

Bridge Street Brewery sows good seeds in the Baakens Valley for Mandela Day



TEAMWORK IN THE VALLEY: Photographed cleaning the valley is (from left to right): Ward Councillor Ronaldo Gouws, Imveli Cycling Academy cyclists Sinethemba Ntlali and Lisakhanya Mnjekula, Ward Councillor David Hayselden, Baakens Valley Committee Member Steff Schenk, Bridge Street Brewery General Manager Daniel Huddlestone and Councillor Leander Kruger

Bridge Street Brewery team took it upon themselves to keep the Mandela Legacy alive by cleaning up the Baakens Valley in celebration of Nelson Mandela, creating a buzz in the valley for one of the most celebrated days in our country.

The Valley Clean-up participants gathered on the deck at Bridge Street Brewery, which is situated in the historic Baakens Valley area. The Developing area is rapidly becoming an industrial and manufacturing hub due to the choice of use for the warehouses and other surrounding businesses, including Bridge Street Brewery Beer Manufacturing.

Bridge Street Brewery General Manager Daniel Huddlestone was beaming with excitement when addressing attendees about the clean-up.

“The Valley Clean-up is unlike any event that we have hosted as Bridge Street Brewery and is indeed the first of many clean-ups that we’ll be hosting.”

When asked why it was so important for them to conduct an initiative such as this, Huddlestone continued by saying:

“It is so important yet so overlooked that businesses take care of the environment that they operate in, and do what they can to sustain the environment, just as the environment sustains the business community as a whole, it’s our duty. I don’t think we could have chosen a bet

ter way to spend Mandela Day 2018 than taking care of this beautiful Valley that we’re fortunate enough to have as our backyard” he said. The Clean-up brought many guests to the Valley, with a healthy mix of influencers in the bay, as well as guests of honour like the Imveli Cycling Academy CEO and Founder Lukholo Badi, as well as Ward Councillors David Hayselden, Ronaldo Gouws and Leander Kruger.

The Valley Clean-up had an educational aspect added to it by having Environmental Expert and member of the Baakens Valley Committee Steff Schenk, show us which were indigenous and those that were alien vegetation, which were then removed by Mystree Garden Tree Felling and appropriately disposed of by Skipgo, so that our indigenous vegetation in the valley can begin to thrive.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the day as I was doing what I am passionate about for such great cause.

The educational aspect is a great addition to the day and I am quite impressed with the interest in acquiring more knowledge to improve environmental care and sustenance, because it truly is essential.” Schenk said.

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Mandela Day: Ubuntu in the air at Siyaloba Training Academy

MUCH excitement and laughter surrounded the earnest labour of learners from Siyaloba Training Academy as they worked hard to make close to 250 warm blankets in memory of the Father of our Nation.

As citizens across South Africa and its borders honoured the former statesman, Nelson Mandela, Siyaloba Training Academy learners also dedicated 67 minutes of their time to honour Madiba’s legacy of ubuntu – by making warm blankets to fight the cold in their communities.

Siyaloba Training Academy is a non-profit social enterprise focussed on improving lives in coastal communities through skills development.

Siyaloba Training Academy Director Karen Reid said all the learners involved in the Mandela Day initiative are engaged in accredited Siyaloba learnerships - which provide skills development for unemployed youth across the Eastern Cape.

“The Mandela Day initiative is an important point in the learners’ skills development journey as it offers a chance for them to make the shift from beneficiary to someone who can add value to the community where they come from. Many of the learners have been unemployed for a long period of time,” Reid said.

A learnership is a 12 month-programme where the learners complete structured classroom training, which is combined with work placement to gain practical experience.

“Some of the blanket beneficiary organisations are acting as workplace hosts for the learners. Siyaloba places

the learners at other social enterprises or NGOs, where learners can implement their new computer, administrative and professional communication skills to add value to the organisations’ work in the community,” Reid said.

Bulelani Mafana, one of the Siyaloba Training Academy learners from Joe Slovo, recommended his local clinic to receive the donation of blankets. “Many people going to the clinic rely on a social grant as their only form of income. It is really good to do something for other people, and not getting anything in return for it,” Mafana said.

Beneficiary organisations nominated by the learners included a community centre in Kwanobuhle, a day-care centre in New Brighton, the Joe Slovo Clinic, a church’s soup kitchen in Kwazakhele as well as a clinic in the Kouga area. “It is a great idea for Siyaloba Training Academy, who is also a non-profit organisation, to do this for our communities every year. It is wonderful that they let the learners choose who they want to support in their communities. The number of blankets we make increases every year and it feels good to be doing this for Madiba,” said another learner, Nosiya Lorna Makwetu.

The learners are completing accredited General Education and Training Certificate in Business Practice aimed at entry-level personnel and emerging entrepreneurs.

Siyaloba Training Academy is currently training 100 learnerships across their Port Elizabeth and Kouga sites. The learnerships are funded through various sources, including SETA and corporate CSI/Skills development.



Siyaloba Training Academy learners also cleaned the library and donated book vouchers to Jarvis Gqamlana Primary School in New Brighton.



The Boardwalk rises against hunger

For the third consecutive year, The Boardwalk called on its employees and volunteers from local businesses and government to Rise Against Hunger in commemoration of International Mandela Day today. The initiative, in collaboration with Rise Against Hunger (previously Stop Hunger Now), saw volunteers invest 67 minutes of their time on packaging lines at The Boardwalk International Convention Centre to pack meal parcels for needy children. Amongst the volunteers were the MEC for Social Development for the Eastern Cape Dr Pumza Dyantyi and Mayor of Nelson Mandela Bay, the Athol Trollip.



The goal was to pack 110 000 meals at the event. This target was exceeded

with a grand total of 120 000 meals packed (equivalent to 556 boxes) on

the day. Each parcel contains 216 meal bags which in turn contain six meals each. The contents are carefully planned to provide for the nutritional needs of children, including rice, soya, soup mix and a vitamin sachet containing 23 essential vitamins and minerals.

“International Mandela Day this year marks the centenary of the late former president, Nelson Mandela’s birth. In the spirit of Mandela’s immense generosity and love for children, we were honoured to host the 2018 Rise Against Hunger food packing drive on what would have been his 100th birthday.