

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER 2024



PERDEKRAAL EAST WIND FARM



PHOTO: Local artist, Don Vino, with the Perdekraal East Wind Farm team.

CHRISTMAS MARKET SUCCESS

Bringing the community together for a heartwarming celebration.

Once again the Perdekraal East Wind Farm in collaboration with Witzenberg Municipality hosted the annual two-day Christmas Market/Kersmark in Ceres. The event brought the community together for a weekend of activities and entertainment!

The market featured stalls selling various goods, food vendors and a visit from Santa Claus, who handed out gifts and took photos with children.

On Saturday, artists Don Vino, Emile & Mr. Heinz, Matthew Power, and Reece performed alongside local musicians, including Majestic Sounds. A Kiddies Corner at Morrisdale Primary School, organised by The Levels Company's Lorenzo Hofmeester, provided activities such as water slides, jumping castles, paintball, and games before the market began. Social media personality Mr. Sheriff served as the MC, engaging the crowd with dance and comedy.

Sunday featured local praise and worship singers, spiritual dancers, and instrumental performances. Pastor Pieter Swarts, the MC, shared a message for the season. Dr. Gerald Maarman, originally from Eerste River and now based in Stellenbosch, delivered a scripture reading and shared his personal journey.



PHOTO: Hometown hero and olympian, Adrian Wildschut, receives a special welcome.

"Adrian's journey has had a profound impact on the youth of Bella Vista and surrounding communities. His success as an Olympian proves that no matter where you come from, it's possible to achieve greatness through hard work and dedication. By sharing his story, Adrian has inspired countless young people to dream big, pushing them to believe that they too can reach the highest levels in their respective fields, whether in sports or education." - Gwynne-Lee Borchers, Economic Development Manager for Perdekraal East Wind Farm.

LOCAL HERO HONOURED

Adrian has become an inspiration to many in both his hometown and across the country.

We partnered with Bella Vista High School to host a special celebration to honour our local community hero and Olympian, Adrian Wildschut. Adrian, a dedicated long-distance runner, was the only South African athlete to qualify for the men's 10,000-meter race at the 2024 Olympics.

Held at his former high school, the celebration brought together community members, local councillors, school staff, and learners to recognise Adrian's achievements.

Reflecting on his journey, Adrian shared a key moment from his school years: "In Grade 10, one of my teachers told me, 'You have so much potential, stop trying to be the clown.'"

This advice became a turning point, motivating him to focus on his goals. Speaking to the learners, he emphasised discipline, responsibility, and respect as crucial for success in both academics and sports.

Adrian's success has not only fueled personal aspirations but has also inspired a passion for sports within the local community. His achievements have encouraged increased participation in local sports clubs, fostering a sense of pride and unity in Bella Vista.



YOUTH IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

6 Witzenberg Youth Empowered for Careers in Renewable Energy.

Fifteen young trainees from the Witzenberg Municipal area have taken a significant step toward careers in renewable energy by completing the Global Wind Organisation (GWO) Training Programme.

Sponsored by Perdekraal East Wind Farm, this achievement has opened the door for six of these local youth to advance into a three-year, on-site apprenticeship, where they will work towards earning a millwright qualification and deepening their expertise in wind energy.

This initiative not only addresses the need for skilled professionals in renewable energy but also fosters economic empowerment and reduces reliance on social welfare grants and seasonal work.

"Securing this apprenticeship has been a transformative experience, proving my capabilities in what has traditionally been a male-dominated field. It's not just about learning new skills, it's about paving my future and conquering any challenge ahead. I'm grateful for this opportunity to grow and succeed." - Lindie Lindelwa Lottereng, a programme participant.

CELEBRATING GLOBAL WIND DAY

Local learners join the world in the push for clean energy.

Grade 3 learners at Morrisdale and Mooi Uitsig Primary Schools in the Witzenberg area enjoyed a day of creative activities, including crafting and decorating pinwheels, to commemorate Global Wind Day.

Funded as part of our education programme, this initiative encourages learners to explore the potential of wind energy through creative expression. As part of the festivities, the learners engaged in an exciting art project where they crafted and decorated pinwheels, symbolising the power and beauty of wind.

"We are grateful to the wind farm for involving our learners in such a special way. We are proud to share that our learners gained remarkable experiences through this programme. They thoroughly enjoyed the activities, especially working in mixed groups with various devices at their tables. The challenge of making and decorating their fans filled them with excitement and pride. This experience has left a lasting impact on their hearts." - Astrid Boaysen, a teacher from Mooi Uitsig Primary School.



PHOTO: Local primary school learners celebrating Global Wind Day.

SUPPORTING LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

Local entrepreneur empowered through SMME programme.

Khaya Toti, owner of Ceres' only wood-fired pizzeria, has transformed his pizza business into a thriving gathering spot with support from our SMME stimulation initiative.

With the programme's support, Khaya invested in a pizza dough maker and digital menu display panels, boosting efficiency, cutting costs, and improving customer satisfaction.

"The funding has been invaluable. It's helped us keep prices affordable, maintain quality, and continue employing local people despite challenges." - Khaya Toti.

Founded in May 2015, Khaya's Pizza Shack has grown from a small pizzeria into a popular local hotspot, well known for its exceptional pizzas and the positive vibe it brings to the community.

His business now employs six full-time and two casual weekend staff members, helping to reduce the unemployment rate in Ceres.



PHOTO: Khaya Toti is an inspiration to the Ceres community.

"We chose to fund Khaya's business because it's the only wood-fired pizza restaurant in the area, offering unique growth potential. We believe that with additional support, Khaya's venture could significantly impact the local business community. Khaya's resilience, demonstrated by his continued operation since 2015, assured us of the business' enduring promise and capacity for success."

We're proud to support entrepreneurs like Khaya, whose vision drives community growth.



PHOTO: Pediatric mothers at Ceres Hospital treated to a special day.

WOMEN’S SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Bringing Comfort To Pediatric Mothers At Ceres Hospital.

In partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS), we supported mothers facing extended stays at Ceres Hospital. The initiative benefitted 40 mothers, with each receiving a comfort pack that included personal care items and snacks, ensuring these women felt seen, valued, and supported for the remainder of their stay.

"Motherhood is a beautiful journey but comes with challenges. We wanted to acknowledge their strength and provide comfort during this time." - Gwynne-Lee Borchers.

On this day, SAPS officers joined the visit to discuss the importance of standing up against gender-based violence (GBV). The officers distributed awareness pamphlets and encouraged the mothers to come forward or help others who may find themselves in those situations. This collaboration was especially meaningful in light of the stigma that often surrounds violence against women in communities.

BURSARY STUDENTS GRADUATE

Empowering Witzenberg Youth Through Education and Opportunity.

We’re proud to celebrate the achievements of Zanele Mqukumba and Shanidine Bezuidenhout - two of our bursary programme recipients from Witzenberg, who successfully graduated with qualifications in 2024.

With a focus on enabling learners from local high schools to pursue accredited bachelor’s degrees at recognised universities, this initiative not only supports the educational aspirations of students but also contributes to the community development of the region. The scholarship criteria prioritise inclusivity and equity, with a particular emphasis on students from previously disadvantaged backgrounds within the Witzenberg area.

In addition to financial support for tuition, the wind farm provided the recipients with textbooks, data, accommodation, stationery, and mentorship sessions, ensuring holistic support throughout their academic journey.

The bursary programme continues to be a catalyst for change, empowering youth from underprivileged backgrounds to pursue higher education and realise their full potential.

Right:
"My journey as a student was enlightening and challenging, but the bursary assisted me with monthly data allowance and monthly mentor sessions, keeping me on track with my personal and academic goals."
- Zanele Mqukumba.



Right:
"The bursary eased the financial burden on my parents, and I'm grateful for the support."
- Shanidine Bezuidenhout.



ENTREPRENEUR DAY DRIVES LOCAL ECONOMIC GROWTH

Building Connections and Fueling Growth at the Witzenberg Entrepreneur Day.

We proudly hosted the annual Perdekraal East Wind Farm Entrepreneur Day, which expanded into a two-day event, showcasing our strong commitment to local economic development.

The event united local entrepreneurs, stakeholders, and community members to explore key topics like business compliance, funding opportunities, and sustainable practices.

We are immensely proud of our role in fostering local economic growth and supporting entrepreneurs. The event highlighted the potential of local businesses and strengthened our partnerships with the community and municipality.

A highlight of the event was hearing the success stories from two of the wind farm's local SMME stimulation initiative beneficiaries. Ikamvaletu Tunnel Farming shared their inspiring journey of recovery and growth, made possible through the funding received from the wind farm. This funding enabled them to regain their commercial vegetable tunnel farming capacity, and they have since become the primary service provider for Perdekraal's food garden project, contributing significantly to local food security.



PHOTO: Faizel Prins and Andrew Aloni of Ikamvalethu Tunnel Farming.

"As an entrepreneur, attending the Entrepreneur Day opened up new business opportunities and avenues for growth. It provided an excellent platform for networking, marketing, and connecting with like-minded individuals, allowing me to establish my brand in ways that would otherwise be unaffordable for many small businesses. This event is a great opportunity for entrepreneurs and we hope it continues to be hosted annually." - Andrew Aloni, Director of Ikamvaletu Tunnel Farming.



TRANSFORMATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Advancing BBBEE Transformation in Witzenberg.

We are proud to announce that we progressed to BEE Level 8 in 2023 and a further improvement to BEE Level 6 in 2024, reflecting our commitment to economic transformation.

Through job creation, skills development, and supplier support, we continue to empower local communities and drive sustainable growth within the Witzenberg Municipality.



CAREER DAY INSPIRES LEARNERS

Local High School Learners and community members exposed to an array of career paths.

An informative Career Day for Grade 9 and 11 learners from local high schools in Ceres, broadening their career horizons, was hosted late last year.

Funded in partnership with the Cape Career Exhibition Association, and the Cape Winelands District, the event offered learners the opportunity to explore various career paths and receive essential guidance on academic and career planning.

PROTECTING NATURE AND EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Conserving the Ceres Mountain Fynbos While Creating Opportunities for Local Youth.

We're proud to have partnered with the Witzenberg Municipality to support the Witzenberg Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Programme (WBCCCP), an initiative designed to protect the Ceres Mountain Fynbos Nature Reserve while creating meaningful opportunities for local youth.

"The WBCCCP represents a collaborative effort to preserve our natural heritage while empowering communities. By investing in conservation and sustainable development, we aim to create a brighter future for both community members and the environment."

The Witzenberg Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change Programme is about empowering communities and nurturing a culture of environmental responsibility. This programme encompasses a range of activities, such as removing and managing alien vegetation, monitoring and controlling unauthorized land occupants, establishing and maintaining fire breaks, managing soil erosion, and routinely removing litter, to ensure conservation of the nature reserve.

Through employment opportunities, skills development, educational and awareness initiatives, the programme aims to equip young individuals with the tools they need to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

We envision a future where communities can coexist with nature by fostering green jobs and equipping locals with essential skills, thereby paving the way for sustainable economic growth and environmental sustainability. The empowerment of youth leads to innovation and entrepreneurship, leading to a greener, more prosperous tomorrow.



PHOTO: Biodiversity Programme empowers communities while conserving the environment.

OUR TEAM



Gwynne-Lee Borchers
Economic Development
Manager



Shannon Lombaard
Senior Project Officer



Lukho Mvumvu
Internal Audit and
Procurement Officer



Gerane Damon
Project Officer Intern



Kenan Mei
Project Officer Intern



Dennis Solomon
Plant Manager



Elaine Gatyene
Junior Site Safety Officer



<https://perdekraaleastwind.co.za/>



/PerdekraalWindCommunity



51 Voortrekker Street, Ceres



083 789 8426