

Boy oh buoy, what a story of persistence

Dave Savides

A CHANCE discovery during a beach walk north of Alkantstrand connected a dogged local man to an international yacht storm survivor who was overjoyed on hearing the good news.

Demian van Loggerenberg tells the story of the strange turn of events that began on 21 December.

'Some friends and I were hiking along the beach, and besides finding a few common buoys among objects strewn on the shoreline, we came across something unique.

'Up against the high-water mark was a very unusual buoy, with the name 'WEBIK' written on it, and an Epirb (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon – which sends a signal if a ship sinks) masterfully tied into the middle of it.

'It was clearly purpose-made, and certainly belonged to somebody,' said Demian.

Inquisitive by nature and intrigued by the find, Demian was determined to get to the bottom of the mystery: Had the yacht found itself in trouble and the buoy scuttled in an emergency? Where was the yacht? Was the crew safe? How long had the buoy been floating on the open ocean?

'Something about the buoy just spoke to me. Later that afternoon I 'Googled, and after a quick search, I found her,' said Demian.

'WEBIK is a Sunbeam 34 S and belongs to Captain Michael Puttinger from Austria; and lo and behold, he's circumnavigating Africa.

'Fortunately, Captain Michael has a website documenting his adventure, and which includes an email contact.

'I was super excited to write to him and inform him that I had found his buoy. The



Sleuth work pays off for determined Demian

Currently circumnavigating Africa, Austrian yacht skipper Captain Michael Puttinger was delighted when his buoy was returned prior to leaving Cape Town, thanks to a dedicated local man

story goes that approximately 200 nautical miles off the coast of Mozambique amid a hectic storm, the buoy was lost - in Michael's mind, possibly forever,' said Demian.

'He was overjoyed that the buoy had been found.'

Then began the mission to reunite the buoy with its owner.

'At this stage WEBIK was in Knysna, getting further and further away. I tried to see if any local yachties were heading that way, to no avail.

'By the time Michael and I were in contact again, he was already in Cape Town, with his next stop Namibia, on a timeline that was set in stone.

'Operation WEBIK' kicked into high gear,

with no time to waste. With the assistance of a reliable courier, Captain Michael and WEBIK'S buoy were reunited just in time for him to embark on the next leg of his adventure circumnavigating Africa.'

Ironically, WEBIK had been in Richards Bay for a few days after sailing from Mozambique, but had left before Demian found the buoy.

The University of Zululand officially opened its doors in 1960 and it has two campuses, namely the KwaDlangezwa Campus and the Richards Bay Campus.

First-year and undergraduate registrations for both campuses will be online and off-campus in 2022. This will take place from Monday, 31 January – Friday, 04 January

For detailed information, please log in at www.unizulu.ac.za or like our Facebook page **University of Zululand** or visit the registration website **Home - Registration | University of Zululand | South Africa (unizulu.ac.za)**.

- **FIRST-TIME STUDENTS FOR FACULTIES WILL BE REGISTERING FROM 31 JANUARY – 04 FEBRUARY**
- **RETURNING STUDENTS REGISTRATION FROM 07 – 11 FEBRUARY**

KWADLANGEZWA & RICHARDS BAY CAMPUS – ONLINE AND OFF-CAMPUS

ORDER OF REGISTRATION	DATE
Faculty of Arts	31 January – 04 February
Faculty of Education	31 January – 04 February
Faculty of Commerce, Administration & Law	31 January – 04 February
Faculty of Science, Agriculture & Engineering	31 January – 04 February

RETURNING STUDENTS ALL FACULTIES : 07 – 11 February 2022 – ONLINE AND OFF-CAMPUS

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Faculty of Arts	07 – 11 February
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- University First-year Orientation : **07 – 11 February 2022**
 - Lectures start on Monday, 14 February
 - Registration documents: Matric results, ID copy, proof of postal & residential address, international students needs study permit
 - Documents should be uploaded online via the university's iEnabler system. To access the system, kindly click on the following link: https://jasper.unizulu.ac.za/pls/prodi41/w99pkg.mi_main_menu
- For enquiries, kindly contact the Call Centre on 035 902 6030**



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ZN214660-2219P