

Rain – Rain – Rain! & Ijingjoye's for Africa!

(per kind favour of the Americas)

No shortage of rain this year in Underberg. The downside is that we have been invaded by illegal ALIENS - en force!

As a berg hiker my pet hate is American bramble especially on the farms where we spend many a weekend searching for rock art sites (ironically, it's perhaps the bramble that to some extent protects paintings from livestock sheltering from the weather). American bramble possibly introduced during the Boer war colonizes degraded land and, in that way, may lead to some healing. Large numbers of seeds are produced in the fruit which are spread by birds and baboons, but they do not germinate easily. It has a very extensive root system with fine lateral roots just below the surface. The plant spreads mainly by roots growing away from established patches and then producing new stems. Good veld management and a **knowledge and interest** of veld plant species of custodians can go a long way in keeping such aliens in check.

In attendance at the recent February workshop instigated by the local Honorary Officers was champion alien 'fighter-educator' Julie Braby now a Drak. valley resident. She had this to say; 'Most interesting and most necessary, it was great to get some of the posters, you need tools to educate, (she has done a lot of that in her life). What I learnt was how far behind we are!' Ezemvelo's guest, Clive Bromilow came up with a range of eradication products, some of which, many participants had never heard of. John Michaux, farmer and fellow hiker acted immediately, his search for a generic brand of *Brush Off* led to a product – *Forester* with the same ingredient he found it through Agricare. It will be interesting to see how it fared. Advice on bramble eradication is not in short supply. Quoting from a fairly dated Cedara publication I found this 'last word' wise enough. **All treatments for American bramble have to be repeated at least once, some, a number of times. So, it is important to start with a clear objective and plan.**

There are several ways of dealing with America bramble.

1. Hoeing individual plants and racking it together.
2. Burning, but this doesn't work on it's own.
3. Slashing to prevent seeding.
4. Selective herbicides (These are either fast or slow acting.)

I wanted to see a site where work has been done. I was taken to 'The Swamp' on the Sani - Pevensy road, a favourite spot for birdwatchers. The veld below the road above the oxbows has had years of treatment and it was a great pleasure to walk through thick uncontaminated Themeda (rooigras). Above the road work is yet to be done.

But before you set out with bow saws and chemical weapons in Ezemvelo land, a word of caution. Says Ian Rushworth of Ezemvelo; "You'd be amazed what has been cut down 'innocently', Yellowwoods and indigenous Cypress for a start, those who attended the course will get a certificate." This will allow them to lead a volunteer team of alien 'hackers' with the mandatory permission from the conservator. He also noted with some frustration that most of the aliens within the Park 'fly in' from outside. He cited Pine trees as a noticeable species, right now Ezemvelo covers the full cost of eradication.

'Veldt and Vlei' welcomes articles/pieces that celebrate our natural wide open grasslands and wetlands. Have a thought? - write it down send it in. **By Don Guy**

Heat things up with **HOT PRIZES!** get cooking with a *Can-do* attitude!

WIN 10 Gas Stoves
PLUS Over 390 Kettle & Iron Combos

See in-store for details

Promotion valid from 24 March - 6 April 2022. Valid at participating stores only. T's & C's apply.

We would like to thank our customers for their patience while we have been resolving the ground water issues around our store.

We have some exciting developments happening in Underberg! Pop into store and ask for more information.

Yes We Can!

Build it

The Sani Pass Upgrade Project – now and going forward

The first phase of the Sani Pass Road project consisted of upgrading - to "black top" standard - the 13km section from the junction on the Himeville/Loteni Road up to the edge of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park. This phase was completed in September 2012 - nearly 10 years ago.

Phase 2 – the phase currently under construction – extends the upgrade to the SA Border Post and consists of two separate contracts. The first contract, comprising major structures (bridges and large culverts), was completed in April 2019.

The second contract, consisting of the construction of the surfaced road and all other ancillary works, has almost been completed, with road marking and signage in place. Any outstanding work is expected to be completed around the beginning of April 2022.

The construction of this 11.4 km section has proved challenging in terms of extreme weather conditions, difficult terrain, and poor soils. However, the contractor, Leomat Construction Pty (Ltd), has done a commendable job under these circumstances.

Phase 3, the final 8.4 km from the SA Border Post to the Lesotho Border post, will prove even more challenging. Although the road and structural designs of this upper section have been completed, the KZN Department of Transport (the government implementing agent and Client) has yet to determine what method of tender will be adopted.

There is likely to be a delay before construction of this section commences as several processes need to take place before commencement of construction. Such processes include a revised Environmental Assessment, relatively lengthy tender period (due to the complexity of the project), tender adjudication and final award of tender.

Issues between the Departments of Home Affairs and Transport at the Border Post also need to be resolved such that the successful contractor has unimpeded access to the section between the two border posts. The availability of funds to carry out the work may also prove a stumbling block. Considering all the above-mentioned factors, there is currently no way of predicting when construction work on the final 8.4 km section will commence.

During construction of the current phase, strict environmental management was applied due to the project's location within a World

SANI ROUND TABLE NEWCOMMITTEE

Sani Round Table 152 held their AGM and induction dinner at The Olde Duck on the 5th March. It was great to get dressed up and have our partners and invited guests join us for this formal occasion, after we missed it due to restrictions last year. Christiaan Botha and Jason Lucey were inducted and we bid farewell to Ryan De Beer who has now joined the Sani 41er's. Bud Manthe was awarded Tabler of the Year, Well done Bud. The committee for 2022 is:

- Chairman – Kevin Fraser
- Vice-Chair – Grant Trollope
- Treasurer – Bud Manthe
- IRO/PRO – Brett Watson
- Secretary – Mike Beghin

Sani had another brilliant year, running 50+ projects and in the process distributing in excess of R400 000 to various beneficiary's. Hopefully we start to see some of our bigger fundraisers returning if current restrictions are relaxed; Splashy Fen, UFA Show, Drak Challenge etc.

Heritage Site. Twice monthly environmental audits of the construction activities were conducted by an independent environmental consultant. The same will apply to Phase 3, when that commences.

As the engineer responsible for supervision of the construction works, and on behalf of the Client, Supervision Consultant and Contractor, I would like to thank the tour operators and other affected parties for their patience during the last five years while the works were in progress. **By Hans Glietenberg** Contract's Engineer (for Royal HaskoningDHV Consulting Engineers) Sani Pass Upgrade Project

FLA STOCK SALE 1 FEBRUARY 2022	
QTY SUPPLIED	325
QTY SOLD	325
PERCENTAGE	100%
MAXIMUM PRICE	R22 500
MINIMUM PRICE	R6 550
AVERAGE PRICE	R12 524

UNDERBERG VETERINARY SURGERY

Tel: 033-7011092 (all hours)

Stockists of a carefully selected range of LIVESTOCK HEALTH PRODUCTS
Suited for local conditions
At excellent prices with professional advice

BULLIMORE MOTORS
VEHICLE SERVICING & REPAIRS
Call Simon Bullimore NOW

Tel: 033 701 2726
Cell: 082 264 5849
Credit Card Facilities Available

DON'S REPAIRS MAINTENANCE OF ALL MOTOR VEHICLES

Workshop
Mackenzie Street - Goxhill Road
Himeville

DON BLAKEY
033 7021110 or 7021835 or 0823421387

NOTICE OF AN APPLICATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION AND A WATER USE AUTHORISATION FOR THE PROPOSED UPGRADING OF MAIN ROAD P419, HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY, KWAZULU-NATAL (TERRATEST (PTY) LTD Ref: No. 41817)

Notice is hereby given in terms of the National Environmental Management Act (Act No. 107 of 1998): Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014, as amended), and Section 39 of the National Water Act, 1998 (Act No. 36 of 1998), of the intent to carry out an application for Environmental Authorisation and another application for a Water Use Authorisation for the above-mentioned development. The applications will be made to the Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA) and the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) respectively.

SCOPE OF WORKS: The proposed development entails the upgrading of two sections of Main Road P419, from KM 4.4 – KM 9.4 and KM 17.0 – KM 22.0 The upgrade will include the following:

- Existing 7m wide gravel road to be upgraded to an 8m wide blacktop road;
- Re-alignment of road where required to meet 60 km/h design speed and associated road reserve. The realignment will be limited to less than 0.5km; and
- The replacement and extension of culverts over watercourse crossings. **LOCATION:** The start and end co-ordinates of the road upgrade sections, as well as location of culverts are indicated below.

SECTION 1Road Start (KM 4.4) – 29°46'29.82"S; 29°52'20.51"E Culvert 1 – 29°48'05.33"S; 29°52'31.39"E Culvert 2 – 29°48'09.35"S; 29°52'09.96"E Road End (KM 9.4) – 29°48'44.45"S; 29°52'08.90"E

SECTION 2Road Start (KM 17.0) - 9°51'24.90"S; 29°51'00.62"E Road End (KM 22.0) - 29°51'48.35"S; 29°48'11.97"E

APPLICANT: KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport
REGISTERING AS AN INTERESTED & AFFECTED PARTY: Should you wish to register as an Interested and Affected Party (IAP) in this Application, please submit your name, contact information and interest in the matter, as well as any comments or queries you may have to Terratest (Pty) Ltd. Contact person: Ntsebo Mkhize. Email: mkhizen@terratest.co.za. Tel: 033 343 6789 / Fax: 033 343 6701. Address:

Terratest, PO Box 794, Hilton, 3245 / 6 Pin Oak Avenue, Hilton, 3245

