

Beukes and Hopf triumph in muddy Lions

HUGO REDELINGHUYLS

KNYSNA - Cronje Beukes and Chloé Hopf won the 2026 Lions Karoo to Coast in muddy and cold conditions on Sunday 27 September.

Beukes, who hails from George, had twice finished in the top five before claiming the victory and following in the footsteps of his father, Gerrie, and uncle, Matthys.

Hopf's victory, on the Knysna Sports Fields, came on a mountain bike, which she described as a wise decision given the road surfaces and the lack of traction on the route from Uniondale in the Karoo to the Indian Ocean coast.

Due to the flooding in May and the damage to the Ou Wapad route out of Uniondale towards Avontuur, the 25th edition of one of South Africa's most iconic bike races followed a slightly shorter course. Rather than the standard 96km route, the detour via the R399 to Poortjies removed a significant climb and reduced the total distance to 89km.

This meant that no course records could be broken, and exceptionally fast times were anticipated.

Drizzle on race day, on saturated soil, led to water pooling in potholes on Prince Alfred's Pass, and the smoother stretches of gravel developed a muddy film. This made the going slower than in dry conditions, particularly on the long descents.

Hopf's victory was secured in a time of 04:43:53. Claire Malik finished 25 minutes and 24 seconds down, and Zanlie van Zyl was third.

In the men's race, the top five were all on gravel bikes. Having finished fourth in 2025 and third in 2024 on a mountain bike, Beukes was confident that a gravel bike would be faster. The Ou Wapad segment is traditionally the section where gravel bikes lose the most time, but since it was replaced by 10km of tar road, higher average speeds were predicted.

"I didn't expect it to be so muddy, though," Beukes said. The mud made it slower, yet both Beukes and the runner-up, Johan

van Zyl, managed to break the three-hour mark. The groundwork for this fast time was laid by Beukes and Van Zyl's collaboration in the first 50km.

From there the George local soloed to victory, riding into Knysna with a two-minute-45-second buffer. Van Zyl, having finished second, was quick to praise his rival. "Cronje was next-level strong today," he said. "I really enjoyed the race. We had a bit of everything out there; it even felt like a cyclo-cross race at one point. We also had all four seasons in one day. It was really fun."

The race is well supported by local riders. Due to its status as a foundation of the Garden Route cycling landscape, the Lions Karoo to Coast has given young Knysna- and George-based riders a platform to showcase their talent and test themselves on a national level. The finish in Knysna also brings riders, their friends and their families to Knysna and provides a valuable low-season boost for the Visit Knysna tourism initiative.



Cronje Beukes became the third member of his family to win the Lions Karoo to Coast when he rolled across the Knysna finish line on Sunday 27 September. Photo: Hugo Redelinghuys

Skole vanoor die land kom na Easycare Kwagga Top 10

Die Easycare Kwagga Top 10-atletiekbyeenkoms vind van 9 tot 10 Oktober by die Rosemoor-stadion plaas, met sowat 1 500 atlete wat deelneem.

Altesaam 52 hoërskole en 25 laerskole sal verteenwoordig word. Van die bekende skole wat deelneem, is Hoër Jongenskool Paarl (HJS Paarl), die Hoërskool Menlopark van Pretoria, Hoër Meisieskool Paarl,

La Rochelle Girls' High en Paul Roos Gimnasium.

Volgens die organiseerders is die Rosemoorbaan in 'n goeie toestand en kan toeskouers daarna uitsien om provinsiale, nasionale en internasionale atlete in aksie te sien.

Van die atlete sal na verwagting indrukwekkende afstande en tye in hul onderskeie items behaal. Dit sluit onder

meer atlete in wat die gewigstoot oor 20 m kan stoot, die spies oor 70 m kan gooi en die 100 m in ongeveer 10,35 sekondes kan aflê.

Die organiseerders sê George het nog nie voorheen 'n atletiekbyeenkoms van hierdie formaat aangebied nie, en hulle hoop dit sal 'n nuwe hoogtepunt vir atletiek in die gemeenskap wees. Rosemoor is gekies as die plaaslike gasheer met die doel om atletiek op

grootskaal na George terug te bring en die sport aan die gemeenskap te bevorder.

Die byeenkoms word moontlik gemaak deur die ondersteuning van verskeie borge.

Die organiseerders het hul waardering uitgespreek teenoor al die sakeondernemings en borge wat tot die geleentheid bygedra het en help om atletiek in die George-gemeenskap te bevorder.

CLASSIFIEDS

PRINT & ONLINE

YOUR ADVERTISEMENT WILL APPEAR ACROSS ALL OUR WEBSITES, ENSURING CONTINUED VISIBILITY AND REACH.

WWW.GEORGEHERALD.COM
WWW.MOSSELBAYADVERTISER.COM
WWW.KNYSNAPLETHERALD.COM
WWW.ODTSHOORNCOURANT.COM
WWW.SOUTHCAPEFORUM.COM

CONTACT BERINECE:
FOR ALL YOUR ADVERTS & LEGAL NOTICES
044 272 8918
ocsmalls@groupereditors.co.za

ONLINE & PRINT ADVERTISING: DEADLINE FOR BOOKINGS & PAYMENT : TUESDAYS @ 12:00

Happy

Sending many good wishes to you on this special day.

28 September

Lucinda Eksteen
Debtors Clerk
GEORGE HERALD

28 September

Melissa du Plooy
Digital Content
Innovator
GEORGE HERALD

29 September

Sonja Fry
Debtors Clerk
GEORGE HERALD

29 September

Wyndham Ewerts
Editor
KNYSNA PLETT
HERALD

LEGAL NOTICES

KW KRIEL|WENTZEL

In the Estate of the Late:

LEONE HELENA WANNENBURG

Identity Number: 310919 0054 086
Last Address: Unit 76, Rotarier Aftreeoord, 90 Kerkstraat, Oudtshoorn, Western Cape
Date of Birth: 1931-09-19
Date of Death: 02-07-2026
Master's Office: CAPE TOWN

ESTATE NUMBER: 16953/2026

All the persons having a claim against the abovementioned estate are required to lodge their claims within 30 days after the publication hereof.

Name of Executor or Authorised Agent:
KRIEL & WENTZEL ATTORNEYS
30 Merlot Street, Robertson

Advertiser Name
JL KRIEL
30 Merlot Street
info@kwprok.co.za
082 465 5766

INTERNATIONALE KOFFIE DAG!

VIER die liefde vir Goeie Koffie

SAAM MET ONS!

King Classic Sudoku

5 6 8 1 9 4
9 3 6 7
4 9 2 5 8
2 8 6 1 9
8 5
1 5 9 8
6 3 2 9 8
9 5 3
3 5 1 7

Difficulty: ★★ 4/21

SUDOKU

Fill in all the squares in the grid so that each row, column and each of the 3x3 squares contains all the digits from 1-9.

Not only must each number only appear once for each 3x3 square in each row and each column, it must also appear only once for each vertical column.

ANSWERS OF LAST WEEK

1 4 7 5 8 2 9 6 3
8 5 3 6 4 9 1 7 2
9 2 6 7 1 3 4 5 8
7 8 2 1 9 4 6 3 5
4 3 5 8 7 6 2 1 9
6 1 9 2 3 5 8 4 7
2 7 1 3 6 8 5 9 4
3 9 8 4 5 1 7 2 6
5 6 4 9 2 7 3 8 1

Difficulty: ★★ 7/14

7 2 1 8 9 6 5 4 3
3 8 5 4 2 7 1 6 9
9 4 6 5 3 1 8 7 2
2 7 8 1 6 9 4 3 5
6 5 4 7 8 3 9 2 1
1 9 3 2 4 5 6 8 7
8 3 2 9 1 4 7 5 6
4 1 7 6 5 2 3 9 8
5 6 9 3 7 8 2 1 4

Difficulty: ★★★★★ 7/17

OUR ROUTES

ST Koeriers Couriers

FAST AND EFFICIENT - VINNIG EN DOELTREFFEND

Beaufort West
Garden Route
R62 from George - Cape Town & back

Andries/Elize
072 149 1484 / 044 874 7777
Pioneerstraat 55, George
4520156276 | CC 19611820/23
george@stcouriers.co.za