

KEVIN RITCHIE

Schuster disses the Div and Malema nationalises Die Bokke

LEON Schuster's not too sure that the Boks will do well at this World Cup, but he'll be glued to his TV tomorrow morning when the team kick off their bid for history to become the first team to retain the cup – and the first to win it three times.

At one stage the South African funny man was so beset by doubts that he couldn't find it in himself to come up with an anthem for this year's cup – this from the man who will for ever be known for writing the seminal 1995 World Cup anthem, *Hier Kom die Bokke*.

Fortunately, the creative block didn't last. This week he launched *Bok Tjoppie*, a 17-track album, just in time for the cup – although he's still hedging his bets.

"This CD wasn't supposed to happen, but my old friend and music partner in the Drakensberg, Don Clarke, phoned me up to say he'd written nine songs he wanted me to look at."

The songs sparked the gees (spirit) and a further five new songs were written, and so *Bok Tjoppie* was born over a frenetic two months, in-between Schuster doing the pre-production for his next movie, which he starts shooting in 10 days.

There's *Ou Snorre*, a tongue-in-cheek look at coach Peter de Villiers, who Schuster describes as "a legend, a character who's become a caricature".

"I felt it was the right time to make a song for him, getting the knife in as I do, but also say-

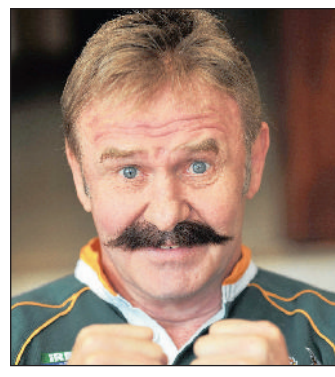


AW, SHUCKS: Avid rugby fan Leon Schuster has shown his support with the release of his new CD of rugby songs. Here he dons his Div moustache and sings one of the tracks called *Shnore*.



ing he's a good bloke," he says. Much like Naas Botha, the Bok legend out of whom Schus-

ter almost built a separate career lampooning. Another target is the ANC



Youth League's Julius Malema. "He's so in our faces, you know, what with this discipli-

nary hearing, so we had to get him in, but how? Then I thought, he can nationalise the Bokke, since he wants to nationalise everything else."

Schuster is adamant that there can be no half measures. "If you do a parody you have to go all the way. You have to speak the truth of what people are thinking, no matter what the consequences, so we take him to the cleaners."

There's also the anthemic *Dra die Bok*, written as a plea to retain the Springbok emblem at a time when the animal was moving from the left breast of the jersey to the right and finally to the sleeve – "and eventually down here and then there and then away", Schuster

says, pointing first to his hip, then his thigh, then the floor.

But it's not all about the Boks. There's *Bobby Spiked the Ball*, a whimsical look at what would happen if India discovered rugby. The Indians end up facing the All Blacks – and then have to douse the ball in curry powder and spices to level the odds.

Schuster is a rugby fanatic as well as a Bok supporter, having played hooker for Shimlas, the University of the Free State 1st XV as well as being in the Free State Currie Cup squad for two years in the early 1970s.

He's been writing music about rugby ever since, beginning with *Morné*, about the Springbok captain of the time,

Morné du Plessis, who went on to become the team manager in 1995. He wrote his first full rugby album in the 1980s and has since produced another nine rugby albums.

"I was inspired by Max Boyce, the great Welsh singer, who of course has a far better singing voice than I do, I just gool the gees," he laughs.

This World Cup will be different too because of the distance and time difference.

"Bok Tjoppie is written about just that," he explains, "getting up early in the morning, lighting the braai and then sinking the first beers before breakfast. Man, by the time the games start, these okes are going to be pissed."

As for Schuster, he'll be in green and gold tomorrow, glued to his TV: "... Maybe we can make history – I pray we do!"

An enduring Durban tradition

Adams, booksellers for generations, still have their HQ in the 'buzzing' CBD

LYSE COMINS

PETER Adams has seen massive changes as he has gone to work in the Durban CBD almost every day for the past 45 years.

He has watched the fall of many giants around Adams book shop at 341 Dr Pixele Kaseme Street (former West Street). One by one they have closed for good or moved on to malls – Greenacres, Greatermans, Payne Brothers and many others.

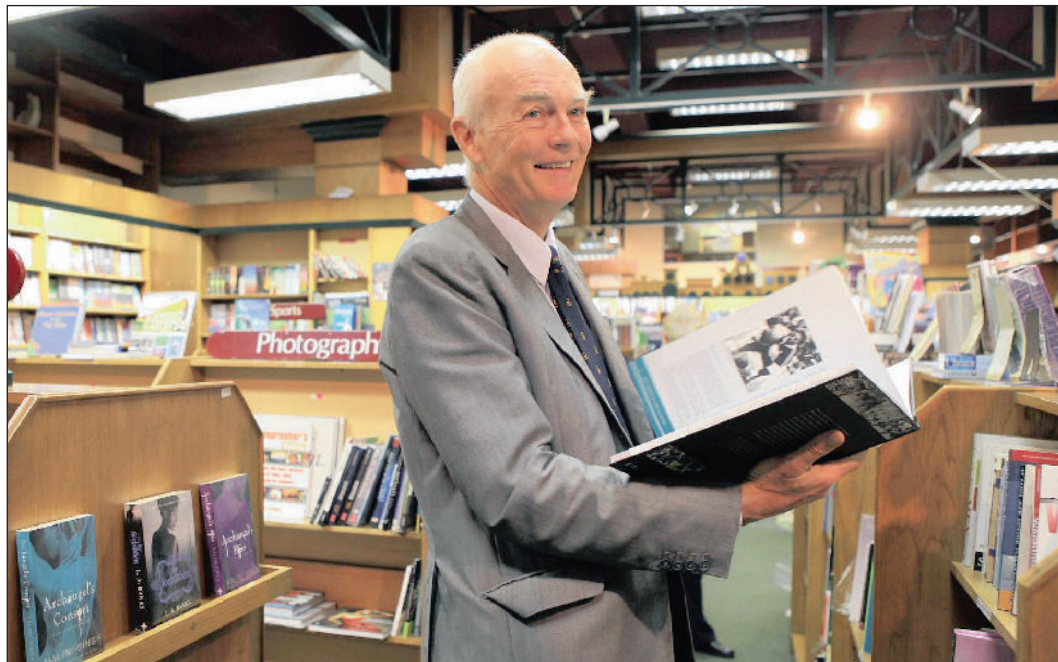
But 146 years later the family business remains as one of the last historical bastions in the city and one of few independent book sellers in the country.

Dressed in a smart silver-grey suit and tie, the 65-year-old director of Adams book shops is happy to brush shoulders with pedestrians rushing to and fro in the bustling city street. As his tall, slim frame strides towards the shop he shares his enthusiasm for the city.

"The middle of Durban is different to the middle of Cape Town – it really buzzes," Adams says. "Look at all the people in the street. You won't get this kind of traffic in a shopping centre. It's actually my most successful shop. The middle of Durban is busy, busy, busy. I have been coming in to the middle of town almost every day for 45 years and I have never been threatened or felt threatened."

"The nice thing about having the shop here is that without it the people who use the middle of town would not have a book shop."

As far back as Adams recalls he has worked in the shop. "I remember bumping along



RELEVANCE: Adams director Peter Adams loves the Durban CBD, where he says business is booming with a surge in interest in Christian books and books about black South African history.

in my dad's old Armstrong Sideley. I would sit in the back and we would bump along. My grandfather had one of the first cars in Durban and he would go across Bellevue Road and not stop at the stop street. The ladies all said it was quite frightening," Adams says.

Adams was born of the industrial revolution after his grandfather and great uncle, who were straw-board makers in England, found their skills obsolete and in 1865 came to South Africa. Straw-board was a paper product used to make boxes and this could be done more cheaply by machines.

"They started the business and when the gold rush took place Durban grew and the business grew and we were able to move the business to

Castle Grande lower down in West Street towards the post office, where we shared premises with The Natal Mercury. Then, in 1932, we moved into the building where we are now. They must have bought the land just as the great depression struck," Adams says.

"I don't know much about my grandfather but my father took over the business in 1938," Adams says.

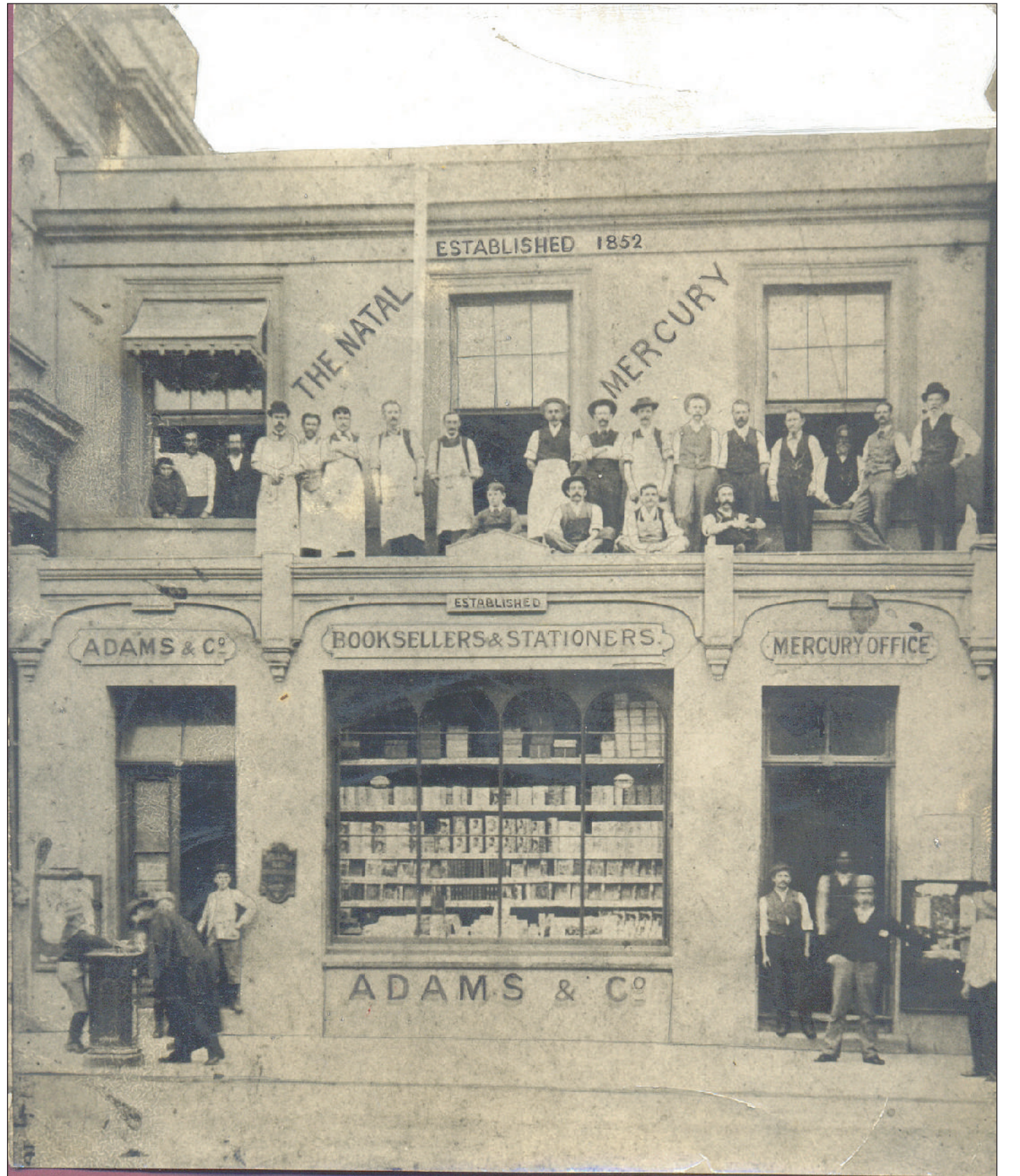
"In the period until 1950 Adams had grown to be as much a stationery shop as a book shop. Everyone used to buy Christmas cards and in December we turned it into a Christmas display. We sold ladies' handbags and pens."

Another bookshop in town at the time was run by TW Griggs, with whom the Adams

family often enjoyed tea on Christmas day. And when one of TW Griggs's long-time staff members, whom Adams remembers only as Mr Rabjohn, left to join Adams, within a few years customers migrated. Adams bought out Griggs in 1962 and the new "Adams and Griggs" store was formed.

"Since then we have expanded and we now have a medical bookshop and we took over Shuter and Shooter in Pietermaritzburg. We have two shops on the University of KZN campus. We are now predominantly an academic book shop," Adams says.

About 100 people are employed in the shops, which face fierce opposition from national chain stores at a time when book shops the world over are



LEGACY: The original Adams book shop in Durban sometime after 1865. The business shared premises with The Natal Mercury, which was established in 1852.

struggling for their survival. But what impact will the advent of the Kindle and e-publishing have on the future of Adams?

"I think the new media are a revolution that is going to continue," says Adams. "Book shops will have to find some

way to participate. We have to find some way of giving our customers a digital book. We are speaking to distributors about the possibility of selling digital books."

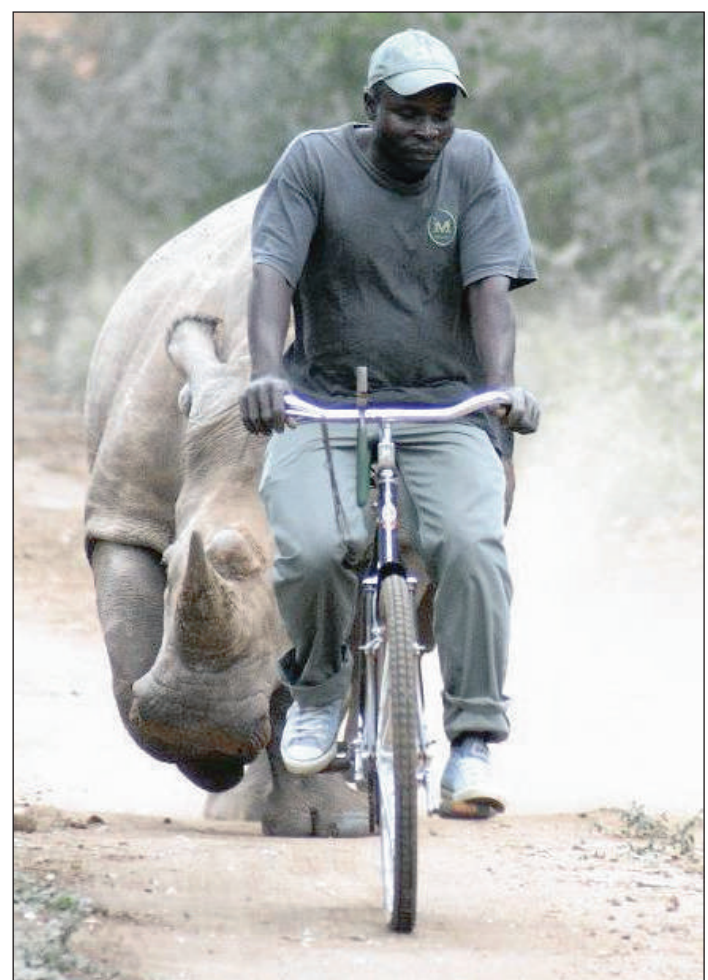
Adams already sells books online to many expats abroad who are studying through

Unisa.

"I still think books are the best way to learn about something in depth and they will always have a place. Books are in my blood. Book-selling is a lovely business. The people in it are interesting and behave well toward each other. I am

very pleased I have lived in that world."

Sadly, Adams hints that his involvement may be the last chapter in the family business as his children are not likely to follow in his footsteps, and it will likely be taken over in future by an unrelated associate.



WAIT UP, DAD: Gogo, the baby rhino follows his handler, Jeffrey Sindaka, as part of its rehabilitation programme.

Stop legal rhino hunting, it's fuelling poaching, says SanWild

TANYA WATERWORTH

THEIR small horns and even their toenails have been taken by poachers. Or, they have been shot or hacked to death as they stand bewildered and crying next to their mother's body, simply because they are irritating the poachers who are busy removing the mother's horn.

They have been found trying to feed from the carcass of their slain mother in a last-ditch attempt to find comfort.

These baby rhinos are the victims of the poaching onslaught sweeping through South Africa, where female rhino are being killed leaving behind unweaned calves.

Environment Minister Edna Molewa said on Monday last week that the government was considering a moratorium on legal rhino hunting, saying illegal hunting and abuse of the permit system might be the main threats to the survival of rhino in the wild in the near future. Discussions on the moratorium would be held with provincial MECs next month.

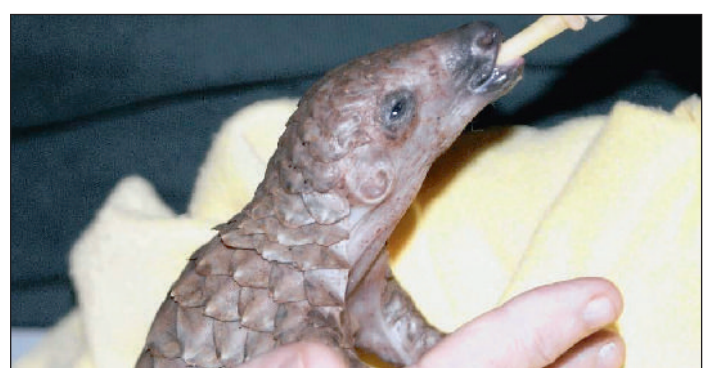
Wildlife sanctuary SanWild called on all South Africans to appeal to the minister to issue

a moratorium on all legal hunting of rhino, saying there was sufficient evidence that legal hunting continued to fuel the illegal trade in rhino horn "to a great extent".

SanWild founder Louise Joubert said: "In 2009, Cites reported that only 20% of horns from rhinos legally hunted in South Africa entered the home countries of the hunters via legal channels. It is highly possible that the rest entered the illegal black market trade... a moratorium is needed to adjust legislation to prevent the abuse of the current system by rhino owners and professional hunting outfits and their clients, whose main objective remains short-term financial gain."

Joubert also confirmed they had approached the authorities to obtain the necessary permission to respond to, locate, rescue and relocate orphaned calves to SanWild where they can be treated and hand raised. She said the poaching crisis in the country has seen numerous cows with young being killed in a horrific manner.

"Many of the calves remain by the dead mothers' side, crying continuously in the most



RESCUED: Syd, the baby pangolin that was confiscated along with its mother from a sangoma in Joburg, is fed at SanWild. Pangolin scales are used in the muti trade.

heart-rending way. All of us who have experienced such a situation, know that this is possibly one of the most emotionally upsetting situations any animal lover can experience. The young calves, helpless and incredibly traumatised, continuously seek comfort from their slain mothers," said Joubert, adding that older calves would flee in terror and remain on the run for hours or days, unable to understand why their calls to their mothers go unanswered.

"Calves that have returned while the poachers are busy

hacking away at their dead mothers, have summarily been shot or hacked to death simply because they harass poachers by actively trying to defend their immobilised (and sometimes still alive) mothers.

"Poachers have immobilised calves and wounded mothers by hacking off the tendons on their back legs, rendering the animals unable to move or run before their horns are hacked away," said Joubert.

She said most farmers and landowners do not have the expertise, knowledge or facilities to deal with the immediate cri-

sis on how to keep a calf alive and raise it to adulthood.

"Our organisation has the will, knowledge and expertise to respond immediately, absolutely free of charge. It is essential to ensure that an effective programme is in place to locate, rescue and relocate surviving calves within hours to ensure the best chance of survival. Once such calves have reached adulthood and are fully rehabilitated, they will be released back to the wild in safe areas," she said.

Also brought into the sanctuary this week was a rare baby pangolin, with its mother, who were confiscated from a sangoma in Johannesburg.

"Pangolin scales are sought after in the muti trade, not only in our country but also overseas – last year in Malaysia, 22 000 were taken from the wild in wildlife trafficking. There have been cases where the scales have been pulled off, with the animal being left in agony," said Joubert.

As pangolins feed on termites, the baby pangolin, named Syd from the movie *Ice Age*, has been put on a diet of termites mixed with milk.

Despite its scaly appearance, the pangolin is not a reptile, but a small mammal whose scales are made from the same protein that makes up human hair, according to the African Wildlife Foundation.

They are nocturnal and generally remain in their burrow during the day. When born, the baby is folded in the mother's lap or rolled-up body. By the second day, the baby's pale, soft scales begin to harden. Nursed for three to four months, it begins to eat termites at about one month. At this time, the infant starts to accompany the mother out of the burrow, often riding on the base of her tail.

Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife vet Dave Cooper said they, too, had a baby rhino, orphaned through poaching.

"It is one of the big problems we are faced with. Sometimes we don't even know there is a baby involved, unless we find tracks. The poachers will throw rocks at a baby, who will try to stay close to its mother. They would also rather use an axe or a panga than risk the sound of another gunshot."

Send your comments to: satmail@inl.co.za