

The Hogsback Times

IN THIS ISSUE

April 2026

NEWS & FEEDBACK

FROM THE FOREST FLOOR

ECHOES & LEGENDS

(While our hearts are heavy with the loss of more than one beloved community member this month, this particular tribute is a focused look at Don's life, offered in the spirit of honoring one thread in the rich tapestry of neighbors; not taking away from Wayne's value, that we are also currently mourning.)

VENTS, VOICES & VISION

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HOGWASH & WHINES

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!

Dear HB Community,

While searching for the right words, I look over at my 'HBT April planning'- board... Chalked in; was a piece about the Arminel and an exciting future; a report on Kings of Kindness, a Roads update, a Tolkien truth, a Communication Frustration, a Group Admin growl and the April Fool's Joke Awards...

The only constant is change and the only certainty is death. Endings are but beginnings in drag... or perhaps it's the other way around? Whichever it is, whether they moved on or are moving away; this month and next, we bid farewell to friends, 'Hogsback-housemates' and people we've walked alongside, for years.

Change is imminent and our best attempt for buoyancy, is to be like water. Flow and fold, flow and follow; soften and lean into the shifts... trusting that everything is exactly how it's supposed to be.

Side by side with our mourning there is a determined hope (as you'll see in the sections about the new Montessori school and the soccer league). This tells me that even while the community is grappling with the truth of loss, it is simultaneously planting seeds for the next cycle.

So, as the winter lands and the season turns, let's hold onto the knowledge that Hogsback has a way of renewing itself. Just like the orchids that wait patiently beneath the soil, our community's strength lies in its quiet persistence.

All April HBT contributors; your support and submissions saved my butt! You filled these pages and I cannot say thank you enough. We are more than just a collection of individuals passing through; we are a living, breathing ecosystem of support.

Let's keep looking up at the peaks, rooting our feet in the valleys and keep walking each other home through the changes.

Love, Miki.

By Community. For Community. On Community.

NEWS, UPDATES & FEEDBACK

For Local Residents Only



CONGRATS!!

With most of the AGM's now complete; we would like to congratulate all newly elected members and stakeholders within each society/group/organisation and group.

We look forward to seeing your updates, feedback, requests and reports here in The Hogsback Times.

Submissions close on the 23rd of each month and we'd like you to take the responsibility on, set a reminder and stay active and visible (without the HBT team needing to send you reminders)

All the best for the year ahead.

HBT



A CALL FROM THE HB TOURISM ORGANISATION

Let's get straight to the point. Hogsback needs you.

The Hogsback Tourism Organisation (HTO) is the village's registered Community Tourism Organisation and we are gearing up for growth. In the past year we have secured formal NPC status. We are soon to be applying for PBO tax-exempt status with SARS and intend launching a community economic development programme (to be available to all member TPOs) .

We manage the Visitors Information Centre, maintain the trail network and are actively working to secure government funding and formal partnerships for Hogsback's benefit. All of this is done by volunteers. People who love this village and give a few hours of their time each month.

We are now actively recruiting volunteers across the following areas:

- Finance & Accounting
- Digital Marketing & Social Media
 - Event Management
 - Legal & Compliance
- Conservation & Trail Maintenance
 - Photography & Videography
 - Community Development
- Writing, Grant Applications & Communications
- Visitor Information & Hospitality

What does volunteering with the HTO actually look like?

You join one of our task teams. We ask for a minimum of one meaningful contribution per quarter. We need to develop clear strategies for the HTO and each task team is required to contribute to that. Your inputs will be invaluable, as we forge forward in creating true value for all our members.

You do not need to be a tourism business owner. If you care about Hogsback, your contribution matters.

We'll soon be holding elections for a new Board members. All members are urged to participate in this process (date will be communicated directly to all members).

Thereafter, we'll finalise a date for volunteer orientation.

To take part, simply email/ WhatsApp us a short introduction - who you are, what you do and where you would most like to contribute. No formal application. No committee. Just a conversation.

Please respond ASAP.

If you have questions or would like to know more, you are also welcome to contact one of our current EXCO members directly.

Thank you for reading this. Hogsback is extraordinary and so are the people who choose to invest in it.

Warm regards,
Hogsback Tourism Organisation NPC
Reg. No. 2025/124033/08

By Community. For Community. On Community.

FROM THE FOREST FLOOR

For Local Residents Only

THE WEDGELIP HAIR-ORCHID

Daisies make my toes curl and my heart bounce, I loooove them! Then i saw these....

And I fell in love, on the Cliff path... Tucked away under a tree, within the brush; there they stood! A botanical masterpiece: the Wedgelip Hair-orchid (*Holothrix orthoceras*). It was like discovering a secret whispered by the mountains themselves. This terrestrial orchid is a specialist of high-altitude, high-rainfall environments. It is perfectly adapted to the cool, south-facing slopes of the Eastern Cape.

A Symbiotic Secret

Of course my cut reaction was to first just admire, then check 'immigration status' and of course I wanted to know how would one propagate this glorious little flower and fill my world with its magnificence!? Turns out, we need to save it's habitat, there's no other way. What makes the *Holothrix* truly remarkable (and impossible to propagate) is its hidden partnerships; moths and fungi! These orchids rely on a symbiotic relationship with mycorrhizal fungi in the soil. Fungi-fed and moth-pollinated, how amazing!

I have a serious aversion to moths, petrified to my deepest core, sh%t scared of moths. I must say; from all the fear addressing things I've tried, learning this, was most useful! If my torturous night-fliers are the ones keeping this beauty alive, I might just have to sign a peace treaty with them.

Conservation & Care

By protecting the indigenous canopy and leaving the forest floor undisturbed, we allow these orchids to self-seed and expand their colonies naturally.

(Want to see what they look like? Images under this month's Hogwash.)

FORESTBEING FINDS...

If you didn't listen to my previous warning, hear it now!

Get your winter wood stockpile ready!

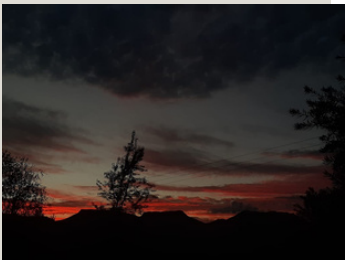
Sitting by my fire place this morning, sipping on a little herbal teablend, I can definitely feel that the cold has arrived again this morning, but similar to you trying to get that perfect temperature on the shower, mother nature is trying to ease us into winter as gently as possible, but every now and then it gets too hot and we burn a bit, and then way too cold and we freeze a bit! But all of this is necessary in life, it forces us to start slowing down and move indoors, for some inner reflection by the dancing fire.

Walking in the SchwarzWald and Zingcuka indigenious forests this week, I noticed that both forests have bounced back again after the devastating fires we had a few years ago, with invasive species creeping in from the edges, like the bugweed, pokeweed and the devil's fig vines, it reminds me, that just as I clear out these invasive plants in the forest on a regular basis, so too do I have to clear all the invasive thoughts and energies that taunts our minds on a regular basis, and no better place to do so, than in the forests and in the mountains, where thoughts are clearer with less invasives.

Stay wild
Adi Forestbeing



PINE FOREST IN KETTLESPOUT HIKE



TOP OF SCHWARZWALD FOREST

ECHOES & LEGENDS

For Local Residents Only

COMMUNITY TRIBUTE TO PROFESSOR DON GRIERSON

(Thank you community: Compiled from your messages and letters)

The mist over the Amathole ridges feels a little heavier this week as Hogsback bids farewell to one of its most distinctive inhabitants. Professor Donald Scott Grierson; distinguished academic, dedicated botanist and a man of both immense 'heart of gold' & 'gruff growl'; passed away recently, leaving a void in the community that is as large as his personality.

To the international botanical fraternity, Don was a titan of ethnobotany. During his decades at the University of Fort Hare, he published over 70 peer-reviewed articles and mentored dozens of students who now lead South Africa's biological sectors. His research provided vital scientific bridges between traditional Xhosa medicinal knowledge and modern pharmacology, documenting indigenous treatments for everything from respiratory infections to skin disorders.

But in Hogsback, Don was far more than a list of citations. He was "the Cheese, the Whiskey & the Whine" – a central, irreplaceable fixture of mountain life. Known to live where he worked and work for the environment he loved, he was often found exploring the ridges or tending to his garden at Grey Haven. He was a man who lived on his own terms, frequently described as a "great big teddy bear" with the kindest heart and a naughty smile.



This image, taken hours before an hilarious, historic Hogsback fire-side story originated...

His contributions to the village were both grand and practical. While he tirelessly documented local flora, he was also the man instrumental in installing safety mirrors on the notoriously tight bend on the pass down to Alice. Community members now invite those driving past to "flash a big smile to the mirror" in his honor.

Don's interests were as eclectic as the plants he studied. Once a week, he could be found in his pottery studio, experimenting with glazes and making what friends fondly call "dubious pots". These sessions were often punctuated by the sound of acorns hitting the roof; a sound that sent his beloved dogs scurrying under the table in fear, though perhaps they were just taking a cue from Don himself, who was famously no fan of a loud Eastern Cape thunderstorm.

He was a fierce advocate for animal welfare, and his rescues were a central part of his life. Even in his final days, his care for his animals remained a priority for the community he left behind.

Of course, no tribute to Don would be complete without mentioning his digital footprint. To older locals, Don was the man who made the village WhatsApp group worth reading. He was real, he took ownership of his flaws, and—as many can attest—he wasn't afraid to stir the pot. Whether he was griping with Foot & Mouth chats or causing a bit of healthy drama, he was a real Hogsback character, who kept the community conversation lively. And... come to think of it... probably the reason why we now need group admins!

In his honor, the Hogsback Garden Club plans to gather and plant a tree in the Garden of Remembrance. He was a gentleman, a mentor, and a special human who was so loved. As the petals fall on the mountain he loved, Hogsback remembers the man who spoke to his seeds and soil with love, and who has now found his perfect bloom. Rest well, Don. The WhatsApp group, Gen-Wize breakfast table and my Wednesday nights will be a much quieter and much duller, place without you.

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.

Hogsback Soccer League: Building Community Through Sport

By Sam Tyobeka

My journey in soccer started at a young age with Dawn Greens Hogsback Lion Cubs, where I discovered my love for the game. In 2014, I joined Junior Brothers at Boldpoint. It was there that I truly learned the values of leadership, teamwork, and commitment—lessons that have guided me throughout my life.

Eleven years later, in 2025, I parted ways with Junior Brothers with a vision to create something new and meaningful for our community. In January 2026, that vision became a reality with the founding of Hogsback Hotspurs, a soccer and netball club aimed at providing regular competitive matches for players of all ages.

To expand opportunities and foster healthy competition, I launched the Hogsback Soccer League (HSL), inviting clubs from both Hogsback and surrounding villages. Today, the league proudly consists of 8 soccer clubs—4 from Hogsback and 4 from the Tyume villages.

Starting from scratch was not easy, but with the generous support of our sponsors, we have built a thriving league:

Spar Savemor provided soccer kits for the league champions.

Sweetgrass Farm assisted by maintaining and cutting our playing grounds.

AFC supplied soccer balls and essential equipment.

The league has quickly become more than just a competition. It has strengthened community bonds, encouraged youth participation, and inspired healthy rivalries—all while bringing families and neighbors together every weekend at Boldpoint and Khayaletu fields.

In addition to soccer, the Hogsback Netball League has also been established, currently featuring 6 clubs—1 from Hogsback and 5 from the surrounding villages. While we are still seeking sponsors for the netball league, the enthusiasm and participation have been incredible.

League Prizes

1st Place: Trophy and medals (donated by AFC) + full soccer kit (donated by Savemor)

2nd Place: R2,000 (donated by the founder, Sam Tyobeka)

3rd Place: R1,000 (donated by the founder, Sam Tyobeka)

The Hogsback Soccer League is more than just a competition; it is a platform for personal growth, community development, and lasting friendships. As we continue to grow, we hope to attract more sponsors, more clubs, and even more young talent from the region.

Soccer, at its core, is a game—but in Hogsback, it is becoming a force that unites, inspires, and transforms communities.



VOICES, VENTS & VISION

For Local Residents Only

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WHEN THE MAGIC FADES, SO DO WE

There is something quietly spellbinding about the colors of this mountain. Hogsback holds a richness that feels older, deeper. As though the land remembers something we have forgotten. Each season turns the page, revealing a new palette, a shifting tapestry that never repeats itself, yet always feels familiar... like a story told long ago.

Now, as Autumn begins its slow arrival, the mountain changes once more. The greens retreat, making way for deeper tones. Burnished reds, glowing golds, soft ambers and dusky purples begin to rise through the forest. The world softens into warmth, as if the land itself is exhaling. It feels like walking through the last light of an endless sunset, where every leaf carries a quiet, fading fire.

Color here is not just seen. It is felt.

It settles into the mind, slows the breath, and draws something ancient to the surface. These Autumn tones do not shout. They whisper. They guide everything into rest, into stillness, into the quiet work of healing. This is the season where the world prepares to sleep, to restore, to gather strength for what is to come.

And then the sky begins its evening ritual.

The sunsets arrive like something out of another realm. Vast washes of crimson, rose, gold and violet stretch across the horizon, spilling their light over the mountain in a way that feels almost unreal. The forests glow. The air softens. Time itself seems to slow. In those moments, there is a deep, unshakable calm... and a sense that you are part of something far greater than yourself.

Even in the smallest places, the magic lingers. In the early morning, dew rests along each blade of grass, catching the first light. Tiny droplets shimmer and scatter color in every direction, like a field of living diamonds. Fleeting. Delicate. Easily missed.

Unless you are truly looking.

And that is where something begins to change.

Because when you no longer see this beauty... when the colors fade into something ordinary... then something within you has gone quiet. The connection weakens. The wonder slips away.

And without that wonder, the magic does not hold.

Places like this do not remain alive on their own. They are felt into being. Remembered. Loved. Believed in. Just like the old stories, where magic fades when it is no longer seen, no longer held close.

The mountain gives endlessly. But it asks something simple in return.

To stop.

To look.

To truly see.

Because if we lose our sense of wonder... if we forget the magic that lives here... then slowly, quietly...

the mountain may forget it too.

by Seeker of Magic

IN THE AIR

For Local Residents Only

What's happening in Hogs

Go support! Get out of your house and your comfort zone...

BodyRight Bowls Tournament

Where: Hogsback Bowls Club, Kings Lodge

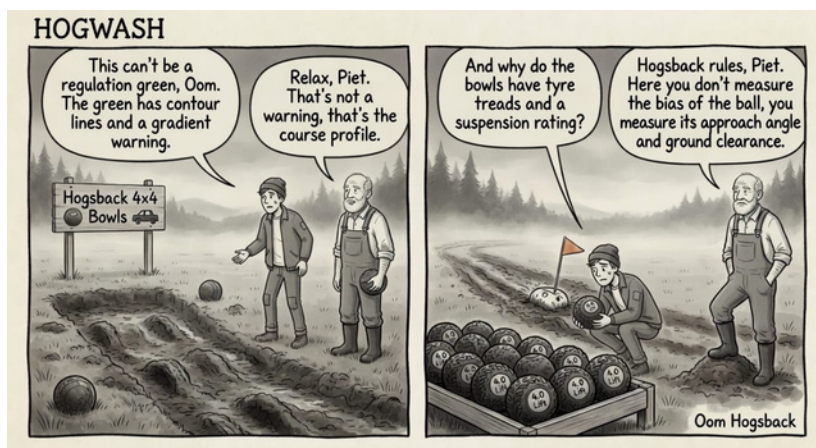
When: 23rd of May 2026 @ 9:00 am

Spectators are welcome to watch the bowlers compete during the day at no charge.

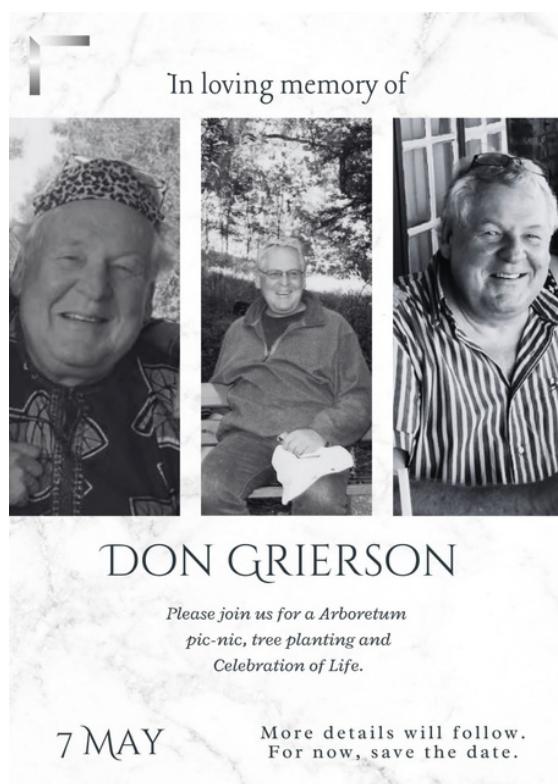
Ice cold beers & ciders will be on sale at the bowls club (cash only).

All Welcome to join in on the fun at the prize giving, auction and entertainment from 15:30 onwards at Kings Lodge, drinks on sale at their bar. R50 gets you in, all proceeds will go to the bowls club.

No charge for bowlers.



Hobbiton AGM - 9 May @10am (RSVP)



Don's only job is to ensure good weather on the 7th; but since retiring, Don decided what Don must and must not do... So just incase the weather is not suitable to picnic in the Arboretum, we'll gather at King's Lodge @12noon (after tree planting in the Garden of Remembrance.

IN THE AIR

For Local Residents Only

Hogsback Horror-Scopes

May Horrorscopes: Roasting your sign before the frost does.

As the autumn leaves turn and the first real frost of May threatens to kill off our plant babies... the stars have aligned to deliver some harsh truths. Whether you're a Fire Sign burning through your woodpile or a Water Sign weeping into the mist, here is your Hogsback destiny for the month ahead.

- **Virgo:** You're stressed because the village doesn't run on a schedule. Your color-coded spreadsheet for the communal garden is being used as a coaster by a Samango monkey. Take a deep breath; the chaos is permanent.
- **Libra:** You're seeking balance, yet you're still trying to walk home from the edge barefoot after dark. Decisions are hard for you, but choosing between 'expensive firewood' and 'freezing' should be a no-brainer.
- **Scorpio:** You're brooding again. We get it, you're deep. This month, your mysterious silence will be mistaken for you just being rude at the shop. Try a smile; it won't kill your brand.
- **Sagittarius:** Your wanderlust is kicking in. You'll plan a grand hike into the Tyumie Valley and get lost 200 meters from the trailhead. Your optimism is exhausting to the rest of us.
- **Capricorn:** You're obsessed with status and structure. In Hogsback, that makes you the person everyone avoids at the Saturday Market. Relax your grip on your clipboard before you develop a twitch.
- **Aquarius:** You're so eccentric and 'unique' that you've managed to annoy the local fairies. This month, your revolutionary ideas for a decentralized goat-milk economy will fail due to a lack of interest and actual goats.
- **Aries:** Your natural leadership is peaking, which is unfortunate because nobody asked for your 'expert' opinion on the local road repairs. You'll spend May starting three new projects and finishing zero of them.
- **Taurus:** You're notoriously stubborn, which serves you well when you refuse to leave your bed during a 10°C mist-out. Expect a financial setback when you realize 'comfort eating' at the local pubs isn't a tax-deductible business expense.
- **Gemini:** Your dual nature is working overtime. One side of you wants to save the planet; the other wants to throw a brick at the next person who mentions 'synergy'. Avoid the Hogsback Facebook group this month; your typing fingers are faster than your common sense.
- **Cancer:** You're feeling extra sensitive. It's not a spiritual awakening; it's just the dampness in your walls. Stop 'nesting' and go outside; though you'll probably just complain that the waterfall is toooo loud.
- **Leo:** You crave the spotlight, but with the mist rolling in, nobody can actually see you. Your May challenge: Try to go 24 hours without mentioning your 'creative process' to a captive audience at Red Clay.
- **Pisces:** You're drifting through May in a dream state. While you're 'manifesting abundance', your pipes are freezing and your laundry has been damp for six days. Wake up and buy a tumble dryer.

I ran out of time and failed to consult all the relevant stars. Apologies. This new section will be more accurate and personal from May issue onwards. (for now ai is pretending to know what's going on)

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.

Understanding Pet Fertility Cycles

A Guide for Responsible Dog and Cat Owners in Hogsback

In a close-knit community like Hogsback, where animals are part of our daily lives, responsible pet ownership goes beyond food and shelter. Understanding fertility cycles in dogs and cats helps prevent unwanted litters and improves animal welfare across our community.

The Basics: Dogs vs Cats

Dogs (Bitches)

Female dogs typically come into heat every 6-8 months. The cycle lasts 2-3 weeks and includes:

- Proestrus – swelling and bloody discharge; attracts males
- Oestrus – fertile phase; female allows mating
- Diestrus – post-heat hormonal phase
- Anestrus – resting phase

Cats (Queens)

Cats are seasonal breeders and may cycle every 2-3 weeks. They are induced ovulators.

- Loud vocalisation
- Rolling and rubbing
- Restlessness and escape attempts



Responsible ownership protects animals, people, and the environment. By managing fertility, we improve life for everyone in Hogsback.
For guidance, contact Billy & Gigi at Dogsback Vetshop – supporting our local community.

Male Dogs and Cats

Male pets are fertile year-round and often drive accidental breeding in communities. When females are in heat, dogs tend to roam, escape, and show aggression, while cats often engage in fighting and spraying, leading to increased injuries and the spread of disease.

Why This Matters in Hogsback

- Stray populations increase
- Animal suffering
- Pressure on welfare groups
- Impact on wildlife

Responsible Ownership

Sterilisation is the most effective prevention method:

- Females: must go to a veterinary clinic; reduces disease risk
- Males: simpler procedure, can often be done locally on the mountain

Care During Fertility

- Confine females in heat
 - Avoid contact with other animals
 - Keep cats indoors
 - Monitor males closely
- Community Effort

ON THE GROUND

For Local Residents Only

A Dream Taking Shape in the Heart of Hogsback

by Esté Pieterse

Introducing Mud and Moss Montessori

If you've spent any time in Hogsback, you'll know that this village has a way of bringing the right people together. It happens on the trails, at the market, and — perhaps most often — over a good cup of coffee. It was exactly there that the seed of something special was planted.

Mud and Moss Montessori is not yet open, but it is very much alive. It is a school in the making, shaped by months of hard work, commitment, and the kind of community magic that makes Hogsback the place we all love. We'd like to introduce ourselves, and invite you to be part of the journey.

Where It All Began

A small group of parents and educators kept finding themselves in the same conversation. Hogsback is an extraordinary place to raise children — rich in nature, creativity, and community spirit. And yet, for families seeking quality early childhood education, the options close to home have always been limited. The gap was clear, and the question was simple: what if we did something about it? What followed were months of research, late nights, long discussions, and more than a few serendipitous introductions that brought exactly the right people to the table at exactly the right moment. Slowly, a shared dream began to take shape.

The People Behind It

Mud and Moss Montessori is driven by a team of dedicated individuals, each bringing something unique and essential to the table.

Fiona Wallace is our Chief Whip — the person who lovingly but firmly keeps everyone on task and makes sure our dreams come with actual deadlines.

Billy Breytenbach serves as our treasurer, keeping a steady and careful hand on the finances that will carry this project forward.

Monica Hof is our Head of Fundraising, working with energy and creativity to secure the resources needed to bring this vision to life.

Gigi Breytenbach is our community liaison and doer of all things good — the warm and vital link between Mud and Moss and the broader Hogsback village that makes all of this possible.

Bathandwa Siyo, our assistant teacher, brings both skill and soul to the classroom, along with the beautiful gift of isiXhosa — ensuring our children grow up in a genuinely multilingual and culturally rich environment.

Esté Pieterse is our Montessori Directress, the educational heart of the school. Esté brings deep expertise, passion, and a clear vision for what learning in this space can and should look like.

Why Mud and Moss?

The name is intentional. Muddy hands and mossy knees are worn as a badge of honour here — signs that a child has been busy, curious, and fully alive in their learning. Mud and Moss stands for a style of education that is hands-on, self-paced, and rooted in the real world. One that sees the natural environment not as a distraction from learning, but as one of its finest teachers.

Why Montessori? Why Hogsback?

The Montessori approach is built on a simple but radical idea: that children are naturally driven to learn, and that the role of the adult is to prepare the environment and step back. In a Montessori classroom, children choose their own work, move at their own pace, and develop concentration, independence, and confidence not because they are told to — but because they are trusted to. It is a philosophy that respects the child as a capable, thinking individual. One that prioritises depth over speed, process over product, and intrinsic motivation over external reward. In Hogsback, where community, simplicity, and raising whole human beings matter deeply, it feels like a natural fit.

ON THE GROUND

For Local Residents Only

A Dream Taking Shape in the Heart of Hogsback... continued.

Article by Esté Pieterse

What We Plan to Offer

At its heart, Mud and Moss Montessori will offer a carefully prepared 3 to 6 environment — a space designed to meet young children exactly where they are, and let them flourish from there. Classes will run Tuesdays through Thursdays, from 8:30 to 14:00, offering a rhythm that is consistent and nurturing without being overwhelming. Alongside the core programme, we plan to offer academic enrichment opportunities for older children — because we believe that once a family finds their place here, this school should be able to grow with them.

Our provisional opening date is the 2nd of June — and to make that happen, we need your support. Whether it's spreading the word, enrolling your little one, or simply cheering us on, every bit of community backing brings us one step closer to opening our doors. Our goal is to build something that lasts. A sustainable school that serves Hogsback not just today, but for years to come. An anchor for young families choosing to put down roots here. A place that grows as our community grows — and that reminds us, in the best possible way, why living here is such a privilege.

A Heartfelt Thank You

We have been genuinely moved by the warmth and support already shown by so many in the Hogsback community. Your encouragement, connections, and belief in what we are building means more than we can say. On the harder days, it is your support that reminds us exactly why this matters.

We'd Love to Hear From You

Whether you have questions, want to explore enrolment, or simply want to find out more — please don't hesitate to get in touch. This school belongs to the community, and your voice is always welcome.

✉ mudandmossmontessori@gmail.com

☺ WhatsApp Gigi: +27 82 524 8495 / Esté: +27 82 451 7475



Photo credit: Lira Breytenbach

Mud and Moss Montessori. Rooted in Hogsback. Growing together.

GOSSIP & DRAMA

For Local Residents Only

Speedy Snippets

- *Most HB committees have had their AGMs and selected their 2026 crew (all except the HTO)*
- *All bets are in. How long will Jojo and Hellen K be able to live together? If they're still housemates by the time of publication, please get your bets in before 2 May. Winners share the kitty equally.*
- *Yes, you heard right, Miki is the executor of Don's estate. We've heard she's way better with other people's money than with her own.*
- *Flu is rife! You should've ordered a flu shot when Lynden gave you the chance.*
- *We're sure you noticed... winter is here and she didn't even bring lube. Just showed up and started!*
- *King's Lodge will have a new manager from tomorrow!*
- *Rodger is getting his new uniform this week, relax.*
- *Houses are in fact selling in Hogsback! Nutwoods, Kerneys, Mullhollands, Monkia's etc, there's movement. Be patient, right time, right buyer; all in perfect time.*
- *We braved the fire and asked Virginia to share her story, her truth and catch us all up. No response yet.*
- *Yes Vincent B & Karen is on their 7th honeymoon! Stop being jealous, let them be!*

HOGSBACK SECRETS – SO... NOONE KNEW?!

Contributed by Fiona Wallace

In the last edition of The Hogsback Times, I asked you questions about 5 Hogsback residents – all “little secrets” – and absolutely no one responded!

Either none of it was new-news to anyone or nobody knows nothing about nobody (including the actual 5 residents themselves!) or life just got in your way.

I'm betting my optimism on the last option and going ahead with the next set of intriguing questions. If I get no response this time, I might have to take it all terribly personally, in good Hogsback tradition!

Here are the answers to last month's questions:

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

Carol “Butter-wouldn't-melt-in-her-mouth” Neith

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

Vincent “The-Bee-Whisperer” Shaw

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

Diane “I-can-do-it-anything” van der Walt

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

Kinesh “Mycelium-Maestro” Chetty

● Who had a very close encounter with the ghost of the murdered cheating wife of the lighthouse keeper on Bird Island?

Tony “Tool-Hoarder” Naude

Here are the next 5 brain ticklers.

And before you ask again: no, there are still no prizes. Just your name. In print. In The Hogsback Times. Surely that is enough?

1. Who played SA Schools under-21 and men's Hockey for South Africa in 1980, wears a size 14 shoe, and was also a provincial skateboarder?

2. Who was a debt collector in a previous life and a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu practitioner?

3. Which longtime resident of Bold Point (born in Hogsback) has visited these 7 countries in the last few years: Eswatini, Mozambique, Lesotho, Malawi, Botswana, Zambia, and Mauritius?

4. Who used to be a carpenter and granite & marble counter installer, and was responsible for all the restroom counters at Jacob Zuma's Nkandla stadium?

5. Who claims to be a saxophonist but even their skeptical partner has never heard them play?

Send your answers – or even guesses – to me on WhatsApp: 073 1100878.

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.

HOGSBACK UNVEILS WORLD'S FIRST "BOTANICAL" DRIVE-IN CINEMA ON MAIN ROAD

HOGSBACK: In a move that has left municipal officials confused and local residents surprisingly relaxed, the village has officially repurposed the giant brown 39 Steps Waterfall sign as a "Weed Smokers Drive-In." The billboard, which was recently installed on Main Road despite nobody asking for it, is now being used as a high-definition screen for those who prefer their entertainment with a side of herbal enhancement.

The "cinema" is being spearheaded by local resident Jay, who has been appointed as the unofficial Head of Programming due to his extensive experience in botanical relaxation.

A CINEMATIC MASTERPIECE IN SLOW MOTION

The theatre offers only one screening: a live-action broadcast of "The Mist Over the Brown Board." According to Jay, the 4K resolution is unbeatable.

"If you have the right mindset, those giant white letters for '39 Steps' start to dance," Jay explained while holding a very large, hand-rolled cigarette. "The mist provides the CGI, and the brown background is the perfect canvas for a psychological thriller about gravity and moisture. It is much better than Netflix, and it never buffers when the wind blows."

ACCIDENTAL PATRONS

Kerry, another local resident, was seen in the front row of the "stalls" (a damp patch of grass near the Arboretum). After a massive power surge fried her television and every appliance in her kitchen, she decided that the giant sign was the only functioning screen left in the village.

"I do not even smoke the stuff," Kerry said while wrapped in three blankets. "But after three days of no power, staring at a giant brown arrow while Jay explains the deeper meaning of the letter 'P' is actually quite therapeutic. It is the only thing on Main Road that hasn't given me an E4 error code this week."

INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES

Local mechanic Cameron was called to the "cinema" earlier this evening, though not to fix a projector. He had to winch a visitor's bakkie out of a massive pothole that has formed right in the middle of the "theatre entrance" on Main Road.

"I told Jay he needs to mark the parking bays," Cameron grumbled while tightening a tow strap. "People are so distracted by the 'opening credits' that they are driving straight into the abyss. I have already recovered four hubcaps and a spare tyre from the front row today. It is a mechanical nightmare disguised as a cultural event."

CONCESSIONS AND CATERING

While there is no popcorn, the cinema is conveniently located for anyone who gets the "munchies" and wants to wander down to the Spar. However, patrons are warned that the mist is currently so thick that you might accidentally try to buy a truffle from a Samango monkey.

SAFETY ADVICE

The Hogsback Whines reminds all cinema-goers that while the "movie" is free, the suspension repairs are not. If you see Jay staring at the sign and crying because the mist "just had a plot twist," please give him some space.

TRAVEL TIP

If you are looking for the waterfall, do not ask the people in the drive-in for directions. They will likely tell you that the waterfall is "within you" and ask if you have any spare lighters.



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HOGWASH



HOGWASH



HOGWASH



Oom Hogsback

Maggie may have been in stealth-mode during her stay; but we're glad she can still find her peace and solice here in beautiful Hogsback.

If you were lucky enough to see her, hope you treated her well and made sure she knew that she can always come home...

The Wedgelp Hair-Orchid (From page 3)



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!

May your May Move, Motivate and Mystify you.

(and please take care of yourself)