

LIFE & STYLE



WINTER 2024



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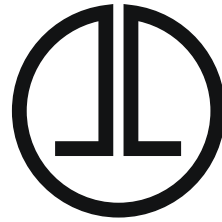
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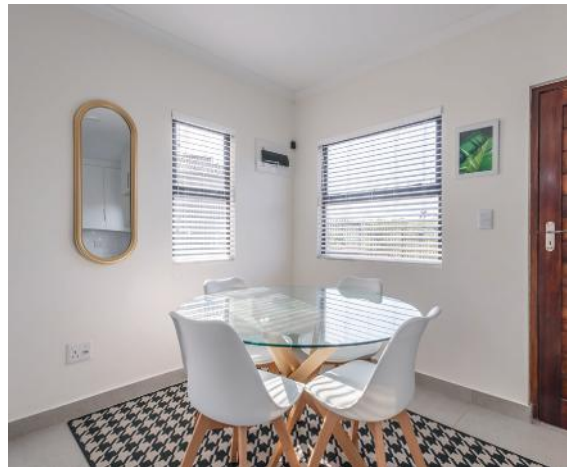
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/ LETTER FROM THE ED /

FEEL FLOWS

Friends, welcome to the Winter edition of Life & Style

I am writing this letter on a particularly warm Winter's day in Cape Town. The sun is beaming down through an uncommonly cloudless June sky and the wind is still and absent of its once formidable chill. I am also thinking about my hometown Ballito where days like today are abundant during its forgiving Winters that are so gentle that you barely even notice the changing of the season. In my mind, the town has always felt like it existed within a perpetual Summer and so that is why, for the Winter issue of this magazine, we are going to be talking a lot about water and surfing.

I must be honest, I do not know much about surfing. But then again I don't think that Brian Wilson ever knew much about it either as, despite what their earliest hit songs might have suggested, none of the Beach Boys (except for Dennis Wilson) even knew how to surf. The early material of the Beach Boys was initially written to simply capitalise on the zeitgeist of American popular culture's obsession with Californian surf culture in the '60s (the band's name was even assigned to them by their record label as a marketing ploy). So how is it that those early songs have endured longer than most of their songs even post Pet Sounds? Well, I would have to say that it has to do with the feeling of longing and sorrow that I think is at the heart of the music of the Beach Boys - the longing to encapsulate the feeling of an idealistically endless California summer within their music and the sorrow of knowing that such a feeling can only really exist within the duration of a song. Perhaps that feeling is shared amongst surfers when they enter and exit the barrel of a wave.

Of course, I do not mean to intentionally wring the potential for sorrow out of joyous things such as surfing or the Beach Boys for the sheer sake of pessimism. I only do so as the poet Ross Gay defines the feeling of joy as "something like what we feel when we help each other carry our sorrows."

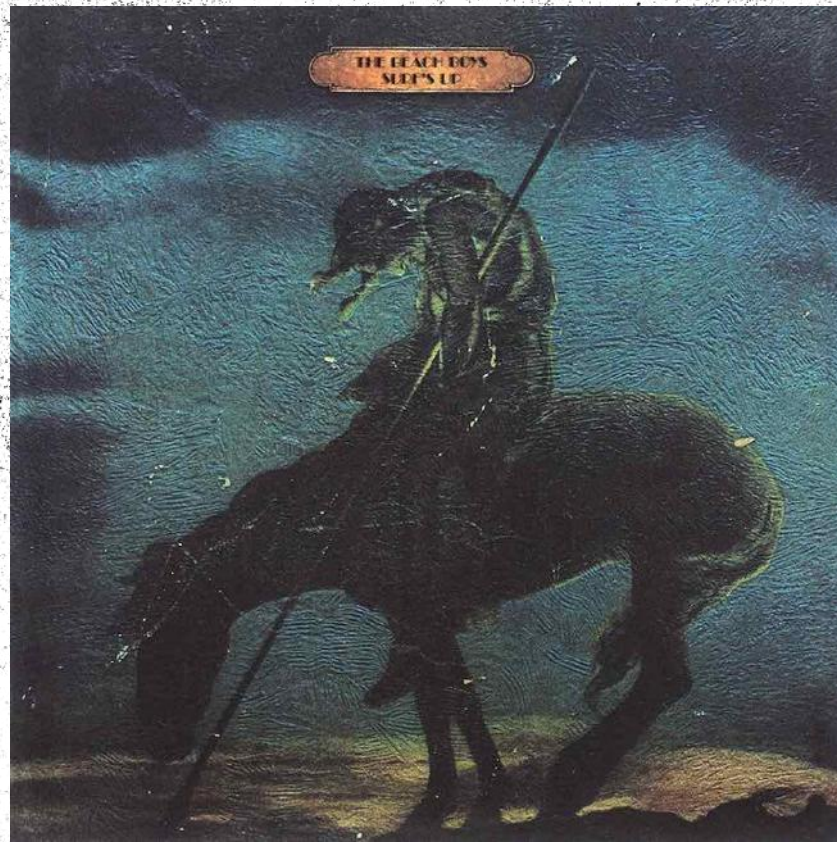


The cover of this issue of Life & Style takes its inspiration from the cover of the Beach Boys album, Surf's Up - an album wrought with the more melancholic tendencies of the band - as well the main feature of this issue, Selema Masekela - a global powerhouse within the world of surfing that exemplifies the joy of the sport.

Thank you for joining us for this issue of Life & Style and I hope that these stories are able to provide you with a bit of insight and joy - if only just for a moment.

Yours,
Dan Charles
Editor-In-Chief





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Shannon Devy - is currently completing her Masters in English Literature at the University of Cape Town. An avid musician, reader and writer, Shannon enjoys coffee more than most things in life, and can often be found hunkered down at her favourite local coffee shop, tapping away at a new piece for Life & Style Magazine in a caffeinated frenzy.



Dave Charles - award winning broadcaster, television producer, editor, musician, and writer. Dave is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, the SA representative of the international Anglo Zulu War Historical society. He holds a BA Dram Art (Hons) Wits degree and he was an inaugural recipient of the Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi Gold Medal for Service to the Zulu people. He currently owns the Life & Style media group.



Stephanie du Preez - Graphic Design & Marketing Freelancer - Based in northern England with a love for anything creative, progressive and of course, fun. South African design, interiors and art are my first love and I am blessed to be involved with the creativity that SA has in bucket loads!



Cameron Luke Peters - is a long-suffering, erstwhile PhD candidate in Film Studies at the University of Cape Town who sunlights as a historical tour guide of the Western Cape under the alias @capetownheritagetours. When he's not procrastinating on various pieces of writing, you can find him yearning on a beach somewhere, shooting film in dodgy places and picking up plastic bottles off the street whilst shaking his head and tutting under his breath.



Dan Charles - is a writer, musician and therapy enthusiast based in Cape Town, and spends a good deal of time profiling and analyzing some of the most esteemed and up-and-coming local and international artists in the alternative music scene. He has contributed to publications such as Bubblegum Club, The Way of Us and THE LAKE. Right now, he works as Editor in Chief and feature writer for Life & Style.



Mia McCarthy - is a young writer based in Cape Town. She is an avid collector of coffee shops, tidal pools, and interesting true stories.



ON AIR, ONLINE & IN PRINT

Our publications, website and social media platforms have shaped opinion in the KZN North Coast region for the past twenty years creating a media brand that is credible, authoritative, and universally acclaimed.

Having expanded the platform ten years ago to include Ballito's only commercial radio station - **Radio Life & Style 88.0FM** that also streams digitally via free apps on every platform, we now own the local media scene.

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LIP SERVICE

The story of the classic film that crowned our coastline

Words: Cameron Luke Peters

"Surfing is an ideal South African sport. It raises those involved in it above the mundane levels normally prescribed by our social environment." Cornel Barnett in 'Hitting the Lip: Surfing in South Africa' (1974)

The one surfing movie you can name off the top of your head is one that seemingly nobody's watched for fifty years: Bruce Brown's *The Endless Summer* (1966). Did you think the poster represented a vague historic vibe rather than a real film? You wouldn't be the first. I don't remember what drove me to uncover it on YouTube and watch it for the first time but it felt like a Proustian experience, even though I've never caught a wave in all my days. (Yes, I am from Durban. Yes, we exist.)

It was three months into Covid and I was trapped, worried and broke like everyone. Thankfully, I had just fallen in love with South Africa and its history as I never had before. After two years in England spent dying piecemeal of insomnia, I would have turned down a peerage to co-rent a pokey flat in the Southern Suburbs again. I got my wish.

As I idly watched the film (paired with Debonairs and loadshedding if I recall), the Sandals' dinky theme-tune began to wash my heart like a tide of honey. The gauze-y, shaky 16mm reels gave me a rush of nostalgia-by-proxy like a static shock. And then the surfers came to Cape Town. I should explain that the movie is a jokey low-budget, high-concept affair: in 1964 two rising dudes from California, Mike Hynson and Robert August, set out to circumnavigate and travelogue the world from Hawaii to Tahiti, supposedly avoiding the wobble of the seasons and seeking out the best undiscovered wave left on the planet. I hope you can share my joy at the fact that they conclude the film by saying they found it here: at Cape St Francis, just down from J-Bay.

The one transcendent moment of the film comes at the fifty-minute mark, when Mike is shown balancing his board on this low-barrelled, 'machine-like' tube for an ungodly period, occasionally lifting his arms to his head in true awe. The director even complains in his voiceover







that the rides the wave provides are so long that he couldn't get any of Mike's bouts on one strip of film. So instead he cross-fades and demonstrates that he had time to change reels and re-focus on his subject before he was anywhere near finished. This divine spot is the site William Finnegan describes in his memoir *Barbarian Days* (my favourite book) as "a fickle creature", nothing like as consistent year-round as the movie makes out, but still "the real thing: a long right point of the highest quality, with heaps of swell in the winter and frequent offshore winds."

As far as I can recognise, the surfing community functions a little like a global order of starry-eyed freemasons. Thus it was no surprise to read a year or two later that the film immediately served to fix Jeffrey's Bay, Noorhoek and the greater Republic on the pilgrimage circuit for self-professed friends of Kelly Slater and Shaun Tomson everywhere - despite the fact that Grand Apartheid was just kicking into high gear. The surge of the scene was felt most acutely on Muizenberg's boardwalk, where the hippie zeitgeist would get itself stuck in amber until the present moment. A resort town that had once dubbed itself 'the Brighton of the Cape' - drawing in hundreds of thousands of Vaalies, Cockneys and Jews every December - had just been brought to its knees by the Group Areas Act, new hotel standards and a stretch of satanic urban planning. However, as so often in iKapa, paradise was hiding in the midst of catastrophe. A plaque on the second level of the Lifestyle Surf Shop (Est. 1975) describes how:

"With the demise of the "Old Muizenberg Pavilion" and with the emergence of surfing, "THE CORNER" became the new hang out.

New characters, a new way of life and the new use of the ocean drew multiple clashes with "The Law" to establish this section of the beach as the now world renowned "SURFER'S CORNER"

That last part might sound facetious but between 1970 and 1972, according to Andy Davis, "surfing was banned in Muizenberg, when the ratepayers' association decided surfers were a 'bad element'. The ban was overturned thanks to local surfer John Wylie, who pulled together a protest down at the beach." Now here's a Footloose remake waiting to happen! (As well as proof that white Capetonian home-owners have never changed).

This victory must have come as a particular relief to Peter Wright, who had just opened the evergreen Corner Surf Shop (Est. 1970) after escaping his parents' garage in Kommetjie, and to the Muizenberg Corner Surf Club (founded in 1965) whose original honour-roll and old testament is printed on a purpose-built board in a corner of the Corner to this day:

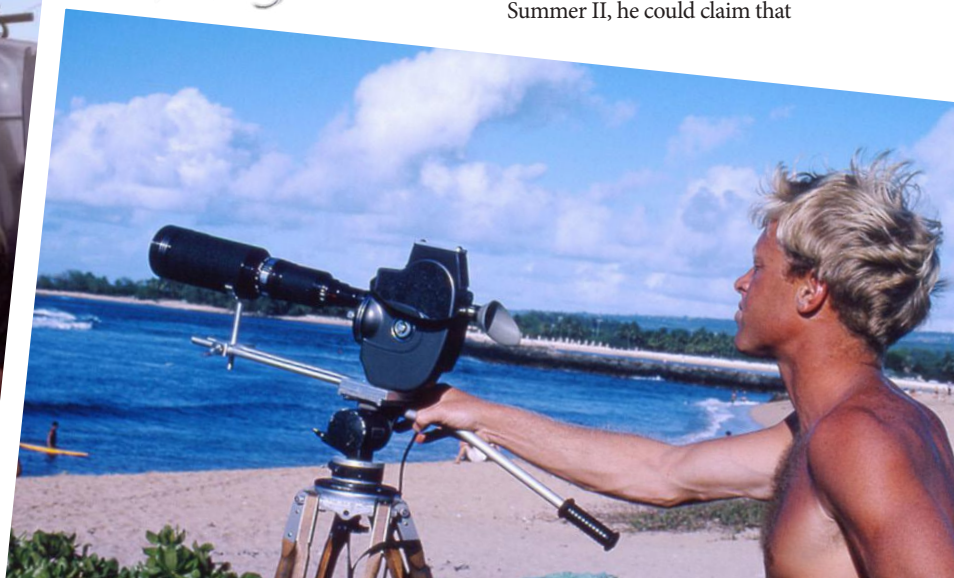
In truth though, *The Endless Summer* didn't kickstart South African surfing; it just announced our homegrown gold rush to the world. There are pictures





and plaques at Muizies proving that Agatha Christie and George Bernard Shaw borrowed boards from American GI's when they stopped by in the Twenties. A famous (but still very English) co-ed surf club colonised Durban's South Beach with home-made 'Crocker Ski' boards in the postwar joy of 1947, featuring early powerhouses like Vera Salzman, Jean Baxter, Anthony Heard and Margaret Smith (SA's first female surfing champion). But the man who indisputably transformed surfing from luxury to industry was John 'The Oom' Whitmore. He was a perlemoen diver from Bakoven who, from 1954, copied designs from American magazines, built his own surfboards from blocks of polystyrene foam, Cascamite glue and PVA, and started hand-delivering them around the country - in the process becoming the very first VW Kombi roadtripper on the Garden Route. (He also invented the first roof racks!).

By the time Bruce Brown came back to the Cape in 1994 to shoot a 30-year legacy sequel, *The Endless Summer II*, he could claim that





a fellowship of a few hundred enthusiasts had ballooned into a cosmos of shops, competitions and magazines partly under his film's influence. But this is not the whole truth. In a sense, it was Whitmore and South Africa that blew up *The Endless Summer*, not the other way round. In 1960 or so, a young American named Dick Metz had arrived in Cape Town after hitchhiking from Salisbury (Harare) 4 days before. By complete chance his last driver dropped him at Glen Beach, just because he needed to check in with his sick mother in Camps Bay. Wandering on the rocks, Metz spotted a surfer in the water searching for a lost board. He spotted it further on, closer to the beach, and brought it out to him. The two got to talking and the surfer, being South African, invited the foreigner to stay at his family cottage for the next few months. When Metz got home, he quickly hooked up his former host with a school friend, 'Grubby' Clark, who was busy pioneering the 'Clark foam blank' template for surfboards. Thus Whitmore became one of the first men in the global industry to import the California surf style straight from the source.

Metz, of course, was also budding friends with Bruce Brown. Thus *The Endless Summer* was originally conceived as a filmed visit to finally meet Whitmore in person, followed by a short quest to sample the waves at Cape St Francis he had raved so much about. This was apparently only changed up because a travel agent pointed out that "a round-the-world ticket would cost \$50 cheaper than just a Los Angeles to Cape Town, South Africa round-trip flight." I'd like to think the film would have still made its 4000% profit margin either way.

This revelation sadly puts the kibosh on the legendary scene where Mike and Robert, soundtracked by a parody version of the *Lawrence of Arabia* score, wander over the dunes to spot the aforementioned master wave for the first time. They knew exactly what they were looking for. And, on rewatch, the film's African scenes can be a very painful experience, dated even for their time. Brown didn't bring sound equipment on his travels and so his incessant voiceover is actually a laid-down imitation of the way

he usually presented his films. For six years before the trip, he had made a living by filming surfers and then touring California presenting his footage in school gyms and public auditoriums, providing improvised live commentary and synced-up scores on tape recorders. Today, even the cavemen amongst us would cringe at his projections of the thoughts and voices of the Ghanaian, Nigerian and Senegalese 'natives' he, Mike and Robert meet on their first leg.

His remarks on our country's peculiarities in 1964 remind me of what Gary Player once apparently said about our golfing culture: that we were doing incredibly well 'for a country of only three million people'. He can't get over how 'empty' all our beaches, highways and arterial roads are. He describes how Mike and Robert made sure to "make friends with the natives everywhere they went" over a shot of them chatting to white teenage girls in bikinis on the sand. He rhapsodises over how you'd almost confuse the Transkei for an American landscape if it weren't for all the majestic African animals. To his credit, in Durban, looking out at the waves, he does point out how "sharks and porpoises are yet to integrate in South Africa". But that's it for politics. It's a rare experience to see such an unserious film with such a lack of self-awareness.

Even in the sequel thirty years later, Brown repeatedly commits the unforgivable sin (in my tour-guide eyes) of calling Cape Point the divider between the cold Atlantic and the warm Indian Oceans. However, he does remember to deflate his own legacy, if only by implication. When the 1994 surfers needlessly repeat the iconic dune-trek scene at Cape St. Francis, they come over the last ridge to spy "thousands of luxury houses and condominiums as far as the eye can see." The master wave itself has been broken up by development: the new gardens have hemmed in the dunes, stopping more sand from blowing into the water and leveling out the break. It's still a magical ride but 'not the perfect wave it was'.

Like the history of surfing itself, *The Endless Summer* has a neocolonial edge that darkens the aura of hippie bliss. In South Africa especially, even if the sport and the film were sold as getaways from the ugliness of human behaviour, they still make the case that our coastline would be a true paradise if it weren't for all the people who got there first. *The Endless Summer* is revered today perhaps as a snapshot of surfing before it got too popular, like *AfrikaBurn* when it was just a word-of-mouth thing unruined by its own success. Of course, surfing in SA has somewhat transformed since like everything else. Our Springbok surfers were the first multi-racial SA team to compete in any world championship (in Brazil in 1994). And when the sequel's surfers meet our greatest surf export, Shaun Thomson, at J-Bay he brings along a Zulu surfer named Walter, though the film still has some fun with the fact that he's still never learned to swim. Who needs to in the Durban shallows? Watch Sara Blecher's *Otelo Burning* (2011) if you want to see a South African surf movie that'll rub you up the right way. Still, the love of the waves espoused by *The Endless Summer* and the *Surfricans* it features echoes the loves and fears most of us probably hold when we think of our country.

***As Lord Byron put it: "Roll on, thou deep and dark blue Ocean - roll!
Ten thousand fleets sweep over thee in vain; Man marks the earth
with ruin - his control Stops with the shore."***



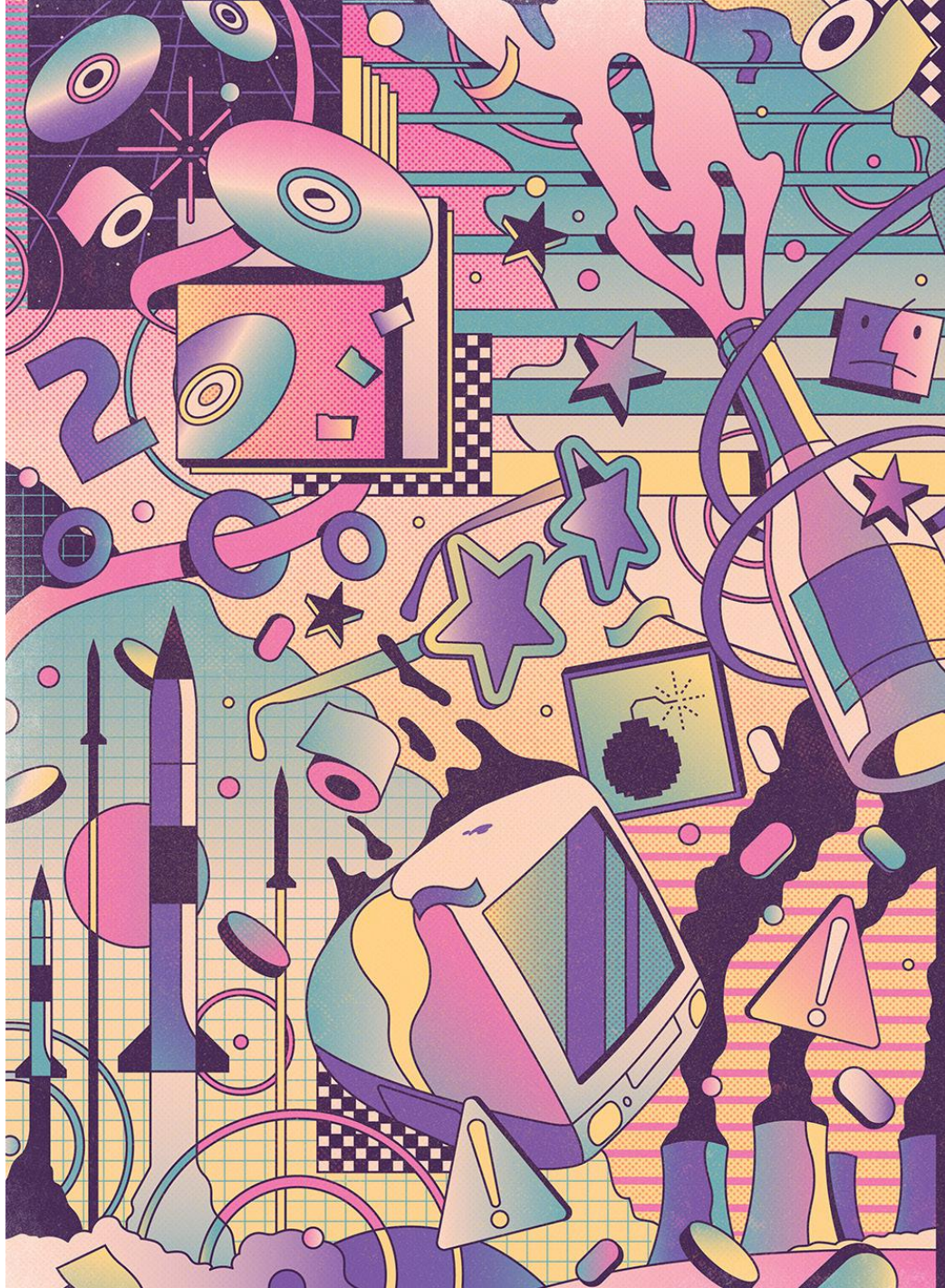
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MUTI is a creative studio founded in 2011, based in the city of Cape Town, South Africa. We're a dedicated team of illustrators and designers who are passionate about producing original and inspiring artwork.

Below is a collection of artworks submitted to Erratum, a French quarterly publication.

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THRILLS AND CHILLS

The Magic of (Very) Cold Water

Words: Shannon Devy

ONE HOT SUMMER in Cape Town, I started swimming in the sea. I've lived in Cape Town most of my life, but sea swimming had never really been my thing. I could count on one hand the number of times I'd been in the ocean. Beaches, in my opinion, had little to redeem them. Too sandy. Often smelly. Frequently afflicted by loud Bluetooth speakers pumping drivels into the salty air.

But it had been a difficult year. I was suffering from an extended bout of stress and burn-out, and I was feeling anxious and overwhelmed almost daily. I had resolved to get outside a little more, in the hopes that I might feel a little better. One evening, after a particularly bad day and in response to some serious coaxing from my partner, we took a drive down to Beta beach on the Atlantic Seaboard where, despite my better judgment and with many a foul-mouthed oath, I soon found myself waist-deep in the frigid, biting cold Atlantic water. I gathered up all my courage, took a deep breath, and ducked under the surface.

"Dear reader, it was cold. Aching, numbingly, ridiculously cold. So cold it gave me an ice cream headache."

But as I came up spluttering and shivering, I noticed something important: I felt better. I felt good. In fact, I felt amazing. Despite what can only be described as a near-death experience a few moments before, I was coursing with endorphins, and that feeling of well-being lasted the rest of the night and well into the next day. One cold dip was all it took. I was hooked, line and sinker.

Cold plunging is incredibly popular in Cape Town. Every morning at about 7am, the sound of chattering teeth rings out across the coastal neighbourhoods of Camps Bay, Clifton and Sea Point as a veritable legion of lunatics sit submerged to the neck in the icy ocean, trying to control their breathing for the prescribed 10 minutes. Cold water dipping is so popular here, a number of cold water swim clubs have popped up, with members meeting at 6.30am once a week to turn themselves into human popsicles together. Water temperatures above 9°C are met with widespread dismay. The colder the better, we always say!

The health benefits of Cold Water Immersion (CWI) are widely documented, both scientifically and anecdotally. A cold dip can reportedly reduce inflammation,

improve circulation and boost both cognitive function and mood. It's great for after-exercise recovery, helping reduce both soreness and recovery times. Research links CWI to reduced cortisol levels, and anecdotal evidence suggests that CWI may help regulate the nervous system, useful for stress regulation and the management of depression.

A 2023 study in the journal *Biology* scanned the brains of participants before and after they immersed themselves for only five minutes in a cold bath, finding notably increased connections between the regions of the brain controlling attention, emotion and self-regulation. Participants reported feeling more alert, inspired and attentive after their dips.

But while cold water immersion is currently hitting its modern cultural apex, the therapeutic use of cold water to treat ailments is a practice that's been around for centuries. The Ancient Romans used cold water therapies for socialisation and relaxation, with the "frigidarium" – the cold pool chamber – being a standard feature of the sprawling Roman Bath complexes. The Edwin Smith Papyrus, which dates back to 3500BC, makes mention of cold therapy. Even Hippocrates himself is recorded suggesting cold water therapy to treat the depletion of energy and strength.

But it's not just full-body immersion that does the trick – a cold shower can deliver many of the same effects, which is particularly useful if you don't have an Atlantic Ocean handy. So, is dipping yourself in freezing water lunacy? In many ways, yes. After all, actively seeking out extreme temperatures is in direct opposition to our most basic survival instincts.

But if you can overcome the initial discomfort and ignore the palpable fight-or-flight instinct that kicks in just before you take the plunge, the benefits are immediate, obvious and, quite frankly, addictive. There's nothing I've found that so quickly alters my state for the better. After every cold swim, I emerge feeling better than I did when I went in – physically, mentally and emotionally. It's become an invaluable tool for managing stress and anxiety. I never regret a cold swim, no matter how difficult the actual getting in part can be at times.

So, when next you get the opportunity to take a cold plunge, I urge you to dive right in. I guarantee you'll hate it. I guarantee you'll love it, too.







SALA



Finding Barefoot Beach Elegance at Sala Beach House

JUST NORTH OF Durban, a new five-star beachfront destination entices travellers to a North Coast sanctuary of panoramic views and an unrivalled sense of calm.

As one of the few five-star boutique hotels on KwaZulu-Natal's expansive coastline, Sala Beach House welcomes its guests to a haven of barefoot elegance and unparalleled serenity.

Situated in the coastal serenity of Shaka's Rock — nestled amidst lush gardens with picturesque views of Thompsons Bay — Sala Beach House blends natural materials and modern, beach-inspired tones to create an environment that feels just like home (only, better).

Sala offers 7 individually decorated Rooms and Suites and a 3-bedroom exclusive-use Villa, while The House has 4 guest rooms and 3 suites.

Each suite is a boutique experience all on its own, individually decorated in its own unique flair... With elegant rooms and five-star comforts, each stay boasts private balconies, lavish amenities and en-suite bathrooms, while all rooms and suites (except for the Courtyard Suite) offer wide views of the sparkling Indian Ocean coastline.

Sala's dining experience is truly unforgettable, allowing guests the choice of feasting in the elegant dining room or savouring the sublime coastal air on the ocean-facing terrace or in the courtyard. Seasonal menus, which feature mouthwatering seafood dishes all year round, are curated from fresh, local ingredients and complimented by breathtaking ocean views.









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With abundant leisure and outdoor activities on their doorstep, Sala Beach House guests enjoy easy access to a diverse range of adventure and cultural experiences.

Nearby activities include various golf courses, snorkelling opportunities, surfing beaches, whale and dolphin watching, more than 9km of world-class coastal trails, local shopping and dining-out destinations, boat tours, and fishing excursions.

And for guests who simply want an exclusive beach-side getaway, Sala offers private access to Thompsons Beach — a swimming beach and tidal pool protected by trained lifeguards — and the famous Hole in the Wall: a feat of nature and iconic tourist attraction.

"The sense of serenity and calm at Sala Beach House is almost tangible," says hotel owner, Craig Rutherford. "We've set out to create a space where guests can hit pause on all their worries, a place to heal and gather strength."

Visit salabeach.co.za to find out more.



FRAMELESS & FABULOUS

THE DESIRE TO create a seamless connection between indoor and outdoor spaces has driven a revolution in modern home architecture. At the forefront of this movement is a design element that has transcended simple windows to become a versatile material for everything from balustrades to walk-in showers and elegant partitions... We're talking about a fondness for frameless glass.

Incorporating frameless glass design elements into a home is not just about aesthetics; it's about creating a functional and beautiful living space that fosters a connection with nature... Here are 4 reasons to consider incorporating frameless glass in your space:

- **Increased Natural Light:** Large expanses of frameless glass bathe interiors in natural light, creating a brighter and more inviting atmosphere. This not only improves the overall feel of the space but also reduces dependence on artificial lighting, leading to potential energy savings.
- **Minimalist Appeal:** Frameless glass embodies the minimalist aesthetic prevalent in modern design. The clean lines and unobstructed views contribute to a sense of order and sophistication, making a space feel sleek and contemporary.
- **Enhanced Connection to Nature:** The ability of frameless glass to seamlessly connect indoor and outdoor spaces is a key advantage. Whether it's a "wall of glass" overlooking a garden or a glass partition separating a living area from a patio, frameless glass fosters a sense of connection with the surrounding environment, bringing the outdoors in.
- **Feeling of Spaciousness:** By eliminating the visual clutter of traditional frames, frameless glass creates the illusion of a larger space. This is particularly beneficial in smaller homes, where maximising the perceived square footage can significantly enhance the overall appeal of a space.



As technology continues to evolve, we can expect even more innovative applications for frameless glass, shaping the future of modern home design.

Of course, the aesthetic effectiveness (not to mention the safety) of frameless glass depends entirely on the quality of its manufacturing and installation... In that regard, one company has built a solid reputation as the go-to entity for bespoke glass products: North Shore Group (NSG) — regarded nationally as one of South Africa's leading manufacturers and installers of architectural glass and aluminium components.

Based in Ballito and working on high-end residential and commercial projects across the country, NSG's founder and CEO Deon Olivier explains: "With a wide range of knowledge, experience and expertise, we provide a professional level of workmanship from design to installation, whilst meeting all regulatory standards. This enables us to meet and exceed the required aesthetic and functional specifications of our clients."

Olivier states that NSG's vision as a Ballito-based company is to become the most efficient and preferred supplier of aluminium and glass products in KZN and beyond: "Our focus is to give clients exceptional value and service with a product that provides trouble-free service."

Visit www.nsgroup.co.za to find out more about NSG's world-class architectural glass & aluminium products and services.





BREEZY COASTAL MODERN

By Stephanie du Preez

WITH A WEALTH OF INTERIOR DESIGN PROJECTS ALONG THE STUNNING SOUTH AFRICAN COASTLINE, AND EVEN THOSE INLAND WITH A HANKERING FOR A BIT OF BEACHY STYLE, OLALA INTERIORS PERFECTLY CAPTURES THE ESSENCE OF LUXURY COASTAL LIVING.

SEASIDE LIVING GOALS? READ ON....

Imagine the sand between your toes, the smell of salt on the breeze and hearing the waves softly crashing on the shore – thoughts of the coast invoke intense feelings of serenity, relaxation and tranquility – now bring it into your home.

The modern coastal style uses soft, soothing colour palettes – think variations of blues, sea greens and warm greys.

Or how about featuring strikingly vivid tropical patterns and colours – there really are no presets, the options are wonderfully endless. Just make sure to start with a neutral colour base – sandy beige, milky off whites, creams and barely there greys – all great foundational colours to build your scheme on. These colours all ensure your interior is light, airy and spacious.

Minimalist clean lines, combined with an open plan layout, ensures a seamless merging of living spaces, keeping clear lines of sight towards the exterior. Soft, floaty and sheer window treatments invite the outside in and frame those spectacular views! Incorporate natural and recycled materials as much as you dare, the more the better. Cool to the touch stone, marble and granite, reclaimed wood, bamboo and rattan, glass and leather shape a modern, contemporary feel.

Don't forget the luxe – lush and plush fabrics, gorgeously textured wallcoverings and handwoven rugs or carpeting add a touch of glam to the coastal vibe. Good lighting, both functional and statement can make or break your space – carefully consider both and ram in as much natural lighting to your scheme as possible. Feature plants (real or fantastically fake) to ground the interior while fabulously oversized wall art will bring your scheme together.

Oh so stylish and oh so luxurious! The views definitely dictated the interior design of this coastal home. Classic silhouettes with a play on the linear draw the eye towards that stunning panorama just beyond all that glass.







Luxury - subtle and understated or bold and fabulously over the top - underpins the design style of the OLALA INTERIORS team. With over 30 years of good standing in the interior design world, OLALA INTERIORS celebrates crafting and curating interiors that radiate responsive, mindful design.

With meticulous attention to detail, an unrivaled luxury design expertise, and a unique approach to interiors, the award-winning team of designers and craftsmen create perfect habitats for discerning clients. Quality workmanship and luxurious finishes underscores each and every installation.

OLALA INTERIORS know the importance of authenticity and treat all projects in a unique way to develop their own personality, signature and style. Clients are assured of always receiving the very best service.

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An oasis of calm to retreat to at the end of the day. Blues in all their various tones and hues - layered to perfection in this master of all master suites. Pulling the palette from the sea view perfectly complemented the serenity of a coastal escape.



What a way to entertain! The OLALA Interiors team skillfully designed these outdoor spaces to fully embrace the coastal climate - bringing a balance of luxurious contemporary modern, relaxation, and just oozing sophistication - delivering the sunshine vibe on full blast.





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SKIN**renewal**

MATRIX

a gym in a Lux Safari Hotel

Johnson Health Tech Sa – Official Fitness Centre Partner
for Radisson Safari Hotel Hoedspruit

The Radisson Hotel Group has recently unveiled its first Safari hotel in the continent, nestled between the prestigious nature reserves, Kruger National Park, and Blyde River Canyon. This remarkable addition marks the 11th hotel for the group in South Africa, offering guests an experience amidst the breathtaking natural surroundings.



As part of its commitment to providing a comprehensive guest experience, the Radisson Safari Hotel Hoedspruit offers a state-of-the-art 24-hour fitness centre, catering to guests who prioritize an active lifestyle even during their travels. To ensure the fitness centre meets the highest standards, the hotel has partnered with Johnson Health Tech SA, a renowned name in the fitness equipment industry.

Johnson Health Tech SA has exclusively supplied the fitness centre with the cutting-edge Matrix Endurance cardio range, ensuring guests have access to the latest in modern cardio equipment. The selection also includes functional items like dumbbells, kettlebells, and a Vision functional trainer for comprehensive strength training. The Matrix range not only exemplifies innovation and performance but also seamlessly blends into the aesthetic of the Safari Hotel, enhancing its overall ambience.

For guests seeking an unparalleled fitness experience amid the alluring landscapes of the safari, the Radisson Safari Hotel Hoedspruit's 24-hour fitness centre, equipped with the finest Matrix cardio and strength training equipment supplied by Johnson Health Tech SA, stands as evidence of the commitment to excellence and guest satisfaction.



Johnson Health Tech SA's commitment to quality and service is evident in every aspect of its collaboration with the Radisson Safari Hotel Hoedspruit. The choice of the Matrix & Vision Fitness commercial range reflects not only the hotel's dedication to offering the best to its guests but also Johnson Health Tech SA's ability to deliver cutting-edge fitness solutions that align with the unique requirements of their clients.

The seamless collaboration between Johnson Health Tech SA and the Radisson Safari Hotel Hoedspruit has resulted in a fitness centre that not only meets but exceeds the expectations of guests, setting a new standard for fitness excellence in the world of luxury hospitality.



Contact Johnson Health Tech SA today to elevate your guests or residence fitness experience!



Visit Johnson Health Tech

/ SHOPPING /

HIGHLIGHTS

The Best of the L&S Edit

ONCE A FORTNIGHT, we release the L&S Edit, a newsletter bringing you all the best art, design, fashion, books, recipes, wine (and more) that our editorial team has seen over the previous two weeks. It's the best newsletter you haven't subscribed to yet! Here are six highlights from the L&S Edit archives. Subscribe at www.lifeandstyle.fm today to never miss another fabulous issue...

THE PORTER SHOPPER

If your kitchen cupboards are stuffed to the brim with black Woolies bags, this one's for you. Founded in 2021, South African brand Porter crafts the most exquisite carrier bags, locally made to the highest standards of quality. The Porter Shopper offers bright, playful patterns and practical sizes, making it perfect for everyday use, from the Woolies to the beach and beyond. Adding a small leather clip turns the carrier into a handbag – a smart, simple solution that adds versatility to every piece.



DR. ESTHER MAHLANGU

Currently running at the Iziko museum in Cape Town is "Then I Knew I Was Good at Painting", a stunning retrospective exhibition of the work of world-renowned contemporary artist Dr. Esther Mahlangu. Curated by Nontobeko Ntombela, the exhibition features a breath-taking collection of pieces spanning the living legend's 50-year career. From the famous BMW Art Car to a faithfully recreated miniature replica of Mahlangu's house – the artwork that first brought her to the attention of the global art world – each piece demonstrates a total mastery of space and line, bursting with the vibrant colours and geometric magic of traditional Ndebele art.

HAY

Founded in 2002 by Rolf and Mette Hay, Danish homeware brand Hay collaborates with the world's best designers to make top design accessible to all. Bright, bold colours and beautifully simple lines are their signature, elevating even the most basic household items to the level of art. From storage solutions to sofas, Hay injects fun, beauty and a little bit of whimsy into each design. We're obsessed!





BORNN ENAMELWARE

Using traditional manufacturing techniques that date back to the 15th Century, Bornn Enamelware is putting a modern spin on an age-old homeware classic. Enamel used to be ubiquitous in every home, until falling largely out of use. The past five years have seen a resurgence of enamel enthusiasm driven by the vintage movement, and companies like Bornn are elevating what used to be considered a fairly cheap kitchen staple to something else entirely. All pieces are handmade in Turkey, and they ship worldwide



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LIFE & STYLE
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CERIDWIN EYRE

Local artisans Ceridwin Eyre produce beautiful coloured ceramic pieces using special inlay, nerikomi and marbling techniques. The result is soft, swirling colour that marbles the ceramics in the most gorgeous way. Simple shapes enhance the effect, and due to the almost random nature of the ceramic techniques at play, no two pieces are the same.

BODUM X MOMA

One of the world's top producers of quality coffee-making paraphernalia, Bodum, has released the most delightful limited edition range of french presses, kettles, coffee machines and more, available exclusively at the MoMA Design Store. We love the bright colours and vintage-inspired aesthetic sensibility.



SEALAND

Talking responsible design with Jasper Eales, co-founder of Sealand Gear

Words: Mia McCarthy

FAR OUT IN the North Pacific Ocean, encircled by a subtropical gyre, is the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. The whimsy of the name connotes a gargantuan floating island but, realistically, it is more like a vortex of microplastics rendering the surrounding seas opaque and sunless.

Figuratively speaking, the existence of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch is an awe-inspiring reflection of our innate connectedness with each other and with nature. A plastic bottle discarded off the coast of California might ride the current south towards Mexico before being pulled into the North Equatorial Current, which traverses the vast Pacific.

With some imaginative license, the same bottle could wash up on South African shores — borne on Atlantic currents and deposited by a wave, perhaps, alongside a grinning and wetsuited surfer on the sugar-white sands of Llandudno beach. With even more imaginative license, that surfer could be Jasper Eales, co-founder and Chief Creative Officer of Sealand Gear.

“Surfing is my form of meditation, the ultimate switch-off, a moment of serenity in a busy world full of distractions,” the third-generation Llandudnian tells me. It’s impossible to tell the story of Sealand Gear without telling the story of Jasper’s relationship with his home and local surf spot, Llandudno, where he cultivated a profound respect for the ocean. As a result of this formative relationship, he has dedicated his personal and professional life to environmental stewardship.

Sealand Gear produces ranges of functional and beautiful bags, accessories, and apparel with responsible design in mind. Sealand is founded on the principles of a circular economy. They make gear that lasts a lifetime by offering a built-in repair program, using responsibly sourced recycled and natural fibres, and upcycling materials channelled from waste streams. In 2023 alone, they diverted 11763 kg of advertising banners from landfill.

In an era where the term “sustainable” has had its authority diluted by corporate greenwashing, Sealand’s commitment to responsible business underscores its commitment to fostering truly sustainable practices in four areas: products, people, partners, and the planet. 69% of Sealand’s managerial positions are held by historically disadvantaged South Africans or women, reflecting a culture of



accountability and responsibility for environments both within and beyond the Sealand Campus, where skilled employees hand-craft value from waste.

“Waste is a harsh word,” acknowledges Jasper. “People don’t associate it with value.” But Sealand is evolving that perception by offering conscientious consumers an aspirational lifestyle brand that transforms trash into treasure. By reclaiming plastic waste and turning it into hardwearing, highly functional, and high-quality gear, Sealand is demonstrating how purpose-led people and businesses can take effective responsibility for our impact on the environment.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is a potent symbol of the accrued power of small acts of waste. However, it is also a cypher for how profoundly connected we are by both cultural and oceanic currents. Sealand is at a nexus of these connections, crafting quality gear and apparel with responsibility for people and the planet in mind.

SEALAND

www.sealandgear.co.za





/ WE LOVE /

Discover HANNAH LAVERY

Where Comfort Meets Confidence.

If life can be chaotic, the Hannah Lavery brand offers clarity. It is a clothing line that aims for the midpoint between pyjamas and power suits – offering the wearer both casual ease and easy confidence.

Based in Cape Town, Hannah Lavery is a design house that celebrates the diversity of women's bodies, shapes and lives. Their collection provides high-quality basics along with key signature items, all with capsule capacity. Designed to be cross-seasonal and organically updated, their range is perfect for those who seek simplicity in shopping and dressing, yet also value style and individuality in their wardrobes.

The brand is known for its neutral tones, clean lines, and natural fabrics. The fabrics – primarily linen, tencel and bamboo – are kinder than most, both to your skin and the earth.

Their iterative design process and skillful styling guidance ensures that you will find clothes that most closely fit your shape — and enhance your assets. Each sample design is worn by multiple members of the design team with different shapes, ages and styles, and tweaked until it sits just right. This patient process is what underlies the apparent simplicity of their designs.

Their mission is to empower their wearers to look amazing with minimal effort, or to offer a platform that lets their creativity shine through. The brand offers a wardrobe that the wearer can trust to work as is, but which is also available for playful repurposing. Hannah Lavery believes in finding joy and humor in clothing choices, even while recognising that first impressions are serious business.

Discover the balance of comfort and confidence.
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/ WE LOVE /

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WHALE SEASON

A whale of a time on the North Coast

Words: Duncan Pritchard

IT'S THAT TIME of the year again, the time of year when you can expect to start seeing thirty plus tons of marine mammals gently cruising past our gorgeous coastline. It's whale season!

Each year thousands of Humpback Whales leave their wintering grounds in the Southern Oceans and head north, passing by the North Coast en route to Mozambique, to mate (gestation period one year) and calf (the next year). It's a special and often impressive sight and to help you get the best out of whale spotting season, here are some of our useful tips for whale spotting on the North Coast.

The best time for viewing whales is in the early morning, when there is less wind and the ocean is flatter, making them easier to spot. Sometimes this is just a big swirl in the water, known as a whale footprint or a spray of water coming from the whale's blowhole. But, as the day progresses and sometimes gets windy, this is the time of the day when the whales will be breaching out of the water and putting on fantastic displays. So, as a rule of thumb, early morning for the best viewing conditions, later in the day for the best displays of whale behavior. Look out for the "blow" of water from the whale's blowhole. This is the best sign of whale activity to be looking for as nine times out of ten, you will see the spray of water long before you see the whale itself, especially if the whale is swimming quite far offshore, which they often do when migrating north and as they start moving south in our spring, they tend to come a lot closer inshore.

A useful little "trick" to know, you can identify different whale species by the spray they produce, Humpbacked Whales produce a pear shaped spray that goes up to 3m into the air, compared to the Southern Right Whale (which are also seen along the north coast, but not as common) which produces a V shaped spray that only goes a meter or so into the air.

You can spot whales from virtually anywhere, we have seen them breaching whilst driving at 120km/h down the M4 and we have seen distant spray while sitting at a view point waiting for hours. There is a bit of luck involved, but as a good rule, during the months of July to October, if you get yourself into a nice elevated position and sit watching the ocean for a couple of hours, you're almost certain to see a whale doing something.

Try gauge the whale's behavior and next move, the direction it is swimming, how fast, is it going to come up for air soon again or is it diving deep and coming up again far away? To do this, look out for the whales tail "flukes". A whale will generally make a few shorter, shallow dives before making a deep dive. Deep dives last about 10-20 minutes, by which time; the whale could be well out of sight. A Humpback Whale making a deep dive will show you its tail flukes just before diving. If this happens, expect a long wait or look elsewhere as the whale has probably moved on.

SOME OTHER IMPORTANT AND INTERESTING WHALE WATCHING INFORMATION:

- In South Africa it is illegal to approach any whale closer than 300m. If you do see boats closer than this distance, please notify Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife.
- Whales moving south back towards the Southern Oceans (October/ November) tend to move a lot slower as the females have calves that need to feed. These calves, believe it or not can consume a whopping 250l of milk a day.
- Unlike many other whales that are filter feeders, living off of microorganisms, Humpbacked Whales feed on fish that they actively hunt. When in our North Coast waters, the Humpbacked Whales rarely feed, instead, they live off the body fat they have stored up from feeding in the rich Southern Oceans over the summer.

Keep your eyes open and perhaps you'll be lucky enough to spend some time appreciating these gracious, giant, intelligent creatures as they pass by our homes. You're seeing one of the most ancient migrations on one of the world's biggest mammals on earth.....and it's happening right on our doorstep, truly something remarkable if you think about it.

tidalto.com

Tidal Tao ~ Tidal, because our snorkelling and beach experience is always dictated by the tides.

Tao, a Chinese phrase for the "way or path" / a philosophy or code of behaviour

At Tidal Tao, we are passionate about the ocean on the North Coast of KwaZulu-Natal. This is possibly some of the best snorkelling experiences South Africa has to offer, year round warm water, incredible fish and marine life, all in shallow, safe, protected tidal pools and natural rocky reef areas.







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THE BOY'S DOIN' IT

Selema Masekela

Words: Dan Charles

The essence of the spirit of surfing is maybe best exemplified by the paddle-out - a ceremony that honours the life and legacy of someone from within a surfing community that has passed on. The ceremony is carried out through surfers paddling out (as the name would suggest) into the ocean together, often carrying flowers either on their boards or in their teeth, until reaching a spot where they are able gently float atop the water in the formation of a circle. There, the surfers will either say a few words of remembrance, splash around some water or simply join hands and allow themselves to be held by the ocean while they hold each other's grief. Isn't that something?

In June 2020, surfers from all across the North County region of San Diego, California gathered at Moonlight Beach for a paddle-out that had been organised in response to the murder of George Floyd committed by police officers in Minneapolis. The gathering was called to honour the Black lives that had been taken by acts of police brutality but it also served as a call for Black surfers to come together en masse and hold their presence within a space and a culture that was for a long time prohibited

The image of surfing that has been perpetuated throughout most of modern day popular culture - the blond haired and blue eyed image - is one that has been constructed upon the foundations of systemic racism within America. Redlining is a discriminatory practice where financial services, such as mortgages, insurance, and loans, are systematically denied to residents of certain areas based on their race or ethnicity. This practice originated in the 1930s when the federal government, through programs like the Federal Housing Administration, drew red lines around minority neighbourhoods and deemed them "hazardous" or "dangerous" for investment. As a result, residents of these redlined areas were unable to access credit and other financial services, perpetuating racial and economic inequalities. Redlining has had long-lasting impacts, leading to lower home ownership rates, wealth disparities, and other detrimental effects in minority communities.

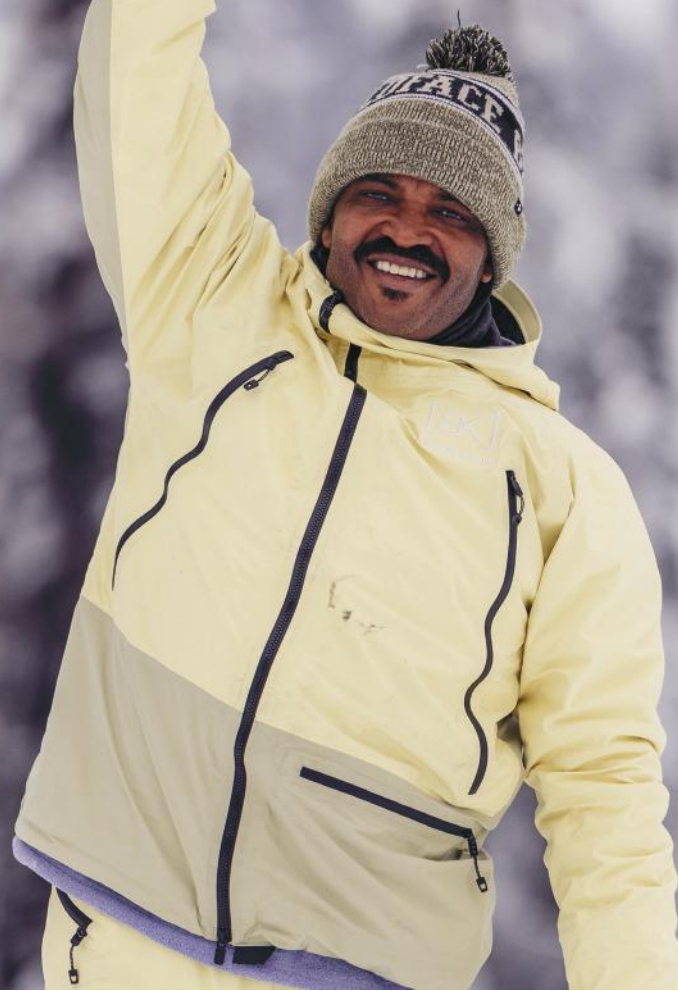
"I speak for all the surfers that happen to be Black," Masekela said. "We've known and experienced challenges in this community that would probably shock you. It's been very hard for people to perceive perhaps that people who don't look like them could love the ocean as much as they do... I look out on this crowd and I'm reminded of the North County that showed me shelter and love, and helped me

navigate any of the challenges I may have experienced by ignorant people that just didn't get it because that's not what surfing is about."

Selema Masekela is one of the most significant and influential voices in entertainment and action sports today. As a teenager, he cultivated a love and a knack for skateboarding, snowboarding and surfing which led him to being enveloped within the communities that surrounded those sports in California. From there, he began earning his ascension within the ranks of the action sports industry by working as a receptionist for the renowned TransWorld skateboarding magazine while making a name for himself as a commentator for various surf, skate and snow events. His enigmatic personality and flair for storytelling within those events soon eventually garnered the attention of ESPN who hired him to be the host of the X Games where he cemented himself as the face of action sports' most pivotal era - an era that saw Travis Pastrana defy death double backflip on a dirt bike and Tony Hawk's monumental landing of skateboarding's first ever 900 and other iconic moments that led to action sports breaking into the real of mainstream popular culture.

"I remember seeing camera shots of him and he was just wide-eyed," says Selema during an interview on The Nine Club podcast. "I'm commentating the contest with with Tony [Hawk] and Chris Miller, event's over, and I'm hanging out with my dad afterwards. He comes up to me and he's just so fucking excited. He's like: 'Man, why didn't you fucking tell me? [...]' Why didn't you tell me, man, that these guys are musicians? This is jazz, man. It's like skateboarding is jazz.' And he begins to explain to me: 'You know, one guy is standing on the vert ramp and then he drops in and he does a trick and you see all the other guys are watching him and they're in a rhythm with him. Then the next person, he jumps in and now he's doing these extensions like a freestyle - like a he's playing solos, but in the same song. It's jazz. Skateboarding is fucking jazz. They're all connected like the same way that we're connected on stage.' I hugged him so hard and then he just says to me: 'And you're the voice of this [...]' It's like, you're the conductor. It's amazing. I'm so proud of you."

Knowing that his father not only finally understood his profession but that he also respected and admired it was an incredibly significant moment for Selema, you can hear it when he tells that story.







However, the name that Selema made for himself throughout his career was not one that was necessarily of his choosing. During his high school years in the predominantly White area of Carlsbad, California, his classmates appointed him with the nickname “Sal” as most of them found the name “Selema” too foreign to learn how to pronounce. Despite his discomfort with this Whitewashed moniker, he reluctantly accepted it as an indication that he had been welcomed into his local action sports scene - a scene that was unfamiliar with accommodating Black people or other POCs within it.

By the time he was 19, Selema had committed his life to surfing. His devotion had deepened to the point of turning down the prospect of attending college and instead opting to take on a series of odd jobs that would allow him to support his endless shred habit. The year was 1991 and the Apartheid regime in South Africa had very recently come to an end. Nelson Mandela was freed from imprisonment and Hugh Masekela was finally able to return home after 30 years of living in exile. During this time when he was tethered to nothing but the waves of the Carlsbad coastline, Selema travelled to South Africa for the first time in his life to assist with managing his father’s homecoming tour and to connect with a vital part of his heritage. There, he got to meet his sister and his grandfather who he was named after; he had an audience with Nelson Mandela; and he got to look forward to paddling towards the backline of Durban’s North Beach made famous by the Gunston 500 competition that he had read about in surf magazines.

Although the country’s segregation laws had been recently revoked at the time, the mindset of the Apartheid regime still festered throughout the country. Selema could feel the tension that his presence provoked when entering spaces that were once forbidden for people that looked like him. When he was finally able to make his way to North Beach in Durban, he was met with astonished and uncomfortable stares of people struggling to fathom the sight of a Black man holding a surfboard. Once he had launched off of the pier that led towards his sanctum of salt water and caught his first African wave, Selema earned the praise and acceptance of the local surfers that he then found himself amongst. Over the next few days, Selema would continue to escape into the arms of the Indian Ocean that would carry him on its shoulders and welcome him like a long lost relative in a way that the land was still not yet allowed to. Of course, the consistent presence of a Black man on a formerly “Whites Only” beach soon caught the attention of the local police force who would attempt arrest Selema under the petty and antiquated law of not being allowed to jump off the Durban pier. Facing a hostile police officer readying to swing down the sjambok in his hand, Selema shielded himself with his surfboard while exclaiming that he was an American citizen. After providing the officer with the passport that he fortunately had in his bag, Selema was forced to leave the beach and he did so carrying the hurt felt in the pit of his father’s songs about the struggle.



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Astrofin understands the challenges employees face with managing their finances. With the Salary Shuttle programme, loan that prioritizes their financial well-being without adding any financial burden to your company. It's a win-win for both employers and employees, with zero risk and zero cost to your organization.

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By engaging with Astrofin and implementing the Salary Shuttle programme, your company shows a genuine commitment to your employees' financial welfare. Providing them with access to financial support when they need it most fosters loyalty and engagement within your workforce.



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Contact us at info@astrofin.co.za or visit our website astrofin.co.za to learn more about how Astrofin's Salary Shuttle programme can benefit your company and its employees. Let's build a financially secure and thriving workplace together.



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We pride ourselves on offering top-tier equipment that consistently meets and exceeds the highest industry standards. Our focus on quality ensures that you always have access to reliable and efficient tools for your projects.

INNOVATION & RELIABILITY:

With our bolt-on Material Handling Division, supported by a robust Forklift Dealer Agreement, we bring you the latest advancements in the industry. Our innovative solutions are designed to enhance your productivity and streamline your operations, ensuring you stay ahead of the curve.

COMPETITIVE PRICING:

We believe that quality solutions should be accessible without straining your budget. Our competitive pricing model guarantees that you receive the best value for your investment, allowing you to achieve your goals cost-effectively.

Impact Corp is dedicated to driving progress and delivering excellence.

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WHY CHOOSE US?

Choosing Impact Corp means partnering with a company that brings over two decades of industry expertise to your projects. Here's why we stand out:

OVER 20 YEARS OF EXPERTISE:

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TRUSTED PARTNERSHIPS:

We believe in redefining industry standards and fostering trusted partnerships. Our commitment to your success extends to residential, commercial, and industrial projects, where we act as a catalyst for your growth and achievements.

COMMITMENT TO QUALITY:

Quality is at the core of everything we do. We meticulously select equipment brands that guarantee top-notch performance and reliability. Our rigorous standards ensure that you receive only the best, giving you confidence in the tools and equipment you use.



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SUNDOWNERS ON EAT STREET

ARE ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA

On a still, balmy, winter's evening on the KZN North Coast, Eat Street at Ballito Lifestyle Centre is the perfect place to be for sundowners between 4pm and 6pm daily. The various top-notch restaurants in this al fresco dining avenue have collaborated to offer an array of incredible 'sundowner specials', available on weekday and weekend evenings. The vibrant atmosphere, coupled with live music and the gentle coastal breeze, creates an idyllic setting for relaxation and socializing.

Much like the beloved tapas bars in Spain or the aperitivo hour in Italy, Eat Street offers a delightful mix of food and drinks, designed to bring people together in a casual, yet festive environment. Locals and holidaymakers alike will be spoilt for choice with a number of appetizing offers, including:

- ★ *An Aperitivo Hour menu from Lupa, with beer, wine, and cocktails from R30 and antipasti from R35.*
- ★ *Half price on all cocktails, mocktails, and mezedakia at Attikos Mediterranean Grill.*
- ★ *On tap beer, G&T, and selected wines by the glass at R35, plus a selection of delicious sundowner snacks at R75 from 45 on Eat Street.*
- ★ *Half price on selected cocktails, house wines, and beers from Tiger's Milk, plus buy one pizza, get one free.*
- ★ *R250 for a bucket of 6 x Singha beers at Soi 55, or try an authentic Sabai Sabai Thai cocktail for only R100.*
- ★ *Half-price Roku Japanese G&Ts and half-price classic sushi from Yori Oki*
- ★ *R35 for 500ml Craft Beer at Robsons.*
- ★ *50% off all entradas (starters), cócteles (cocktails), and Eva Peron G&Ts at Peron Peron.*
- ★ *A complimentary glass of wine with any starter "Petiscos" (Tapas) at Beira Alta.*
- ★ *Up to 30% off Alchemy's weekly Test Kitchen food menu, expertly paired with unique by-the-glass wines.*

Whether you're looking for a casual evening out or a special gathering, Eat Street's sundowner scene has something for everyone. So, gather friends & family and let's meet at Eat Street for sundowners, between 4 and 6pm, any day of the week. Great food, local mood and superlative sundowner offers make it an experience not to be missed.



Explore the choice of restaurants on Eat Street at:

www.ballitolifestylecentre.co.za/eatstreet.

For the live music schedule, on offer every weekend

<https://www.ballitolifestylecentre.co.za/events/> or

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HUNT PROPERTIES

Navigating the Choppy Waters of South Africa's Property Market

IN SOUTH AFRICA, the real estate market is currently navigating turbulent times, with significant apathy among buyers outside of the Western Cape. This hesitance can be attributed to two main factors: record-high interest rates and the uncertainty surrounding recent general elections. These factors influence buyer sentiment and market dynamics, prompting a cautious approach from potential home buyers.

THE IMPACT OF HIGH INTEREST RATES

South Africa is experiencing some of the highest interest rates in recent history, currently at 11.75%. These elevated rates increase borrowing costs, affecting the affordability of home loans. For prospective homeowners, this translates into higher monthly repayments, less borrowing power, and an overall more expensive home-buying experience.

Rhys Dyer, CEO of Ooba Group, highlights that the prevailing 'higher for longer' interest rate environment has impacted Ooba Home Loan's application volumes. However, resilient South Africans will likely be rewarded by predicted rate cuts towards the end of 2024.

The Ooba Homeloans smartphone calculator App, free to install, provides buyers with an easy-to-use calculator where the interest rate can be changed to experiment with potential changes.

ADVICE FOR PROSPECTIVE BUYERS

Given the high interest rates, it's advisable for prospective homebuyers to get pre-qualified by a professional home loan expert. A pre-qualification should include a credit bureau check and an affordability assessment. Buyers should use tools like the Ooba bond indicator tool for a preliminary assessment and seek a consultant-based affordability assessment for accurate guidance.

ELECTION UNCERTAINTY AND ITS IMPACT

General elections often cause buyers and investors to adopt a 'wait and see' approach. However, historical data suggests that political milestones have had little lasting effect on property market fundamentals. For instance, during past election cycles and significant disruptions like the 2021 riots, the property market demonstrated remarkable resilience.

THE PATH FORWARD

Despite the current challenges, the property market's fundamentals remain strong. For investors and homebuyers, this could mean that current challenges might present opportunities, especially for those who engage with knowledgeable partners like HUNT Properties and Ooba to navigate these complexities. Keeping an informed perspective and seeking expert financial advice will be key to making wise investment decisions in South Africa's evolving property landscape.

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THE ULTIMATE TRANSFORMATION

2021 Porsche Carrera Making Automotive Dreams Come True

In the world of automotive excellence, there are transformations, and then there are masterpieces. Recently, our automotive store had the privilege of working on a 2021 Porsche 911 Carrera 4S, a vehicle that was already a marvel of engineering and design. But when it rolled out of our shop, it had ascended to a new level of automotive artistry. Here's the story of how we transformed this Porsche Carrera into a unique, breath-taking spectacle on wheels.

A New Skin: Full Colour Change Wrap

After a consultation with the enthusiastic owner, the first step in this extensive makeover was a full colour change wrap using Avery Dennison Supreme Wrapping Film. This high-quality wrap is renowned for its durability and vibrant finish, ensuring that the Carrera not only turned heads but did so with a flawless, eye-catching allure. The precision in applying this wrap was paramount; every contour, every curve was meticulously covered, ensuring a seamless finish with the added benefits of protection and versatility.

European Elegance: Full Body Zenith Carbon Kit

Next, we imported the full body Zenith Carbon kit from Europe. This exclusive kit brought an air of sophistication and aggression to the Porsche's design. Our team of experts installed this kit with surgical precision, aligning each carbon fibre piece to enhance the Carrera's aerodynamics while giving it an unmistakable edge. The result was a symphony of sleek lines and sharp angles, a visual and performance upgrade that set this Porsche apart from the rest.

Rolling Perfection: Rim Upgrade to Fully Forged

No transformation is complete without addressing the wheels. We turned to Hannaford Wheels for fully forged masterpieces. These rims are not just about looks; they are about performance. Lighter, stronger, and more resilient.

Handling the Road: Suspension Upgrade with H&R Lowering Springs

To enhance the Carrera's road-hugging capabilities, we installed lowering springs from H&R. This suspension upgrade was meticulously calibrated to provide the perfect balance between performance and comfort. Lowering the car's centre of gravity not only improved its stance but also significantly enhanced its handling dynamics. Every turn of the wheel, every push of the pedal, now delivered a more connected and exhilarating driving experience.

Ultimate Protection: Graphene and Ceramic Coatings

To protect our work and ensure the Porsche maintained its stunning looks, we graphene coated all the carbon parts and applied a ceramic coating to the entire wrap. Graphene, known for its superior strength and protective qualities, ensures that the carbon fibre retains its lustre and integrity. The ceramic coating provided an additional layer of protection against the elements, ensuring that the wrap maintained its vibrant finish for years to come. These coatings also made the vehicle easier to clean, repelling dirt and water with ease.

Sleek Accents: Trim Painted in High Gloss Black

Attention to detail is what separates a good transformation from a great one. Every trim piece on the Carrera was meticulously painted in high gloss black, providing a stunning contrast to the new wrap and carbon kit. This high gloss finish was applied with the utmost precision, ensuring that each piece added to the car's overall aesthetic appeal.

Unleashing the Beast: Performance Upgrade with Custom Software and Downpipes

Finally, we couldn't let this transformation end without a significant boost in performance. We turned to the experts at Stealth Performance for a custom software upgrade and downpipes, unleashing the true potential of the Carrera's engine. The result was a noticeable increase in horsepower and torque, providing a more thrilling and responsive driving experience. This upgrade was carefully tuned to ensure reliability and longevity, giving the owner peace of mind along with the thrill of increased performance.

Craftsmanship at Its Finest

The level of detail and quality of workmanship that went into this transformation is a testament to our commitment to excellence. Each step of the process was carried out with the highest level of care and precision, using only the best products and materials available. Our skilled team poured their expertise and passion into every aspect of this project, ensuring that the finished product was nothing short of extraordinary.

The 2021 Porsche Carrera that came into our store was already a remarkable vehicle, but the car that left was a true masterpiece, a blend of beauty, performance, and exclusivity. This transformation is a shining example of what can be achieved when passion, precision, and the finest materials come together in perfect harmony. For those seeking the ultimate in automotive customization, this Porsche Carrera stands as a benchmark of what is possible.



/ LAST WORD /

ERNEST PHUNGULA

Turning Water into Wine

Words: Dave Charles

Politics is big business in South Africa. In fact, it's probably the only industry that is growing in our stagnant economy. A record seventy political parties registered for the 2024 elections. It's ludicrous, but let's face it, it's a great business to be in. You don't have to do much and there are seemingly no repercussions for lack of performance and failed service delivery. Councillors earn basic salaries of just over R541 000 per annum plus a spread of generous perks to sweeten the deal and Members of Parliament are all instant millionaires with even better perks.

What a win! If you don't mind the company, politics is clearly a fast track to wealth and power and, dare I say it...naked greed but if you are expecting anyone from the ranks of the political elite to lead us to a brave new dawn, I am afraid that you are going to be disappointed.

Yet there are heroes among us and, unlike the empty promises from the faces on the posters, these are the ones who will deliver a brighter future here. There are many examples of how this is already happening and here is one that is very close to home.

Ballito lifeguard Ernest Phungula is a man of limited means from an impoverished township background, but he has incredible natural athletic ability and a burning desire to represent his country in the world championships. Ernest's drive and ambition was recognised by local resident, Glen Gore, a former full time professional triathlete who has been coaching professionally for years. Under Glen's guidance and mentorship Ernest has overcome enormous challenges to become a truly world class athlete and he was recently selected to represent South Africa in the world Duathlon championships in Australia.

Now you would think that Athletics South Africa would leap at this opportunity for them to shine, but, embroiled as they are in scandal and malfeasance (their former CEO recently helped himself to a large tranche of donor funds), they clearly have more pressing issues at hand.

To get to Australia and to compete in the World Championships, Ernest needed to raise R104 000, a considerable sum and way out of reach of a lifeguard from

Shakaskraal. But when retired local resident and long-distance swimmer, Mike Oberholzer heard the story, he was inspired by it. He first helped Ernest to open a special savings account and then went on a mission to organise a big ocean swim to start the fundraising drive.

It was a massive undertaking with no guarantee of success and there was no shortage of naysayers predicting the futility of the exercise. But Mike stuck at it, organising water safety crews, communicating with open water swimming groups, arranging radio coverage and updating the community on a daily basis. Slowly the money started to come in and then, with just a couple of weeks before the big swim deadline, the momentum began to build.

A Back a Buddy campaign was launched to help raise additional money towards the target and Jody Feuilherade from the local community organised a fund-raising walk to further contribute to the initiative. Seeing how the movement to get Ernest to Australia was gaining impetus, the local municipality gave a substantial grant too. On Saturday the 18th of May, 100 swimmers and their support crews took to the big blue in support of Ernest's dream. Simultaneously a large group of walkers set off on a predetermined route to do the same. Hundreds of onlookers gathered to witness this local miracle coming to fruition and the greater Ballito region came together as one to make Ernest's dream come true.

Watching his tears of joy on the beach that day and the love and support he received from this community and the heroes who came together to make an impossible dream come true, was deeply moving. In fact, it has restored my faith in humanity.

In just four weeks the swimmers, walkers, BackaBuddy donors and the municipal grant combined to create a total of R174 000. This is enough to allow Ernest Phungula from Shakaskraal to compete in the World Duathlon championships in Australia as well as the World Triathlon championship in Spain.

Miracles still happen when good people come together to make the world a better place. There are good people here and we are blessed.



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