

your news
iindaba zakho
jou nuus

Issue 5 • October 2018



Ready to read

The long-held dream of a state-of-the-art library is coming true for the Sea Vista community.

"There are also many adults in the community who couldn't complete their education and would like to study further. Now they can."

- Nozuko Ntshota

Residents will soon have access to information through the thousands of books, CDs, DVDs and computers, which are housed in the double-storey, wheelchair-friendly facility.

The library is the result of a partnership between Kouga Wind Farm, whose socio-economic development programme funded the R3.8 million building costs, and the Kouga Municipality, which donated the land.

The library will boost the educational journeys of the area's schoolchildren and allow the community to become more self-sufficient. Support from the community and the St Francis Bay Rotary Club, which secured almost 4 000 books from Rotary in America and Europe, contributed to the project's success.

Nordex, which manufactured the wind farm's turbines, also donated a R170 000 security system to keep the books safe and secure for users.

Rotarian Ann Knight, who is one of the major movers behind the project, says it won't stop there. "We will continue to source more books and computers, ensuring that this is one of the best stocked libraries in the area."

Sea Vista resident Nozuko Ntshota says the library will make things much easier for children whose education suffered because parents couldn't afford to pay for travel to the Humansdorp library. ●



COMING SOON: *The grand opening of the Sea Vista Library and IT Centre will take place in 2019. Follow Kouga Wind Farm on Facebook for details.*

Celebrating our women

A little bit of pampering, a professional photo shoot and an evening of thought-provoking entertainment was the Rainmakers' reward after months of hard work, making a difference in their communities.

Guest of honour at the September 9 event was Freshlyground star Zolani Mahola, who treated guests to a motivational talk, musical story-telling and a chance to hear her world-famous voice.

The day kicked off with a mini make-over for the Rainmakers, who presented their proposed community development projects to a panel of external judges in May this year. Hair and make-up touched up, the ladies were ready for their photo shoot.

The images will be included in their very own professional portfolios. Each Rainmaker will receive a printed booklet outlining her achievements, which she can use to look for the perfect job, obtain sponsorships for community projects, tender for projects and participate in business opportunities.

For dinner, the Rainmakers were joined by other women from their communities. After the meal, the 100% locally made film, *Diary of Love and Pain* – written and filmed by local policeman, writer, producer and director Luvvuyo Mayinje – was shown.

The film, which will be screened on Mzansi Magic, sends out clear messages about youth pregnancy, HIV/ Aids, alcohol abuse, domestic violence, relationships, and other social problems. Shot in KwaNomzamo and featuring local amateur actors, it was released last month at an event also sponsored by Kouga Wind Farm.

Finally, it was Zolani's turn to inspire guests with her story of growing up in New Brighton, Port Elizabeth, and the challenges she faced before becoming one of Africa's most recognised female singers.

Zolani brought down the curtain on a beautiful and motivational day, enchanting guests with the voice that has thrilled millions of fans. 🌟



Freshlyground's Zolani Mahola shares a laugh, and her story, with the ladies.



Sea Vista's Lindelwa Sibanga (left) and Zukiswa Ningiza looking lovely after their pampering session.



The Rainmakers looking fresh and ready to bring change to their communities. Special guest star Zolani Mahola (in blue) inspired and was inspired by these amazing women.



Kruisfontein's Matilda Alexander enjoying her mini makeover.

The Rainmakers' journey

In August 2017, Kouga Wind Farm ran a series of information sessions for women.

At the end of the six-week programme, 107 women volunteered to become Rainmakers, bringing positive change to their communities.

The Rainmakers then took on a seven-month development programme, with weekly training sessions to develop their business and other important life skills.

They used the skills they learned to develop proposed projects to address specific problems in their communities.

In May 2018, they presented these proposals to a panel of five independent judges for funding.

Their projects are now being refined and planned for implementation down the line.

MOVIE MAGIC

Filmmaker Luvvuyo Mayinje talks about the inspiration behind "Diary of Love and Pain":

"I never really thought about making a movie. I am a policeman by trade and have always had an interest in helping to solve community issues and problems.

My neighbour often confided in me about spousal abuse, and I began to write a diary. It was by myself and for myself until a friend read it and recognised its potential impact.

Domestic violence is a big issue in our communities, and the story needs to be told, so I became writer, director, producer and casting director all in one.

There was no funding to make the movie, but I persevered, sourcing actors from the community and training them, working completely alone with the exception of the welcome help I received from Kouga Wind Farm."

Girls get a sporting chance

One of the first community projects to grow from the Rainmakers Legacy Programme is the Poison Ivy Netball Academy in the northern areas of Humansdorp.

Started two years ago as a social netball club by a small group of women from Kruisfontein, the new academy aims to expand their efforts and keep vulnerable girls off the streets by introducing them to the joy of netball.

According to chairperson Ernelda Platjies, the club, which currently has a dozen players aged 14 to 22 years, has been a great success.

"They have been reigning Kouga champions for the past three years

and that means that they qualify for participation in the super league, which is currently run by the Sarah Baartman structure."

Now a R47 000 financial injection from Kouga Wind Farm's socio-economic development programme means the Rainmakers of Kruisfontein will be able to make a meaningful difference in the lives of more young girls in their community by harnessing the power of sport.

The academy board – which includes qualified provincial and regional coaches – plans to teach players as young as five years old and has already rolled out a skills development programme for Grade R pupils on Mandela Day.



Warming hearts for Mandela Month. Kouga Wind Farm teamed up with the Rainmakers to warm hearts and bodies with a handmade blanket drive for Mandela Month. The wind farm sponsored R10 000 worth of fleece material, which 50 women from Sea Vista, Kruisfontein and Umzamoewethu turned into 103 blankets for vulnerable people in their communities. Twenty were donated to the Kouga branch of St Francis Hospice for use in their home-based care programme, while 83 went to disabled and elderly people with limited family support.

Visitor from space



“Reach for the stars” was the message from American astronaut Dr Donald Thomas when he visited the Umzamowethu Community Hall on Heritage Day to share his stories about travelling in space.

Around a thousand pupils, parents and teachers flocked to hear him speak about his own humble beginnings and how hard work and education made his dream come true.

Dr Thomas told pupils about the many obstacles he overcame, including growing up in a poor home without a dad and, often, even without food on the table. He had to work hard to earn scholarships for university to get the education he needed to become an astronaut.

“Never let anyone tell you that you can’t do something,” he told the star-struck youngsters.

“You should be willing to work hard towards your dreams and not listen to those who tell you it can’t be done.”

Dr Thomas also described what it was like to fly in a space shuttle and answered questions like how he managed to eat, sleep and even use the toilet in outer space. During his 20-year career with NASA, he circled the earth 692 times.

Kouga Wind Farm funded his talk to show youngsters what taking their studies seriously can achieve. Dr Thomas said the local children asked very good questions and were very respectful. ●

Bright hopes for bursary holders



The six fortunate students who are benefiting from Kouga Wind Farm’s bursary scheme are looking forward to a brighter future – and all agree that the rewards are more than financial.

Through the scheme, Fiona Swartbooi became the first member of her family to go to college after she was given the chance to study business management.

“My dreams of studying further ended when my father died in 2009, but I did not want to give up, so I looked for assistance,” the Cape Town College student says. “I am really grateful to have been given this amazing opportunity.”

Olulodwa Mphahla, who is studying towards a BA degree at Rhodes University, says: “For Kouga Wind Farm, it’s not all about the money. It’s also about helping people to become a better person.”

According to Luvo Tewu, whose field is financial information systems at the

Cape Peninsula University of Technology, without the full bursary, he would “probably be sitting at home, increasing the percentage of unemployed youth in our country.”

Vathiswa Ntshota has also been given the opportunity to fulfil her dream of pursuing a career in human resource management at Damelin. “The bursary made me realise the importance of giving back. It changed my life.”

Suze Campher and Chandre Kettledas, taking BCom accounting and management assistance courses at Varsity College and Southern Cape College respectively, will be able to finish the theory part of their courses thanks to the financial assistance.

The bursaries will give these beneficiaries the chance to access better economic opportunities, either through employment or entrepreneurship, in the future. ●