

NEWS YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW

R46⁸⁰
(inc VAT)

noseweek

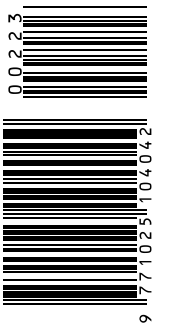
223 MAY 2018

Nedbank fraud exposed

Widow, 83, faces
off lying bank in
Jersey court



Inside SARS rogue unit
Vodacom users on warpath
Whiz-kid conman from Mossel Bay



OTR. Jack
NW 1805



GRAHAM BECK

MÉTHODE CAP CLASSIQUE



www.grahambeck.com



noseweek

ISSUE 223 • MAY 2018



Accidental MP
Page 23

4 Letters

6 Editorial

31 Smalls

COLUMNS

27 Books

28 Not Rocket Science

29 Down and Out

30 Last Word

FEATURES

7 Mpisanes v taxman

Game goes into extra time as couple attempt to stave off confiscation of their assets

8 How ANC funded Mandela Bay poll

Truth expected to be revealed in report

9 Senior Jozi silks parted from their money

Court official finds that advocates charged eight times too much

10 Inside SARS rogue unit

Confidential papers suggest that Ivan Pillay misled finance minister and unit was illegal from the start

13 How Nedbank lied and lied and lied

Bank's deceptions exposed in Jersey court by 83-year-old, wheelchair-bound, widow

16 Revenue service's Naughty List

Secret document reveals the names of biggest tax defaulters and how much they owed

18 Bureaucrats throw the book

Issues of race and exclusion threaten Durban's status as Africa's only Unesco City of Literature

20 Whiz-kid conman from Mossel Bay

Slick suits and the promise of instant riches helped separate gullible investors from their cash

Your favourite magazine is now available on your **iPad** and **PC**



AVAILABLE ON YOUR TABLET

Download your digital edition today

both single issues and subscriptions available

PLUS never miss a copy – with back issues available to download and store

DOWNLOAD YOUR DIGITAL EDITION AT
www.noseweek.co.za
OR ☎ 021 686 0570

Letters

Iqbal Surve's Unicorn

NOW THAT THE GUPTAS' "PUBLISHING" empire and their White Monopoly Capital campaign has fallen, Bell Pottinger has collapsed, the SABC has been discredited and the ANC's black ops have been exposed, the ANC's last bastion of fake news has to stamp its withering "authority" on us.

Mark M Wade
Johannesburg

■ SEEMS THE IRISHMAN B(R)OUGHT OUR Press to its knees, gasping, and this fine dude pulled all the plugs. Fond memories of the role these previously esteemed publications played in "the struggle".

Noelene Palmer
Cape Town

■ WHEN IS IQBAL GOING TO RETURN – with commensurate interest – the millions allocated to him from my Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPPF)? Another deplorable scammer!

Jennifer Ann Christie
Johannesburg

Vodacom rip-off

I RECEIVED MY LATEST VODACOM ACCOUNT yesterday and noticed that I had been charged R118.53 for "1Up Games" on VodafoneLive – something I have never used, nor subscribed to.

I lodged a complaint threatening legal action (do you know how difficult it is to contact Vodacom?) and managed to make some headway.

After telling them that if my problem was not resolved by my receiving a refund for this theft, legal action would be taken, I received first a security shakedown "to verify that you have permission to request information on this account" – ironic, since they had clearly not taken the same precaution before paying out my money to their fellow scammer – they confirmed that all VLive subscriptions on my cell number had been cancelled and my request for a refund had "been logged".

John Binns
Cape Town

■ DISGUSTING NETWORK. TIME FOR ME to move. I had to cancel VodafoneLive, ie unsubscribe, by calling them for the 50th time. It cost me R317 last month.

They should be forced to delete VodaLive unless you willingly sign in with a password to accept their content.

The minute you open a news article via Twitter or the Internet, VodaLive kicks in unbeknowningly until you receive an SMS minutes later – ie too late to stop them.

Lynne Earley
Durbanville

■ I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CANCEL FOR THE last three months, the runaround they've given me is unbelievable.

Gillian Colette Davis
Benoni

■ AFTER READING THE ARTICLE BY MARK Young in *nose222* (very many thanks to you Mark), I decided to use the STOP ALL number of 30333. Within seconds, I received the following messages:

- Your Vodacom request to delete all WASP services has been logged;
- You have been unsubscribed from JAMMITUP with effect 2018-04-02;
- You have been unsubscribed from NGAMES with effect 2018-04-02;
- You have been unsubscribed from GAMEZZ Content service from 2018-04-02.

All the above came from different numbers.

I have never in my life played a game on my computer, laptop, tablet or cell phone. I have never, ever been sent an SMS confirming my supposed "subscriptions" to these games.

This hasn't been picked up before because my partner's accountant pays the phone accounts so I haven't seen my particular account.

Can you imagine what is going through on eight cell phones that he pays every month? It is criminal.

I intend taking this further with Vodacom, but I fear it will be in vain. They know you'll give up eventually when they just don't bother to answer. Is any large business in

South Africa answerable to anyone at all? Not a chance. Thank you once again for your brilliant magazine.

Sharon Cox
Johannesburg

■ MOVING ALL THE COMPANY'S CONTRACTS next month away from Vodacom. Greed can be short-sighted.

Sean Patrick Godfrey
Johannesburg

■ I HAD SAME PROBLEM SOME TIME AGO. Vodacom's attitude stank: basically said I must sort out with the provider even though Vodacom debited me. I did eventually get a refund, but only after three weeks of fighting. I will never purchase Vodacom ever again.

Clifford Smith
Alberton

■ WOULD *NOSEWEEK* CONSIDER providing the email address for Mr Macozoma or Vodacom's ethics committee? I'm sure many readers will be able to disabuse Mr Macozoma of his notion that there is no problem. Clearly management doesn't believe that bad news should filter upwards.

Donn Edwards
Aldara Park

Excellent idea! All Vodacom customers who have discovered unauthorised charges on their bills for unwanted "content", should tell Mr Saki Macozoma, chairman of Vodacom's ethics committee all about it. His email address: saki@safika.co.za – Ed.

■ I THINK PEOPLE SHOULD TAKE VODACOM to the Small Claims Court if bills are in their name. The nominated directors will get tired of having to fly down to Durban and Cape Town after hours to appear in the Small Claims Court. Their seeming lack of knowledge of this practice rings hollow as they must have some invoices they need to pay to these rogue operators.

Aggrieved
Hillcrest

■ TIME FOR A CLASS ACTION.

Fred
Cape Town

Reader William “Dougie” Douglas has obtained legal advice, has laid criminal charges against all concerned, including Vodacom management, and is organising a class action. He can be contacted by email at DougieD@bidvestcarrental.co.za – Ed.

■ VODACOM ARE WILLING PARTICIPANTS in the scam and even have their own “Game App” that appeared on my bill for two months at around R156-a-month before I picked it up. I have not requested to be subscribed! The Vodacom outlet I visited said it is common, and wished me good luck at getting it off!

David Scott
Johannesburg

■ I AM SOMEWHAT MYSTIFIED AS TO why it is only Vodacom that is being lambasted regarding the WASPS and their fraudulent charges. I have the exact same problem with MTN.

Clive Varejes
Gallo Manor

Noseweek has frequently referred to the fact that MTN, too, happily shares in the profits of crime, but we are focusing, for now, on Vodacom as the major miscreant, in the hope of mobilising the police and prosecuting authorities who appear to be too cowardly to take on big business and their big-time lawyers. – Ed.

Trump and the Russians

I AM SERIOUSLY JEALOUS OF THE AUTHOR, [Rian Malan]. He has formulated and neatly laid out all my own inchoate thoughts on the subject of this Ugly American of our times.

I have to concede, however grudgingly, that Donald Dump is indeed going to make America great (again).

In an ugly kind of way, he epitomises the American Dream: aside from the inherited money, he comes from nowhere, has no class, is a bully, a creep, a sexual predator, and a liar. Even his names lay out his soul: he is Ronald MacDonald, the cheap, vulgar clown of MacDonalds. His surname is Trump, for Gd’s sake – not Kennedy, or Clinton, or

some elegant, WASPY Handle with a Heritage. But I suspect he will be what Isaac Asimov referred to as a Mule in his *Foundation and Empire* trilogy. History is about to take a sho’t left turn.

Harry Friedland
Sea Point

Start the discussion

WHAT ASPECT OF OUR LIVES IS IMPROVED by an increased population? Housing, medical care and education are all stretched by population growth. Unemployment, in an era where jobless growth is the norm, will rise with the population. Overcrowding, the cousin of overpopulation, causes civil unrest. I appeal to *Noseweek* to start the discussion, so a socially acceptable solution can be found.

Ian Hurst
Groot Drakenstein

Not so Resilient

I SOLD MY SHARES IN BOTH FORTRESS A and B after last month’s article. I have also seen my Steinhoff shares drop to almost zero, Tiger Brand dropping substantially – thanks to their “enterprising” disaster – and Famous Brands shedding 30%-plus, thanks to their rubbish incursion into the UK burger market. If one of their subsidiaries’ staff had done something that cost them even a few rands, they would have faced sanction. What do the directors face for fucking up? Maybe a smaller bonus?

Vic
Muizenberg

You get the point. – Ed.

Burials, in black & white

IN NOSE222 YOUR REPORT: “ZUMA ALSO supported Nafupa’s claim, saying: ‘Indian must bury an Indian, white must bury a white and African must bury an African.’” Isn’t that racist – especially seeing that it specifically excludes both Indians (I guess he’s a bit sensitive if the Guptas are no longer taking his calls) and whites? Can we add another two years to the other jail sentences he deserves?

David Arundel
Coventry

Cyril’s recipe

SILENT CYRIL CHANGED FROM THE DISH of the Day to a Russian and Chips in a greaseproof bag in a day, at least in the eyes of many white business and property owner friends, most of whom were fervent Cyril supporters.

Cyril is now reputed to have said the following about white people: “I know how to deal with them, I will cook them slowly like a frog. Start in cold water. They will fall asleep as it warms, and when it boils they’ll not be able to leap out of the pot!”

Hopefully his erstwhile friends will heed this warning and be wary of Cyril and his kitchen!

Chris
Bloemfontein

Quite something, if true. Quite something else if fake news. – Ed.

■ IS BBBEE A GET-RICH SCHEME FOR the “partners” between private industry and politically connected tycoons: “What WikiLeaks reveals about Cyril” (*nose222*)?

Conversely, can being a bank providing huge loans for upgrades to homes put you under curatorship, like VBS Bank proved with its loan to Jacob Zuma of Radical Economic Transformation fame?

And SA still expects foreign investment?

Pam Herr
Sun Valley

Whodunnit? Noseweek!

NOSEWEEK MESSED UP MY LIFE. IT ALL started 12 years ago when I decided to buy my first issue. I was hooked and the world was never the same.

People call me a conspiracy theorist but always come back to me years later to ask how the hell did you know this or that was going to happen?

This is the real Early Edition when it comes to real stories.

Thabo Maseko
Soweto

Just because you see a conspiracy does not mean there isn’t one. But you knew that already. – Ed.

Editor

Martin Welz
editor@noseweek.co.za

Assistant Editor

Jonathan Erasmus

Special Correspondent

Jack Lundin

Designer

Tony Pinchuck

Sub-editor

Fiona Harrison

Contributors

Sibusiso Biyela, Michiel Heyns, Sue Segar,
Harold Strachan, Anne Susskind

Cartoonists

Stacey Stent, Dr Jack

Accounts

Nicci van Doesburgh
accounts@noseweek.co.za

Subscriptions

Maud August
subs@noseweek.co.za

Advertising

021 686 0570
ads@noseweek.co.za

All material in this issue is copyright, and belongs to Chaucer Publications (Pty) Ltd, unless otherwise indicated. No part of the material may be quoted, photocopied, reproduced or be stored by any electronic system without prior written permission. **Disclaimer:** While every reasonable effort is taken to ensure the accuracy and soundness of the contents of this publication, neither the authors nor the publisher will bear any responsibility for the consequences of any actions based on information contained. Printed and Published by Chaucer Publications (Pty) Ltd.



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Print

SA only	R420
Neighbouring states (airmail)	R620
Europe, Americas and Australasia	R760

Internet edition

1 year	R305
--------	------

Combined

Print+Internet (SA only)	R520
--------------------------	------

To subscribe

By phone (021) 686 0570

Online (pay by credit card):
www.noseweek.co.za

Email subs@noseweek.co.za

(Note: cheques no longer accepted)

Further information

Call (021) 686 0570; fax 021 686 0573 or
email info@noseweek.co.za

Editorial

Fake and unfortunate news

NOSEWEEK TAKES NO JOY IN WATCHING businesses implode. Invariably there are good people affected while the scallywag froth partake in a pillage, scuttle and burn – all the while telling their faithful crew that the ship is not only afloat but on course to find the New World.

This explains **Dr Iqbal Survé** – the thin-skinned owner of the Sekunjalo's Independent Media – who, until early in April, was on course to pull a massive heist of workers' money to save his hide from looming embarrassment.

When we first reported on Survé's latest venture called **Sagarmatha Technologies** (nose219&220) we were certain something was amiss. Survé's newspapers were giving this non-entity an inordinate amount of press coverage.

Survé used *Business Report* – one of the few publications in his fold with any remaining credibility – to lead the charge under the captive guidance of its editor **Adri Senekal de Wet**, who has done an exceptional job of destroying the remaining credibility of this once stellar business publication.

The actual depths of the scam all became apparent on 28 March 2018 when Sagarmatha finally played its hand: it released a pre-listing statement in preparation for a private placement announcement on the JSE. Besides claiming it anticipated a listed valuation of close-on R50 billion and despite having no assets or exceptional business offering, the pre-listing statement made a host of hugely optimistic assertions, all the while hiding behind the claim that they were really the next Facebook or Amazon, so all the holes in its story should be overlooked.

Suddenly, the puff pieces, the glossy profiles and adverts made sense. Until this point the only information available was that published by *Business Report* – which offered nothing of substance except repeating phrases like "African Unicorn", "super-galactic highway" or "Africa's first multi-sided platform company", praising Survé or gloating about its "international advisory board".

Within no time amaBhungane's Sam Sole and *Business Day* were able to expose the farcical reality: Sagarmatha was a ruse to raise lots of cash, probably government pensions, to help plug Independent Media's massive debt hole and to help bail out the media company which is technically bankrupt.

Probably due to these reports, the **JSE**, who've helped looters such as the Guptas and

Brett Kebble in the past, finally pulled the plug on Sagarmatha's listing on Friday 13 April.

Real journalism saved the day. *Business Report* clearly demonstrated what happens when the media is captured by nefarious, narcissistic interests. There are fine journalists at *Business Report* but when your editor is the cheerleader-in-chief for a propaganda war to promote the bosses' businesses interests, you cannot expect any critical thinking in that newsroom.

It is for this reason, once again – as if there haven't been enough examples – that independent, reputable news platforms need all the support they can get. Read what was reported in *Business Day*, *Noseweek's* piece and Sole's analysis on Sagarmatha (which can all be found online) and then compare it with the captured "truth" of *Business Report*. You be the judge and decide which reality you would rather exist in – Survé's fantasy unicorn world or the naked truth.

Which makes the current unhappiness at *The Sunday Times* all the more disturbing.

The latest staff rebellion gripping South Africa's largest Sunday newspaper is being led by the black caucus who claim they are being ignored, underpaid, overworked and overlooked in favour of newly recruited celebrity journalists. Leading the protest is "old" *Times* celebrity writer, **Mzilikazi wa Afrika**. EFF leader Julius Malema has thrown his weight behind them, predictably tweeting: "Racism is big in media houses like *The Sunday Times*... our black brothers and sisters are treated like trash by their white bosses".

Since **Andrew Bonamour** took over the Times Media Group (now Tiso Blackstar) in 2012, the company has conducted ruthless cost-cutting and retrenchment campaigns. 2018 increases have been "pitiful", while staff petitions have been ignored. Tensions recently rose significantly when rumour circulated that the group's two new celebrity recruits, **Ranjeni Munusamy** and **Karyn Maughan** are earning "in excess of R100,000". This is South Africa where a dash of racism is added to every dish.

The dilemma: To address the decline in readership and advertising revenue – intimations of mortality – managers scrimp and scrape, inter alia on workers' salaries and benefits, to be able to afford new celebrity writers who, hopefully, bring their own established readership with them.

That's the theory, anyway.

The Editor

Mpisanes v taxman – game goes into extra time

IN A BID TO STAVE OFF CONFISCATION OF their assets by SARS in lieu of a missing R203 million, notorious Durban tenderpreneurs Sbu and Shauwn Mpisane are trying to have their case re-opened before the tax court.

The Mpisanes, who are reputed to have been major financial backers of Jacob Zuma, agreed to pay the sum in a 2014 court settlement. But when nothing was forthcoming, the couple's main company for securing lucrative state tenders, Zikhulise Cleaning and Maintenance CC – which notched up assets of more than R1 billion over the years – was placed in provisional liquidation in 2017 by the High Court in Pretoria at the request of SARS.

The Mpisanes' assets were initially attached by the state on the instruction of SARS in November 2016 (see *nose211*).

The back-tax payment was largely the result of a settlement reached with SARS

in the course of a Special Tax Court hearing in 2014 in Umhlanga, Durban.

At the time the deal was widely seen as a quid pro quo for the tax authorities and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) which had effectively sabotaged various criminal cases against the Mpisanes and Zikhulise.

The couple were facing 183 separate charges of fraud, corruption, forgery and defeating the ends of justice across three separate court trials in Durban, when the then-boss of the NPA, Mxolisi Nxasana, summarily bombed the cases, stating that the prosecutor was guilty of serious misconduct, thus fatally compromising the prosecution.

He also said that the Mpisanes could not be tried for the same offences again. Two years later, the misconduct allegations against the prosecutor were found to have been false (see *nose208*). [*Echoes of another high-profile case currently*

before the Durban courts? – Ed.]

The Mpisanes' renewed court application – as usual, a secretive affair – was heard in March in Durban. According to a document seen by *Noseweek* the Mpisanes were appealing the 2014 settlement decision.


SARS, in turn, has subpoenaed witnesses it used in the previous court hearing to prove that the Mpisanes deliberately tried to fool the taxman.

Noseweek has since been informed that all matters pertaining to the Mpisanes have been moved out of KZN and are now being handled by the "more ruthless" – and less politically compromised – Pretoria-based Specialised Commercial Crimes Unit.

The winds of change may finally be catching up with the Mpisanes who, by using their Zuma connections, cornered massive state contracts and ducked and dived from the taxman for a decade. ■



**Grafik
THOUGHT**
DESIGN CO.



**YOUR THOUGHTS,
MADE VISUAL**

Grafik Thought is a Multidisciplinary Design
Agency Specialising in Graphic Design,
Web Design, Branding and Illustration

✉ mich@grafikthought.com ☎ 072 141 8854



BOGAJSKA
BUSINESS ADVISORY & BROKERAGE

Helping shareholders and business
owners establish value when selling their interests.

glenn.masters@bogajska.com
WWW.BOGAJSKA.COM



TINUS DE JONGH
His life and works

NOW AVAILABLE AT:
www.tinusdejongh.co.za | dejongh@yebo.co.za
R265 incl postage within South Africa

Nelson Mandela Bay election: the truth will out

THE TRUTH BEHIND HOW THE ANC funded its 2016 local government election in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro is expected to be revealed in a report to be tabled before the Eastern Cape metro council this month.

This will be the culmination of a nearly two-year investigation (see *nose216*), that began shortly after the August 2016 local government elections in which the ANC lost control of the city to a DA-led coalition with Athol Trollip installed as mayor.

At the core of the investigation is the accusation that a company called Mohlaleng Media (Pty) Ltd, owned by Sandown-based businessman Mbuso Thabethe, became the de facto procurement wing of the previous ANC-led council, allowing officials to circumvent prescribed financial reporting requirements and, importantly, hide kick-backs and party political expenses while making the ratepayer pay for it all.

Mid-level managers could find themselves in serious trouble, but it is more likely that the investigation will focus on what Danny Jordaan's role was in this racket. Also facing possible sanction alongside Mohlaleng boss Thabethe are the likes of Grant Pascoe, a former DA Cape Town chairperson, now with the ANC, and former journalist Vukile Pokwana, both of whom were contracted to work in Jordaan's office as political advisors and spin-doctors five months before the local government election.

They were also on hugely inflated salaries, netting a combined R771,552 in those five months.

Trollip told *Noseweek* that he will be instructing attorneys to draft charges against anyone deemed to have been involved in a scam.

"The fact is, this company was appointed to do certain things and there was a limitation to how much money could be spent on that contract. But the contract [*terms changed*] and the expenditure almost doubled over a four-month period from what had



Danny Jordaan quantifies the scale of the racket he's alleged to have had a part in

been spent over the previous 18-month period. This all happened to coincide with the municipal elections in 2016. That's what drew my attention to this matter," said Trollip.

In October 2014 the city awarded a three-year contract to Mohlaleng Media. They were provided with a spending cap of R10 million and were required to provide marketing and communication services. But near March 2016 the cap was lifted ostensibly because "more directorates wanted to make use of this service provider" and suddenly the company was ordering overalls, transport and meals. This free-for-all allowed the ANC to print paraphernalia, from posters to pamphlets, on the city's account. By the time the contract stopped in September 2016, the bill stood at R20.6m.

"I'm determined to get that money back used to illegally promote a political party. The people we will be investigating will be masters of delaying and obfuscation as they've learnt from the best [*Jacob Zuma*]," said Trollip.

He said even if he were removed from office in a vote of no confidence, he would make sure the criminal charges were laid and followed through. ■

Senior Joburg advocates found to have charged eight times too much

THREE SENIOR ADVOCATES OF THE Johannesburg Bar who were hired by Investec to oppose a high court application brought by the minority shareholders of Randgold and Exploration Ltd, have suffered humiliation at the hands of the Taxing Master of the North Gauteng High Court in Pretoria.

This is the latest development in a seemingly endless legal war of attrition which began in March 2011, when the minority shareholders launched a case claiming damages from Investec – and Randgold itself – for allegedly deliberately failing to take appropriate action to recover losses they suffered when the late Brett Kebble stole all their shares in the company and sold them for his own and associates' benefit (*noses*81, 85,171,179,180,181,189, 208, 212&215).

In what many would interpret as a power play designed to intimidate, Investec hired major law firm Werksmans and no fewer than four advocates from the Johannesburg Bar, three of whom are senior counsel, to represent the bank in opposing an "interlocutory" application brought in March 2016 by the minority shareholders. Investec apparently set no limit to the fees their lawyers might charge for the service. (The application was argued before Judge Rabie in one-and-a-half hours on 19 August 2016, but, due to pressure of work, delivered his judgment only eight months later, in April 2017.)

The high-powered Investec team



Nice work: Counsel for Investec (left to right), Shanee Stein, Tony Rubens and Johnnie Blou

successfully opposed the minority shareholders' application, resulting in the shareholders' being ordered to pay Investec's legal costs.

In due course they were presented with the Investec legal team's bill totalling R2,422,361.92. But when, on 29 January this year, the bill was presented to the taxing master for his independent assessment and final determination, he reduced it to just R305,550.28.

The inevitable conclusion: Investec and Werksmans had been happy to have their counsel charge eight times as much as they should reasonably have charged, possibly as another means of intimidating the Randgold minority

into fleeing the battlefield.

The three senior counsel who led the fee rush are advocates A P Rubens SC, Johnnie Blou SC and S Stein SC.

A stand-out item on the list: in addition to other particularised charges, Rubens billed a straight R52,000-a-day (R5,200 an hour) for 16 days spent in consultation or on preparation. At that rate, he rakes in more in one hour than the average South African earns in a month.

● *Application for Declaration and Variation by Standard Bank Nominees (Transvaal) (Pty) Ltd and nine others vs Investec and Randgold and Exploration Company Ltd. – case No. 19269/11.* ■



Inside SARS rogue unit

Confidential papers suggest that Ivan Pillay misled former Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel and that the unit was illegal from the start. By Jack Lundin

LAST MONTH THE PRIORITY CRIMES litigation unit of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) finally brought criminal charges against the spymasters who ran the infamous and much-denied “rogue” unit that operated within the South African Revenue Services. And here *Noseweek* can reveal the story of the unit’s chequered history through confidential papers quoted in the aborted disciplinary hearings against its architects, Ivan Pillay and Johann van Loggerenberg.

These 2015 internal disciplinary charges were never tested – both former SARS Deputy Commissioner Pillay and investigations head Van Loggerenberg resigned rather than answer the battery of accusations against them.

The confidential disciplinary papers recount how the rogue-unit saga began, with a memo from Pillay, dated 2 February 2007, to then-Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel which sought and obtained permission to establish a special investigations unit within the National Intelligence Agency.

But it seems there was deception from the start. At SARS a decision initiated or supported by Pillay was said to have “misrepresented and misled” Trevor Manuel, resulting in the National Research Group being established not within the NIA, as directed, but within SARS. There it fell under the leadership of Andries Janse “Skollie” van Rensburg, who “misdirected” ministerial-approved funds to equip the new unit with cell-phone jammers, eavesdropping equipment, vehicle trackers, night-vision binoculars and covert recording equipment implanted on car keys and pens.

It is alleged that it was this SARS rogue unit that spied on the now defunct Scorpions and the offices of the National Prosecuting Authority in

Silverton after prosecutor Gerrie Nel suspected that colleagues were leaking information about the prosecution of Police Commissioner Jackie Selebi to politicians.

The disciplinary papers describe how, when Pillay subsequently decided to fire Skollie van Rensburg, he threatened to expose the rogue unit’s existence. So Pillay agreed that Van Rensburg should receive R3 million in severance pay “in order to ensure his silence”. By agreeing to this payment, Pillay had made himself “party to corruption by paying a bribe,” claimed SARS. [*But see below.* – Ed.]

More danger of media exposure came from Michael Peega, a National Research Group (NRG) operative who was fired for his involvement in a rhino-poaching incident. Peega promptly authored an “intelligence dossier” revealing the existence of the secret unit – and claiming it was “rogue”. [*See “Spies, damned spies and more lies” in nose191 for more about that.* – Ed.] So NRG was disbanded and its members redeployed. In its place emerged the ultra secret High-Risk Investigation Unit (HRIU) led by Johann van Loggerenberg under Pillay’s supervision and control.

Objective of these units, declared SARS in the disciplinary papers, was to subject targets “suspected of significant tax violations to surveillance, investigation and interrogations using covert and illicit methods”. Van Loggerenberg’s high risk unit was set up in such secrecy that even former members of the NRG believed these activities had been completely disbanded.

The new unit was composed of former undercover and military intelligence agents who were required to work from home, expected to establish “front” businesses and were given assignments on a “need-to-know” basis. They

were instructed to sever any connections with former NRG members – in particular Skollie van Rensburg – were given false SARS identity documents and provided with facilities and equipment to monitor the movements of individuals, track vehicles, bug conversations, tap telephones and cell phones, intercept and block communications and utilise and exploit sources and informants.

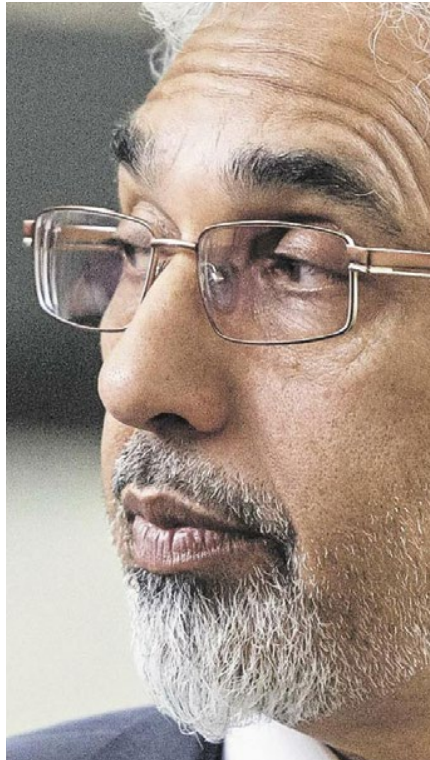
Equipment allegedly obtained by Pillay for High Risk, as listed in the papers included:

- Thermal-Eye X200xp: a handheld pocket-sized thermal imaging camera commonly used for target detection, force protection, search and rescue and covert surveillance;
- Armasight Discovery 3x-SD Gen 2+: a long-range night vision observation device commonly used for perimeter surveillance and long-range surveillance;
- Mini Rad-D: a personal gamma radiation detector/pager.

These purchases, said SARS, contravened the Constitution, the Electronic Communications Act, the National Strategic Intelligence Act, the Tax Administration Act and the SARS Code of Conduct.

But recruitment of High Risk’s personnel failed to follow SARS recruitment policy, did not require recruits to take the SARS Oath of Secrecy and “elevated SARS staff costs by over R106m – committing a wasteful and fruitless expenditure”.

Fruitless? Explained SARS in the papers: “By reason of the covert nature of the units, the information obtained was unavoidably compromised and, not being admissible in legal proceedings, could only be used to secure settlements that, given its compromised status, were frequently weighted in favour of the taxpayer.”



Architects of the SARS 'rogue unit' Johann van Loggerenberg (left) and Ivan Pillay, who appeared in the Pretoria Magistrate's Court last month charged with corruption

After new SARS Commissioner Tom Moyane arrived in 2014 he asked Pillay about any covert units that might exist. According to the disciplinary papers, Pillay disavowed their existence in full knowledge that this response was untrue. (Moyane was in turn suspended by President Cyril Ramaphosa this March.)

In the period up to August 2010, said SARS, Pillay persuaded acting Commissioner Oupa Magashula to allow him to take early retirement on full benefits, coupled with re-engagement on a three-year fixed-term contract as "consultant". Securing the pension benefit of over R1.25m in this way, according to SARS, amounted to fraud and/or corruption.

The internal charge sheet against Johann van Loggerenberg contains a host of alleged Code of Conduct violations. His meeting with the Pretoria attorney and triple agent Belinda Walter in September 2013 and their "intimate relationship" that began the following month and continued

until May 2014, features high on the list. Belinda Walter was chairperson of the Fair-Trade Independent Tobacco Association (Fita), some of whose members were suspected of dealing in contraband tobacco. She was also a secret agent of the State Security Agency, mandated to spy on the illicit activities of Fita members, including her own clients. She was also retained by British American Tobacco – a competitor of Fita members – to provide an undercover service to them. (Noseweek readers were introduced to the real Belinda Walter, *South Africa's Mata Hari*, in August 2015 – nose190.)

Van Loggerenberg's disciplinary papers paint a lurid picture of what it claimed were fraudulent or unlawful activities committed by his lover. These include: making false representations on behalf of Lonrho/Rollex to the National Prosecuting Authority concerning tobacco smugglers; creating a paper trail showing that the Carnilinx tobacco company "owed R20m less in tax than was truly due"; suggesting to

Crime Intelligence officer Lieutenant Colonel Hennie Niemann that imported tobacco should be recorded as "waste" for a scheme to gather intelligence; corrupting a SARS official in Alberton in order to obtain a confidential SARS report setting out why licences granted to Carnilinx should be withdrawn; and for participating in a proposed scheme named Project Robin to dupe the State Security Agency into accepting that a smuggling ring known as YES was a front for the collecting of intelligence.

Van Loggerenberg's disciplinary papers also contain SARS's claims that Belinda Walter "baselessly" instigated disciplinary proceedings against a SARS official named Marietjie van Wyk; unlawfully bugged a Carnilinx truck and the Fita boardroom; accepted sums of money from Carnilinx that she knew were the proceeds of crime; and plotted to murder Yusuf Kajee, head of black-owned Amalgamated Tobacco Manufacturers (in which former president Jacob Zuma's son Edward was a shareholder until 2012). The company was a competitor of Carnilinx.

During Van Loggerenberg's relationship with Walter, claimed SARS, he "contrived to ensure that Ms Walter regulated her tax affairs in a manner most advantageous to herself". Also that he communicated with the media concerning his relationship with Walter and his activities at SARS without authorisation. Journalists named in his disciplinary papers sheet are Amanda Khoza, Candice Bailey, Malcolm Rees and Rob Rose [then] of *The Sunday Times*, Jacques Pauw [then] of *City Press* and Sam Sole [then] of the *Mail & Guardian*.

SARS said that Van Loggerenberg arranged for Lana Pinkham, a SARS official they describe in the papers as his "ex-lover", to conduct an audit of Walter's tax affairs "in a manner most favourable to Ms Walter". They added that Van Loggerenberg was obliged to replace Ms Pinkham with another official, Riaan de Lange, after Ms Walter objected that Pinkham was "potentially conflicted".

According to SARS, by advising Walter on how to construct and manipulate her tax affairs to best advantage, and by minimising the harm she might suffer as a result of the audit, Van Loggerenberg created a conflict between his duties as a SARS executive

and his personal interests.

The disciplinary papers also claim that Van Loggerenberg initiated and promoted the activities of a Pretoria-based charity named Wachizungu Sawa Sawa, to whom payments were made by service providers to SARS such as attorneys Mahlangu Inc and Christel Brits of Ernst & Young.

Media members who contributed included Candice Bailey of *The Sunday Times*, Adriaan Basson of *Beeld*, and *City Press*, all of whom, according to SARS, “have an interest in securing information on SARS activities”. Other payments came from “persons under investigation for, or under suspicion of tax evasion, including attorney Kirun Naik and Ian Small-Smith as legal representatives of Carnilinx”.

By means of their donations to Wachizungu Sawa Sawa, SARS put it to Van Loggerenberg that these individuals were “seeking to influence and compromise you in the execution of your duties”.

(Wachizungu Sawa Sawa, formed in 2012 as fundraisers for worthy projects such as an orphanage in Zambia, folded in 2016, announcing that “small-minded criminals who got away with corruption, bribery, money-laundering, tax evasion, theft and the compromising and manipulation of state officials and processes, have caused the group of people who supported what Wachizungu stood for, tremendous damage. We have to now call it a day”.)

SARS further put it to Van Loggerenberg in the papers: “Since about April 2007 you have been involved in the management of covert intelligence operations within SARS that you knew, or could reasonably be expected to know, was unlawful, and authorised expenditure for purposes of securing accommodation for members of the unit that was wasteful and fruitless”.

Charge number 8 against him summed it all up: He knew, or could be expected to know, that the covert intelligence operations operated outside the legal framework within which SARS could lawfully conduct its powers of investigation and enforcement; they infringed upon the powers and functions of other government agencies (particularly those with constitutionally mandated intelligence, law enforcement and crime prevention functions);

KPMG SA’s team leader says he stands by the report’s factual findings and he would defend them

they violated the internal policies of SARS, they were unconstitutional and unlawful; they infringed the Finance Minister’s directive that the unit be created within the NIA; they incurred wasteful and futile expenditure. [*Then-Minister of Finance Trevor Manuel is listed as a State witness in the current trial papers.*]

Finally, declared SARS, on 12 October 2014 – a month after his suspension – Van Loggerenberg sent an email to fellow covert unit member Johan De Waal “to act in unison in providing incorrect or misleading information in the form of affidavits in order to mislead the investigations about the existence of the Special Projects Unit/ National Research Group at SARS.”

Documents supporting the disciplinary charges against Ivan Pillay and Johann van Loggerenberg may well be among those dug up by investigators from KPMG SA Forensic. Over 13 months from December 2014, the 30-strong KPMG team reviewed over 850,000 emails and considered more than 1.36m documents covering questionable activities at SARS from 2003 to January 2015. But KPMG sources tell Noseweek that suggestions that the charges against Pillay and Van Loggerenberg were based on their report are incorrect.

In a sensational development KPMG International announced last September that it was withdrawing the findings and conclusions of the R23m report. Quality controls, they said, had not been performed to the expected

standard and legal opinions and legal conclusions were referred to as if they were opinions of KPMG South Africa, which was outside the mandate and professional expertise of those working on the assignment.

However, KPMG International did not conclude that any of the factual findings were incorrect and KPMG SA’s team leader Johan van der Walt has said that he stands by the report’s factual findings and he would defend them. Rigorous risk oversight was performed at all times, he maintains, and he has documentary evidence to prove it.

Both Johann van Loggerenberg and Ivan Pillay resigned from SARS – Pillay with a near R10m goodbye – before their 2015 disciplinary hearings took place, so they did not have to answer the charges against them.

In his book published in 2016 Van Loggerenberg described the charge sheet against him as “most bizarre” and “ludicrous”. However, had he challenged them “it would have the unintended consequence of also exposing other aspects concerning the state not relevant to my matter”. He said a senior State Security Agency representative that he consulted felt the country couldn’t afford more scandals, “so the only option left to me was to leave SARS in an effort to bring matters to a close”.

Van Rensburg has also since denied any involvement in illegal activities. “I can explain everything when I am called upon to testify,” he told *Beeld*. In August 2014 he sent an email to *The Sunday Times* in which he “categorically” stated: “I left SARS for personal reasons related to my family that I have explained to you in detail. I have never threatened or blackmailed SARS in any way.”

Last month Ivan Pillay, Johann van Loggerenberg and “Skollie” Janse van Rensburg – the trio featured in this article – appeared in the Pretoria Magistrate’s Court charged with corruption and having intercepted National Prosecuting Authority communications in an operation called Project Sunday Evenings, which took place around 2007.

There are 41 witnesses on the witness list, including former Finance Minister Trevor Manuel and former SARS Commissioner Tom Moyane. The case was postponed to June 18. ■

How Nedbank lied, and lied, and lied

Widow, 83, faces off bank in Jersey court.

By Martin Welz



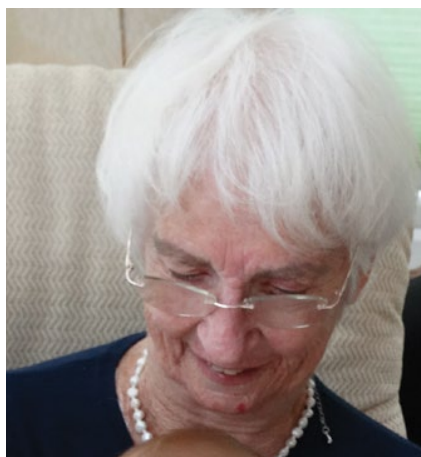
IAN BRAKSPEAR, A DURBAN-BASED futures trader, was a longstanding Nedbank client. He was a beneficiary of the JAM Brakspear Trust (JAMBOT), set up by his late father in the Isle of Man to support his widow and their children, and the de facto settlor of the Westley Trust, registered in Jersey. (We say de facto settlor, because Nedbank and its attorneys have – under oath, on different occasions – claimed various different candidates for the role.)

Ian Brakspear was also the sole director of West Dunes Properties 5, a South African company ultimately owned by a Panama-registered company, Westley Holdings, which in turn was supposedly controlled by his Jersey trustees who operated (so he was led to believe) on his instructions.

He was, ultimately, Nedbank's client who instructed Nedbank to proceed in setting up the elaborate "bespoke" offshore structure that their "expert" staff recommended – and paid them substantial fees for the service.

Its purpose was to finance the purchase by West Dunes of a Franschoek fruit and wine farm that happened to be adjacent to L'Ormarins, the famous Rupert-Rothschild estate, and which was to be developed as an upmarket country hotel and residential estate and then to be re-sold at a handsome profit.

As explained in an earlier *Noseweek* story, it all went horribly wrong –



Dorothy Brakspear visiting family in Northampton last year

the disaster, in no small measure, caused by the careless incompetence of Nedbank's Jersey staff (who made profuse apologies) and the farm was ultimately sold by auction in 2007 for R19 million.

Shortly thereafter, Nedbank, in the name of its Jersey trustee company and represented by ENS, "Africa's largest law firm", brought a surprise high court application two days before Christmas for the liquidation of West Dunes, alleging the company was insolvent and owed the Jersey trust R7m in repayment of a loan.

Ian Brakspear opposed the liquidation application, declaring under oath

that there was no such loan. The R7m referred to was in fact a non-repayable distribution to him as a beneficiary by the Isle of Man Brakspear Trust, and was recorded as such in that trust's accounts. He lost the case.

He has contended for the past decade that the claim on which the liquidation of his South African company was based was fictitious, that Westley Trust did not make the alleged R7m payment to RMB (holder of a bond over West Dunes' farm), and that his company was not insolvent at the time it was placed into liquidation.

In fact, he has alleged, the liquidation was fraudulently contrived by Nedbank and its attorneys ENS as a means of:

1. disabling him and his company from suing Nedbank for several millions in damages caused by their previous unprofessional conduct, and:

2. providing a "legal" reason to cancel the already concluded sale of the company's farm to a Johannesburg buyer and then to facilitate its re-sale to a company owned by Johann Rupert.

In a subsequent judgment dealing with the matter in the High Court in Durban on 20 October 2014, Judge N F Kgomo produced a summary of a convoluted string of alleged legal and contractual relationships (as alleged by Nedbank and its lawyers, that is), some genuine, some now demonstrably faked, between the two offshore trusts,

their (separate) trustees and (separate) offshore bankers – but all of them ultimately controlled by Nedbank.

Nowhere were the obvious conflicts of interest noted.

The judge, inspired by the submissions of Nedbank's senior counsel, Gavin Woodland SC, arrived at the conclusion that the R7m (then equal to £500,000) paid to Rand Merchant bank by the Fairbairn Private Bank, Isle of Man, in payment of a bond debt owed by West Dunes, was a loan to the Westley Trust, Jersey, which in turn had lent the money to West Dunes.

"It was this claim of £500,000 which the Westley Trust, represented by Nedgroup Trust, asserted as the petitioning creditor in the West Dunes winding-up [*liquidation*] application in December 2007," said the judge.

"I could not come across any evidence to suggest that this claim was promoted by Nedgroup Trust or its legal representatives otherwise than in good faith. [*ENS attorney Leonard*] Katz stated in his evidence that he had relied upon the advice of an experienced senior counsel and insolvency specialist, advocate Brendan Manca SC when he formulated the claim which forms the basis of the founding affidavit [*in the liquidation application*]."

He dismissed Ian Brakspear's evidence as "mendacious" and "vindictive".

In the meantime, Ian's 83-year-old widowed mother, Dorothy Brakspear, and his sister, Alison Bowler, both resident in England, have instituted action against Nedbank in the Royal Court of Jersey seeking to unravel the massive and continuing frauds they allege.

They succeeded in a recent application to force Nedbank's Jersey subsidiary bank, now called Nedbank Private Wealth, to open its books of account for inspection to prove or disprove the payments and cash flows that have in the past been claimed under oath by various Nedgroup officials.

The outcome emerges from an affidavit subsequently filed by Dorothy Brakspear in the next round of the court battle there. An extract:

"THIS AFFIDAVIT IS FIRSTLY TO FILE THE newly obtained evidence from the Order of Court dated 8 March 2018 under the Bankers' Books Evidence (Jersey) Law 1986 and which was supplied to us on

Ian Brakspear's sister and widowed mother, 83, have succeeded in a recent application to force Nedbank's Jersey subsidiary to open its books of account

29 March 2018 by Nedbank Private Wealth Limited Jersey Branch

Secondly it is in response to Mr Christopher Roscouet's two affidavits dated 15 December 2015 and 19 February 2018.

Thirdly there is a brief response to attorney Katz's affidavit.

The Jersey bank has not provided any copy of the Guarantee and Indemnity between the Guernsey Trustee and the Jersey bank which was given by Mr Leonard Katz (senior partner at ENS and head of its insolvency department) to the Master of the Court in South Africa on 20 August 2010 and which at that date some 6 years after the fact was unsigned by the Jersey bank and undated.

This raises a serious legal issue about the legality of that agreement especially as it is an inter-company agreement and thus should have been done as an arm's-length transaction. [*The fact that the existing copy was not signed by the bank, and the bank does not have such a document suggests no*

such contract was ever concluded. – Ed.]

The bank statements of Westley Trust confirm £10 being settled on the trust on 12 May 2004, yet the bank agreement between the Jersey trustee and the Jersey bank was signed on 7 May 2004, which is 5 days before the Westley Trust was fully constituted.

The following was stated under oath in South Africa by Nico Botha [*a Nedgroup director*] on 19 December 2008:

'In and during 2004 JAMBOT advanced the sum of £400,000 to the Westley Trust.'

The Bankers' Books Evidence shows no transaction for £400,000 and is irrefutable evidence of false representation made knowingly and deliberately by the Jersey trustee and its agent.

The following material statement of fact was stated under oath in South Africa by Nico Botha on 19 December 2008:

'In and during June 2008 the Westley Trust lent and advanced the sum of £500,000 to West Dunes at the latter's special insistence and request. This amount was due and payable by West Dunes but West Dunes was unable to repay it. The claim of Westley Trust is unsecured. The current value of the claim of the Westley Trust is in excess of R7,000,000.'

The Bankers' Books Evidence of the Westley Trust accounts shows no transaction advancing £500,000 to Westley Trust and is irrefutable evidence of false representation made knowingly and deliberately by the Jersey trustee and its agent to the South African Court.

The following was stated under oath in South Africa by Nico Botha on 11 March 2009:

'Accordingly the creditor [*the Jersey trustee*] borrowed the sum of £500,000 from FPB [*the Jersey Bank, now Nedbank Private Wealth*] which it then advanced to the company [*West Dunes*]. I refer in this regard to the balance sheet at page 3 thereof which refers to 'Creditors and accruals' in the sum of £500,000. Note 5 to the financial statements (which appears at page 5 of annexure NB30) reflects the creditor to be FPB in the sum of £500,000.'

The Bankers' Books Evidence of the Westley Trust accounts shows no transaction by the Jersey Bank or any other

bank advancing £500,000 to Westley Trust and no transfer of £500,000 to West Dunes in South Africa – irrefutable evidence of false representations made knowingly and deliberately by the Jersey trustee and its agent to the South African Court.

The following was stated under oath in South Africa by one of the Jersey trustee legal team in South Africa, Justine Hoppe [a member of the Insolvency department of attorneys Edward Nathan Sonnenberg (ENS)] on 11 March 2009:

‘Although the sum of £500,000 was paid directly by Fairbairn Private Bank to First Rand Bank, this payment was pursuant to an agreement between Westley Trust and the Fairbairn Private Bank in terms whereof the Fairbairn Private Bank advanced the sum of £500,000 to the Westley Trust.’

The Bankers’ Books Evidence of the Westley Trust accounts shows no ‘agreement’ between the Jersey and Westley Trust and no evidence of the Jersey bank advancing £500,000 to Westley Trust and is irrefutable evidence of false representations made knowingly and deliberately by the Jersey trustee and its agent to the South African Court.

In reliance on these false representations quoted above and on the evidence given by the Jersey trustee agent Mr Botha and their lawyer Mr Leonard Katz, the South African judgment in 2014 at paragraph 84 states:

‘After Fairbairn Private Bank [Jersey Bank] paid the R7,000,000 (£500,000) to RMB, it called on its guarantee and the Brakspear Family Trust (of which the applicant as well as his mother and sister, among others, were beneficiaries) was the next entity to pay in terms of the applicable guarantees or security’.

And at paragraph 85 it states:

‘...it is this amount, which was £7,000, 000 [sic] in South Africa rands, that was debited where it was on the books at Fairbairn Private Bank [Jersey Bank] to replace the same amount that Fairbairn Private Bank [Jersey Bank] had paid to RMB.’

The Bankers’ Books Evidence shows no evidence that the Jersey bank paid ‘[R] 7,000,000’ nor do the Bankers’ Books show that this amount ‘was debited’ on the books of the Jersey Bank.

And there is no evidence or formal letter in the Bankers’ Books that ‘after’ the Jersey Bank had paid the ‘[R] 7,000,000’ that it then called on its ‘guarantee’.

There is no evidence that the Brakspear Trust ‘was the next entity to pay’ in this chain of events as stated in the judgment

It must be noted that in the South African Court, the judgment found that because Ian [Brakspear] had consistently denied all the transactions mentioned in the Order of Justice, Ian was called ‘untruthful’ and an ‘unreliable witness’ by the Judge and Mr Katz called Ian ‘delusional’.

The Bankers’ Books Evidence now proves that Ian was not ‘untruthful’ or an ‘unreliable witness’ but that the Jersey trustee and its appointed agent and lawyers were the deceitful parties throughout.

The deceit and misleading representations did not only occur in South Africa but also in the Royal Court of Jersey. In the Royal Court of Jersey, case number 2012/403, an application was launched by the Guernsey Trustee [of the Isle of Man trust] against the Jersey trustee [both Nedbank owned companies].

In its statement of case, the Guernsey Trustee company states that the Jersey

bank paid £500,000 to FirstRand Bank in South Africa pursuant to a letter of guarantee.

No such payment is reflected in the Bankers’ Books and there is no receipt from the recipient FirstRand Bank in South Africa, proving conclusively a false representation made to the Jersey Court by the Guernsey Trustee.

[The Jersey trustee did not oppose the application, simply remaining silent.]

The Guernsey Trustee goes on to state that the Plaintiff [Guernsey Trustees] paid the Jersey bank £500,000.

No such payment is reflected in the Bankers’ Books Evidence, again proving false representations by the Guernsey Trustee and the complicity of the Jersey trustee by remaining silent to the falsehood.

Critical to note at this point that in the Bankers’ Books Evidence there are no agreements between the Jersey Bank and the Guernsey Trust, therefore no security to the Jersey Bank. It follows that the Jersey Bank had neither an absolute or a special property in [claim to] the assets of the Brakspear Trust [in the Isle of Man, as distinct from the Westley Trust in Jersey], nor any right to possession without proper notice or judicial intervention of which there are none in the Bankers’ Books Evidence.

It also follows logically, that a non-existent right of action or a non-existent debt can never in law be transferred by cession, subrogation, substitution or whatever legalese the Jersey trustee uses to explain away its fraudulent conduct.

The Guernsey Trustee Order of Justice filed in the Royal Court of Jersey was a material false representation of the facts and the silence by the Jersey trustee, when it had a duty to speak up, proves the fraud conspiracy.

The bank statements of Westley Trust do not correspond at all to the entries in the unsigned and uncertified financial statements of Westley Trust.

I want to end this section with the quote from a judgment by Lord Denning in 1956:

‘No court in this land will allow a person to keep an advantage he has obtained by fraud. No judgment of a court, no order of a Minister, can be allowed to stand if it has been obtained by fraud. Fraud unravels everything.’

[To be continued.] ■

**The Banker’s Books
Evidence now
proves that Ian was
not ‘untruthful’
or an ‘unreliable
witness’**

SARS Naughty List

Secret document reveals the billions owed in taxes and names the biggest defaulters. By Jack Lundin

AMONG THE MANY CONFIDENTIAL documents in the custody of the SA Revenue Services, one of the most sensitive is the Naughty List, which records the tax debts of its top defaulters. So for the interest of readers *Noseweek* is reproducing the list of the top miscreants as at July 2002. It's a bit historic, agreed, and most of the amounts now seem derisory. But 16 years ago a million was a million and still enough to buy more than a packet of chips.

The List contains 292 names, with total debts amounting to R2.3 billion. Top of the pile is serial entrepreneur Dave King with an impressive R952.8 million (in September 2013 King paid SARS R706m of it after a 13-year fight). A Venter company grabs second place with a more modest R44.5m. Then all the way down to number 292, is one GS Schwend, with a derisory R456,969.

There's a story behind the emergence of our List. Many readers will be familiar with the Tigon/Porrirt saga – how, in the early years of the century, conman Jack Milne persuaded some 4,000 punters to hand over R250m to his PSC Guaranteed Growth investment fund. But instead of depositing their dosh in a portfolio of investments, Milne paid it to entities controlled by Gary Porrirt, then chief executive of a JSE-listed company called Tigon. The investors' money vanished.

Following the collapse of Tigon and PSC in 2003, Milne – who named Porrirt as the driving force behind the scam – pleaded guilty to fraud. He was sentenced to eight years' imprisonment (five suspended) but served only eight months.

Porrirt and his business partner Sue Bennett faced 3,160 charges of tax fraud and forex contraventions. Today, nearly 16 years and R23m legal fees

later, their trial still trundles on.

Porrirt and Bennett have always claimed that their prosecution has been stoked and has its origin in a "highly questionable" relationship between officials at SARS and philanthropist and self-proclaimed business magnate Gavin Varejes, chief executive of investment company Richmark, founder of South African Rugby Legends Association and vice-patron of Lifesaving SA.

The enmity between Porrirt and Varejes stems from the day that Varejes's auditor, Graham Ramsay, persuaded Porrirt to buy a company called EuroPoint Communications that was owned by Varejes and his business partner Tony Strike. Ramsay described it as "a honey" of a business.

The deal went through, but Porrirt subsequently discovered that EuroPoint had received R1.78m in apparent VAT refunds from SARS. Varejes and Strike claimed the money had just turned up in EuroPoint's bank account and, as it appeared to have been paid in error, they had repaid the money to SARS.

What really happened, according to Sue Bennett, was that the R1.78m was never repaid at all. Although EuroPoint cheques to the Revenue Services were issued, they were endorsed on the back for payment to the trust account of Graham Ramsay's audit practice, Simon Hurwitz & Company. From there, it seems, the money was divided between Varejes and Strike family trusts, with R400,000 retained by Ramsay.

Ramsay had been a trustee of Varejes's Cayli Trust, but resigned after they too fell out. And it was Ramsay, by now Porrirt and Sue Bennett's auditor at Tigon, who told them that the Cayli Trust and Tony Strike's TMS Trust

no	Taxpayer	Total
		R 2,257,560,174.
41	DC, KING	952,754,643.6
349	CM, VENTER INS ES	44,485,376.2
48	, THE CAYLI TRUST	36,606,427.8
340	I, KHOZA	30,141,498.4
1849	JO, LEVITAN	22,129,592.06
35849	, THE TMS TRUST	17,197,719.24
045844	H, SPEROPOULOS	13,592,535.94
049846	MM, NKUMALO	13,587,746.61
35846	RJ, FLLTON	12,724,232.86
11847	CG, MCKNIGHT	12,715,165.85
155840	CC, KANG INS EST	12,168,504.70
6095847	D, CHANNA	8,600,214.23
17103849	, THE OREGON TRUS	6,921,252.99
024846	GS, YOUNG	6,883,010.22
98841	A, STYGER	6,646,173.08
7842	MG, GRAY	6,492,999.08
840	M, GARDY INS ESTA	5,798,042.30
845	LG, DA CRUZ INS ES	5,754,106.28
9848	GG, CATHIE	5,604,244.49
71841	J, SWARTZBERG	5,130,802.86
29842	, THE CURRENCY DE	5,036,588.72
25845	MCM, RECHENA	4,566,480.09
34846	, THE PH FECHTER F	4,515,323.18
27847	M, CARRIM	4,366,448.12
0842	BI, VERMEULEN	4,106,339.86
7845	K, MOTAPANYANE	3,891,739.96
840	SB, WILSON	3,739,812.70
847	Y, VASILIADES	3,732,423.36
842	BI, VERMEULEN	3,699,514.08
3844	BS, SPILG	3,661,201.46
1847	RM, GODSELL	3,676,039.69
3147	NM, WILLIAMS	3,481,997.06
35849	JD, PITTORINO	3,244,186.04
3844	KH, WATTERS	3,109,163.95
842	AA, PIENAAR	3,056,685.23
840	MM, MOKJENA	2,786,229.48
842	JJ, VERMEULEN INS	2,645,854.82
945	NS, PACIFICI INS ES	2,561,619.62
942	BS, SHERMAN	2,489,721.80
45	GR, VOLKWYN	2,453,929.32
01	I, ZAKKAS INS EST	2,459,954.80
42	, REBSONS TRUST	2,429,838.36
9	, THE THERRY DALA	2,348,160.95
7	, THE EXEL TRUST	2,146,221.32
7	JR, GAUTSCHI	2,131,014.48
7	IL, SALTZMAN	2,118,776.77
42	BJ, MAGLIA	2,018,618.79
843	BW, SILBERMAN	1,998,215.61
5846	JP, DANIELS	1,980,659.67
8844	NF, VAN ZYL	1,884,418.58
845	, THE ITHUBA TRUST	1,879,137.40

both owed many millions to SARS.

In 2007, at one of Porritt and Bennett's many court appearances, the judge was baffled when Sue Bennett let it be known that Varejes's trust owed R35.6m to SARS, and Strike's trust, R17m. This apparent inside knowledge of SARS's affairs reached the ear of Vusi Pikoli, then national director of the National Prosecuting Authority, who ordered Bennett to state under oath how she had obtained this information.

Bennett obliged, producing with her affidavit a hand-written fax from their auditor Graham Ramsay that included The List. Ramsay's note read: "Thought you might be interested in the latest list of accounts receivable by SARS. I have marked the relevant amounts due to the SARS by people we know."

Number three on the List is Varejes's Cayli Trust at R35.6m. Number six is Tony Strike's TMS Trust at R17.2m.

In her affidavit Bennett said: "I have no knowledge of from whom Ramsay obtained the schedule. However, I am aware (from affidavits deposed to by Ramsay that have been provided to me by the State) that Ramsay has admitted to paying bribes to one or more individuals employed by SARS..."

"I was subsequently informed by Ramsay that the Cayli Trust and the TMS Trust had been removed from the SARS list of debtors."

Ten months after they received the List from Ramsay the auditor was convicted on 17 tax-related offences and was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment of which five were suspended. He served around 18 months.

• In the tax year 2001/02 total revenue collection was R249.2 billion, of which "enforced collections" were R13.2bn. Overdue tax debt at year end totalled R39.2bn.

REF NO	Taxpayer	Total
29842	THE CURRENCY DE	5,130,802.86
28845	MCM, RECHENA	5,036,688.72
34846	THE PH FECHTER F	4,566,480.09
7847	M. CARRIM	4,515,323.18
0842	BI. VERMEULEN	4,366,448.12
7845	K. MOTAPANYANE	4,106,339.86
840	SB. WILSON	3,991,739.96
847	Y. VASILIADES	3,739,812.70
842	BI. VERMEULEN	3,732,423.36
844	BS. SPIEG	3,689,614.08
847	RM. GODSELL	3,661,201.46
147	NM. WILLIAMS	3,676,039.69
35849	JD. FITTORINO	3,481,997.08
3844	KH. WATTERS	3,244,186.04
842	AA. PIENAAR	3,109,163.95
840	MM. MOKUENA	3,066,696.23
842	JJ. VERMEULEN INS	2,786,229.49
845	NS. PACIFICI INS ES	2,645,854.82
842	BS. SHERMAN	2,561,619.62
845	GR. VOLKWYN	2,489,721.80
840	I. ZAKKAS INS EST	2,453,929.32
842	REBSONS TRUST	2,456,954.80
849	THE THIERRY DALA	2,429,839.36
847	THE EXEL TRUST	2,348,160.95
847	JR. GAUTSCHI	2,146,221.32
842	IL. SALTZMAN	2,131,014.48
842	BJ. MAGLIA	2,118,776.77
843	BW. SILBERMAN	2,018,618.79
846	JP. DANIELS	1,998,215.61
844	NF. VAN ZYL	1,980,655.67
845	THE ITHUBA TRUST	1,864,618.58
846	MI. MBULI	1,879,133.40
842	PT. ZERVOS	1,866,962.28
848	F. EBRAHIM	1,795,448.72
848	CH. KRETZMANN	1,795,025.85
848	WAM. GLENNON	1,773,553.26

Total collection in 2017-18 was R699bn – only 56.2% of the R1.26 trillion projected. The latest published figure for total overdue taxpayer debt (2016/17) is R129.3bn. ■

REF NO	Taxpayer	Total
R 2,267,580,174.32		
847	MJ. JACKSON	1,417,004.39
847	RQ. GROVE	1,416,088.31
841	NS. MARTIN	1,408,036.94
847	CC. HOLDEN	1,403,903.77
8843	LOUIS KRUGER TRU	1,392,447.40
06842	JE. FLEET	1,385,464.84
2042140	S. KHOZA	1,375,732.22
470844	K. MCLEOD	1,367,275.70
126845	KARIN BROUZE TRU	1,361,118.37
339847	MB. CHATKIN INS ES	1,352,269.69
088947	AB. SNYMAN	1,339,107.94
93043845	BA. O'HAGAN INS ES	1,332,137.18
86074849	AJ. HOLTON	1,308,167.28
206846	RIVONIA CLOSE TRU	1,305,023.77
35845	P. DOMINGO VISITIN	1,267,896.32
846	A. MENDELLOW	1,244,424.26
849	IM. ZARTZ	1,228,257.98
844	JB. O'REGAN	1,216,971.49
844	IH. ARMSTRONG	1,216,645.64
845	O. VILAGINES	1,208,046.66
064842	O. WANDRAG	1,185,441.10
051849	AD. DEVCHAR	1,170,641.21
34845	LE. SEFORA	1,160,709.76
11848	MJ. FIGG JNR	1,159,951.36

Noseweek
is read
by 40,000
people each
month.

To advertise
contact Nicci
021 686 0570.

IF YOU RENT PROPERTY
KEEP THIS NUMBER

I CAN HELP YOU WITH
PROBLEM TENANTS

I CAN ASSIST YOU WITH THE
RENTAL HOUSING TRIBUNAL

IF YOU DON'T NEED ME NOW,
YOU WILL LATER

JOHN: 082 901 0824

Bureaucrats throw the book at committee over quotas

Issues of race and exclusion are threatening Durban's status as Africa's only Unesco City of Literature. Jonathan Erasmus reports

DURBAN'S STATUS AS AFRICA'S ONLY recognised Unesco City of Literature is in the balance as issues of race and exclusion have seen the project grind to a near halt.

It appears that political interests may be overriding literary considerations in a project that, until December 2017, was running at breakneck speed in order to celebrate the city's newly acquired global status and to be represented at a key meeting in April in Iowa City in the US. That is of course until city bureaucrats took the reins and became more worried about quotas on a voluntary board than the nuts and bolts of the project.

In November 2017 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) recognised Durban as a City of Literature, joining the Creative Cities Network, comprising of 180 cities around the globe.

The accolade has huge benefits for the city and can be used to attract top literary artists, expertise, teacher exchange programmes, translation funding and, importantly, global funding for special projects and events.

The issue the city has taken with the interim board, made up of volunteers, is that it was not representative enough. It contained one black, six Indian, one coloured, and two white people.

The city would neither deny nor confirm pulling the plug on the board because it was majority Indian. There is a growing anti-Indian sentiment within the city council and political structures in KwaZulu-Natal which recently blamed Indians as a key reason why "Radical Economic Transformation" had been delayed (*nose222*). The province's MEC for economic development and its de-facto leader of the ANC in the province, Sihle Zikalala, attempted but failed to have Indians excluded



Clockwise from top left: Tebogo Mzizi, Frances Chisholm, Darryl David, and Zainub Dala

from BEE tenders in the province in August last year.

Two key drivers in bringing the "City of Literature" to Durban were Durban-based writer Zainub Dala – who was once assaulted after a Durban book festival for praising the writings of Salmon Rushdie and then subsequently forced into rehab by her Muslim community to "rectify" her views – along with Darryl David,

head of the English Department at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. David is also a founder and director of book and literary festivals across the country, from the Breyten Breytenbach Literary Festival in Montagu to the Soweto Literary Festival. The lead official from the city was its head of Library Services, Tebogo Mzizi.

According to the bid document sent to Unesco's Creative Cities Network it

“all started with [former] US Consul-General [in Durban] Frances Chisholm” who, in 2015, began pulling together key writers, city officials and literary scholars in order to help the city make a bid to Unesco. She held meetings with city officials at the consular offices in Durban and at her private residence while she also arranged for a presentation to be made before the diplomatic corps in Durban, seeking their support.

On 16 June 2017 the application was submitted by David and Dala. It said Durban was the “dispersed home” to the likes of Chief Albert Luthuli – first African Nobel winner – Alan Paton, Bessie Head, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and “the Dhlomos” namely author Herbert Isaac Ernest Dhlomo and his brother, composer RRR Dhlomo.

The city’s bid was accepted in November 2017. On 15 December 2017 a 10-person interim board was voted in at City Hall, after several notices in the press and about 200 people having been personally invited to either avail themselves or to be part of the advisory board that was expected to manage the Unesco status. Only a few more than 20 people arrived for the election.

But by February it became evident that the project, which was being overseen jointly by the eThekweni departments of Parks, Recreation and Culture as well as International and Governance Relations, had stalled. Then International and Governance Relations head Eric Apelgren denied that an interim board had been elected at all.

“In December a meeting of various stakeholders was held and an interim structure was selected to facilitate an agenda to be discussed in a wider meeting that would look at governance and programming,” Apelgren told *Noseweek*.

This is at odds with the minutes taken at the election of the interim board by his own department – which clearly stated that an “interim board” was elected on 15 December 2017.

However the confusion over the board became even more evident when on 12 March this year the city’s district manager for the Libraries and Heritage Department, Debbie Skelton, emailed all “stakeholders... regarding the composition of the Advisory Board”, scrapping it entirely: “Whilst we value your willingness to volunteer your services, a concern has been raised

Fostering cultural diversity

UNESCO’S CITY OF LITERATURE programme is part of a wider Creative Cities Network which was launched in 2004 and is currently made up of 180 Unesco Creative Cities globally. Members are drawn from 72 countries and cover seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Music, and Media Arts.

The Network was born out of Unesco’s Global Alliance for Cultural Diversity initiative which was created in 2002. The Creative City Network’s aim is to “promote the social, economic and cultural development of cities in both the developed and the developing world”.

The cities in the network promote their local creative scene and conform to Unesco’s goal of fostering cultural diversity. They recognise past, present and future: a strong cultural heritage, a vibrant and diverse contemporary cultural scene, and aspirations to extend culture to the next generation at home and to other cities in a global partnership. As of 2017, 28 cities have been designated as part of the City of Literature programme.

The Unesco Cities of Literature network of 28 cities represents six continents and 23 countries, and a combined population of over 26 million. ■

that we need to bring on board a wider diversity of stakeholders. It is for this reason that we have decided to re-start the entire process,” said Skelton.

She also said none of the volunteers, including Dala and David, would be considered for the important visit to Iowa City. Instead the city sent Skelton and Mzizi.

The city also scrapped the logo designed by the interim board.

In replying emails David objected, claiming the city had no right to take such a decision about Iowa. “The bid document is very clear on this matter. Either the director being myself or... [Dala] should represent the city at Unesco events. Go and read the bid document. The section with my name and Dala’s appears right at the very beginning. Such unilateral decisions send out the wrong message and raise serious questions about the autonomy of the board going forward”, said David.

Dala said “excluding any creative advocates or creative persons such as Darryl and myself in a Conference that celebrates creativity in a network is going against the basic Constitution” of the Unesco Creative Cities Network”.

Mzizi replied saying they wanted to “engage other stakeholders who were not part of the initial meetings” and bring in a “more diversified group”.

Noseweek asked the city what it meant by “more diversity” but received no reply. We also asked whether the city

had refrained from sending Dala and David to Iowa City reasoning that they were not the “right race” to represent the city. There was no response.

In a previous tranche of questions sent to the city council *Noseweek* only received a reply after having called their communication ethos deeply unprofessional, and suggesting a dereliction of duty in failing to account to the public.

And those were easy questions. eThekweni Municipality’s communications department, headed by Tozi Mthethwa, appears to have no authority to compel senior managers to reply to media questions and keep to deadlines.

Dala told *Noseweek* it was foolish of the city to simply stop the entire process just because it was unhappy with the composition of the interim board.

“Why did the city simply not let the interim board continue with projects already agreed upon in the bid document? We could have included more diverse voices as we moved forward. It has all become terribly sour with Mzizi and the head of Parks Theminkosi Ngcobo not wanting to move forward until they are happy with the demographics.

“It is all so short-sighted. The contacts I have nurtured with other cities of literature are terribly concerned by what is happening in Durban. We only have the status for four years and if we are not careful in managing it properly we could lose it,” warned Dala. ■

Whiz-kid conman from Mossel Bay

Slick suits, flashy cars and the promise of instant riches were all it took to separate gullible investors from their savings and pension funds. **By Susan Puren**

EARLY LAST YEAR MOSSEL BAY WAS abuzz with news of a fantastic new investment opportunity offering a massive return of 20% a month. All that investors had to do was buy a second-hand shipping container for R25,000 to receive a monthly rental of R5,000. In five short months the initial investment would have been paid off and from then on clear profit would come rolling in. Mining companies were eagerly hiring the containers, so it was said, for storage and office space.

Seasoned business people immediately dismissed the scheme as too good to be true, but other more trusting souls, easily seduced by a flashily charming young salesman and the prospect of a steady and seemingly secure income, bought into it – some purchasing several containers in one go, apparently convinced this was the opportunity of a lifetime.

The whiz-kid salesman whipping up the storm was a charming 29-year-old former local boytjie come back to town, Chris Botes, whose father, Lourens Botes, was once a well-known local policeman.

The young Botes oozed style and wealth and arrived at every investor meeting in a different sports car, so no one thought to question his chosen meeting venue – the local Wimpy. To win their affection and confidence, Botes addressed his prospective investors – mostly Afrikaans-speaking pensioners – as Oom and Tannie. During his sales pitch he would casually slip in that he was called “Chris ‘Blackdiamond’ Botes” in the gambling world. (His credentials in that sphere were borne out when people caught glimpses of a casino gold loyalty card sparkling in his wallet.)

Those who checked out his background online were even more im-

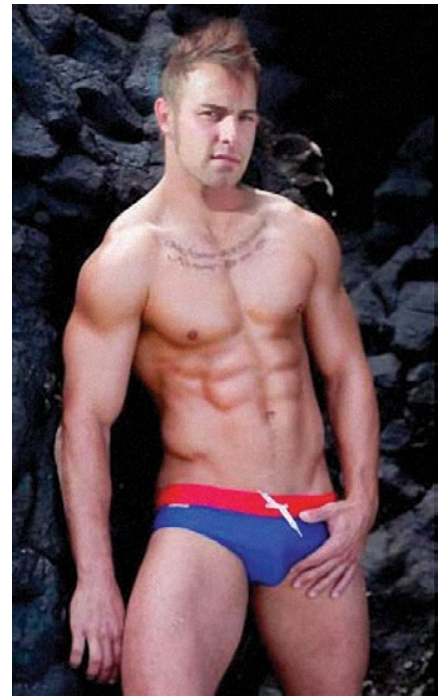
pressed because his wall on Facebook declared that Chris Blackdiamond was a “public figure” with almost five thousand followers.

The deals were signed and sealed with a skimpy three-page contract from Kakula Plant Hire (Pty) Ltd. Conspicuously missing from the contract were the ID numbers of the parties involved.

When the investors received their first rental payments on time, they happily called friends and family with the good news, encouraging them to hop on to this particular bandwagon. And many of them did exactly that. They cancelled insurance policies, withdrew their long-term savings or simply borrowed money from the bank.

Within a few weeks millions of rands poured into the Nedbank account of Kakula Plant Hire. But soon enough both Botes and the monthly rental payments from the supposedly lucrative investment evaporated and neither has been seen since.

Botes oozed style and wealth, so no one thought to question his chosen meeting venue – the local Wimpy



The wonder of Photoshop: Chris Botes with someone else's body

“Chris Blackdiamond” has used several telephone numbers. *Noseweek* sent messages by SMS, WhatsApp and Messenger to his two most recently known numbers inviting him to comment. Confirmation was received that he had opened and read one of them, but he did not respond. He no longer returns his victims' messages left on his phone. A few of them have laid charges with the Mossel Bay police. The docket has been referred to the Hawks as it's a huge task: it emerges that Crooked Chris has been conning people north, south, east and west since early in 2016.

Noseweek has located close on 40 victim-investors in Gauteng, North West



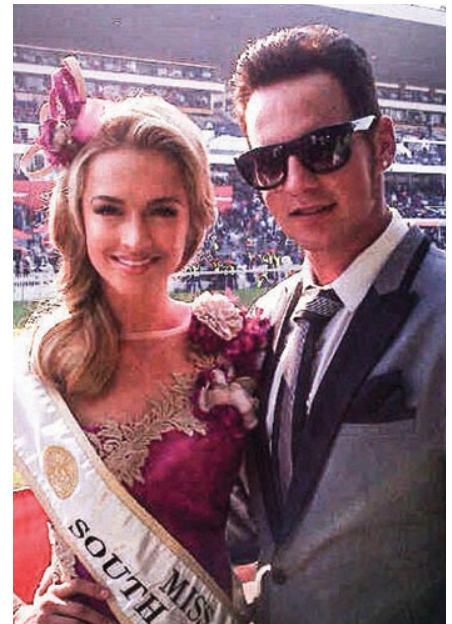
Many faces of Chris Botes (clockwise from top left) with: Ferrari; parents Cheryl and Lourens; partner Adriaan Fourie; former Miss South Africa Belinda Bam; and former Miss South Africa Jo-Ann Strauss

but you'd never guess it by checking out his Instagram page. It is a litany of vainglory – selfies show him posing with two Miss South Africas at glamorous locations and make it clear that he loves dressing up, gambling (presumably the picture of a pile of bank notes featured on the page are his winnings on a lucky day) and flashy cars.

“By posing next to a Maserati or a Porsche in a public parking lot, Botes manages to give the impression on Instagram that it is his own car,” says Rudi Baker, owner of the Mr South Africa pageant and a former friend of Botes.

Although Chris Botes has often introduced himself as the manager of the Mr SA pageant, he was never appointed to the post. Rudi Baker recalls that “Skinny Chris” once used Photoshop to give himself the body of a “miracle muscle man” and entered the photo in a competition run by a men’s magazine, aspiring to become the publication’s next cover model by adding pumped up biceps and a six-pack to his slight frame. Unfortunately for him he was caught out and disqualified.

Rudi Baker invested R50,000 with Botes but says he was stupid to do so because he “knew Chris was a liar



and a crook”. The two were once “an item”, now, he says, he would “like to break Chris’s legs”.

When the sister of a North West investor posted on Facebook that she was looking for Botes, she was bombarded with fake posts claiming she was dishonest and a fraud. Another woman whose relatives lost a hefty sum in the scam received threatening phone calls and messages purportedly from Botes and an unnamed member of his family.

Botes and his partner have left a trail of financial calamity wherever they set up their scam.

Shaun and Vanessa Stenning were their neighbours on the East Rand and became best friends with the pair. Even though Botes is godfather to the Sten-

nings' youngest son, he callously deceived them as well. They have since been sequestered because they were unable to pay their debts after Botes and Fourie disappeared with R100,000 that the Stennings had borrowed from the bank to invest in four shipping containers. To make matters worse, the Stennings in turn convinced several of their family members to invest around R1m of their pension money and life savings with Kakula Plant Hire. Every cent was lost.

"I can't look them in the eye," says 27-year-old Vanessa Stenning, who still cannot come to terms with what happened to her family.

The Stennings met Chris Botes's parents on several occasions and are convinced that Lourens and Cheryl Botes are in on the scam. When Shaun Stenning hired a private investigator to trace Botes and Fourie, his employer received a call, allegedly from Lourens Botes, who falsely claimed that Shaun Stenning was doing private work for his employer's clients.

Shaun almost lost his job over that. He says Botes Snr also threatened him with court action if he caused any further "nonsense" for his son, Chris. Lourens and Cheryl Botes have since moved to East London.

Contacted for comment, Cheryl Botes told *Noseweek* that she knew nothing of threats allegedly made by her husband to any investor, and insisted she was unable to contact Chris. In fact, she added, she and her husband, have also lost money – R150,000 – that they invested with him. She said they had not heard from Chris and Adriaan for the past five months.

To make matters worse, the Stennings convinced several family members to invest around R1m of their pension money and life savings

"Chris Blackdiamond" has a history of running smear campaigns on social media. In 2012 a record company took out a restraining order against him in the South Gauteng High Court after he had maligned singer Kobus Muller on Facebook and leaked a sex tape of the two of them to a Sunday newspaper.

Muller, the 2007 winner of *Supersterre* on SABC2, was devastated by the betrayal because he and Botes had been "in a committed relationship at the time".

According to vehicle registration and transfer papers seen by *Noseweek*, the LSC Botes Family Trust (LSC are Botes senior's initials) has bought and

sold several older-model vehicles in recent months.

The "responsible person" for the trust – and the one who conducted all the deals on its behalf – was none other than Chris Botes. However, he now introduces himself as "Justin" and at times uses Adriaan Fourie's surname.

Botes and Fourie are now plying their trade on the Cape West Coast. The recent car deals were transacted in Vredenburg and Saldanha Bay and Botes held his "sales" meetings with clients at the Mykonos Casino near Langebaan.

All deals were transacted in cash and the money was then paid into a Capitec Bank account. Chris (or Justin) Botes supplied a letter of authorisation from the trust and provided residential addresses in Saldanha Bay and Bloubergstrand.

Noseweek sent Cheryl Botes an SMS asking her whether she was familiar with the LSC Botes Family Trust and, if so, whether she knew anything about her son and her husband using it to trade in motor cars.

Her reply: "Our family trust is doing business all the time; my husband and I are pensioners and we keep ourselves busy doing such transactions. It has nothing to do with my son. I am not going to tolerate any harassment and am forwarding all correspondence to my lawyer."

So, have the police made any headway in the cases reported to them? *Noseweek* has learnt that a warrant was issued for Botes's arrest but police have been unable to serve it.

That being the case, West Coast pensioners beware! ■



Cellar Door open
Monday - Friday 09:00 - 17:00
Saturday 09:30 - 15:30

After Hours
tasting at
96 Winery
Road




Cnr of R44 & Winery road, between Somerset West & Stellenbosch | GPS: 34° 1' 39.06 " S 18° 49' 12.83" E
Tel +27 (0)21 855 2374 | info@kenforresterwines.com | www.kenforresterwines.com

Accidental MP



At 28, Gwen Ngwenya hadn't intended entering politics – just yet. She'd imagined herself following some other career path first. But this year the Master's graduate and former COO of the SA Institute of Race Relations was appointed the DA's Head of Policy and took up a seat in Parliament. Sue Segar talks to the woman some see as a future leader of the party

ON 27 FEBRUARY, THE DAY GWEN NGWENYA WAS sworn in as a DA MP – simultaneously taking up the post of Head of Policy for the official opposition – the 28-year-old wrote on Facebook: “Going back to the DA was not even on my radar when the year began. Just goes to show how unpredictable life is.”

Having pinned her colours to the DA mast, Ngwenya is seen by some as a future leader of the party – and an astute one at that; it is rumoured she only accepted the Policy position on condition she was made a Member of Parliament.

Interviewed by *Noseweek*, she explains: “I knew at some point I wanted to be involved in politics but I had wanted to be successful in another area first. I have a Master's in Economics and I'm now registered for an MSc in Finance (Banking). I thought I would work in the private sector first – being an MP was decades away!”

Ngwenya was formerly Chief Operating Officer at

Gwen Ngwenya being sworn in as an MP this year

the South African Institute of Race Relations (IRR). The institute's CEO Frans Cronje said on her departure: "Gwen is a formidable individual with a deep commitment to the success of our country. She will play a very important role in restoring public confidence in Parliament".

If the DA under Mmusi Maimane were to lose support in the next election as a consequence of the ongoing ructions and challenges in the DA-led municipal coalitions, then the party could lose in Gauteng, see a retreat in the Western Cape and may well be looking for a new leader after 2019. Could she be a likely candidate?

"Those rumours do exist," says Ngwenya, "and I certainly receive that kind of pressure, but right now I am focused on policy. I'd like to leave my mark there and do really great work."

"It's much too early to be planning what lies ahead. It's difficult to attach to a different cause while you still have another one. At the moment, my cause for the party is a credible policy offering. It is clear that the DA's offering is different from that of other parties. Right now I'm completely consumed by that."

Ngwenya describes herself as an "analytical and research-driven person". She says she used to think Parliament was "a place for really in-depth engagement on policy" but now sees that "is actually what is most lacking; so many of the conversations are more political rhetoric than policy making or legislating from an evidence-based perspective".

It's also apparent, she says, that there is not enough technical expertise among MPs. "You really have raw politicians discussing deeply complex and technical matters. Parliament has all the trimmings of a very serious affair where serious matters are being considered, and [you expect] that exemplary solutions to the country's most pressing problems will come of the process, but it couldn't be further from the truth. It makes me feel a little like Parliament is a farce."

Apologising for her cynicism, she says she is convinced the time is ripe in South Africa for a strong focus on policy, after the distractions caused by the turbulent Jacob Zuma years, state capture and corruption.

"The last two administrations, espe-

cially during the past four years, were an incredibly difficult time to drive policy in terms of what was capturing the public imagination. But now, to a large extent, our focus has moved on. Going into an election, and with the ANC under Cyril Ramaphosa, we want to see what South Africa can achieve post-state capture. The time is right for the ANC and other parties to move on into a more policy and ideas space."

Asked about her goals and priorities in shaping policy for the DA, she says: "First, I've come in at a time that is important for the party and for the country. The DA has its congress coming up, and we have the elections next year. On one hand I will try to make sure we have a strong policy offering in the short term, and I'll try to flesh out our entire policy offering as we go along to the elections."

"There is also a need over the long term to develop a system for how the party debates policy; how ideas are originated, how we ensure there is ample space for different voices to feed into the policy process. Policy making can become difficult when there is a top-down approach. People

can feel insufficiently consulted. It is equally difficult if you have a bottom-up process and you get a million ideas. It becomes very difficult to thread them all into a coherent message. It is a delicate balancing act to ensure that enough voices are heard in the policy making process... and to be decisive enough to understand what your bottom line is."

When Ngwenya announced her new appointment on Facebook, she says she was very excited to be "going back home". She expands: "The DA was an integral part of my political involvement when I was at university and I'm looking forward to helping place clear blue water between us and the rest of the political offering in South Africa."

"When I was last involved, the DA was an opposition party. I have incredible admiration for the activists around the country who have grown the party, the councillors who have taken up the governance challenge and the many South Africans who've been willing to give change a chance."

As a result, today I haven't joined the opposition, I've joined a governing party – one that governs, arguably, the majority of South Africa's GDP. This presents incredible opportunities to articulate policy from a position of strength and not as rebuttal to any other party's agenda.

"We're entering a new dawn, centred not on the battle of personalities, but of ideas. Now that's an idea we can be united behind. For me, the DA has always matched my core values and principles," she says.

"The DA I am joining now is not necessarily the same DA I joined at varsity. There is a difference, but not dramatic enough for me not to feel at home as a liberal."

What disturbs her the most about the state of South Africa today?

"The main problem is that so much of our thinking is coloured by racial conflicts and racial tension. The solutions need not be mired in or tainted by racial confrontation at all. For example, if you look at the policies that underpin most of our transformation agenda, eg the Mining Charter and BEE, they are based on the idea that to correct the wrongs of the past, it has to also be race-based."

"Yet I think our race-based policy

Ngwenya used to think Parliament was a place for in-depth engagement on policy but now sees that is actually what is most lacking

making has set the background for much of our policy failures and even for corruption, because it has ultimately allowed a few to benefit on behalf of the many and created a whole class of elite proxy beneficiaries, without wealth-creation happening at a broad-based level.

“So many conversations that we have around policy are really continuous ones about the same thing. We talk about the Mining Charter, we talk about land reform. How do we move into a society that creates shared value for everyone?”

“The answer in all these debates always seems to be that we need to redistribute, to take it from those who currently have it, and give it to

those who were dispossessed.

“But the point is, the country and the economy that we have – and many would admit this – is not designed to accommodate 50-or-so million people. It was an economy designed to benefit the few. So a purely redistributive take on South Africa was never going to ensure broad-based empowerment. It was just going to replace one wealthy elite with another.”

Ngwenya is fascinated by South Africa’s obsession with the Constitution. “I know it’s almost heresy to say this – and the Constitution is very important – but just because something is constitutional does not mean it is good policy. Some things are constitutional and legal but

not necessarily the right policy.”

What contribution would she like to make to South Africa’s politics and as an MP? “At a very broad level, it is to make sure that policy is taken seriously. I would like to see opposition parties use Parliament more effectively. You don’t necessarily have to wait until you’re in government to push forward your policies or legislative agenda. There are not enough private member’s bills being tested in Parliament.

“I think there are opportunities to look for areas in which it will be difficult for the current government to shut down sound policy ideas that would benefit all South Africans just because they come from the opposition.” ■

The art of the possible

GWEN NGWENYA GREW UP IN Durban and matriculated with five distinctions from St Mary’s Diocesan School for Girls, a private Roman Catholic boarding school in Kloof. Her parents were both teachers, and her father, Thami, was a school principal before being appointed a deputy director in the education department until his retirement. Her mother, Busisiwe, still teaches at the Zwelibanzi High School in Umlazi.

When aged 12, and in her final year at Glenmore Primary School, Gwen decided she didn’t want to go to the public high school where most of her classmates were heading. Gwen’s father was on the board of St Mary’s and the young Gwen thought it an “amazing” and “beautiful” school.

With her exceptional grades, she was easily awarded an academic scholarship to attend St Mary’s. There she became a keen debater and started questioning the staunchly Christian ethos of the school. She started reading books by two vocal critics of religion, Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens. “The school became an increasingly ill fit for a pupil who had begun to question God – and who has not since recovered that youthful faith,” she says.

Ngwenya was awarded scholarships



Gwen Ngwenya

to both the universities of Pretoria and Cape Town, opting to study medicine at UCT – but she soon dropped out. “I didn’t see myself as a doctor ultimately” – so switched courses, graduating in 2012 with a Bachelor in Social Science, majoring in Law.

From the moment she set foot on campus, she wanted to get involved in student politics. “I thought of it as fertile ground for the battle of ideas, and the university was confronting important questions at the time, such as how to come up with a fairer

admissions policy that recognises achievement as well as potential; how the university ensures no academically capable student is excluded because they cannot afford fees; and UCT’s place in the global ecosystem of universities. UCT is still grappling with these questions today. I thought that I, and the Democratic Alliance Student Organisation (Daso), could make a worthwhile contribution to those discussions.”

When she contested the SRC elections for the first time in 2009 there had never been a Daso-led SRC in the country. But she and her fellow Daso students secured the majority of seats and Ngwenya became Vice-President. Two years later she stood again – and was elected SRC president.

“I felt our voices were needed with respect to the university’s then race-based admissions policy. I felt that admitting students purely on their grades would be missing those who had faced adversity and had the potential to be successful. But I also felt that identifying that need using race as a proxy for disadvantage was problematic and sent a message that black students were inherently disadvantaged even those who’d had a middle-class upbringing, attended a top-tier school, had two educated parents etc.

“This status of perpetual victim I

found deeply patronising and black students who should be expected to compete on an equal footing were likely to benefit on behalf of those who had faced true disadvantage.

“Like BBBEE policies, race-based policies tend to favour an elite class of beneficiaries who accrue benefits on behalf of the truly disadvantaged. I felt the solution lay in a means-test admissions policy that would identify actual disadvantage as opposed to racial selection.

“Today the university has a hybrid model that considers socio-economic indicators but still has race as a component. I would like to think I played some part in bringing that about.”

Instead of going straight into politics after university, Ngwenya decided she would benefit from work experience “outside of the political arena” first, so “quite dramatically and suddenly” she moved to France.

“I didn’t have much of a plan. I just needed time to think. What I realised is, how many things are possible if you just put in some effort. I found that you can earn enough money teaching English in France to live almost a student life.” She found an au pair job and taught English to French students, first in the north of France and then in Paris, where she loved the culture, the people and felt at home.

“I am deeply suspicious of people who exchange numbers and invite you for drinks the first time you meet them. The French are far more reserved, so when the offer comes, it is real.”

In Paris, Ngwenya joined a literary salon... “We were a circle of literary people, all noteworthy in our own right, who were either working on something ourselves or had interesting insights to contribute in analysing and deeply critiquing work, a novel by Tolstoy for example.”

She hated working as an au pair. “It’s only through that work that I know I don’t want children. People say it’s different when the kids are yours, but I would rather not risk it!

“The husband and wife in the family I tutored for were fascinating. They both worked for a major bank in France and lived in a posh suburb of Paris, yet these very intellectual people were dumbed-down by their kids.”

Determined to stay on in France, Ngwenya enrolled for a Master’s in

Ngwenya describes herself as an analytical person who is very loyal – although ‘my mother always reminds me that only dictators value loyalty’

Economics at the University Paris-Est Créteil (Upec), in Val-de-Marne, Paris, having convinced the selection panel that she would catch up the required maths, stats and economics courses in the four months leading up to the start of the course. “I studied flat out to get good enough grades. I managed to stay in France and got my Master’s in Economics in 2014.”

To complete her thesis which was based on cartelisation in India, Ngwenya lived in New Delhi for nearly a year, working for an American competition economics company, Nathan Associates”. She was then recruited for a job in London, working with Bloomberg’s Analytics team covering emerging markets. “The work served as a great introduction into financial markets and helped give me a global view,” she says. Next stop was to join Bloomberg’s South African team where some of her initial clients were DBSA, PIC, and a range of international banks, government agencies and international brokerages based in South Africa.

Ngwenya took up her position as COO with the Institute of Race Relations in 2016. The position was a new one, with the mandate to study the institute and devise a strategy for its next decade – including to bring in renewed expertise and diversify the

organisation’s revenue stream.

“NGOs involved in thought leadership live or die by the calibre of their people,” she says, naming Frans Cronje, the institute’s CEO as a key influence in her life. “He’s not only a mentor, but a good friend. He has a great skill for identifying what matters to people and organisations.”

Ngwenya credits herself with being “very loyal” then adds: “although my mother always reminds me that ‘only dictators value loyalty’.”

Her travels have had a profound influence, says Ngwenya. “I wish it were possible for more South Africans to travel, as I think a lot of the conversations we have in our country are deeply parochial because we don’t have many international references. When you travel, it opens the mind to think differently.

“For instance, a lot of black South Africans I know might be offended if they were commended on how well they spoke English. But in France you can’t imagine how many people are told they speak English so well.

“We have this South African exceptionalism, where we think we are so unique and our problems are so different. But when you travel, you realise many other countries have the same cultural problems. It’s actually useful when you realise we’re not so terribly unique!”

Asked what drew her to politics, Ngwenya says, “If you are someone who feels strongly about the problems we have and feel you can contribute to the solutions, then you want to be at the table where the decisions are made.”

Does she love South Africa? “I love the world! I know that sounds cheesy, but I’m not filled with a great sense of nationalism or patriotism. I’d love to make South Africa great because that’s where my family and the people I care about live and it has an interesting history. It is the country where I am most able to contribute. It will be interesting to see where South Africa lands up in the world.”

When Ngwenya is not reading, she loves being in or near water and “always thought I’d like to take up sailing”. She also loves art and would love to become a collector, “but I don’t know if a Kentridge exists that I would be able to afford”. ■



Keeping up appearances. Ambition and greed

CLAIRE ROBERTSON'S THIRD NOVEL, *Under Glass*, is, like its predecessors, beautifully produced by Umuzi in a handsome hardcover edition. And, also like its predecessors, this is an historical novel, bringing to vivid life a tranche of South Africa's past: in this instance, mid-nineteenth century Natal, with its newly-arrived British settlers establishing themselves with colonial confidence on the new continent that they assume to be theirs by divine right or imperial fiat.

This particular settler family is the Chetwyn clan: Captain Chetwyn, late of Lucknow, India, and his young wife (whose first name we never learn) and their growing family of unprofitable daughters: under the terms of the will of the captain's father, the estate in Natal, Missenden, that he has bought for his son, is entailed in the male line; that is, unless Mrs Chetwyn produces a male heir, she and her daughters will lose the estate on her husband's death. (Readers of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* will remember that a similar entail blighted Mrs Bennet's existence.)

Upon this entail hinges the main intrigue of the novel: when Mrs Chetwyn produces a fifth daughter, she decides to raise her as a son and heir to the estate. The whole family are party to the deception, and the girl, who is christened Cosmo, grows up with all the privileges and responsibilities of the future owner of the estate, her burgeoning femininity painfully trussed and bound to conform to masculine garb, her movements schooled to suggest confidence and possession rather than the demure submissiveness of the Victorian maiden.

Mrs Chetwyn is the main focaliser in the novel, most of its events being seen through her perspective, but there are also first-person narratives angled through Cosmo, as he/she matures into young adulthood. The style of the novel, convoluted and formal, is matched to the corseted, inhibited lives of the characters, though it is far more imaginatively metaphorical than they would be capable of. There is hardly any overt emotion in the novel; the characters are ruled by calculation, ambition, greed and the determination to keep up appearances.

Spoiler alert: This review reveals information that is withheld from the reader until the middle of the novel.

UNDER GLASS
by Claire Robertson
(Umuzi)



As the novel's title suggests, these are lives under glass; the reader is kept at a distance, both by the elaborately metaphorical style and the emotional aridity of the characters. There is little direct dialogue, and the events are mediated through the dispassionate narrative style that characterises both Mrs Chetwyn's part of the novel and, surprisingly, Cosmo's.

This style, highly wrought as it is, does not always make for easy reading, and indeed at times sacrifices intelligibility to a straining for effect. Thus, for instance, we are given Chetwyn observing a group of men leading oxen dragging a tree trunk: "Chetwyn, hallooing as he comes within earshot, is mantled with heaviness, ahead of the men with beasts and this torn fletch." This reader could make no sense of "mantled with heaviness" and could find "fletch" as a noun in no dictionary. Elsewhere I was puzzled by "Forked trunks, sharpened at one end, uprighted into the augured hole", until I realised that augured is a misspelling of augered.

But these are quibbles. When the elaborate style comes off, as it mainly does, the effect is richly poetic. Still, the novel's strength lies elsewhere, in its astonishingly detailed evocation of a Natal settler community, their daily lives and their domestic and agricultural paraphernalia. (If you don't know what a puggaree or a havelock is, this book will send you to your dictionary.) Without labouring the point, it traces the roots of colonialism to the imperative of "the only guarantee of living on: succession and land". Thus, when the Chetwyns acquire the usufruct of Missenden, "Mrs Chetwyn can see, in the stares of the shop owners, that by their great enterprise her young family has at a stroke broken from the herd of sorry green colonists and set itself on a more splendid path". And, of course, Cosmo owes his/her exalted status in the family entirely to his/her presumed succession to the estate; when "the bright heir" is replaced by "a dull and scrappy sparrow of a girl" nobody deigns to notice her. *Under Glass* ultimately is a highly imaginative treatment of that most topical of processes: the redistribution of land. ■

Not Rocket Science

SIBUSISO BIYELA



Big sky. Big science

THE SQUARE KILOMETRE ARRAY (SKA) is one of the world's biggest science projects and South Africa has a huge part in it. There have been spinoff projects like the MeerKAT radio telescope, that are putting South Africa on the world map in astronomy and science in general.

As a taxpayer you may find yourself asking why you should pay for a project that seems to have no immediate benefits, unlike perhaps urban infrastructure or feeding the hungry. The same question was asked of the American space programme that put a man on the moon, which I personally think is awesome in its own right, but it also gave us useful things like GPS and the memory foam in your takkies.

Nishana Bhogal of the University of Cape Town has penned a research article, "The role of the Square Kilometre Array in South Africa's economic development strategy" in the *South African Journal of Science*, March 2018. In it she shows how South Africa has positioned itself for economic development by moving away from a land- and resource-based economy into a knowledge-driven one as a way of looking into the future.

I've attended quite a few science conferences and I've noticed that researchers with projects given government grant money usually present easily digestible results on their "Projected Benefits" slide, such as jobs and sponsored students. I think it ill-advised to apply the same logic to the SKA project, assessing its merits in terms of number of jobs created, number of research papers published, uplifting the community, and other easily digestible outcomes.

What is more important is the quality of the science that will be done with the telescope and other projects related to it.

With just 16 out of planned 64 dishes built, the MeerKAT telescope situated in the Karoo near the sleepy town of Carnarvon has already produced radio images of spectacular detail – something I saw when attending the official launch of the dishes by Naledi Pandor in 2016. While they might look similar to your rusted DSTv dish, each of these receivers stands at almost 20 metres and weighs 42 tonnes.

Bhogal notes that if quality is ignored, we will have below-par scientists who publish a lot but cannot really compete with the quality being turned out by the rest of the world. The paper suggests that we need to focus on the progress of the SKA-sponsored students: where they are and how many are employed. I wrote a story on one such promising student, Janathon de Klerk, from one of the local schools near the telescope, and she has gone on to get distinctions in her BSc Mathematics and Physics degree at the University of the Free State.

Perhaps more importantly, she says, we need to look at and assess the reach and impact of the data obtained using the MeerKAT and SKA telescopes. An important question to consider is how many of the great number of research

projects derived from this data are led by South African scientists.

I found it refreshing that Bhogal says South Africa is focusing its efforts and money into making use of competitive advantages the country has, such as a geography that is ideally suited to radio astronomy. Radio telescopes work best as a network and the nodes of this global network have missed southern Africa so far; now, on account of the two oceans we find ourselves between, South Africa is a perfect place to add a node to open up the skies further.

So, this is one of the main reasons for the South African government pitting our hopes of a lucrative knowledge economy based on radio astronomy, writes Bhogal.

She concluded that the SKA SA project will contribute significantly to the country's efforts to grow such a knowledge economy. But it is still early days; more research is needed to better gauge the project's impact. With the science that is going to be done there it is almost like a new belt of gold or diamonds has popped up in the Karoo, ready to be mined and drive the economy forward.

The SKA SA project has received a lot of attention in the media, but it is but one of the many science projects that is benefiting from public funding in the country.

In a lot of the work I do, I am increasingly noting that conditions are set for institutions to produce results that will directly, and immediately benefit local communities.

While this is a noble cause, I do not believe that it should be a driving factor for the public funding of science; sometimes knowledge produced from hard science doesn't become useful for many years – even some of the greatest discoveries of the 20th century were the by-products of well-funded research. ■





Not cricket. Literature and architecture

AS I WRITE THIS, AUSTRALIA IS still drowning in debate over its cricket cheats, which has eclipsed the conversation about minister Peter “the gibbering potato” Dutton’s offer to shelter white South African farmers. Commentator Ross Gittins’s wrap of the debate: “I can’t see why people are so shocked to discover our cricketers have been cheating. Surely that’s only to be expected in a nation that’s drifted so far from our earlier commitment to decency, mateship and the fair go... Lovely people, Australians. (And don’t imagine the rest of the world isn’t realising how unlovely we are.)”

On a more positive note: two South African-born writers are in the news: Peter Temple, who came here in the seventies and in 2010 won Australia’s most prestigious literary award, the Miles Franklin, with his novel *Truth*, has died of cancer at 71. Fellow crime writer Shane Maloney said of Temple (who also won the British crime writers’ association major award, the Gold Dagger, in 2007): “He was to terse blokes with hard jobs and wounded souls what Proust was to memory. He made every sentence count and shot the stragglers.” His publisher, Michael Heyward, said: “As an expat he heard us in a way we could hardly hear each other.” Temple, who was legendary among journalism students for his teaching earlier in his career, said of his departure from South Africa in 1977, that “you can have no real love of country if you disagree with the decision making of the country”.

Crime was a “wonderful vehicle” for engaging audiences. “What is more at the heart of social life than the crime against the person? I see it as an excuse for beginning the narrative. It has its own logic and relentless drive. It is a reason for things to happen and for the way characters behave.”

A profile in the *Sydney Morn-*



Author Ceridwen Dovey

ing Herald of acclaimed on Sydney writer, Ceridwen Dovey, is headlined “The legacy of guilt after growing up in SA.” For 15 years of her literary career and her first two books, Dovey (now in her late thirties and living in Sydney) avoided writing overtly about her own life. In her new novel, a psychological thriller, *In the Garden of the Fugitives*, she has attempted “to find the right form to contain some of that experience”.

Although her childhood in South Africa was happy, she knew from a young age that “something was off”. She describes herself as a “beneficiary”, a term she drew from the Ugandan academic and political commentator Mahmood Mamdani, who divides survivors of apartheid into three groups: victims, perpetrators and beneficiaries.

Being a beneficiary is a weird place to write from, says Dovey: “So much of the power of literature comes from witnesses, from the sense of having been wronged. When you can’t speak from that position, how can you speak? Should you even speak at all?”

Her parents, Ken and Teresa Dovey, according to her, found a way to critique

their society through work: “Dad was an educator, he was taking on black students when it wasn’t the done thing. He got a death threat, which was why we left for Melbourne in 1982: they had spies everywhere, you didn’t have to do much to get reported.”

Her mother was a theorist on postcolonial literature, one of the first people to write about J M Coetzee. Dovey studied creative writing at the University of Cape Town, and *Blood Kin*, which she wrote as her MA thesis, was published in 15 countries. For the new novel, she cites 38 sources.

On another creative front, the co-founder of Menulog (an online food and beverage delivery business) Ukrainian Leon Kamenev, is using South African architecture firm Saota to design his AU\$10 million house on a AU\$79m site (which is the consolidation of four houses in the Sydney suburb, Vaucluse) after scrapping plans for a massive French-inspired chateau. Saota’s website says the firm is “an internationally sought-after brand... with strong roots in South Africa” and with 85% of its clientele now being international, with projects in 86 countries, from Dubai to St Tropez.

In Sydney, where the preoccupation with real estate is such that *The Sydney Morning Herald*, has a dedicated “Prestige property editor”, we will no doubt hear more of this very slick outfit.

Signs of the times: at the Black Bar & Grill at the Star Casino, would-be-diners are lining up for a \$600 steak. It’s not on the menu but you can join the waitlist for the “1kg, dry-aged Blackmore wagyu ribeye on the bone (marble score 9+)”.

A restaurant in Mosman, Ormeggio at the Spit, is charging AU\$20 per head per customer extra for a window table with a guaranteed water view. Its 11-course tasting menu is AU\$196 before drinks. “It’s like booking front-row seats at a concert, or an ocean-view hotel room,” says co-owner Anna Pavoni. ■



Sweet red. A real blast

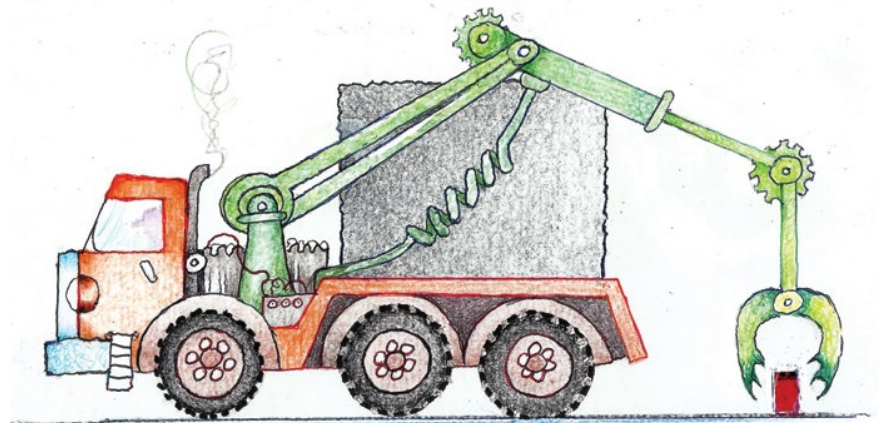
BACK IN THOSE DAYS YOU DIDN'T have to be found guilty in a court of law to get stuck in a prison, the Minister of Justice could sommer imprison you in your own home at your own expense on advice or whim of his police Security Branch, which is to say Gestapo.

Also there was this thing called a Banning Order; among other uglies, the minister would declare you were not allowed to converse with anybody at all unless for business purposes or with your own family. Conversation was legally defined as Social Intercourse.

Now I'm scarce a day out of boep when a certain SB officer Viljoen arrives at my home with many documents declaring all the above for ten years, also a heavy ou of sergeant rank, name of Steen, which is apt because he's built like the proverbial brick shithouse. He is here as witness to the delivery of the docs, you see, also just in case things get physical, laaik. I read. Meneer Viljoen, sê ek, wat beteken nou eintlik Social Intercourse? Nou men Herrilt, says he, that's when they don't do it for money.

Well bugged if I'm going overseas, think I, to dream dreams of revolutionary grandeur, I have a staunch missus who brings home her teacher's cheque each month and I settle down to being a househusband. Problem solved. I thought I knew a bit about housekeeping until I got down to washing babies' nappies, that's enough to rid a lad of any machismo, so now I set to with a will. In the long years of solitary at Pretoria Central Prison where the really bad bastards go, e.g. MK explosives crims, in a small cell with a felt mat to sleep on and an army blanket I'd dream often enough of such a garden as I now have. Mine all mine!

Indigenous, exotic, what the hell, within the year or so my plot of urban agriculture is ablaze with flower and fruit, hens and plump ducks laying eggs all about, and above all for



glory a Catawba grape vine spreading wild o'er branch, bough and garden wall. Deep purple, almost black, with a fine white dusting on the skin, and a strange luscious smoky flavour, this is not one of your Cape winter rainfall grapes, it's a North American summer rainfall berry, and it occurs to me there's no reason it shouldn't make a fine sweet red California wine.

So I get some breadmaking yeast from PnP and I fill a big plastic tub with grapes, also stems for flavour, and go to the bathroom to wash my feet with hot hot water and clip my toenails and brush them clean clean and jump about Italian peasant style on the grapes/yeast plus some sugar, and come away with a good two litres of fine fluid which I set aside to ferment in one of those big wide-top glass jars like my granny used for bottling peaches. I give it a month or two before swirling it about in a tall-stem wine glass and sipping it and spitting in a bucket.

Trouble is, it just goes on fermenting. Eventually it gets so thick I find I can spread it like jam and I think whatthehell man, jam is as necessary as wine in this life and I reclassify it as such and use it on my laaitie Joe's school saamies. Okay. Another problem solved. But after another month or so young Joe comes home with a po-

lite note from his headmaster saying Dear Sir, your son's classroom has suffered an infestation of cockroaches of late and the PestLess vermin control people have traced the source of the problem to his desk which was full of festering sandwiches among his books. Would you please be so kind as to use something without sugar for his lunch perhaps Marmite. Yours faithfully.

Well come on, man, I could just fling this jam on the banana plants, but I do think it unconscionable to waste food when so many poor souls in this country are stricken with hunger. It's about bedtime when I make a decision and gently place the jar on the pavement outside my front gate. I gently fall asleep and violently wake up an hour or so later to the great roaring of a truck engine outside my gate. I peep over my front wall. The SB hou my nog dop, it seems. What must that jar contain from a convicted oplaser? The Bomb Squad has arrived with a great heavy army-type vehicle carrying a ferro-concrete block with a conical cavity up top. A man in bomb-proof gear carefully steers a hydraulic crane gently to pick up the jar and place it in the conical cavity. They gently drive it down to that army firing range other side the Umgeni River Mouth and blow it up with dynamite. ■

Smalls ads must be booked and paid for online. Book at:
www.noseweek.co.za



FOREIGN HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Paris apartment Centrally located Montorgueil (2nd) Reasonable rates, internet, TV, etc; ljpgundav@gmail.com; +33 62 034 6710.

Bordeaux Self-cater in historic, river-side village in wine lands. From €73/night. Go to www.bordeauxwinelands.com or call +27 (0)81 869 2325.

Strand Pavilion 4 & 6 sleepers, week 7 to 14 2018 40% discount. Call Donde in evenings 011 885 1741.

Bramber self-catering apartments Safe, spacious, central and reasonably priced; www.brambercourt.com or call 083 253 3388.

LOCAL HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION

Klein Bosheuvel Bishops court, Klaassens Road, 200m from Kirstenbosch Gardens Rycroft gate. Tranquil B & B in an acre of gardens. Call 021 762 2323; www.kleinbosheuvel.co.za

Arniston Stunning seafront home perched on cliff top overlooking beach. Breathtaking position and panoramic sea views, 5 bedrooms, 3 en-suite, serviced; 082 706 5902.

LOCAL PROPERTY FOR SALE

Nosing around for property in Langebaan or the West Coast? Call Melanie Mouton-Creugnet; 079 378 0000 or melanie@sothebysrealty.co.za

5 star Knysna hotel suite Rental income + private use No admin and maintenance hassles Ideal syndication R2.65m; renrog@mweb.co.za; 082 652 0706.

Central Drakensberg Share Block Cottage for sale with a beautiful view of Cathkin Peak. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, 150m²; Drascha8@gmail.com or call 083 646 1995.

PROPERTY SERVICES

Commercial property For successful deals, buying or selling, contact Gilby on 084 491 0513.

Want to rent, buy or sell your home in Somerset West (Cape). Contact Diane at Seeff Properties by email rentals.sw@seeff.com or call 082 331 8227.

FOR SALE

Tinus & Gabriel de Jongh paintings bought, sold and valued for estates and insurance; 021 686 4141; dejongh@yebo.co.za; www.tinusdejongh.co.za

Plastic pallets bought & sold. (New international legislation for exporting on wooden pallets! ISPM15); www.premierpallets.co.za or 083 756 6897.

For customized organic growing mediums in KZN. Email: organic4africa@futureregtn.co.za or call 033 413 2960.

Tent Pro cc sells new army tents (5x5m and 10x5m) and dome tents. Go to www.tentpro.co.za or call Philip 082 537 2894.

Merc CLS3500 2008 112,000kms; R165,000; owner retiring. Call 082 576 1378.

Zikhona Bricks in Port Elizabeth SABS approved and the only company to buy from. Call 041 461 1695.

WANTED

Your unwanted firearms, left from deceased estates or simply a bother to keep? david.klatzow@mweb.co.za is looking for a variety of weapons to add to a forensic collection used for research.

LEGAL, INSURANCE & FINANCIAL

Alleged forgery? Questioned signatures? Document fraud? FDE / handwriting expert Cape Town; www.fdex.co.za

Lawyer.co.za is a new website for members of the public with extensive information about lawyers and the law in SA. Research the law, or find a law firm. Also available in Afrikaans at www.Prokureur.co.za

Jurgens Bekker Attorneys, Alberton. Commercial and litigation. Call 072 011 3670 or email megan@jurgensbekker.co.za

Jurgens Bekker Attorneys, Bedfordview Commercial and litigation. Call 083 294 9995 or email jurgens@jurgensbekker.co.za

Jurgens Bekker Attorneys, Cape Town Commercial and litigation. Call 078 989 2957 or email shelley@jurgensbekker.co.za

Jurgens Bekker Attorneys, Kempton Park Commercial and litigation. Call 072 424 3177 or email louis@jurgensbekker.co.za

Rand is considerably stronger, consider your offshore investments. Contact Brandon at Northern Cross Wealth 021 200 5858.

Staff absent for ill health or sickness? Call us to manage the situation 021 670 6920.

SERVICES

French lessons (Jhb) or translations (country-wide). Sorbonne-degreed native French speaker from Paris. For more information call 071 356 8279; or email christine.vaissiere@icloud.com.

Get away from it all Come and learn to make artisan bread in Wakkerstroom. Call Jeff on 082 900 2760 for details.

Richmond Plumbing and Sanitaryware for the finest sanitaryware and taps in South Africa; www.richmondgroup.co.za

Procurement / Project management Consultants for building or engineering projects. Contact mikechurch@vodamail.co.za or call 084 505 4848.

PERSONAL

Desperately poor school 'learners' need your monetary support. Every Rand counts; www.asf.org.za

Please donate to organisations, such as www.outa.co.za, that fight against abuse of taxpayers' money.

Ahmen and Hamman Attorneys Call 021 551 8800. Thank you *Noseweek*. Your magazine has enriched our lives.

SMALLS ADS

The deadline is the 24th of the month, two months prior to publication.

Ads are prepaid at R200 plus VAT for up to 15 words, thereafter R15 per word plus VAT.

Please note that multiple (long-term bookings) are now available online.

BOXED ADS

Boxed ads are 6cm (1 column) wide, and are charged at R900 for the first 3cm and R250 per additional cm (length) plus VAT.

Payment is due within 30 days of invoicing.

Please contact ads@noseweek.co.za to book or phone 021 686 0570.

DISCLAIMER

Although *Noseweek* does reject obviously questionable ads, it can't run checks on every ad that appears in the magazine. The magazine doesn't endorse the products or services advertised and readers are urged to exercise normal caution when doing business with advertisers.

IT'S EASY TO SUBSCRIBE

Never miss an issue...Free delivery...Enjoy big savings

ONLINE Subscribe at www.noseweek.co.za or email subs@noseweek.co.za

PHONE Call 021 686 0570 with your credit card or fax 021 686 0573 or 0866 773 650

PLEASE NOTE: Cheques are no longer accepted in payment.

Apart from having SA's top investigative magazine delivered to your door, you could also win one of five Ken Forrester wine packs. Subscribe now and stand in line to score.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS MONTH'S WINNERS:

Mr Dennis Boyd, Leisure Isle; Mr Pietje Falconer, South Beach; Ms Bev Liddle, Claremont; Ms Lerato Malimabe, Parktown; Mr John Quinn, Beacon Bay

QUALITY PUBLICATIONS CHOOSE A QUALITY PRINTER

COLOURTONE ARIES PRINTERS OF CHOICE

For all your printing, packaging and display requirements
contact colourtone aries on 021 929 6700 or

www.colourtonearies.co.za

info@colourtonearies.co.za



@colourtonearies



Colourtone Aries



COLOURTONE ARIES

print | packaging | display

