



PERDEKRAAL EAST WIND FARM



PHOTO: Local dance group, the Ultimates, performs at the Market.

CELEBRATING LOCAL TALENT AND ENTERPRISE

Annual market event brings the Witzenberg community together.

The annual Christmas Market brought together visitors from across the Western Cape, as well as local residents. The event featured over 100 food stalls, entertainment, and crafted, vintage, and eco-friendly items.

Held over the second weekend in December, the market celebrated cultural expression, community spirit, and social cohesion. Organised in collaboration with the Witzenberg Municipality, Ceres Tourism, Cape Winelands, and SAPS, the event brought together the Witzenberg community and surrounding areas in a shared space that supports local entrepreneurs, artists, and performers.

Jason Gordon and Dean van Rooi, both locals, acted as Masters of Ceremonies at the event. Local artists such as Non Pops dance crew, Singers of God Arts Development, Undivided Purpose were just a few of the performances of the weekend. The highlight performances of Andrea Fortuin, the Jeodhouse Band, Robin Pieters all had the crowd on their feet.



PHOTO: EnergyDrive campaign visits Ceres and empowers local learners.

“Our decision to support the EnergyDrive is rooted in our commitment to strengthening education and renewable energy awareness. The programme complements our socio-economic development strategy, which focuses on empowering youth through STEM education and creating pathways into the green economy,” explained Gwynne-Lee Borchers, Economic Development Manager for Perdekraal East Wind Farm.

ENERGYDRIVE EMPOWERS CERES LEARNERS

EnergyDrive Inspires young minds

Perdekraal East Wind Farm helped bring renewable-energy education directly to young people in our local communities through the EnergyDrive initiative. This interactive mobile classroom makes learning about clean power fun, practical, and inspiring.

For learners who grow up near active renewable-energy facilities, this experience sparks curiosity, builds awareness, and gives them hands-on exposure to the science behind wind energy and other green technologies.

“This visit inspired me to learn more about energy, and I am now considering possibly pursuing a career in environmental sciences or engineering, because I saw how many new job opportunities it offers,” said a learner from Skurweberg Secondary School, the first stop on the Cape leg of the tour.

Through our partnership with the South African Wind Energy Association, we’re helping bridge classroom learning with real-world applications.



CAREER DAY EQUIPS LOCAL LEARNERS

Career Day Helps Learners to Make Informed Career and Study Choices.

As part of the 2025 Career Day programme, we partnered with the Cape Career Exhibition Association to open up future opportunities for young people across Witzenberg. Close to 2,000 learners from Bella Vista High School, Iingcinga Zethu High School, Skurweberg Secondary School, and Ceres Secondary School attended the event, which offered guidance and inspiration to Grade 9 - 12 learners as they navigate subject choices, career pathways, and post-school options.

The day gave learners the chance to explore different study paths, understand job options, and learn about bursaries that can help them access higher education.

The event featured a wide range of tertiary institutions, from Stellenbosch University and UWC to Northlink College, Eduvos, IMM, STADIO, and others, all sharing valuable advice and inspiration.

YOUNG LEARNERS CELEBRATE GLOBAL WIND DAY

Young Learners Inspired Through Hands-On Wind Energy Fun

In honour of Global Wind Day, Grade 3 and 4 students from three Warm Bokkeveld schools got to explore and gain a better understanding of renewable energy. The learners were introduced to the basics of wind power and the important role our wind farm plays in building a cleaner future.

Learners from Wanganella NGK Primary, Laastedrif NGK Primary, and Northridge NGK Primary had great fun making and decorating their own pinwheels, turning learning into a creative and memorable experience.

“Global Wind Day is a powerful platform to ignite curiosity in young minds. By introducing them to the basics of renewable energy and the role of wind farms, we hope to see an increase in knowledge, environmental consciousness and behavioural change within the community. We hope to also inspire future interest in STEM fields,” said Gwynne-Lee Borchers.

The day ended with a fun quiz, prizes, goody bags, and lunch.



PHOTO: Local primary school learners celebrating Global Wind Day.

GROWING LOCAL BUSINESSES THROUGH TRAINING

Empowering Entrepreneurs with Skills to Grow and Succeed.

We're proud to support local entrepreneurship in the Witzenberg area through targeted training that strengthens small businesses, creates jobs, and builds long-term resilience for entrepreneurs and SMMEs.

The programme focused on supplier development and SMME development. Eleven local suppliers joined in-person sessions covering COIDA, OHS, and hazardous chemical management, all essential for improving safety, compliance, and overall business quality.

We also trained six small businesses on the basics of bookkeeping, financial management, and HR principles, giving entrepreneurs the tools they need to thrive.



PHOTO: Local entrepreneurs empowered through business training.

“My mission has always been to serve the Bella Vista community through innovation, skills development, and meaningful job creation. Thanks to this training programme, we've gained vital knowledge in HR and bookkeeping, tools that are now helping us build a stronger, more sustainable business.” - Clinton Fienies, a programme participant.



PHOTO: Close to 400 local school learners benefit from a winter uniform drive.

WARM WINTER UNIFORMS FOR LEARNERS IN CERES

Winter Uniform Donation Brings Warmth To Learners

Over the winter, we helped hundreds of local students stay warm by providing brand-new winter school uniforms to 17 schools in the Witzenberg area. This initiative is about more than just clothing, it's about dignity, comfort, and helping every child feel confident and included.

Through this support, 380 learners received uniforms made and supplied by local small businesses, ensuring our investment strengthened the wider community too.

"This contribution ensures that no learner is excluded due to financial challenges and helps to instill values of gratitude, loyalty, and respect. In addition to meeting a practical need, the donation strengthens discipline, unity, and school pride, while also enhancing our school's image." - Welgemoed NGK Primêr Prinsipal, Morné Syter.

COMMUNITY FOOD GARDEN PROJECT CONTINUES TO GROW

Turning Small Gardens into Big Opportunities for Locals

What began as a small response to food insecurity during the Covid-19 pandemic has grown into one of our most successful community projects. Our Food Garden Project has expanded from just 20 starter gardens to more than 90 thriving gardens across our four partner communities, helping hundreds of families grow their own fresh, healthy produce.

One of our proud partners, Ceres Secondary School, has fully integrated its garden into the agricultural curriculum, with learners gain hands-on experience while the harvested vegetables support the school's feeding scheme and hostel meals.

With training and ongoing support from Ikamvaletu Tunnel Farming, our beneficiaries maintain the gardens themselves, building resilience, self-reliance, and a healthier, more empowered community.



LOCAL STUDENT SHINES THROUGH OUR BURSARY PROGRAMME

Celebrating Bella Vista's Amy Ludick

As one of our first bursary recipients, Amy Ludick's journey shows how meaningfully opportunities in education can transform a young person's future.

Awarded the bursary in 2021, Amy has since completed her Higher Certificate in Business Administration at CPU and is now studying towards her BTech, with big dreams of eventually earning a Master's degree.

For Amy, the bursary removed the financial pressures that often weigh down students, giving her the freedom to focus on her studies and excel. She chose Business & Information Administration because it blends her strengths in communication, technology, and organisation, and opens doors to careers in sectors like finance, education, government, and healthcare.

Through our bursary programme, we continue helping young people from communities like Ceres, Bella Vista, Nduli, and Prince Alfred Hamlet pursue careers in high-demand fields.

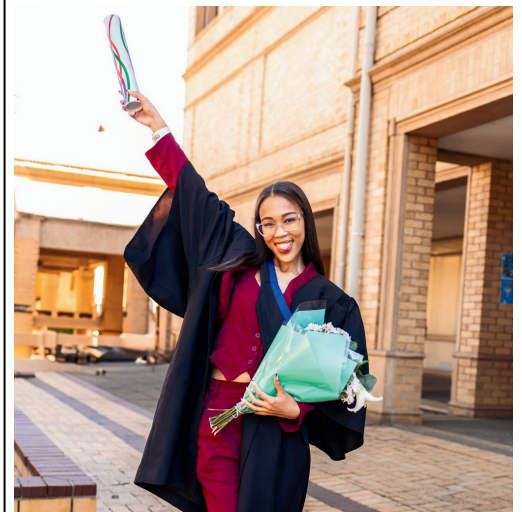


PHOTO: Bursary Recipient, Amy Ludick at her graduation.

"The bursary has played a major role in my academic and personal development. It eased the financial pressure of my studies, allowing me to focus fully on my coursework and achieve my academic goals. It motivated me to work harder and reminded me that my efforts are supported and recognised." - Amy Ludick.



PHOTO: Skoonveld Programme empowers youth and communities while conserving the environment.

SKOONVELD PROGRAMME PROTECTS OUR VELD

Working Together to Restore the Ceres Mountain Fynbos Reserve

We are proud to support the Skoonveld Programme, a long-standing community initiative that is helping to protect the reserve, restore indigenous vegetation, and ensure this environment continues to thrive for future generations.

Established by the Ceres Business Initiative in 2016, the programme plays an important role in clearing invasive plants that drain more water than our indigenous species, a critical issue for our local apple farmers.

“Since 2021, we have proudly provided support towards this programme through our Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) grant funding initiative. This funding has made a meaningful impact, allowing the programme to expand its reach by an estimated 40%, covering an additional 800 hectares.” - Gwynne-Lee Borchers.

Our support has provided training, PPE, and essential field tools, enabling local contractors to employ and upskill youth from surrounding communities. From chainsaw handling to first aid and herbicide application, young people are gaining practical skills while protecting their environment.

Looking ahead, we’re committed to the programme’s vision of restoring all 7,000 hectares of this treasured nature reserve.

“The support from Perdekraal East Wind Farm has allowed the Skoonveld Programme to operate in a much wider area within the nature reserve. It has made a significant contribution by helping us scale our impact and protect more of this critical natural environment.”- Anton Reinecke, Programme Founder and CBI representative.

2025 TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



Gwynne-Lee Borchers – Economic Development Manager

“Our Internship Programme gives young community members hands-on experience in the renewable energy sector, building skills locally. The programme also improves employability, opens career pathways, and equips interns to confidently add value in the workplace.”



Dennis Solomon – Plant Manager

“Local SMMEs were supported with various Health and Safety training programmes as part of supplier development and capacity building. These initiatives increased their Health and Safety knowledge to perform work in a safe manner and at the same time comply to project company requirements and local Health and Safety Legislation.”



Shannon Lombaard – Senior Project Officer

“Career Day is a programme that means so much to me, it creates a space where young people can see what’s possible for their futures. It provides meaningful exposure to a range of professions and inspires informed career choices and subjects.”



Lukho Mvumvu – Internal Audit & Procurement Officer

“The SAWEA EnergyDrive project is close to my heart because it gives high school learners early, meaningful exposure to the renewable energy industry. By introducing them to real-world technologies, career paths, and role models, it helps them see themselves as future engineers, technicians, and leaders.”

OUR TEAM



Elaine Gatyene
Junior Site Safety Officer



Leeroy Beukes
Senior Plant Technician



Kenan Mei
ED Officer Intern



Gerané Damon
ED Officer Intern

