495

Wayne's legacy may have begun with a difficult goodbye, but in Hogsback, where mist hangs low in the trees and muddy roads always lead someone to where they are needed, his kindness still travels – one animal at a time.



Helen Niehaus
Spilt Milk Comics.

ON THE GROUND

For Local Residents Only

THE HOGSBACK ROAD REVOLUTION: WE HAVE THE LEGAL LEVER

Miki, Bella, HTO & Roads Task Team

For years, we have watched our roads crumble, our vehicles suffer, and our tourism-driven economy take hit after hit. We've all heard the excuses: "no budget," "rain damage," and the endless passing of the buck between the Municipality, the Province, and SANRAL. That ends now.

For the past few months, the HTO, HBT and the Hogsback Roads Task Team have been working behind the scenes to compile a bulletproof evidence file. We didn't just want to complain; we wanted to provide a legal argument that the authorities could not ignore.

Our research led us to a formal report from the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) released in October 2024. In this report, the Commission explicitly names Hogsback as a victim of "economic stagnation" due to road neglect.

We have made direct contact with Dr. Eileen Carter, the SAHRC Provincial Manager. We are pleased to report a positive response; the Commission is aware of our specific crisis and is monitoring the Eastern Cape Department of Transport's compliance with their remediation orders.

What Has Been Done So Far

We haven't just sent a letter; we've launched a three-pronged legal and administrative assault. We have officially submitted our Formal Appeal, our Timeline of Neglect (2010-2026) and our Annexure Evidence File to:

1. Raymond Mhlaba Municipality (RMM)
2. SANRAL Southern Region
3. The Eastern Cape Department of Transport

The Deadline: These authorities have until the 15th of April to provide a formal response and a clear maintenance schedule. My heart may be hopeful, but I'm not holding my breath. Hence why we need to prepare for the Next Step. **Save the Date: Mass Email Day - 16 April (Please community, let's do it)**

If we do not receive a satisfactory response by the 15th, we move to Phase 2.

On April 16th, we are asking every single resident, business owner and friend of Hogsback to participate in Mass Email Day. We will provide a simple template as well as the email addresses to be used.

When 100+ emails hit their inboxes in a single morning, it triggers an internal escalation they cannot archive.

To ensure maximum impact, we will be issuing a Media Advisory to the Daily Dispatch, The Rep, GroundUp and SABC News 24 hours prior, so the spotlight is already on them when your emails arrive.

What You Can Do In the Meantime

We need your data to make our "Economic Stagnation" argument indisputable.

- Complete the Survey: Please follow the link below and fill out the Hogsback Road Impact Survey. [Click HERE and complete](#)
- Record Your Losses: Keep receipts for vehicle repairs, log cancelled bookings, and take photos of road hazards.

We are no longer just asking for better roads; we are demanding our constitutional rights. I know it's tempting, but try curb that negative attitude... SANRAL Route Patrol vehicle was spotted one Friday, Assessment team here on Saturday and another visit promised for next Thursday. Keep the faith and PLEASE PARTICIPATE.

GOSSIP & DRAMA

For Local Residents Only

Speedy Snippets

- *Roger is back, Hogwatch is up and running.*
- *The practicing drummer is yet to be identified, if you are their direct neighbor or have any leads, please inform the HBT.*

(*Last minute edit, Drummer Identified! HBT is not telling)

- *Yes Monsgardens is sold*
- *Yes there were two local on local, vehicle to vehicle accidents this month.*
- *Mushroom Festival was a great success, well done all involved.*
- *Happy Hogs' resident DJ was named; Irate Primate. Thanks to creative freedom of Wayne B.*
- *Divan, Tony and the numerous new locals spotted on foot, did not all have vehicle problems this week; fuel is EXPENSIVE. They are just leading by example.*
- *Contrary to rumours, we have been unable to verify the story about Chippie returning to Hogsback.*
- *Rates Payers association is looking for a new chair - not the kind you sit on.*

Communication

So much weight is put on this as an ability, a skill, a character/personality trait, an astrologically assigned gift or a teaching/studied/acquired capability...

In Hogsback, we know that communication is a privilege.

Sometimes afforded to only MTN users, other times only to Vodacom subscribers. When we're fortunate to have Eskom, wifi owners own communicative privilege.

In most places, communication is a competency. Here, it's conditional.

HOGSBACK SECRETS – WHO KNEW?!

Contributed by Fiona Wallace

In the last edition of The Hogsback Times, I asked you: Who won South Africa's first competition for the largest dagga plant grown in their veggie garden? (Find the answer at the end of this article – patience, darlings.)

That was just a tiny little nibble of the deliciously weird, mildly scandalous, and occasionally "should we even be printing this?" trivia we'll be serving up every month. Think of it as gossip... but with plausible deniability.

Here are 5 more to get your brains ticking and your WhatsApp groups buzzing.

And before you ask: no, there are still no prizes. No free meals. No vouchers. Not even a sad little ribbon. Just your name. In print. In The Hogsback Times. Possibly with your middle names. Definitely with your nicknames. Honestly, what more could a true Hogsbacker want? Fame is fleeting, but small-town embarrassment? That's forever.

Once you've done your detective work (or aggressively interrogated your neighbours), WhatsApp me on 073 1100878. The first person to get all (or at least most) of the answers right will earn the highly prestigious, wildly unofficial title of: **Secret Breaker of the Month** (A title so prestigious it comes with absolutely no benefits, except eternal bragging rights and ongoing community suspicion)

And no, forming a secret committee and bribing your masseuse for answers are not technically cheating... but they will be noted. Right. Deep breath. Things are about to get specific.

● Which Hogsbacker smoked blugum leaves in the Hogsback forest when she was only 7 years old?

(We're not judging. Just... impressed by the commitment.)

● Who serves on the board of the Association of Rehabilitation for People with Disability (REHAB) Eastern Cape?

● Who was a Junior South African Sailor and competed in the European championships in Majorca, Spain, at the age of 13?

● Who caught a crocodile in Costa Rica while on a biology scholarship?

● Who had a very close encounter with the ghost of the murdered cheating wife of the lighthouse keeper on Bird Island? (If you know, you know. If you don't... maybe don't go googling it alone at night.)

Go on. Be brave. Be nosy. Be that person.

Answer to last month's question:

Trevor John 'Tigger' 'Water-Guru' Rossouw!

Yes, Trevor. Our water guy. Hydration by day, horticultural legend by... also day, apparently.

Sleep well tonight, Hogsback. Or don't. Your secrets are clearly not that safe.

Fiona Wallace

HOGWASH & WHINES

For Local Residents Only

Oom Hogsback, back at it again; handing out quiet joy like it's rationed. And those sharp little smiles that land because... well, you know exactly why.

HOGWASH



HOGWASH



HOGSBACK PREPARES FOR APRIL 1ST BY SWITCHING TO FOUR-LEGGED 4X4S

With the April 1st fuel and electricity price hikes looming like a heavy mist, the village has officially entered the "Great Equine Pivot." Main Road has been transformed into a low-speed equestrian highway as residents ditch their bakkies for "biological transport" that doesn't require a loan from the World Bank just to reach the grocery store.

CAMERON'S EQUINE REPAIRS AND SPARES

The village's only mechanic, Cameron, has officially rebranded his workshop to stay ahead of the curve. His new sign, "Cameron's Equine Repairs and Spares," was unveiled this morning as he was spotted attempting a "comprehensive diagnostic" on a very confused Appaloosa.

"I have spent my whole life fixing internal combustion engines," Cameron grumbled while trying to find a dipstick on a pony. "Now I am being asked to do a wheel alignment on a donkey that refuses to stand still. It is a mechanical nightmare. At least with a Land Rover, I know why it is leaking: with this guy, the leaks are much harder to clean off the workshop floor."

THE ULTIMATE 12V BACKUP

One of Cameron's first customers was Kerry, who has officially "unplugged" from the grid after a massive power surge fried her television and toaster. She was seen navigating a pothole-riddled section of Main Road with her new rescue donkey named 'Pothole'. "He is the ultimate 12V backup system," Kerry explained while adjusting the donkey's harness. "He does not require a Deye inverter, he does not care about the war in Iran, and he has zero risk of a lithium-ion fire. The only downside is the three-hour commute to The Chocolate Shop, but Pothole has a superior navigation system. He knows exactly where the bad potholes are because he likes to stand in them and contemplate the meaning of life. It is very Zen."

BOTANICAL EXHAUST FUMES

The peaceful clatter of hooves was briefly interrupted by the arrival of Jay, who was navigating the thick mist on a very relaxed-looking horse. Jay, who appeared to be in a state of deep "botanical meditation," claims that the secret to avoiding the fuel crisis is a "green" fuel source grown right in his garden.

"You don't need 95 unleaded if you have the right herbs," Jay told our reporter through a cloud of sweet-smelling smoke. "The horse and I are on the same wavelength. If I feel the mist, he feels the mist. We aren't just moving through space: we are experiencing the mountain at a molecular level. Also, I think the horse just spoke to me about the giant 39 Steps sign, but the plot is still developing."

COMMUNITY NOTICE

The Hogsback Whines advises all residents to keep their windows closed when Jay rides past. While his transport is carbon-neutral, the "exhaust fumes" have been known to cause an immediate and intense craving for fudge.

TRAVEL TIP

If you are planning to join the village cavalry, please remember that donkeys do not have indicators. If a donkey stops in the middle of Main Road, it is not a breakdown: it is a "mandatory mindfulness break."