



We're in this together

We, at the Grootbos Foundation, support the enormous decision taken by President Cyril Ramaphosa last night, and are making plans for the nationwide lockdown from 26 March until 16 April in South Africa. In order to flatten the curve of the Coronavirus transmission rate, protect our vulnerable communities and give our health care system the vital time it needs to cope with this pandemic, we will suspend all Grootbos Foundation programmes.

From the 17 April 2020, our teams will be in position to reintroduce all programmes should that be possible in line with recommendations from our government at the time.

The Grootbos Foundation team is fully committed to resume delivery of programmes in the communities as soon as possible. We wish you and your cherished ones courage, health and resilience as we walk through these uncertain times together.

Love and hope

Julie, Sean, Michael and the Grootbos Foundation Team

Here below are some uplifting stories of hope and happiness from the past three months

From the Siyakhula Programmes

KICKSTARTING CAREERS
at 4 local high schools through Subject Choice
support, Career Fairs, and Entrepreneurship
Camps

Please donate R350 towards a target of R50 000 so
we can develop business-minded teenagers.



Make a donation

Employability Camp



Lintle Lusiba and friends learning about the importance of conservation at the Grootbos Environmental Centre

On the first weekend of February, this group of grade 11s from Caribbean Academia enjoyed two nights away at the Grootbos Environmental Centre. Going away as a group to an off-grid venue was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for these grade 11s who had a fabulous time planning their futures, getting real about education and opportunities after school, and learning about the importance of conservation.

Giant pumpkins at Growing the Future



SIYAKHULA



Pontsho, Pontsho Pumpkin-eater, shows off his giant pumpkin which he plans to enter into the Living Seeds Giant Pumpkin Competition. Fingers crossed that it weighs in at over 700kg to stand a chance to win!

From the Football Foundation

Boland Hockey trials



Back from left: Genna Mgawwa, Lavo Mesi and Genna Maphakathu

Front from left: Malusi Hibana and Qhama Dyakophu

Recent young players from the Football Foundation hockey programme participated in the Boland Hockey Trials which were recently held on 11 March in Hermanus. Congratulations to all five of these players made it through this first round of the selection process. The next round has been postponed due to precautions taken to contain the spread of Coronavirus and we will be ready for action when the process resumes!

Good through sports with Food4Sport



Grade 66 from Die Brien Primary School at Growing the Future Farm.

A group of grade 66 from Die Brien Primary School, Stamford enjoyed a wonderful field trip to Growing the Future Farm on 5 March. This learning excursion to an organic farm is a great way to learn about nutrition and food growing in the most healthy and sustainable way. Food4Sports is one of the educational programmes which is run by the Grootbos Foundation in local schools, making use of the magic of sport to teach life skills.

Holiday Programme



Holiday programme fun: Small groups at Spaces4Sport

The Football Foundation provided a holiday programme at the Spaces4Sport Community field in Gansbaai in the first week of the extended school holiday. At this time when our communities most needed support, our sports coaches offered small group activities including games, health and hygiene activities, and a nutritious daily meal. All programme adjustments were made in accordance with government legislature and recommendations of the World Health Organization in order to contain the spread of Coronavirus and put safety first.

From Green Futures

Eco-Tourism and Hospitality Class of 2020



Our twelve Eco-Tourism&Hospitality students for 2020 raring to go (back from left): Sesethu Nkosana, Whitney Chaka, Busiswa Sweleni, Asavela Dlova, Sinovuyo Liliso, Andiswa Mbangezeli, Nomvuyo Mtshingila, Martinette Hans, Zizikhona Nobathana (front from left) Anesipho Ndamase, Sikhosiphi Mpeqeka, Thandazwa Mvunyelwa

Meet our enthusiastic Class of 2020 who are fired up to learn about Eco-Tourism and Hospitality. We are so excited to see what they achieve this year as we provide them with the skills they need to gain employment locally, pursue entrepreneurial dreams, or study further. Our students will resume their lectures once the shutdown is over.

Dibanisa Camp



Grade 7s from Okkie Smuts Primary School enjoying the Dibanisa Camp

Grade 7s from local Stanford school, Okkie Smuts, experienced the joy of learning about conservation while on camp in February. The Dibanisa curriculum brings conservation awareness to children, building lifelong conservation stewards in our communities.

Botanical update



Brunsvigia orientalis. Photo taken by Grootbos guide @Brutanikhul

Genetic mutation happens all the time in nature, but we rarely notice, unless it dramatically affects the appearance of the fruit or flower of a plant. This unique candelabra (*Brunsvigia orientalis*) lacks the typical vibrant red colour and is a muted version of its species. Not all mutation leads to successful adaptation but sometimes just leaves us in awe of nature's beauty.

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