

your news iindaba zakho jou nuus

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kouga wind farm



ON FIRE: Humansdorp's five-member Flame Boyz (and a girl!) danced into the spotlight last year when they appeared on SA's Got Talent on eTV. With members Leon Cherry and Jean-Claude Louw moving on, the remaining dancers – (inset, from left) Luwayne Koester, Nathely Masoling and Eldine Jacobs – recently entered, and won, SABC 2's regional talent showcase, Showville – and R10 000 in prize money. Kouga Wind Farm has been proud to help them on their road to success by sponsoring transport, accommodation and meals. In return, this energetic crew has hosted dance workshops for youth in Kruisfontein, Sea Vista and Umzamoewethu. "Paying it forward, and loving it!" they say.



Thulani builds success

For Thulani Nkuna, managing the building of the new Sea Vista Library is more than a job, it is helping to build his own future.

Thulani, who grew up in KwaNomzamo, was appointed by contractor Oupa Jack to oversee the day-to-day site activities, making sure that the workmanship is top quality, and communicating with the principal agent and engineer about any adjustments to the structure.

The 28-year-old holds a National Certificate (Level 4) in civil engineering and building construction and is working hard to ensure that the residents of Sea Vista receive a building that will become a centre of information and learning.

According to principal agent on the project Chris Milne, his talents soon became evident to the implementation team.

"Thulani has broader talents and a special passion for architectural computer draughting and is mostly self-taught in this skill," says Chris.

Kouga Wind Farm is helping Thulani add to his skills by sending him for training on Revit Architecture – computer-aided design software that helps building professionals to design 3D models of buildings.

He has completed the essential course and will move on to the intermediate and advanced courses in April and July.

"The opportunity has made a difference in my life by equipping me with the technical skills that are useful and important in my career," says Thulani.

"My plan for the future is to register with the South African Council for the Architectural Profession as a candidate (assistant) draughtsman and help others by designing their dream houses."

He also wants to build the skill levels in his community by teaching and sharing what he has learned. ☺

**A proud
Thulani holding
his certificate**



RAINMAKERS READY TO LEAD

As Kouga Wind Farm's innovative Rainmakers Development Programme nears the end of its six-month run, the project has been hailed as a success, both by organisers and participants.



Kruisfontein

By recognising women as the pillars of their communities, the wind farm is equipping and empowering them to be agents of rapid, positive change where they live.

Rainmakers currently has groups running in Kruisfontein, Sea Vista, KwaNomzamo and Umzamowethu. Lead facilitator Boniswa Orleyn says participants started off by learning more about themselves.

"Earlier this year, the focus turned to taking the women on learning visits to places like the Mawethu sewing and multipurpose cooperative, Ubuntu

LEAD

Pathways, where the focus was on HIV awareness and working with orphans, and an aquaponic gardening seminar at Nelson Mandela University's Missionvale Campus.

"These are all operational businesses from which the women learnt a lot, and a lot of the knowledge gained will be useful when putting their own projects into action," she says.

According to Boniswa, the women now need to use what they learnt to see if their skills and abilities match what they want to do next to uplift the socio-economic status of their communities.

"If not, they need to look at a different project, which will help them to learn about, and tackle, community challenges.

"The whole aim of the project was empowerment and thus far, we have certainly achieved that."

IN HER OWN WORDS: Nozuko Ntshota, Sea Vista

What I've learnt:

"Despite my previous involvement in empowerment projects, the course was a real eye-opener. I learnt about being resilient, what it takes to be a good leader and how to conduct myself in the business world. This is all knowledge I will definitely be able to use to assist others in the Sea Vista area."

My vision – to work on youth projects:

"We have huge anti-social problems within our community. Young girls – some still in primary school – are getting pregnant and dropping out of school. Then there's drugs, which is also a huge problem. Part of the solution lies in creating more sporting opportunities, which would keep children off the streets. Getting little ladies together to form a women's soccer team – or even two – would put Sea Vista firmly on the equality map."



Sea Vista



Umzamowethu



KwaNomzamo

IN HER OWN WORDS: Melissa Lufefe, KwaNomzamo

What I've learnt:

"I have learnt so much, not also about myself, but also about how I can play a meaningful role in the community."

My vision – to set up a youth centre:

"When I was growing up we did not have access to such facilities, which was a real pity. There is so much you miss out on, not only

by not sharing knowledge about career opportunities, but also accumulating relevant information to guide youngsters on the right path. There is a real need for a youth centre in our community and I am passionate about establishing one. Ploughing back and giving others the opportunity to do what I could not is my ultimate dream."

Water safety saves lives

In October, the National Sea Rescue Institute visited 13 schools in Jeffreys Bay, Oyster Bay, St Francis Bay and Humansdorp, teaching almost 9,000 children about water safety.

This was an important exercise because almost 600 children drown every year in South Africa. The NSRI's Yazi Ngamanzi ("know about water")

programme aims to prevent such tragedies by showing local kids how to stay safe in or near water.

The WaterWise instructors, sponsored by Kouga Wind Farm, gave the children a fun, easy-to-remember lesson that included basic CPR techniques, which could help them save a life one day.

DID YOU KNOW? Drowning is one of the top five causes of accidental death in South Africa. Children are most vulnerable.



Kouga partners for PinkDrive



In an effort to boost the fight against cancer in our community, Kouga Wind Farm joined hands with the Jeffreys Bay and Tsitsikamma wind farms to bring the PinkDrive mobile screening unit to the Eastern Cape for the very first time.

The bright pink service unit, which conducts cancer education and testing for men and women, visited the communities of Sea Vista, KwaNomzamo, St Francis Bay, Jeffreys Bay, Kareedouw and Clarkson during Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October).

Under the theme "Early detection saves lives", over a thousand cancer

tests were done – including clinical breast examinations, mammograms, pap smears and ultrasound tests – and hundreds of lives were changed.

Staff from the Department of Health, local clinics and NGOs were also on hand to screen for other diseases and illnesses, such as HIV, tuberculosis, high blood pressure and diabetes. More than 700 learners at three high schools also received health education as part of the campaign.

Affected community members, many of whom had undiagnosed illnesses, have now been referred for further treatment to help them live healthier lives. 🌐

"I would advise all ladies to go for screening... because, if it were not for Kouga Wind Farm and PinkDrive, I wouldn't have known that I have cervical cancer. Keep on doing the wonderful work that you do and uplifting our communities." - NOZUKO NTSHOTA

DOING IT FOR THEMSELVES: Ten bright young graduates from Sea Vista were among this group who recently completed the Siyazenzela Plus programme presented by the Wilderness Foundation Africa. Sponsored by Kouga Wind Farm, the NQF level 2 assistant housekeeping course covered six weeks of theory and six weeks of practical training. The hospitality sector is one of the area's major employers and this investment has equipped these graduates with sought-after, scarce skills. The 10 graduates are part of the first intake of 24 young people to be empowered by the Siyazenzela programme, with a total of 60 envisioned.

