

A large flock of pink flamingos is shown in a wetland, with many birds in the foreground and background. The flamingos are standing in shallow water, and their long legs and necks are prominent. The background is a soft-focus view of more flamingos, creating a sense of a large colony.

E-magazine

KIMBERLEY

September 2026

& surrounding areas

Junior Oliphant
is creating more than art

RAEES ESSOP
Putting Kimberley
on the digital map

MCGREGOR MUSEUM

WHERE KIMBERLEY'S HISTORY COMES ALIVE

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Bloemfontein Courant is a free community newspaper with hyper-local news for the local community of Bloemfontein. It is a bilingual newspaper (Afrikaans and English) with a distribution figure of 45 000 free copies per week in Bloemfontein. The paper is delivered at households and at selected hotspots like shopping malls, filling stations and the offices of government departments.

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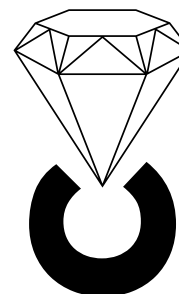
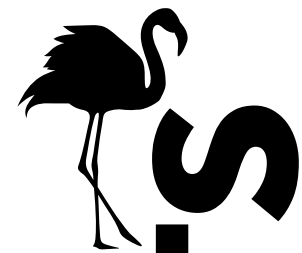


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WHY GET IT?

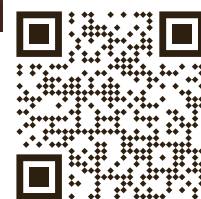
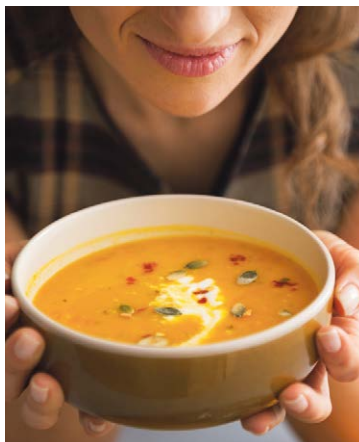
Get It Bloemfontein is the City of Roses' premier upmarket community magazine, specifically targeting career-driven women and families.

• **Distribution:** 7 000 copies monthly (local footprint).

• **Editorial focus:** A local guide for home decor, food, fashion and regional lifestyle.

• **Digital presence:** High interaction via e-magazine, Facebook and Instagram.

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Junior Oliphant is creating more than art

Creativity has always been at the heart of Junior Oliphant's story. The 29-year-old visual artist and entrepreneur has turned his passion into a thriving creative business while creating opportunities for others and inspiring the next generation of artists.

From his studio in Kimberley, he is proving art can be both a career and a catalyst for change.

Growing up, art became both an escape and a guide. "I was heavily inspired and influenced by a close relative who made me see that being creative and artistic was a way for me to keep my hands occupied and not dwell on gangsterism and drugs. You know the saying: 'Idle hands are the devil's playground'."

That early encouragement laid the foundation for what has become a flourishing creative career. Although creativity was not always viewed as a viable profession, Junior was determined to build a future that relied on more than talent alone.

"I realized that if I wanted to create a future for myself, I couldn't just rely on talent; I had to build something sustainable. That's where the idea of creating my own studio came from. It was about independence, but also about creating space for others like me."

That entrepreneurial mindset has shaped every aspect of his business. Rather than limiting himself to one discipline, Junior embraced multiple creative avenues, allowing his studio to evolve into a vibrant space where artistry and practical design services exist side by side.

"It came from necessity and curiosity at the same time. As a creative, you don't always have the luxury of focusing on just one medium, especially in the beginning. You explore, you adapt, and you find ways to make your skills work for you."

Whether creating large-scale murals, intricate tattoos or thought-provoking paintings, his work is united by a strong focus on storytelling, identity and cultural heritage. Drawing inspiration from Khoisan heritage and the lived experiences of the Coloured community, his art encourages conversation as much as admiration.

"I'm not trying to create something that simply looks good. I'm trying to create something that makes people think, question, and reflect."

His commitment to community extends well beyond the studio walls. Junior founded the Northern Cape Arts

Collective, a non-profit organisation dedicated to supporting emerging artists through mentorship, collaboration and education. For him, investing in the next generation is just as important as building his own career.

"One of my main goals is to create access. Whether that's through mentorship, collaboration, or simply creating a space where creatives can work and learn, it's important to open doors."

He believes representation matters and seeing someone from a similar background succeed, can transform what young creatives believe is possible. "When people see someone from their own environment exhibiting internationally or building a sustainable creative career, it shifts their perspective on what's possible."

Balancing the demands of entrepreneurship, creative commissions, tattoo clients and a full-time job require discipline and commitment that he encourages young artists to develop from the start.

"Start with what you have and where you are. Don't wait for perfect conditions because they don't exist. Talent alone isn't enough. You need discipline, patience, and the ability to adapt."

As his studio continues to grow, Junior hopes it will become a recognised creative hub where artists collaborate, businesses flourish and new ideas take shape. His ambitions, however, stretch beyond commercial success.

"I want to leave behind something that goes beyond me as an individual."

He dreams of pioneering a distinctive artistic style that will one day be studied academically while creating opportunities that were not always available to creatives from communities like his own.

Success is measured not only by the art he creates, but by the doors he opens, the stories he tells and the legacy he leaves behind for Kimberley's creative community.

"If the next generation of creatives can look at what I've built and feel like they can go even further, then I've done what I set out to do," he concludes.

“

I want to leave behind something that goes beyond me as an individual.

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ADVERTORIAL

Mattanu

Where rare wildlife and luxury meet

Mattanu Private Game Reserve is located in the Northern Cape, the biggest, safest, and a malaria-free province in South Africa, approximately 50 km north-west of the Diamond City, Kimberley.

Nestled in the shade of indigenous camelthorn trees, this family-owned and managed business offers unparalleled intimacy and seclusion in luxury safari tents, a thatched suite, or a log cabin. These units can be booked on a fully inclusive basis or as a self-catering option, and with fireplaces and wood-fired hot tubs, they are ideal for both winter and summer visits.

For the more adventurous, there is an intimate five-stand campsite available under the camelthorn tree canopies.

Their service is characterised by warm and effortless hospitality, often including a personal tour by owner Dr Johan Kriek or his son, Jacques Kriek. Guests should not miss the underground wine cellar, where a selection of top South African wines appeal to all wine lovers. Alternatively, lounge around the swimming pool area and enjoy the local Blue Wildebeest and Yellow Cobra cocktails.

Mattanu is the only reserve in South Africa where visitors can view breeding programmes of roan, sable, buffalo, red oryx, golden oryx, saddleback oryx, golden wildebeest, black impala, tsessebe, and Livingstone eland together on the same property. These, amongst 30 other animal species, can be viewed by safari vehicle, quad bike, golf cart or helicopter.

Dr Kriek, wildlife veterinarian and owner, along with the rest of the family, has been in the wildlife industry since the early 1980s. Their passion for conservation is infectious. The farm was bought in 1991 and developed as a breeding area for rare antelope species. In 2006, Mattanu opened its doors to the public as an eco-tourism destination.

Dr Kriek is regarded as one of the pioneers in the roan, sable, and buffalo breeding industry, with imports of roan, sable, and Lichtenstein hartebeest from Malawi to South Africa in 1987 and again in 1991, and the initiation of disease-free buffalo

breeding projects in 1994.

Since 2016, they have hosted the annual Kriek Wildlife Auction every April, providing a platform for guest sellers in the wildlife industry to present quality animals at the boma and auction venue. These venues are also available for weddings, conferences and team-building events.

The Kriek family emphasises that without sustainable utilisation of species in Africa, numbers will decline, as it is not economically viable to run a reserve purely for breeding and tourism. Older animals are moved to a separate free-roaming area where they are selectively hunted by clients on a fair-chase basis, controlling numbers and generating income and meat for foreign exchange and communal food security. Although somewhat controversial, this approach has proven effective in saving species from extinction and curbing poaching.

The unique family story contributed to the numerous accommodation, service, and wine list awards over the past 20 years. Five luxury safari tents, each with a private deck, are decorated in African design, complete with luxury sleeper-wood furnishings, full en-suite bathrooms, indoor showers, and air-conditioning with underfloor heating. The two-bedroom thatched suite and log cabin, both with fully equipped kitchens and lounges, are popular options. Both units have fireplaces and hot tubs facing a waterhole.

Guests can relax in the African Kalahari Bushveld Savannah amidst camelthorn trees, enjoy evenings in the luxury restaurant, bar, and wine cellar, and experience true South-African cuisine. After a hot day, relax at the pool, be pampered by therapists with massage treatments, or partake in numerous activities at Mattanu or the surrounding area.

Visit www.mattanu.com for more information. Contact reservations@mattanu.com or 060 988 5555 for bookings.



06

KIMBERLEY & surrounding areas



September 2026

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KIMBERLEY & surrounding areas

07





Where Kimberley's history comes alive

“More than a building filled with artefacts, the McGregor Museum is a place where Kimberley's past can be explored, questioned and appreciated”

For more than a century, the McGregor Museum has preserved the stories, people and places that shaped Kimberley and the Northern Cape. From the diamond rush to ancient human history and the struggle for democracy, the museum offers visitors a fascinating journey through the region's past.

For more than a century, the McGregor Museum has served as a gateway into Kimberley's past, preserving stories that stretch from the city's diamond-mining origins to the rich natural and cultural heritage of the Northern Cape.

Formally established on 24 September 1907, the museum began when its original building in Chapel Street was donated to the people of Kimberley by Mrs Margaret McGregor in memory of her late husband, Alexander McGregor. A former mayor and prominent figure in Kimberley's early development, his legacy became closely connected to the preservation of the city's history.

According to chief executive officer of the McGregor Museum, Sunet Swanepoel, the institution has remained closely connected to Kimberley's identity since its establishment. "From its inception, the museum has been closely tied

to Kimberley's identity – documenting not only the city's diamond mining origins, but also the broader natural and cultural history of the Northern Cape."

What began as a single-site institution has since grown into a multidisciplinary museum and research centre, with a network of museums and heritage sites across the province. These include house museums, archaeological sites, a rock art centre and a battlefield museum.

Swanepoel said the museum's role extends beyond simply preserving artefacts. "The museum plays a central role as both a repository and research institution for the Northern Cape's heritage."

Its collections cover natural history, archaeology, ethnography and social history, allowing visitors to explore the region from different perspectives. The museum also seeks to document everyday life, social change and the diverse communities that

have helped shape Kimberley and the province.

Visitors can explore natural history displays, archaeological material and exhibitions covering significant periods in Kimberley's development, including the Siege of Kimberley and the city's transformation during the diamond rush.

Among the museum's standout features is the Ancestors Gallery, which offers a deep-time perspective on human history in the Northern Cape. Another key exhibition, Journey to Democracy, explores the history of the liberation struggle in the province.

Military history also forms part of the museum's offering, with exhibitions covering the Kimberley Regiment and the World Wars, while broader timelines connect local stories to South Africa and the wider world.

Education is another important part of the museum's work. Swanepoel said engaging younger generations remains a core function of the institution. "Education is a core function of the museum. It offers structured school programmes, guided tours, and curriculum-aligned content that helps learners engage with history in a tangible way."

Kimberley's identity is inseparable from the discovery of diamonds, and the museum's collections provide an opportunity to explore this important chapter in the city's history.

According to Swanepoel, the museum holds extensive archival material relating to the diamond diggings and Kimberley's development, including documents, photographs and artefacts connected to early mining enterprises.

These collections also help visitors understand the wider impact of the diamond rush, including labour systems, urban development and the social and economic transformation of the region.

The museum's relationship with the community remains equally important. "Community engagement is fundamental to our work," Swanepoel said, highlighting public lectures, heritage days, temporary exhibitions and collaborative projects as some of the ways the museum encourages public participation.

Through partnerships with local organisations, artists, historians and heritage institutions, the McGregor Museum continues to create opportunities for people to engage with and contribute to the preservation of the region's heritage.

More than a building filled with historical objects, the McGregor Museum remains a living connection between Kimberley's past and its present. Through its collections, research, educational programmes and community initiatives, it continues to preserve the stories of the people, places and events that have shaped Kimberley and the Northern Cape.



