

The Hogshack Times

IN THIS ISSUE

January 2026

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HOGWASH

Word limits are tough. I do my best to summarise longer reports and articles, and while I'm still learning, full versions are always available in the Groups.io document folder.

A HUGE BIG FAT THANK YOU TO YOU ALL!

FOR PARTICIPATING, FOR CONTRIBUTING & FOR READING!

Dear HB Community

I am proud and excited to present you with the very first HBT of 2026. I've had so much fun, researching, listening and compiling this issue; may you have as much fun reading it!

A few editorial notes...

My intention is simply to bring this community together. To showcase the magic, the beauty, the opposing sides, varying opinions and how, even though we are very very different, we're all still human.

One very real difference is our tolerance levels. Please use this paper as it was intended. (Referring back to my intro post. Select only the menu items that you can digest) If drama and gossip is not your thing, don't read it. If you don't want to get 'triggered' or traumatized; skip past the Vents & Vision section... and maybe also the cartoons? If you struggle to regulate your own nervous system, that's okay, remember that NOTHING in the HBT is a personal attack. You are safe from everything but yourself; just watch yourself.

The WhatsApp groups are amazing for adverts & Promotion, the Times will not be the place for that.

*Over time you will get to know certain icons, maybe even look out for them. *Those who get offended easily, please avoid any icon related to stirring.*

Last but not least; yes the system is new, but it's also old school. Respect it. Submissions can be sent to submissions@hbtimes.co.za; cut off date is the 23rd of every month. No Exceptions.

HBT will be free if you contribute, be a part of the community. You only pay if you choose not to participate.

Let's have fun, let's join in, let's get upset and let it out.

The only limit I want to get to know is a word limit; no other limits!

With love, **Miki**

By Community. For Community. On Community.

NEWS, UPDATES & FEEDBACK

For Local Residents Only

CPF SAYS

Update on Lost Larry:

Larry has not yet been found. The Police have circulated his details and image to surrounding Police Stations, even as far as George. As soon as any further information is available, we will be notified.

We would like to thank the SAPD Youth Desk, all the volunteers and the community members who contributed to food and drinks.

WATER CRISIS

“Shower like a Hobbit & Not like a Hog” –Bridget

Please residents: We need to Save Water NOW.

- When all your taps are closed, go check your meter, make sure it's not running.
- Shorter Showers, don't bath
- Flush the toilet less often
- Use & wash less dishes
- Do the rain-dance as often as you possibly can.



HOGSBACK ROADS GROUP REPORT - JANUARY 2026

Local team activities

The team have worked on clearing the drains that are blocked and filled the worst potholes, in addition the labour-based roads team continue to scrounge aggregate from the roadside generated from the blading of the road surface that knocked it into the drains.

Main village road emergency intervention

The emergency road repair carried out by AFC on the main village road in mid-January will continue in February in the areas that are down to bedrock i.e. where there is no gravel left on the areas and major dongas have formed. This will be accompanied by attending to effective drainage so the water from rain does not further erode the road surface, making it more difficult for vehicles to traverse.

Disaster management visit

The roads team hosted a visit by an official from national government's disaster relief component accompanied by the local municipality's road repair manager. The disaster relief official was taken on a drive by the roads group to experience and photograph the various roads and their state of disrepair. The visit was because of the submission of an application for funding support by the local municipality. Hogsback roads group

FEET THROUGH THE DOOR: A VIC REFLECTION ON 2025

From January to December 2025, the Hogsback Visitor Information Centre recorded 2300 guests who came through our doors.

Beyond these numbers, we also welcomed groups of school pupils whose lively presence could not be formally counted, yet whose energy filled the Centre with joy and curiosity.

Visitors often asked for the Hogsback pamphlet – a guide with things to do and a map to explore waterfalls, gardens, and trails. We have a wonderful hiking map, thanks to Laurent and a great village map, that Alex. We also have Spiltmilk's brilliant interactive digital map, yet one resource that includes it all, lacks. This simple resource became one of the most requested items, showing how much clear information enriches a journey.

At the same time, many voiced concerns about the road from Cathcart, the shortest route from Queenstown, which remains a shared hope for improvement.

Yet alongside requests and complaints came heartfelt compliments. Guests spoke warmly of Hogsback's breathtaking forests, the crisp mountain air, and the way the village grows quiet in the evenings. They admired the peace that settles over the mountains at dusk, a calm that makes Hogsback unforgettable and sets it apart from the rush of outside world.

Looking back, 2025 was more than a tally of 2300 footsteps. It was a year of listening, hearing what guests wanted, what they celebrated, and what they hoped could improve. As we step into 2026, may we continue to welcome every visitor with warmth, adapt to their needs, and ensure that the story of Hogsback is written not only in its landscapes but in the care we show to those who journey here.

Contributed by Nonkubela “Bella” Khashe

By Community. For Community. On Community.

THE SECRET SOCIETIES OF HOGSBACK...

For Local Residents Only

Hogsback's Hidden Life

Beyond WhatsApp groups and everyday conversations, lie Hogsback's hidden life... a quieter rhythm. One that reveals itself only to those who listen closely.

Gatherings rarely advertised and often only discovered by chance, invitation and at Times just simply divinely Timed. Circles form, clubs convene and quiet traditions continue; unseen and undercover. Most of us don't even know, but If You Know, You Know.

The 'Secret Societies' of Hogsback is maybe more unspoken than secret. They're exclusive and they're secret because timing, intention and curiosity matter here. In Hogsback, the right invitation tends to arrive when you're ready to notice it. Until then, rest assured, there is something magical always quietly happening just out of sight.

The Hogsback Times ventured into the unknown to bring the magic a little closer. 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)

HB POKER CLUB

Few can say with certainty when it began, but whispers circulate of a once-a-month gathering. Where a select few shuffle cards, raise eyebrows and practice the ancient art of Texas Hold'em. What's at stake is anyone's guess, maybe for pints, flower pots, bragging rights, possibly petrol vouchers if Times are tough? Entry is not quite "open door"; curious souls may request information, which may or may not materialise depending on approval by unnamed forces. It is said that skill, patience and a decent straight face are more valuable than chips... though no one will confirm what kind of chips those are.

HTODT2.6

Occasionally, talk circulates of a group that doesn't meet often, but when it does, ideas move fast and sleep becomes optional. Known simply as the HTODT2.6, this is where a new Hogsback future is quietly imagined. Guests, events, stories, and bold "what ifs" sketched out long before they appear in the real world. Membership isn't fixed; it forms around vision, willingness, and a love for this place. If you've ever wondered how things seem to come together out of nowhere... this is probably where the first spark was struck.

HB GARDEN CLUB

At first glance, it appears innocent enough. Plants, soil, shared cuttings. But look closer and you'll realise this is no ordinary gathering. Knowledge is exchanged in hushed tones: like when to plant, what thrives where and all kinds of methods that are best learnt through seasons rather than books. Meetings may look casual, but generations of wisdom lie beneath the surface. Newcomers are welcomed slowly, usually with a spade in hand. The garden, like the forest, rewards patience and respect.

HB DRUMMING CREW

It is said that during certain phases, when the forest air thickens and time loosens its grip, a rhythm can be felt, moving through the trees. Those who arrive do so by sound and instinct. Drums are drawn, hands remember what to do and the mountain exhales. What emerges is less a performance and more a conversation; a necessary one, a bridge-building one, a uniting one.... If you haven't heard it yet, it simply wasn't calling you during that specific phase; but it's calling.

(Read more about this vibration on pg. 8)

NEXT MONTH WE'LL TELL YOU ABOUT:

- The Chess Club
- Bucking Bowlers
- Wondrous Women

FROM THE FOREST FLOOR

For Local Residents Only

CATCHING MY BREATH

A guest posted this on his TikTok when visiting Hogsback with his wife around New Year.

"I didn't come looking for anything spiritual. I just sat down because my legs were tired. Somewhere between the moss and the quiet, something in me unclenched. The forest didn't say anything clever. It just held still long enough for me to hear myself again. I left lighter, without knowing exactly what I put down."

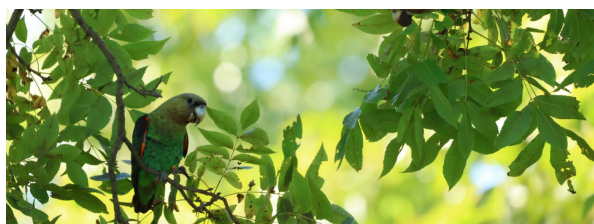


Photo Credit Noah Lamprecht

DID YOU KNOW?

The forests here are part of the Afro-montane forest biome, one of only a few such forest types in South Africa (the others being in the Knysna-Tsitsikamma region).

These mist-drenched woods support a unique community of plants and animals — from Cape Parrots to Knysna loeries — that you won't find in most other parts of the country

FORESTBEING FINDS...

Sitting on the bench on top of Kettlespout waterfall, lost in the view of our breathtaking valley, with the light mist spraying up, cooling my face, I realized again, that indeed, we are blessed to live here!

Heading into the forest, feels like the norm. You need to take a break from life? Head to the forest! You need advice on important life choices? Have a sit down with the Monarch of the east (our beloved big tree) and let him guide you with decades upon decades of wisdom. Not to mention the ever cleansing magical waterfalls! Nature truly is the best medicine!

Walking along our magical trails gives new perspective to seemingly impossible challenges we face in our day to day lives.

Follow this space for all the developments on the trails, guest walking stories, new discoveries, how plants serve our bodies, fungi and much much more.

Forest tip:

Remember to always stay safe and hydrated when out on the trails, and PLEASE, carry your rubbish with you till you can discard of it responsibly!

If Frodo and Samwise could carry a ring to Mordor... YOU CAN CARRY YOUR RUBBISH WITH YOU!

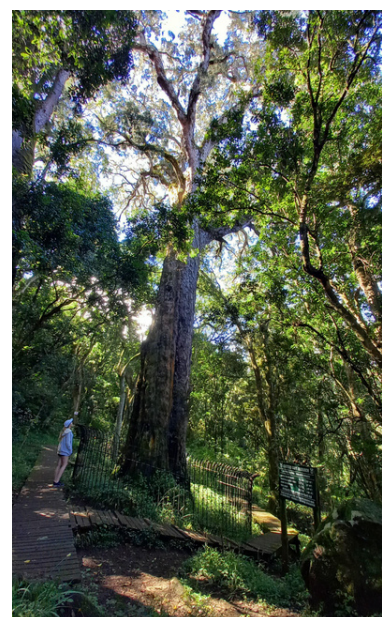
Till next time

Adi Forestbeing

"The Big Tree" 800 years old and lives up to its name in the oldest forest in the country.

Hogsback, Eastern Cape, South Africa

Posted by a Hogsback guest on Reddit. Photo also by original poster.



By Community. For Community. On Community.

FROM THE FOREST FLOOR

For Local Residents Only

CAPE PARROT PLEASURES

Thank you Obakeng Pule (CPP Species Research Assistant) from the CPP for answering some questions.
(Full article uploaded in groups.io)

In recent weeks, many community members have reported an apparent increase in Cape Parrot sightings in and around Hogsback. Residents have noted large flocks feeding in gardens, the village and nearby agricultural areas, often on a wide variety of trees and crops.



Photo Credit CPP

Cape Parrots are strongly associated with yellowwood trees, but these trees do not fruit reliably every year. They are mast fruiters, producing large crops only every six to seven years. During years of poor yellowwood fruiting, parrots switch to alternative food sources. In Hogsback and surrounding areas, this often includes exotic trees in gardens, eucalyptus stands, and commercial pecan orchards, which may provide a reliable and energy-rich food supply when forest resources are scarce.

The wide variety of foods observed by residents reflects the Cape Parrot's natural flexibility rather than unusual behaviour. While they are dietary specialists at heart, they are also skilled at adapting to changing conditions. In some seasons, exotic foods may make up a significant portion of their diet, especially during summer months.

Climate conditions can also play a role. High temperatures, heavy rainfall or drought can affect fruiting times of both indigenous and exotic trees, sometimes causing parrots to move earlier or more frequently into human-dominated landscapes.

Although it can be exciting to see many parrots together, large flocks should not be taken as a sign that the species is out of danger. The Cape Parrot remains vulnerable, and its overall population is still small. Concentrations of birds around villages and orchards can also increase their exposure to disease, disturbance and potential conflict.

The Cape Parrot Project greatly appreciates the community's interest and observations. Sightings from residents provide valuable information on parrot movements and feeding behaviour, helping researchers better understand how Cape Parrots are responding to environmental change.

Community members are encouraged to continue reporting sightings through the BirdLasser app or directly to the project team.

Understandably, this has raised questions about what is happening with the Cape Parrot population.

Seeing more parrots does not necessarily mean there are more parrots overall. Cape Parrots are highly mobile and respond quickly to changes in food availability. When forest food is limited, particularly outside the main yellowwood fruiting season, parrots move out of indigenous forests and concentrate in areas where food is abundant. This can result in unusually large flocks gathering in villages or orchards, creating the impression of a sudden population increase.



Photo Credit CPP

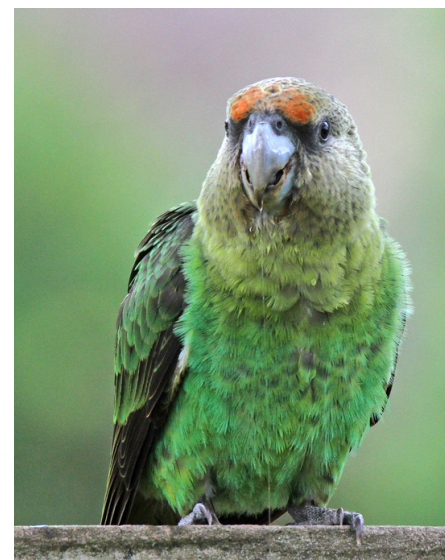


Photo Credit CPP



Photo Credit Noah Lamprecht

By Community. For Community. On Community.

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.

Dear Everyone Who Has an Opinion and a Keyboard

Dear You,

Yes, you – the one currently warming up a paragraph that starts with “I don’t usually get involved, but...”.

Congratulations, you are now involved, and everyone is exhausted. This village has achieved something remarkable: turning minor inconveniences into full-blown moral crusades before lunch time. No electricity? Blame Bob. No water? Someone’s fault. A barking dog? A character flaw. A child doing something unusual? Call the elders, summon the committee, alert Facebook.

The confidence with which misinformation is shared here should be studied. Screenshots fly. Assumptions harden. Facts arrive late, confused, and immediately ignored. And yet somehow, everyone is absolutely certain they are right. It’s almost spiritual.

Let’s be clear: typing aggressively into a group does not equal contribution. Caps lock is not leadership. Repeating yourself louder does not make you correct. And threatening to “take this further” while sitting on your couch achieves exactly nothing – except making the group worse.

The real miracle of this village is not the forest, the mist or the magic. It’s that anything still functions at all, given the number of people committed to misunderstanding one another as efficiently as possible.

If you feel personally attacked by this letter, excellent. That means it reached its intended audience. If not, please forward it to someone who thinks their opinion is a public service.

Yours in deep, irreversible irritation,
Someone Who Has Muted You All

BAREFOOT FUTURES: LISTENING BEFORE JUDGING

In Hogsback, our children are visible in ways that unsettle some people. Bare feet, free unscheduled days, unconventional schooling, or no formal schooling at all. Alongside perceived judgement, admiration and curiosity, there is also concern. That concern deserves to be acknowledged, not dismissed.

For generations, education has meant freedom. It has been the ladder out of poverty, the only way to choice and protection against dependence. Many elders carry lived experience of what happens when access to education is limited. Their worry comes from care, not judgment. That matters.

At the same time, the world these children are growing into is not the same world we were prepared for. Rapid technological, environmental and economic change has altered what the future will look like and will require from them.

Research increasingly points to adaptability, emotional intelligence, creativity, collaboration and lifelong learning as essential skills. These capacities can develop both inside and outside formal classrooms. This does not make traditional education wrong; it simply means it is no longer the only path.

CONTINUED ...

By Community. For Community. On Community.

VOICES, VENTS & VISION

For Local Residents Only

BAREFOOT FUTURES: LISTENING BEFORE JUDGING (CONTINUED)

Many families in Hogsback are not rejecting education, but redefining it. Learning happens through nature, conversation, responsibility, play and community. It is less measurable and harder to explain or justify to critics. And yes, it carries risk. But so does every system we have ever trusted.

Perhaps what unsettles us most is not the children themselves, but the uncertainty they represent. In a world we cannot predict, judgment often fills the space where curiosity may just serve us better.

When we asked Hogsback's children how they see the world, one thing became clear: they are thinking deeply, often with surprising clarity and emotional awareness. Their answers don't offer conclusions, just some perspective.

Instead of asking, "Are these children being educated properly?" We might ask, "What are they learning that we are not?"

This is an invitation. Elders, teachers, sceptics and the quietly worried judgementals are welcome to take part. Send us the questions you would like to ask the children. Join the conversation, not to debate, but to listen.

Here's a little taste of what our mini-Hogsbackians are saying...

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE ABOUT HOGSBACK?

"How Crab Bush is made in Hogsback. Most of the things are broken. That's what I want to change in Hogsback. Because like the jungle gym is broken, the swings are broken, like everything is basically broken. And the see saw is broken. Like everything the kids used to play with is broken. So if I was to do anything to fix Crab Bush, I would, um, raise a lot of money then get all the things I need to make it better. - Willow

IF HOGSBACK HAD A MESSAGE FOR THE WORLD, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"Stop littering!" -Caitlyn

"...The way that people see that they can just throw things on the ground and I would flip their minds around to see that they can't throw things on the ground. Also they throw things on the tar road. That would still be bad but a little better than on grass. But other than that, I think that they should not throw anything on the ground." - Willow

WHAT DO YOU THINK HOGSBACK NEEDS FROM HUMANS? /DO YOU THINK THAT NATURE LISTENS TO US?

"To love each other, be friends and go on more picnics together."

"We need to love the Cape Parrots more."

"Yes, yes definitely. Well, everyone lives in Nature and everyone, well, not everyone, but most people that are connected to the Earth feel Nature. But people that don't get to be Earth, um, are very, um, excuse me Mama if I say this but they're kind of trashed. They don't even care about the nature. They just throw rubbish and stuff. And they pollute the earth.

Another reason why I think the nature is definitely hearing us is because, um, Mother Earth was made by God and God is listening to us all the time because He is Nature. "

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE MOMMIES WHO ALLOWED THIS AND TO JANELLE FOR TRANSCRIBING THESE LITTLE VOICES, SO THAT WE CAN READ THEM.

ON THE GROUND

For Local Residents Only

RAISING VIBRAITIONS...CAN YOU FEEL IT?



Photo Credit: Adi Forestbeing

Drawn by rhythm and place, a circle slowly formed. Drumming in HB is not new; but now it's alive and breathing. Pushing air into the lungs of the earth, our skies and our community.

It didn't begin with an announcement, just a beat. Serge reflects on how rhythm gathered people in Hogsback...

The drumming circle in Hogsback grew out of a lifelong love of rhythm. In all the places I had lived before — Johannesburg has a very big following compared to Durban, or Transkei — drumming circles were surprisingly rare here.

When I arrived in Hogsback, beginning of 2025, something about the land, the people, and the sense of community felt like the right place to begin. There was no drumming happening on the mountain and no decent drums. What started very informally — a few drums brought out before or during parties — slowly gathered momentum as more people from all walks of life felt the pull of the rhythm and connection. Over time, the circle grew into something much bigger than one person. While I may have been the instigator, it quickly became a shared creation. A handful of committed mountain folk helped push the organisation side of things, making sure the drums arrived, the word spread, and yes; Today, the circle has grown to around 20 drums and roughly 40 participants, meeting at the Arboretum and aiming to gather every two weeks around the full moon and new moon. It's a true collective effort, held together by enthusiasm, generosity, and shared love for rhythm and the forest.

For me, drumming is church. It's a spiritual practice — a place where I feel elevated, grounded, and deeply connected. There's something powerful about playing music together, listening to one another, and creating a shared pulse without hierarchy or expectation. The Hogsback drumming circle isn't about performance; it's about collaboration, community, and giving people a space to show up exactly as they are and being at the heart of Hogsback (The Arboretum) makes sense, Forestry has kindly given us full permission to go ahead. Watching it grow into a supportive, joyful gathering has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life — not because I did it alone, but because I didn't.

The beauty about doing it at the Arboretum is it's open, we have had strangers join us who were on a hike, we had kids drag their parents towards the sound of the drums refusing to go anywhere. It's beautiful to watch and heart warming.



Even more beautiful is not controlling the circle. It is organic and the right people always arrive for the gathering, and because of this we have had peeps from all walks of life arrive and walk away with their heart full.

"You can only be present when you drum, the minute you start thinking you lose the rhythm, I tell everyone to close their eyes and allow the music to use you and the drum to create itself, no control."

By Serge Béchard



Photo Credit: Suzie-Mae

"Thank you HB Drumming Circle, I can't mention all your names but want to thank you for what you are doing. Vibration heals, and you're raising Hogsback's vibration, for sure!"

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.

The Calico Who Stayed

Some animals arrive quietly. Others arrive trailing questions, urgency, and a story that only reveals itself over time.

This calico cat was the latter.

Her owners checked into the Hogsback Inn carrying an air of haste and unease. They didn't settle, didn't linger. When they left, they left quickly – loading most of their belongings and other animals into someone else's vehicle. In the chaos, one detail went unnoticed. The calico bolted.

Later, staff found her hiding in a cupboard, pressed into the shadows, clearly distressed. Her people were gone. Yet they had left behind expensive Royal Canin cat food – a sign of care, not casual abandonment. Something about the departure didn't add up.

The Inn contacted Dogs of Glory for help. Attempts to reach the owners went unanswered. With the cat's wellbeing the priority, a local community member – "Lady King" – offered to foster her while the search continued.

What began as temporary quickly became permanent. Trust grew, routines formed, affection followed. Soon came the familiar words: "I've fallen in love."



AFTER: Out the closet @Lady King



BEFORE: In the closet @Hogsback Inn

With no response from the original owners, and a safe, loving home established, the calico made her choice. She became Delta.

As a calico, Delta already carries a genetic rarity – her tri-coloured coat the result of X-chromosome inactivation, making her almost certainly female and biologically unique.

But beyond genetics, her story is one of chance and belonging: a cupboard door, a missed moment, a community that stepped in.

Delta didn't just find shelter. She found home.

A huge Hogsback thank you
to each and every
person involved.

GOSSIP & DRAMA

For Local Residents Only

Swallowtail, Divan & Morgan

I only asked once. Please tell us what's true and what not. Voila! Just like that, I was invited to Swallowtail to come see for myself!

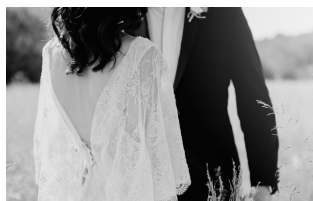
I must say, Morgan's cage is a lot boggler than I expected, her leash wasn't too tight and she even had food and water.

All 10 children were fine and healthy and working hard. When I arrived Divan had to hold the vicious dogs back to ensure my life.

They graciously agreed to the drug and pregnancy tests without resisting. If you would like to see the result email: thisisajokeandyoufellforit@gmail.com

On a serious note though dear Hogsback. They are a prime example of what has ensued among us in recent months. Embellished stories eventually makes people withdraw from the community, this reclusion inevitably triggers more dramatic story-telling. These extremes bring forth its own extremes too... people leave, they crack, they break down or they stop caring, withdraw and become indifferent...

None of which is a good thing, none of which serves in community-building...



“A quote a newbie spoke”

Newbie A & B



We're New Here

in 2020 we saw an influx of the noobs most definitely. Since then, new names appear on the WhatsApp groups and there's a bit of chatter...

“Who's the Dennis/Theuns guy burning branches everyday?”

“Do you know who that is or where those people stay?” and so forth. Point is, we have many new residents and we would love to see you, meet you and connect.

So this space will be dedicated to a newbie or two every month. If you know a newbie or if you ARE a newbie, please send me a message or email.

I believe Hogsback calls all the right people, this mountain brings us here for a reason; let's connect.

WhatsApp group Tea

It's against the rules for me to share messages from our local WhatsApp groups. That is definitely not my intention; contrary to popular belief, I actually quite like to follow rules.

However, at times some of the radical rumours have their origin in a misread messages...like;

Grace (Tiepie) is in fact NOT looking for two decent men. She was looking for a decent two-man tent!

Gossip Etymology: Quick timeline

Period	Word form	Meaning
Old English	godsibb	godparent / spiritual relative
Middle English	gossib	close friend / companion
Late Middle English	gossip	person who talks, especially informally
Modern English	gossip	idle talk / rumours

By Community. For Community. On Community.

GOSSIP & DRAMA

For Local Residents Only

A moment's Grace

Monika shared a wisdom with me back in 2018...She said: "Never help anyone who did not ASK for your help". I struggled digesting that... probably because I suffered from a bit of a Messiah complex. Nowadays, I use and repeat that line often.

This section is to take a moment. To pause and consider. You don't need to help or do anything, except spare a thought & give a little consideration. You never know what someone, possibly your neighbor, the person behind you in the shop or even a friend; is going through.

- Someone in our house can remember the exact date when last they had a good, hearty meal.
- Someone in our family feels worthless, filled with self-doubt and not good enough.
- Someone in our house is silently battling anxiety, and every day feels like climbing a mountain with no end in sight.
- Someone in our community is grieving, but they keep smiling because they don't want to be a burden.
- Someone in our town is lonely, very lonely.
- Someone you see every day is pretending they're fine, because they don't know how to ask for help.
- Someone is battling cancer, another getting divorced and many are drowning financially.
- Someone else is filled with regret from words spoken and a friendship damaged irreparably.

We don't always need to fix it. We just need to notice it. A kind glance.

A simple "How are you, really?" A small moment of presence. That alone can be the help someone has been quietly waiting for.

Dear Roads (and Those Responsible),

We've reached a point where the potholes have outlived several relationships and may soon qualify as heritage sites.

They have depth, character, and seasonal variation. One learns to greet them like old friends — sharply and with fear.

We don't ask for perfection, just a surface that doesn't require a 4x4, prayer, and emotional preparation. Until then, we'll keep swerving and swearing.

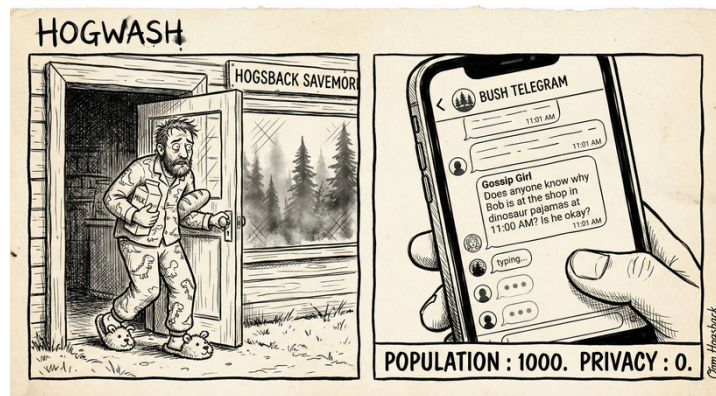
Yours in suspension damage,
Every Driver in Town

- Yes, SMHART confirmed, they finish their Hogsback contract end of Feb2026.
- It's true, Chippi has resigned from King's Lodge.
- Rory's okay, healthy and busy as normal.
- The Trail Maintenance crew is not sitting down and waiting for the Back-a-Buddy target to be reached. They are still doing maintenance and upkeep of our trails, constantly working hard.
- No Happy Hogs has not run into trouble, fired staff or any of the other crazy stories. They are in fact just closed for a bit of admin and to get their new menu - Which some of you were lucky enough to test - into play.

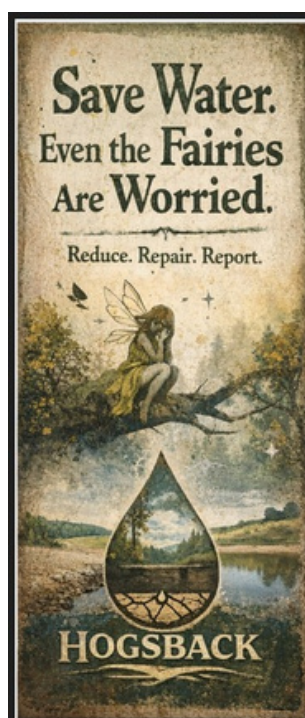
THIS MONTH'S HOGWASH

For Local Residents Only

Interesting fact: Lisa O used to have a laundromat named "Hogwash".
(She's okay with us repurposing it. Thank you Lisa and a big thank you to Anonymous Contributor)



CREDIT: MR A CONTRIBUTOR



WASTE NOT WANT NOT

HOGSBACK IS FACING AN URGENT WATER CRISIS: THE DAM SUPPLYING MUNICIPAL WATER IS ONLY 15% FULL, LEAVING AN ESTIMATED TWO MONTHS OF WATER AT CURRENT USAGE, OR UP TO THREE MONTHS IF STRICT CONSERVATION STARTS IMMEDIATELY. ADM HAS DECLARED A DISTRICT-WIDE DROUGHT RISK, WITH POSSIBLE WATER SHUT-OFFS AND SUPPLY RESTRICTIONS ALREADY UNDERWAY. RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES ARE URGED TO REDUCE WATER USE TO ESSENTIALS ONLY, FIX AND REPORT LEAKS WITHIN 24 HOURS, AND PREPARE FOR SERIOUS IMPACTS ON TOURISM AND EVENTS IF RAINFALL DOES NOT IMPROVE BEFORE THE RAINY SEASON ENDS.

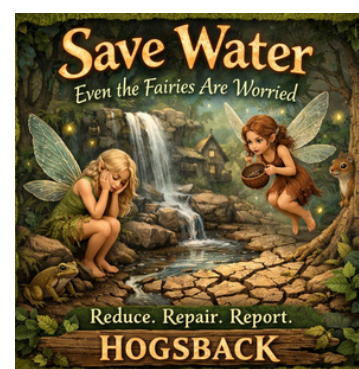


IMAGE CREDIT: FIONA W

Village Vote

In this section; visualise a voting corner for our wonderful divides and disagreements. All poll results from each month will be posted here. Be sure to ad your vote, publicly or via private message on every poll possible!

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