Gqeberha lawyer explores grief in new memoir

Nash Vandayar balances legal evidence and spiritual faith in his book, 'Blue Angel'

Herald Reporter

The year 2016 was hard for Gqeberha attorney Nash Vandayar.

One after another, the artists he loved most were dying — Prince, David Bowie and others, among them musicians his company, Blue Angel, had hoped to bring to SA.

On Christmas Eve, he stood on the bridge at Storms River. After a year of so much loss, the beauty of the scene below moved him all the more.

He posted a photo of the moment on Facebook with the words: "Breathing it in ... Choose Life!"

"Choose life" was the slogan George Michael made famous on his T-shirt in Wham!'s 1984 video for *Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go*.

Vandayar was prompted to post it by a recurring dream about the singer.

Twenty-four hours later, George Michael was dead.

All through that year, Vandayar had experienced coincidences like this one.

The George Michael post capped it. It forced him to look closer, and it set him on a journey he never expected — the inner journey now told in his book, *Blue Angel*.

For almost 30 years, Vandayar has argued cases in courts across SA, and he still does.

Alongside his legal practice, he founded Blue Angel, a project that brings international musicians to SA in support of good causes.

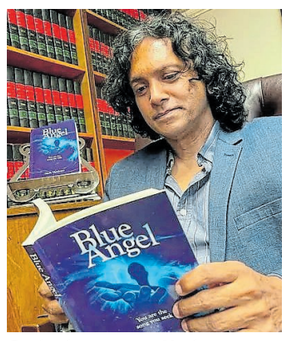
So what would make a lawyer, trained to trust only what can be proved, put a story like this in print?

To Vandayar, what he was experiencing in his personal life were not small coincidences.

They were too precise to dismiss and too strange to explain, the kind he said a lawyer could not simply file away.

So he did what a lawyer does and examined the evidence. That investigation is the heart of the book.

The story runs through the music of the artists who shaped him. Prince is his favourite artist of all time. He said that the first time he heard



Gqeberha attorney Nash Vandayar glances through his book 'Blue Angel'

him play an electric guitar he became obsessed.

"George Michael was the greatest voice I've ever heard," he said.

The most remarkable moment of all, involving Prince, came later, and it is told in the book.

Carlos Santana's music also arrived at a pivotal moment.

Seeing him live in Las Vegas, carried by the uplifting rhythm of that concert, Vandayar knew he had to commit to Blue Angel.

Almost 10 years after that Facebook post, the story comes full circle. As the book reaches readers, *George Michael: The Faith Tour*, a concert film of the singer's 1988 shows in Paris, has just opened in cinemas.

Vandayar's deep dive into sound and its effect on people led him to accept that something more was at work than he could explain.

He believes the story can help others.

"It will help people who have suffered loss, who need healing," he said.

"Music is a wonderful gift that's available to everybody.

"Everyone loves music, and that is exactly the point.

"Most of us only ever hear its surface — the fun, the memories, the songs on the radio."

Vandayar has always listened more deeply.

But through the school of hard knocks, a simpler way of living and quiet reflection, the music he loved began to answer back, in moments of timing that seemed to reach beyond the lives of the musicians themselves.

For him, music became "a bridge between the known and the unknown".

Blue Angel is the story of crossing that bridge, and of how others can find it too. As the cover puts it: "You are the song you seek."

"The outward journeys of life can be wonderful," he said, "but my proposition is that the inner journey is something else."

For a man who has spent 30 years insisting on proof, that is no small admission.

"Faith asks you to believe what you cannot prove; the law asks you to prove what you believe.

"*Blue Angel* lives in the space between the two — a lawyer's search for reasons that led, in the end, to a sense of wonder. Perhaps it is fitting, then, that the story reaches readers just as a film called *Faith* returns George Michael to the big screen."

Blue Angel is now available for pre-order via blueangelmanagement.co.za and will be in bookstores early next year.

Baakens River rubble remains six weeks after kingfisher nests destroyed

Guy Rogers

Nearly a month-and-a-half after the public outcry about several tonnes of rubble dumped on the side of the Baakens River at the instruction of the Mandela Bay Development Agency, the mess is still there.

The outcry erupted because the rubble sealed off 20-odd kingfisher burrows in the middle of breeding season and likely resulted in the death of multiple birds and chicks.

An environmental compliance expert said at the time the action was clearly illegal as it transgressed metro and national laws.

The Mandela Bay Development Agency (MBDA) said this week it was assessing the situation carefully in order to take the right action.

The metro, which has reportedly taken no action to date, said it supported this approach, but emphasised that it needed to be expedited, and tangible action was required.

Baakens Valley businessman Alan Millard, who raised the alarm about the situation at the beginning of October, said on Wednesday he was waiting to see what steps would be taken.

"I've had calls from the MBDA to say the rubble will be removed, but diddly-squat has happened so far," he said.

"I drive past the site every day and it's still there. It's very disappointing."

The dump site is on the corner of South Union and Produce streets, on the north bank of the lower Baakens River, a stone's throw from the Tramways headquarters of the MBDA, which was established to reverse urban decay and drive urban regeneration.

> **I've had calls from the MBDA to say the rubble will be removed, but diddly-squat has happened**

The site is contained in an oval of concrete barriers, and on one side is the mud bank, pocked with the burrows where pied and giant kingfisher birds were nesting.

It was the perfect breeding spot because it was sheltered and hidden — but now it is filled to the brim with chunks of old tar and other road-building material.

The Herald established after the dumping occurred that the rubble was transported there by a front-end loader from nearby South Union Street, which was being repaired.

The man in charge of the road repair company said he and his team were on the point of removing the rubble to an official dumping facility, when they received a request from the metro, which had apparently been approached by the MBDA.

The MBDA said, in turn, it understood the concerns raised but it had taken the step because "there was a public safety concern", and the agency was not aware of the burrows.

Environmental compliance expert Arnold Slabbert, who examined the scene, said even without the affected birds, it constituted illegal dumping in an area not designated for that purpose.

It also transgressed national water and environmental laws which prohibited unlicensed activity adjacent to waterways.

MBDA spokesperson Nicole Klokow said the agency had not received any formal notification from a regulatory authority about the matter, regarding either a fine or a query.

"The MBDA has pursued an investigation into the matter to address it responsibly, with due consideration for the concerns that were raised," Klokow said.

"The agency has engaged with the relevant local stakeholders who raised concerns and, on October 13, received a report from representatives of the birding community.

"Following these engagements, the MBDA is assessing the situation to establish the appropriate methodology for undertaking the necessary work.

"Recommendations will be made in accordance with this to identify a method to manage the site."

Metro spokesperson Sithembiso Soyaya said on Wednesday afternoon the municipality took the matter seriously.

"This is particularly given the environmental sensitivities associated with the site and the importance of responsible management of our public spaces."

He said while the metro supported the MBDA's "considered approach, giving due regard to environmental considerations and stakeholder concerns, we are equally clear that these processes must lead to tangible action".

"An assessment cannot become a substitute for intervention or result in indefinite delays. The municipality has therefore made it clear to the MBDA that we expect the agency to expedite this process and provide certainty regarding when and how the necessary work will be undertaken."

festival vibes



Children walk past a mural depicting the Hindu festival 'Chhath Puja' celebration on the banks of river Yamuna in New Delhi yesterday
Picture: ARUN SANKAR/AFP

Evans' murder trial adjourned to today

Msindisi Fengu

Gqeberha businessman Rob Evans' murder trial has been postponed because his attorney, Paul Roelofse, who took ill on Wednesday, has still not recovered.

Appearing for Evans in the city's high court yesterday, attorney Danie Gouws requested a further adjournment to today.

Gouws said if Roelofse's condition had not changed by then, he would take over the defence.

Roelofse had asked for an adjournment on Wednesday, when he was about to cross-examine Theresa Cunliffe, the grandmother of the late Vanessa van Rensburg's children.

Evans, 59, has denied strangling and beating Van Rensburg, 36, his girlfriend, at his holiday home in Kabeljous Road, Oyster Bay, more than 18 months ago.

Her battered body was discovered in the early hours of April 20 last year.

Evans, the director of Algoa Plastics in Newton Park, has pleaded not guilty to charges of murder, attempted murder, kidnapping and defeating or obstructing the course of justice.

The kidnapping and attempted murder charges arise from earlier incidents in the couple's relationship when, according to the state, Evans allegedly locked Van Rensburg inside his vehicle on one occasion, and on another allegedly threw her out of a moving car.

According to the prosecution, on the night Van Rensburg was killed, she sustained at least 23 injuries.

Evans has been in custody since his arrest on May 9 2025,



Rob Evans in court

after being denied bail.

Earlier on Wednesday, Cunliffe testified that Evans had called her in the early hours of April 20 last year to inform her that Van Rensburg was dead.

Cunliffe, the mother of Van Rensburg's ex-fiancé, Clint, who is the father of Van Rensburg's two young daughters, said Evans had phoned her at about 3am.

Clint had been engaged to Van Rensburg before their relationship broke down and she started seeing Evans.

Cunliffe said when she answered the phone, Evans took a while before he spoke.

"I actually thought it was Vanessa calling, so I said, 'Vanessa, what's wrong?'

"After a third time of me asking, Evans finally replied that Van Rensburg had passed away. He sounded like he was crying and he said he didn't know what had happened to her."

Cunliffe said she had expected Van Rensburg to be on the other side of the line as she often phoned her from Evans' phone. She said she had never spoken to Evans telephonically before then. Evans allegedly eventually explained that when he found Van Rensburg, her body was already cold and her lips were blue.

He reportedly said he had tried to resuscitate her.

"I asked if he had phoned anyone [for help], and he said security were on their way," Cunliffe said.

She said Evans told her that he had not yet phoned Van Rensburg's mother, who was in Johannesburg at the time, to inform her of her daughter's death.

Cunliffe then offered to make the call herself.

She said when she asked Evans what had happened, he explained that he had been braaiing and had discovered Van Rensburg's lifeless body on the floor two hours later.

Cunliffe said the last time she saw Van Rensburg was on the evening of Friday, April 18 last year.

She said Van Rensburg did not appear to have any injuries at the time.

"She seemed to be in a good mood," Cunliffe said.

Testimony is expected to continue today.

SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

BID INVITATION

SUPPLY, DELIVER AND INSTALLATION OF 50KVA TRANSFORMER AND 70MM ABC CABLE

BID NO: SRVM 004/2027

Sundays River Valley Municipality invites proposals from suitable and experienced service providers for the following service: **Supply, Deliver and Installation of 50 KVA Transformer and 70mm ABC Cable.**

The physical address for collection of tender documents is: **SRVM Cashiers Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Kirkwood.** Documents may be collected during working hours from 08h30am till 16h00pm from **16 November 2026**. Tender documents will be available at a **non-refundable deposit of R 300.00 each (no cash accepted)** Banking details are as follows: **First National Bank, Account Number 620 254 90856, Branch Number 210817, Reference – Tender Number.** Proof of payment should be provided upon tender collection.

Completed bid documents are to be placed in a sealed envelope endorsed with: **Supply, Deliver and Installation of 50 KVA Transformer and 70mm ABC Cable SRVM-04/2027** and must be deposited in the Bid Box, at the offices of the Sundays River Valley Municipality, Supply Chain Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Kirkwood not **later than 03 December 2026 at 12h30PM.**

COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION WILL BE HELD 23 NOVEMBER 2026 AT 11:00AM FIRST WE WILL MEET AT ENGEN GARAGE AFTER WE GO TO BERSIG MOUNTAIN IN SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY.

Attendance and completion of the attendance register(s) is compulsory for all Tenderers. Please note that **NO** attendees arriving more than 15 minutes late will be allowed to sign the register or attend the clarification meeting.

TENDERS WILL BE EVALUATED IN TERMS OF THE 80/20 PREFERENTIAL POINT SYSTEM AS PER PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATION,2022 AS WELL AS FUNCTIONALITY.

STAGE 1 EVALUATION: FUNCTIONALITY

ID	CRITERIA	MAXIMUM POINTS
1	Company Experience more than 3 years	25
2	Technical Experience more than 3 years	56
3	Occupational Health and Safety	19
	Total	**100**

Bidders must score 70% in this assessment to proceed to the next phase of price evaluation.

STAGE 2 Price and Specific Goals

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Price	80
Specific Goals – B-BBEE **(Original or certified B-BBEE Certificate)**	10

SUPPLIERS/SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING BID CONDITIONS:

[a] Sundays River Valley Municipality Supply Chain Management Policy will apply;
[b] Sundays River Valley Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest BID or any other BID and reserves the right to accept the whole or part of the BID;
[c] Bids which are late, incomplete, unsigned, or submitted by facsimile or electronically, will not be accepted.
[d] Price(s) quoted must be valid for at least ninety (90) days from the date of your offer.
[e] Price(s) quoted must be firm and must be inclusive of VAT.
[f] A firm delivery period must be indicated.

[g] **The following compulsory documents must be submitted with the tender.**
1. Valid Tax Clearance Certificate- OR Status Pin.
2. **Original** Certified B-BBEE Certificate or Sworn Affidavit Original Certified.
3. **Original** certified ID Copies of Entity's Director(s) **(Certification not older than 3 months before the closing date)**
4. Completed MBD forms -1, 4, 6.1, 8 & 9.
5. Company registration Documents.
6. Municipal statement of Rates or Billing Clearance not older than three months or valid Lease Agreement.
7. CIDB grading EP2

(h) Proof of Central Supplier Database (CSD) registration- a full report printed.

Failure to submit any of the above requested documents will invalidate your bid and it will not be evaluated further.

Technical enquiries related to this bid can be directed to moetit@srvm.gov.za or 066 3333 810. SCM enquiries related to this bid can be directed to phelokazin@srvm.gov.za or 042 230 7807.

Mr. T. Klaas
Municipal Manager

SUNDAYS RIVER VALLEY LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

APPOINTMENT OF A PANEL OF LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDERS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS

BID INVITATION
BID NO: SRVM 003/2027

Sundays River Valley Municipality invites proposals from suitable and experienced service providers for the following service: **Appointment of a Panel of Legal Services Providers for a Period of Three (3) Years.**

The physical address for collection of tender documents is: **SRVM Cashiers Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Kirkwood.** Documents may be collected during working hours from 08h30am till 16h00pm from **16 November 2026.** Tender documents will be available at a **non-refundable deposit of R 300.00 each (no cash accepted)** Banking details are as follows: **First National Bank, Account Number 620 254 90856, Branch Number 210817, Reference – Tender Number.** Proof of payment should be provided upon tender collection.

Completed bid documents are to be placed in a sealed envelope endorsed with **Appointment of a Panel of Legal Services Providers for a Period of Three (3) Years for SRVM-003/2027** and must be deposited in the Bid Box, at the offices of the Sundays River Valley Municipality, Supply Chain Office, No. 23 Middle Street, Kirkwood not **later than 12 January 2026 at 12h00pm.**

TENDERS WILL BE EVALUATED IN TERMS OF THE 80/20 PREFERENTIAL POINT SYSTEM AS PER PREFERENTIAL PROCUREMENT REGULATION,2022 AS WELL AS FUNCTIONALITY.

STAGE 1 EVALUATION: FUNCTIONALITY

ITEM	CATEGORY CRITERIA	TOTAL POINTS
1	Property law, Conveyancing and Notarial registration services	100
2.	Eviction services	100
3.	General Legal Advisory services	100
4.	Litigation on Debt Collection	100

Bidders must score at least 70% in this assessment in order to proceed to the next phase of price evaluation

STAGE 2 Price and Specific Goals

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Price	80
Specific Goals – B-BBEE **(Original or certified B-BBEE Certificate)**	10
LED (**Proof of address signed by ward Councillor / Lease Agreement)**	10
Total	100

SUPPLIERS/SERVICE PROVIDERS SHALL TAKE NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING BID CONDITIONS:

[a] Sundays River Valley Municipality Supply Chain Management Policy will apply;
[b] Sundays River Valley Municipality does not bind itself to accept the lowest BID or any other BID and reserves the right to accept the whole or part of the BID;
[c] Bids which are late, incomplete, unsigned, or submitted by facsimile or electronically, will not be accepted.
[d] Price(s) quoted must be valid for at least ninety (90) days from the date of your offer.
[e] Price(s) quoted must be firm and must be inclusive of VAT.
[f] A firm delivery period must be indicated.

[g] **The following compulsory documents must be submitted with the tender.**
1. Valid Tax Clearance Certificate- OR Status Pin.
2. Certified B-BBEE Certificate or Sworn Affidavit Original Certification.
3. Original certified ID Copies of Entity's Director(s) (Certification not older than 3 months before the closing date)
4. Completed MBD forms -1, 4, 6.1, 8 & 9.
5. Company registration Documents.
6. Municipal statement of Rates or Billing Clearance not older than three months or valid Lease Agreement.
7. Proof of Central Supplier Database (CSD) registration- a full report printed.

Failure to submit any of the above requested documents will invalidate your bid and it will not be evaluated further.

Technical enquiries related to this bid can be directed to susanf@srvm.gov.za or 073 3983125. SCM enquiries related to this bid can be directed to phelokazin@srvm.gov.za or 042 230 7807.

Mr. T. Klaas
Municipal Manager