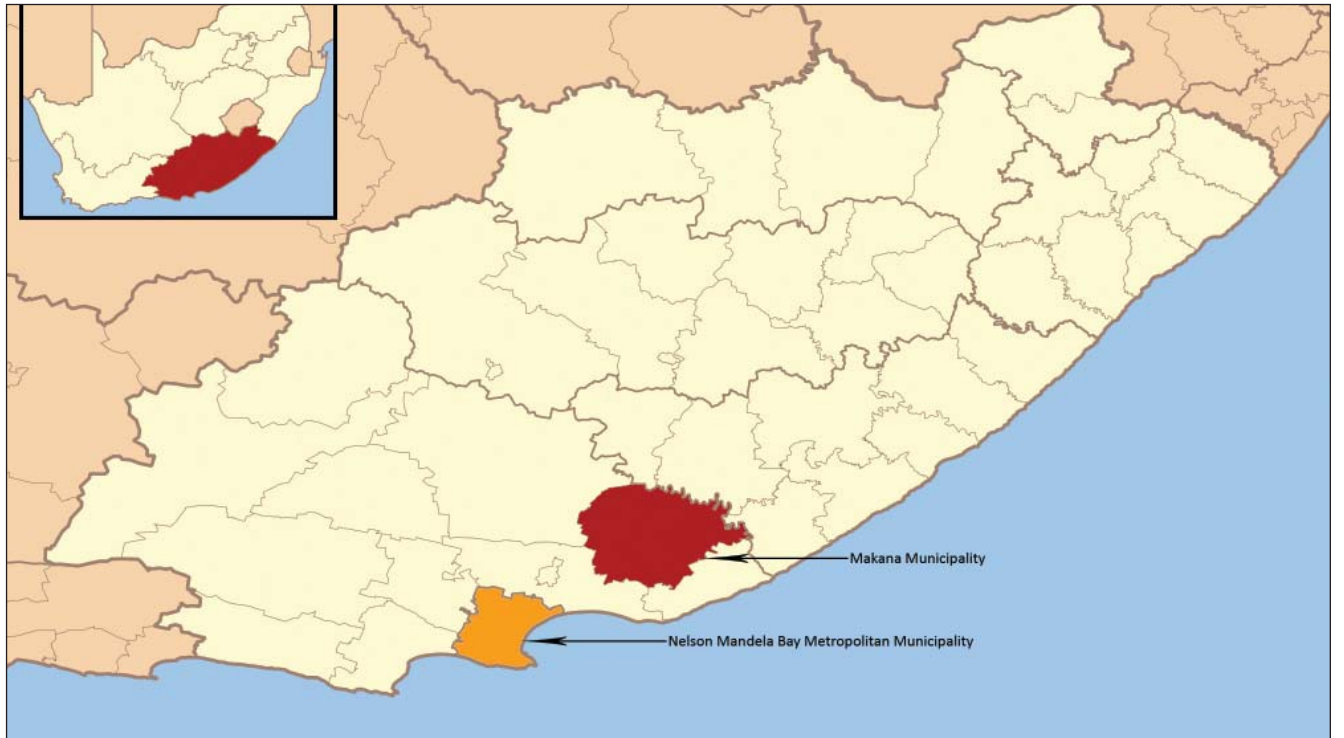


Wfward focus

Hyping the hyperlocal

Beginning today, the next few editions of *Grocott's Mail* will feature a range of stories from each of Makana Municipality's 12 wards – some urban and familiar to most Grahamstonians, some rural and relatively unexplored. These stories, reflecting the extraordinarily diverse communities who call Makana home, are by turns inspiring, illuminating, surprising, and disturbing. The journalism was produced by teams of Rhodes journalism students who were urged to immerse themselves in these hyperlocal communities and write about people and issues that don't always get the media attention they deserve. The project was inspired by public journalism, a worldwide press reform movement whose adherents subscribe to the simple premise that the press should promote and improve – not merely report on and complain about – the quality of civic life. Below, Rhodes journalism lecturer, **Rod Amner**, gives some background to the project:



Relational representation of Makana Municipality versus Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality. Graphic Supplied

Over two months ago third year journalism students at Rhodes strolled into each of Makana's 12 wards and took the time to get to know people as human beings and citizens, rather than as repositories of catchy soundbites for stories ideas hatched in remote newsrooms. They set about the task of identifying different types of community leader (from official leaders to more informal community 'connectors' and 'catalysts'), uncovering hidden layers of civic life, and asking a range of citizens to identify the issues and challenges facing them.

To aid their cause, the student journalists organised public meetings in the wards. For instance, over 100 residents in Extension 9 turned up for a public meeting and surfaced a long list of issues and challenges facing citizens in the area. Journalists sifted through the issues coming out of each ward, before deciding on a stories to cover in their TV documentaries, soundslides (a compelling mix of radio and photojournalism), and hyperlocal wall newspapers (literally, newspapers that are stuck up on walls and other public spaces).

As one pair of students commented on their project blog: "Only when submerged in a community does one's ear become attuned to the throb of the pleas, cries and concerns of the people. As a professionalizing journalist we feel that by covering news at a hyperlocal level there is a greater potential for change."

Halfway through the term, the wallpapers were stuck up in the wards, while the TV productions and audioslide shows were played

This was not 'journalism as usual'... this was the intention.

to community focus groups or to business leaders (for potential sponsorship of community initiatives), officials or other potential interest groups. This allowed the journalists to get some enriching feedback before embarking on their final productions.

Some groups tried to use their journalism to catalyse public problem solving processes while others stepped boldly over the boundary lines of objective reporting by becoming part of the solution-making process themselves. For example, one enterprising group responded to the collapse of a soccer-playing culture among youth by organising an extraordinary weekend football tournament for local kids. Other helped communities replace tornado-damaged roofs, re-fence community tennis courts, organise litter clean-ups, author and distribute children's picture books themed on issues of personal safety, get the Rhodes Music Department to commit to providing lessons for local youth, find sponsorship for local crèches, organise Christmas presents for the elderly, and agitate for a programme for teaching basic skills to under-privileged foster children.

This was not 'journalism as usual'. And this is the intention of the course – students are asked to contribute in some way to the goals of 'democratisation' and 'development', by experimenting



Learners from Nathaniel Nyaluza High School eyeball a wall newspaper produced for youth in Fingo Village by third year journalism students at Rhodes University.

with a number of 'alternative' approaches to journalism like public journalism (see sidebar), development journalism and radical journalism. All these approaches offer diverse ideas and methods for producing 'better' – meaning, alternatively, more purposive, civic-minded, principled, engaged, inclusive, bottom-up, exhaustive, systematic, innovative, oppositional, and reflexive – ways of doing news work.

In South Africa, given our conditions of profound social inequality, it is important that journalism help foreground the concerns of the most marginalised social groups and ensure that they are heard to the same extent as those of dominant social groups. To this end, the student journalists tried to reorient their news reporting from a focus on elite deliberations and actions to a focus on the problems of concern to citizens while at the same time help create spaces where citizens could deliberate and

act upon those problems. This was not always easy and it is clear that we still have much to learn in finding practical ways to enrich public life in Makana. Also, some students felt more than a little traumatised by the serious social problems they encountered in these wards.

But, as the pages that follow will attest, the students working on this project have responded vigorously and skilfully to the challenge of hyperlocal journalism and have channelled their creative, intellectual and ethical energies into some very worthwhile work. In so doing, they have ensured that the voices raised by citizens in Makana's wards will be heard loud and clear by those in authority and by citizens experiencing similar struggles in other parts of the district.

We encourage the citizens we have worked with to continue their deliberations – and act upon their outcomes – within the institutions of

the wider civil society (the civic organisations through which citizens can organise themselves for political deliberation and action).

We hope that this project has contributed in some way to the idea of an independent but politically engaged press committed to a more participatory democracy.

WHAT IS PUBLIC JOURNALISM?

Public journalism is a two-decade-old press reform movement practiced in over 15 countries. It attempts to close two widening gaps in contemporary society between citizens and government, and between news organisations and their audiences by stimulating increased active citizen participation in, democratic procedures. Public journalism practices include:

- listening to the public to help set a 'citizens' news agenda';
- giving citizens a voice;
- covering stories in a way that facilitates public understanding and stimulates citizen deliberation of the problems behind the stories;
- presenting news to make it more accessible and easier for people to engage in the issues;
- helping organise sites for public deliberation and problem solving.

PEOPLE ARE LIVING HERE: VOICES FROM MAKANA'S 12 WARDS

An exhibition of 'hyperlocal' journalism from Makana Wards 1–12 produced by third year journalism students at Rhodes University.

These TV documentaries, audio-slideshows and newspaper pages, reflecting the diverse urban and rural communities that call Makana home, are by turns inspiring, illuminating, surprising, and disturbing.

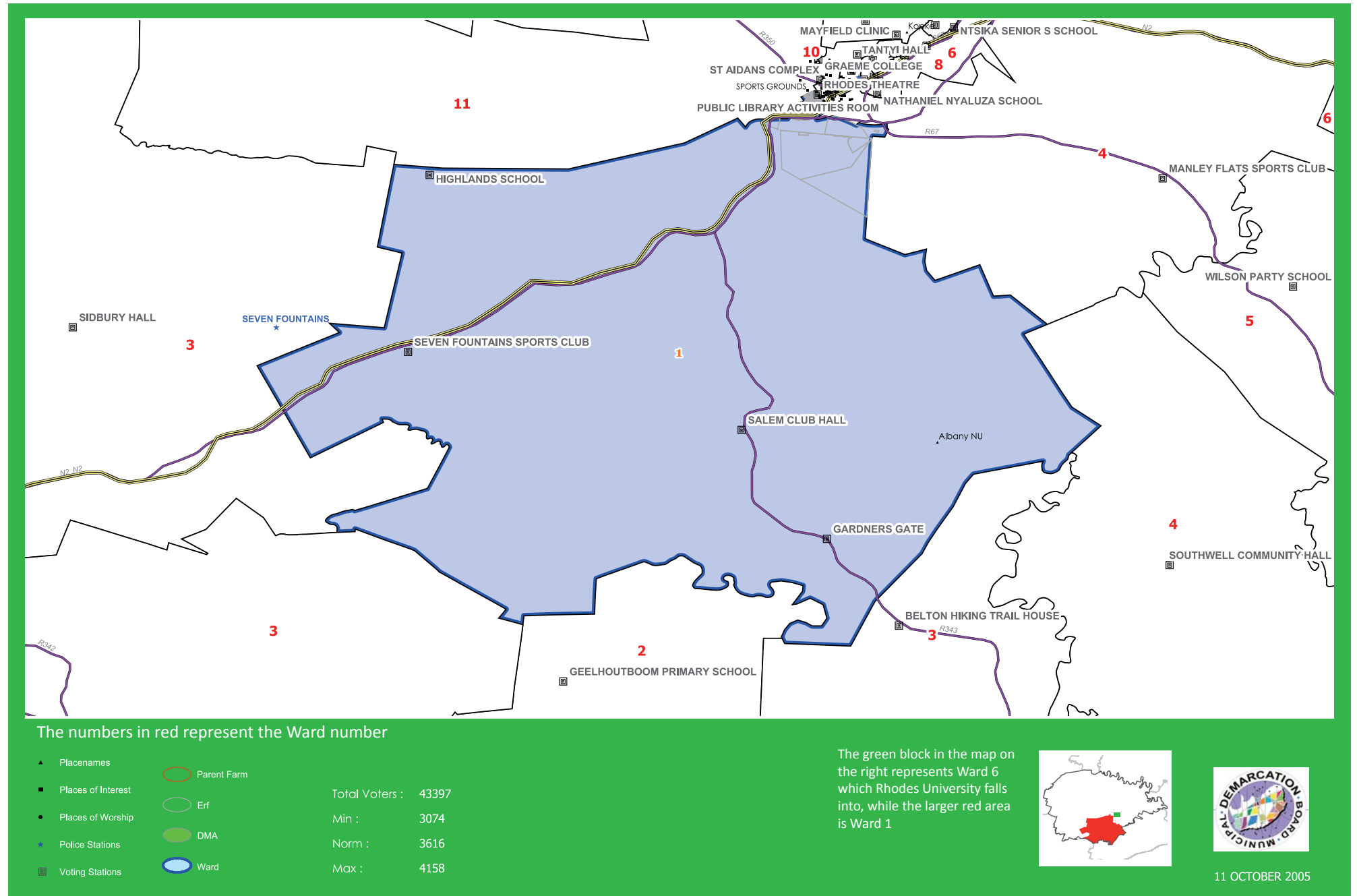
VENUE: Barratt Lecture Theatre 1
DATE: Tuesday 26 October 2010
TIME: 7pm to 10pm
ADMISSION: FREE
ALL WELCOME

Wfward focus

Taking a closer look at Makana Communities

WARD 1

A group of *Grocott's Mail* journalists recently spent time in Ward 1, getting to know some of the faces and places in the area. The journalists asked citizens about what life is like in their ward, including some of the challenges they face. Over the page you will find some colourful 'hyperlocal' journalism on Ward 1. If you would like to get in touch with the journalists who put together these reports, please contact them via their blog: www.theward1communityvoice.blogspot.com.



Boniwe Bonani
Makana Municipality: Ward 1
Councillor for Seven Fountains, Salem, Highlands, Gardner's Gate.
082 6142008

CONNECTORS AND CATALYSTS AND CITIZEN JOURNALISTS

- Jimmy Emsley:** Business owner, Albany Pumps. 046 622 8822.
- Mkhuseli Antoni:** Community leader and Seven Fountains resident. 084 928 2948.
- Seven Fountains Youth Secretary:** 083 592 1632.
- Warrant officer Mbiyoza:** Seven Fountains Police. 082 374 1159.

Stories from Ward 1



Community leader Mkhuseli Antoni describes the trials faced by the Seven Fountains community.



A water shortage has caused many difficulties for the residents of the Seven Fountains informal settlement.



The Salem area and surrounds offer a variety of picturesque destinations for tourists and adventurers.

Seven Fountains' water saga



The Seven Fountains reservoir stands empty and derelict in the midst of the water shortage.

The number of water tanks in Seven Fountains (one outside almost every house) emphasises the importance that scarce water plays in this community. Deliberations about supplying clean water to the people of Seven Fountains have continued for some time. Two boreholes are currently under construction in the community. However, discussions about laying out the piping system is still in process.

Meanwhile, the residents of Seven Fountains, especially those staying in the informal settlement, are relying on the inconsistent water delivery from Makana Municipality as well as their worn-down water tanks. The empty reservoirs and long drop toilet systems stand as testament to the problem.



One of the many long drop toilets in the area, secured shut with a lock.



Every time residents in the informal settlement in Seven Fountains want to go to the local shop, they have to navigate this puddle of dirty water with a thick layer of algae.



A dry tap from one of the cracked water tanks outside community leader Mkhusele's Antoni's home.



A leaking pipe from a communal water tank results in the continuous loss of this precious resource, drop by drop.

The community voice team

Writer:
Mpho Raborife
Photographers:
Jane Rosen
Mpho Raborife
Radio Journalists:
Anthea van Heerden
Lauren Haworth
Television Journalist:
Bongeka Gumedede
Designers:
Lauren Granger
Thirusha Raja

Wf ward focus

ward 1

The community voice

Despite the extended physical distances separating residents in the largely rural Ward 1, the stories in this community are linked and inter-related. Topics such as water and stock theft are applicable to many. One of the main issues in the Seven Fountains community is the delayed development of the RDP housing settlement. Residents now live in the area's growing informal settlement while they wait for construction to start.



Seven Fountains resident Mkhusele Antoni is trying to bridge the gap between the residents of the informal settlement and their ward councillor.

Mkhusele Antoni: speaks for the people

Mkhusele Antoni speaks with gusto and passion, never losing his smile. He describes himself as the ward committee of the people living in the Seven Fountains informal settlement, which is situated directly across the area's police station.

A well-spoken and confident member of his area, the 28-year-old describes the squalor of the situation that his fellow residents face: the lack of electricity, inconsistency of water supply as well as the slow delivery of houses since 1994.

Most of the unemployed people living there are the aged citizens, who also have their own grievances about living in this area. These include the lack of access to health facilities, the inconsistency of water delivery as well as the pension day saga – when teenagers are sent to Grahamstown to collect the pension money, but they spend it themselves and tell their grandparents that they have been mugged.

Antoni is wearing brown Mille sneakers, khaki pants and a khaki work jacket with Pumba Game Reserve

embroidered over his left breast.

This reserve, as well as other game farms in the Ward 1 area, including Salem, has been a large employment booster for the unemployed who live in the area, as they employ a range of skilled to unskilled labourers. Antoni, who studied in Port Elizabeth and returned home after his studies, is one of the Pumba employees.

This is Antoni's second year as his community's leader. His work involves communicating with the ward councillor, Boniwe Bonani, expressing his community's grievances and the basic human rights injustices which they suffer.

Passionately pointing out the distinction between the rural areas and urban areas such as Seven Fountains and Joza in Grahamstown, he explains that although they both struggle with service delivery, "if you are from the location, things are better there [because] there is electricity, water and RDP houses, but if you are living in the rural areas those things are

not [available] to us".

He adds that although Makana Municipality is suffering from a water shortage, since he began his work as the community leader, bore-hole water has been provided to the residents. Although it is not a consistent supply of water, he describes the poor state of the homestead's situation as "better than before" and says the next challenge is the request for RDP houses.

Antoni explains that while the municipality attempts to try to help the community, they are hampered by the lack of work ethic and effort from their designated ward councillor Boniwe Bonani who, according to Antoni, neglects to convey the community's grievances to the municipality. He highlights this as a big problem because it slows down the process of getting aid. "The municipality cannot come to us and say 'Where is your problem?' The person who must get that problem to the municipality is the ward councillor and so far municipality [has not done] anything for us except with the water."

5 minutes with:

Boniwe Bonani Ward 1 Councillor

- Bonani lives on Glenview Farm in Seven Fountains, and denies owning a house in Grahamstown, despite suggestions made by community members.

- She has been in office since 2006 and describes her job as "very hard". This is because she finds it difficult to convince community members that it takes a long time for the housing developments to start. This is because of all the internal processes that are required by the government. She says building of the houses will start next year.

- She holds community meetings once a month and estimates that between 50 and 100 people attend each meeting. Meetings are held in her office unless the agenda for the meeting attracts a larger crowd; in that case the meeting venue becomes Masakhane Primary School.



Seven Fountains: Community issues

The toilet saga:

"There is no water in the Eastern Cape." For the members of Makana Municipality's Ward 1 (which includes Salem, Seven Fountains, Highlands and other small settlements outside Grahamstown), this is a major problem.

The availability of sanitary toilets in Seven Fountains' informal settlements is close to non-existent. Long drop toilets have been installed as a solution to the absence of this necessity and in order to reduce the reliance on water for sanitation. However, some residents trespass on farmlands so they can use more sanitary toilets. Ward councillor Boniwe Bonani explained that the municipality plans to implement a dry toilet system, which has been used in other water-scarce areas like King William's Town.

Employment opportunities & the growth of settlements:

Pumba Game Reserve has increased employment in the Eastern Cape, especially within the communities close to the reserve. But these employment opportunities have also resulted in the growth of migrants to the surrounding areas of the reserve. This has resulted in the mushrooming of informal settlements, which also raises the issue of who the original citizens of Ward 1 are and who the migrants are. This may cause tension when it comes to the (eventual) allocation of RDP houses.

Lack of tarred roads:

One of the most obvious yet neglected issues in the Seven Fountains area is the lack of tarred roads. While it is a rural town, even the main road off the N2 highway is untarred and difficult to navigate. For anyone driving into Seven Fountains, the journey is both turbulent and dusty. Residents complain that there have not been any attempts at fixing these roads or making their homes more accessible.

The tale of Salem's two churches



The echoing ring of the church bell signifies the beginning of Salem's biggest weekly gathering for the English-speaking residents.

The small town of Salem was established by the 1820 British settlers who set up farms in the area. Remarkably, some of the stone cottages that they built are still in use today. Besides being famous for being home to one of the oldest churches in the country, Salem is also known for the historic negotiations between Richard Gush and the Xhosa nation during the War of Hintsa.

The town has two Methodist churches which are situated directly opposite the Salem Sports club, where cricket matches have been played since 1844.

One church has services in isiXhosa, and the other in English. The older of the two churches holds the Xhosa services, while the newer building is the meeting place of the English-speaking congregation. The English church service commences at 8.30am every Sunday, while the isiXhosa service begins later, at 11.00am.

There is a Sunday school for the children just outside the churches and a graveyard semi-circling the church buildings. Both churches are covered in white, with grey roofs and tall trees concealing some frontal aspects of the buildings.

Residents of Salem seem content with the way both churches are run separately, despite sharing the same religion. This is because they cater for each language group's experience and traditions.

Within the isiXhosa church, men and women sit on opposite sides of the hall according to their traditional customs. They sing from hymn books without any musical accompaniment.

The isiXhosa service is conducted by a travelling Reverend and the choir sits on his right side. The English-speaking church has a band called *Mighty Mantjieskraal Brakwater Brekers* and has a newsletter called *Salem Chit Chat* where community news is shared and spread amongst the members of the congregation, who often only meet up on Sundays.



Members of the isiXhosa congregation enter the older church which was built in 1832, 12 years after the British Settlers arrived in the Eastern Cape.



The local churchband, *Mighty Mantjieskraal Brakwater Brekers*, enlivens the church audience every Sunday with their songs of praise while everyone follows along to the lyrics projected on the wall.



The isiXhosa church has a mixture of singing and preaching just like the English sermon but they tend to sing a lot more than the English speaking church, out of their isiXhosa Methodist hymn books.



United under one faith, the Salem residents come together on Sundays to relax and enjoy the company of friends from neighbouring farms.



The two historic churches stand side by side, but the church for English-speaking congregants (left) is architecturally more impressive than the older church (right) for isiXhosa church goers.

A wilderness on your doorstep

Ward 1 has a lot more to offer than you might expect. Salem is a small town about 30km out of Grahamstown, towards Kenton-on-Sea. This little farmer's town has two churches, a sports club and a closed-down trading store. But just outside the village you can find a bunch of worthwhile activities.

Assegai Trails, just around the corner of Salem, is a fun and cheap way of getting away for a weekend. Camping only costs R90 per person per night. There are open-air camping areas where you could get in touch with nature and still have a comfortable bed to sleep in. There are also cottages for people who would like to stay in a more homely place. Assegai Trails offer hiking trails where you can hike through the Eastern Cape valley bushveld. The trails are perfect for hiking, mountain biking, abseiling and many more action sports.

Further along the road, you can find the more luxurious Kariega Game Reserve. They offer game drives, spa treatments, hiking trails and many more on the reserve. The reserve is not only famous for the big five but also for their wide range of antelope, including the rare Nyala. There are also a wide range of birds and plants that you will not easily come across in your everyday life.

So next time you want to go to an oasis of birds, plants and wonderful animals, come to Salem and pamper yourself with the amazing activities that you can find just outside the small artistic farmers' village.



If you are seeking a close-up encounter with more wildlife, Kariega Game Reserve is just down the road from Salem.



Despite the prevalence of Rhino Poaching lately, Kariega game reserve is home to the big five, including this White Rhino.



The *Opuntia tuna*, commonly known as the prickly pear, grows all round in the Eastern Cape.



A *lamprolornis nitens*, commonly known as a Cape Glossy Starling, can be found along the coast of Eastern Cape.



Kariega Game Reserve is famous for its fun game drives around the game reserve. At the reserve there is various types of antelope, and also home to the big five.

Wf ward focus

Taking a closer look at Makana Communities

WARD 2

A group of *Grocott's Mail* journalists recently spent some time in Ward 2, getting to know some of the faces and places in the area. The journalists asked citizens about what life is like in their ward, including some of the challenges facing them. Over the page you will find some colourful 'hyperlocal' journalism on Ward 2. If you would like to get in touch with the journalists who put together these reports, please contact them on: kopskano@gmail.com

The numbers in red represent the Ward number

- ▲ Placenames
- Places of Interest
- Places of Worship
- Police Stations
- Voting Stations

- Parent Farm
- Erf
- DMA
- Ward

Total Voters : 43397

Min : 3074

Norm : 3616

Max : 4158

The green block in the map on the right represents Ward 6 which Rhodes University falls into, while the larger red area is Ward 2

11 OCTOBER 2005



Misiwe Rachel Madinda
Makana Municipality
Ward 2 Councillor for
Extension 6 and 7,
Joza township.

046 637 2335

CONNECTORS AND CATALYSTS AND CITIZEN JOURNALISTS

- Citizen Journalist**
Xolile Madinda
0787057743
- Connector**
Jongile Sinan
0788878299
- Catalyst**
Lungi Mtwalo
0788133174

The pages following this one will focus on Ward 2 This ward includes Extension 6, Extension 7 in Joza.

We ran meetings and focus group discussions with members who reside in this area, and the following issues/ concerns came up regularly:

- Litter in the community
- Unsanitary toilets
- RDP housing
- Youth drinking and crime
- Poor medical care and many individuals are home-bound because of lack of wheelchairs
- Not enough recreational facilities
- People stealing power cables
- Domestic violence

THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT WARD 2:

- An ANC Youth League conference was held at the indoor sports centre in Extension 6.
- Egazini Outreach Centre which showcases local art is in Extension 6.
- There is a Toy Library in Ethembeni where local children can go.
- The Little Flower Day-Care Centre is in Extension 7.
- Lindiwe Dwani has been living in Ward 2 since she was 15. Dwani is now in her late 80s.

Wf ward focus

ward 2



As we entered Ward 2 we noticed the vast spaces of land covered with litter. Cattle and goats were feeding on grass strewn with plastic packets, broken bottles, food wrappings and many other waste materials. We held a public meeting at the Indoor Sports Centre in Extension 6, and from that meeting we gauged that the people had a big problem with litter in their area. We decided that this was a problem that we could tackle. So we came up with the idea for a litter campaign. Also when speaking to the people of Extension 7 we came across the Little Flower Day-Care Centre. Sarah Couch and Fifi Peters, members of the Siyakhula group facilitated a relationship between Lungi Mtwalo (owner of the Little Flower Day-Care Centre) and Pick n Pay co-owner, Jon Campbell. Pick n Pay will now be helping the Day-Care Centre.

Fun and laughter as children help clean up



These learners proudly display their plastic gloves that were used to help clean up.
Photo: Gwen Matthews

NICOLE NAICKER

On hearing numerous complaints about the litter problem in Ward 2, Grahamstown, a group of third year journalism students, called Siyakhula, decided to host a litter clean-up drive.

People of the community were encouraged to join the initiative and 'do it for themselves' instead of waiting for it to be done for them. A group gathered at the Indoor Sports Centre in Extension 6 at 3pm on 6 October to start the clean-up. Bin bags were provided by the municipality.

Various NGOs and other organisations were invited – however none showed up.

About 20 people offered assistance throughout the clean-up. Most of these were children who were eager to help. They ran up to get bin bags and gloves and one little boy even lost a shoe in the process.

The campaign was not as big as had been expected, but the group did manage to clean-up a large area surrounding the Indoor Sports Centre. It is hoped that this initiative will encourage the community to host similar events to better their environment.



Luthando Nosilela clutches onto a bag as big as himself.
Photo: Sarah Couch

EDITORIAL

Are we really making a difference?

After noticing the huge problem of litter in Ward 2 our group, Siyakhula, decided to help out. We came up with a litter clean-up campaign, made posters and advertised this in the ward, and invited various NGOs and other organisations to attend. The municipality was notified of this. On the day, we arrived at the Indoor Sports Centre with bin bags, gloved hands, and determination, but we were the only ones there.

Throughout the day about 20 children showed up to help. Most of them left after getting their packet of Nik Naks. One man walked right past us and dumped his rubbish along the roadside. Another woman handed us her bin bags full of trash to get rid of. Some people took a moment to stare at us, others just walked by, going about their business as usual.

We had been excited about this venture; the opportunity to actually do something and maybe make a difference, but this experience dampened our spirits. The members of this community seemed unwilling to do much more than complain about the problem. Or maybe we hadn't done a proper job of campaigning?

However, the entire campaign was not a failure. There were a few children who stayed with us throughout the afternoon, and were eager to help. While we were busy a man driving past, in a Mercedes, pulled over to congratulate us on our efforts and thank us. Granted he didn't bother to help, but the acknowledgement was encouraging.

This was certainly a learning experience for us, and we hope that it may impact even one child. That someone will try and help themselves, rather than sit around and wait for others to help them.

Children of all ages helped clean up in Extension 6 and 7.
Photos: Gwen Matthews

Helping hand for Makana tots

NICOLE NAICKER AND SARAH COUCH

Pick n Pay co-owner, Jon Campbell, was shocked to see just how small the Little Flower Day-Care Centre is. The day-care has up to 60 children between the ages of one to five. It is based at the RDP home of Lungi Mtwalo's mother. "The space it is not enough for the learners to be free enough to do whatever they want to," said Mtwalo who is the supervisor of the day-care.

The centre, in Extension 7, was opened last year. "We started the day-care centre because there were many children that were loitering the streets, so we felt that we must start something for them," said Mtwalo. There are five staff members: three teachers, one cook and a supervisor. All staff members are volunteers. The day-care centre focuses on early cognitive development in children. With an R80 per child fee the day-care relies largely on donations.

Even though the centre is based in Extension 7, children from Extension 6 and Lingelihle attend it because there are no day-cares in these areas. Mtwalo applied for a larger premise in Lingelihle to expand the centre and take in more children, but she has yet to receive a response from the municipality with regards to this.

Campbell met with Mtwalo and has since taken up an initiative to collect donations for the centre. During the month of November a trolley will be placed at the front of the store where donations of food, stationery, old toys and blankets can be placed.

A Christmas party will be thrown for the Little Flower Day-Care Centre. There are also plans have leftover bread from the previous day given to the centre once a week. Mtwalo and Campbell will be meeting to further discuss what is to happen.

Little Flower Day-Care Centre accommodates up to 60 children in a small room based outside an RDP home. Pick n Pay has recently taken the centre under its wing by encouraging donations from customers. Photo: Sarah Couch

Pick n Pay trolley food collection for the Little Flower Day-Care Centre



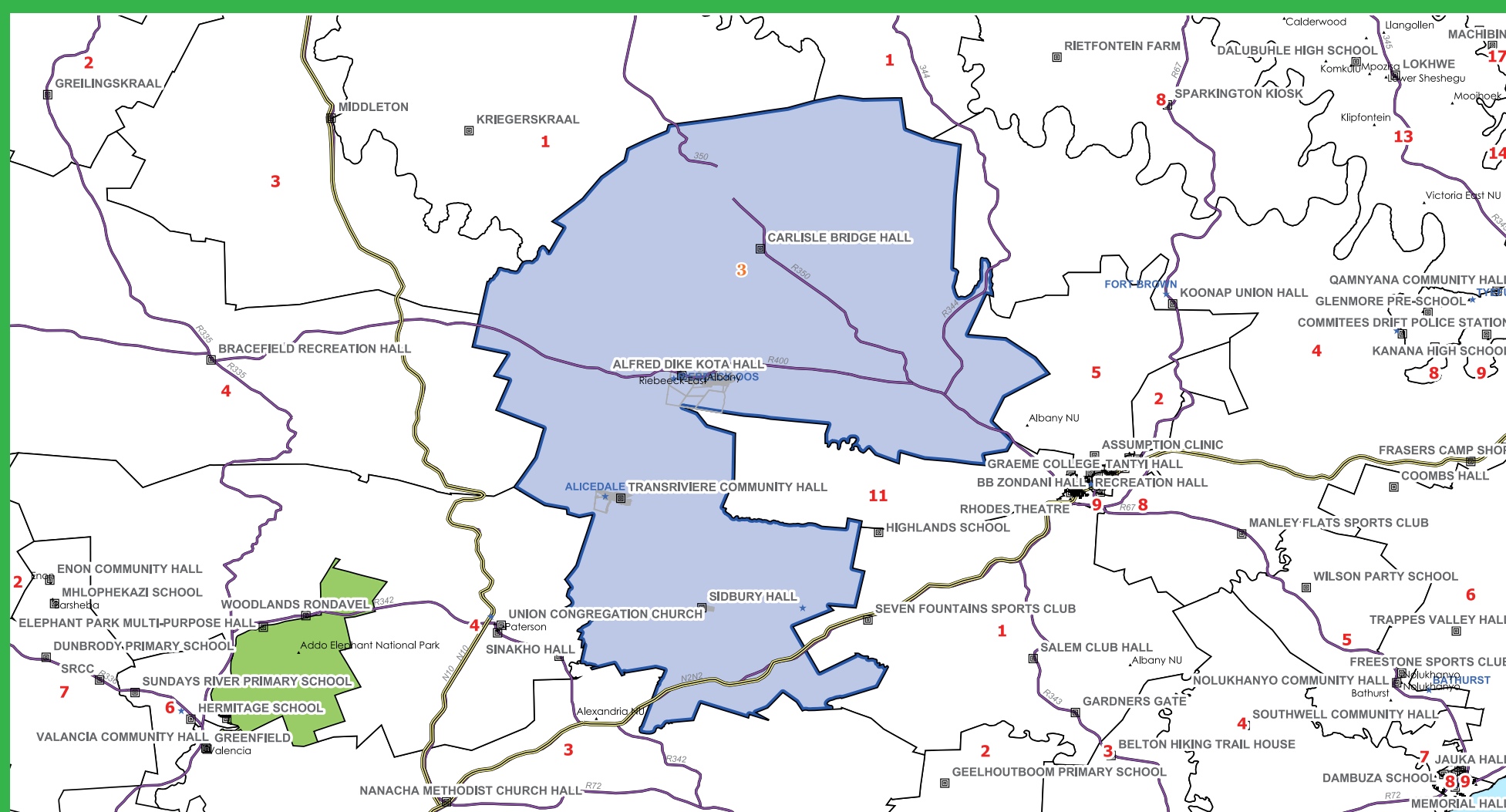
From 1 November to 30 November a trolley will be placed at the entrance of Pick n Pay. Customers are encouraged to donate items of food, stationery, old toys and blankets here for the Little Flower Day-Care Centre.

Pick n Pay
Inspired by you

Taking a closer look at Makana Communities

WARD
3

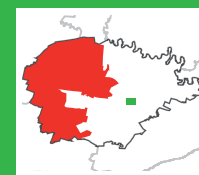
A group of *Grocott's Mail* journalists recently spent time in Riebeeck East, getting to know the faces and places in the area. The journalists asked citizens about what life is like in their community, including some of the challenges facing them. Over the page you will find some colourful 'hyperlocal' journalism on Riebeeck East. If you would like to get in touch with the journalists who put together these reports, please contact them on: beyondthegate.riebeeckeast2010@gmail.com



The numbers in red represent the Ward number

- Parent Farm
- Erf
- DMA
- Ward

The green block in the map on the right represents Ward 6 which Rhodes University falls into, while the larger red area is Ward 3



11 OCTOBER 2005



Zamuxolo Joseph Peter

Makana Municipality
Ward 3 Councillor for
Alicedale, Riebeeck East,
Salem and Sidbury

082 654 3392

CONNECTORS AND CATALYSTS IN THE RIEBEECK EAST AREA

- **Pierre Van Vuuren**
Municipal Manager
084 715 2625
- **Yolandi Delpont**
Community Member
084 637 2295
- **Cary Clark**
Mooimeisies B&B
owner
074 618 8747
- **Zolile Mshumpeme**
Police Station
Commander
082 37411 28

The pages following this one focus on issues and prominent people making a difference in Riebeeck East. We ran individual interviews and discussions with various community members who reside in the area, and the following issues/concerns came up regularly:

- **RDP housing** – The RDP houses which have been built for various members of the Riebeeck East community are falling apart and are safety hazards.
- **Poor sanitation** – Sewage pipes have been laid but due to the shortage of water in Riebeeck East they are not connected with the settlement which is causing major problems for the people living in the settlement area.
- **Lack of job opportunities** – The community of Riebeeck East mainly work for Roads and Transport twice a week, earning R480 a month. There are no other job opportunities in the area and the people are barely earning enough to survive
- **Lack of entertainment** – The children of Riebeeck East are in desperate need of entertainment facilities and supplies to keep them occupied.

THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT RIEBEECK EAST:

- The town of Riebeeck East established itself on the farm Mooimeisiesfontein, meaning 'pretty girls fountain', in 1830 when the community mentioned the need for a local church.
- Mooimeisiesfontein farmhouse was the home of Voortrekker leader Piet Retief, who graced school history books during the apartheid era due to his involvement in negotiating land deals in KwaZulu-Natal for his people until he was unexpectedly assassinated by Dingaan and his men.
- Today Riebeeck East, is still largely a sheep and game farming community.
- This area malaria-free Big Five game viewing opportunities and a range of public and private nature reserves span the adjacent area, including Shamwari Game Reserve and the Addo Elephant Park.

Wf ward focus 3

"Welcome to Riebeeck East... a great place to be," is, ironically, the first thing one sees as one enters the matchbox town. In the distance you see evidence of a quaint, peaceful town. There is only one road in the town, with one lane leading in, and another leading out. This signifies the restrictions and limitations that so many people in the town face. About 60 people live in the town itself, and another 800 live beyond the gate in the 'settlement.'

Riebeeck East overlooks green hills where people tend their vegetable gardens and cattle graze. The town looks like it once resembled the old Cape Dutch style; however, even the aged buildings cannot escape the effects of time. The tar road leads to an old wire gate that divides the town and settlement. The tar becomes nonexistent under the blanket of dust, and the pot holes look like a constellation of stars. The RDP smartie box houses are dispersed amongst corrugated iron shacks and self-made mud houses. There is a sense of lost hope in the community due to the lack of resources and inability to help themselves.

Paving the way

AMY PATTISON-EMMS

PHOTOGRAPH: HENNIE PRETORIUS

The men walking the roads of Riebeeck East in orange overalls are part of a program governed by the Department of Roads and Public Works, the Household Contractor Programme, implemented in 2007. The concept behind this program is that offering jobs in local areas would prevent people from having to travel to other places to find work. According to the head of the program in this region, Lowando Amos, it came to the government's attention that there is a lack of skilled people across South Africa, particularly in rural areas.

This programme extends across the Eastern Cape in small towns like Port Alfred, Riebeeck East and Grahamstown. Individuals selected from the community are employed to clean up the area and are trained for various skills. These skills include paving, brick making, pipe laying, minor maintenance jobs, concrete mixing and pothole patching.

Currently there are only 4000 people across the Eastern Cape involved in the project. They are paid R480 per month and are limited to working for eight days per month.

This year there has been a two-day training session in health and safety, which took place in Grahamstown. But the development in these skills programme have been halted as this initiative requires more money. The Eastern Cape Department of Labour has denied the appeal for more money at present. The council awaits the grant to expand the project and open up more training opportunities and job offers.

Cary Clark began living in Riebeeck East in May 2009. She owns the Mooimeisies Guest House on the roadside at the entrance to Riebeeck East where she offers photography courses and hospitality. She was once the owner of a furniture manufacturing company and now she is a resident hoping to uplift the community.

Her vision for this town is of a place which retains its small town charm but also offers more economic opportunities. She saw the potential for Riebeeck East to become a self-sufficient place which uses its unity to its advantage.

She intended to train the potential labour force and assist people in developing skills. She hoped to transform the deteriorating Piet Retief house, from a liability into an asset to the community. According to Cary, this building could have multiple functions and serve as a restaurant, a place with seminar rooms or development centre.

Cary decided to appeal for assistance to Riana Meiring, the Makana director of economic development. The director was very accommodating and the prospect seemed promising at the time. However, she was later told that the proposal fell through as another proposal was presented aimed at turning the building into an AIDS orphanage. She later incidentally found that she was misinformed and that the building may become a juvenile detention centre for boys ranging in the age from fourteen to eighteen.

Her disapproval lies with the belief that such an initiative wouldn't benefit the community. "This place is to become a centre for the juveniles in conflict with the law, who are awaiting trial sentencing. It would be a place which offers them a

swimming pool, a gym and a TV. This shows that crime does pay, while the people in the location sit around without job opportunities."

She is infuriated by the way in which the community wasn't consulted before the agreement was made. "Riebeeck East was nominated as the safest town in South Africa. Where children, pensioners and single mothers walk on the streets without fear. It's ironic that the criminals will be brought to us. What if the boys escape and jeopardise what the town prides itself on?"

According to Cary, an environmental study hasn't been conducted and the major concern is the lack of water in the area and the addition of approximately 70 people would make the matter much worse. In addition to this, the land on which the building was built hasn't been declared as a safe zone yet and the building of this project can't get underway before this occurs.

Petitions were drawn up in protest to this proposal and the concerns of the town were indicated in an appeal.

It was mentioned that the facility would attach a stigma to the town, and that the juvenile centre would require the employment of people in skilled positions instead of the unemployed and untrained local residents.

Cary believes that the building of this facility would be incredibly short sighted, it would hinder the stimulation of economic growth and pose a problem when trying to transform Riebeeck East into a tourist destination.

The residents of Riebeeck East await the final decision of whether the juvenile detention facility will be built or not.

"Cary-ing" Riebeeck East forward

AMY PATTISON-EMMS

PHOTOGRAPHS: DESIREE SCHIRLINGER

Fighting for knowledge

KATE BISHOP

Riebeeck East Combined School is a battlefield for the young minds of today. In 2008 the pass rate for Matric was zero, and in 2009 a low seven percent. Due to Riebeeck East being so isolated from other learners as well as ways and forms of accessing information being limited, passing Matric has been an even more difficult task.

However, not all hope is lost. Mrs Petse, the principal, is truly a phenomenal, dedicated teacher. Petse even moved to Riebeeck East to be closer to her students in order to help them with their academics after hours. She has been the principal for the past three years and is dedicated to making a change in her students' lives. "The killer subjects are physics, maths and life sciences," Petse said in response to the low pass rate. She thinks that in order to improve the pass rate the learning areas should change and subjects

that the students are used to should be introduced, for example Tourism, Agriculture or History.

Yolande Delpont, a Riebeeck East resident commented that there is talk of phasing out Matric if the pass rate continues to be so low. "It will be a big thing because the kids here are so isolated already, and that means they will have to go to Grahamstown or Alicedale for school," Delpont said. However Petse denied these allegations. She pointed out that the lack of motivation and ambition comes from the students' families. "The change should start at home. If there is no one to do that what will make her want to be a teacher [for example]?" Delpont reiterated Petse's point by stating that the community needs to realise how important it is to have a Matric, and their responsibility needs to come to surface in this respect. Petse also pointed

out the need for extra mural activities for the youth, for example dance classes or extra lessons.

The danger of phasing out Matric is that it perpetuates the sense of no hope within the community and encourages students to stay in Riebeeck East and do nothing. "It keeps people in the child victim state, where you think, 'life owes me, I don't have to do anything, because I can just live on handouts and subsidies,'" Delpont said.

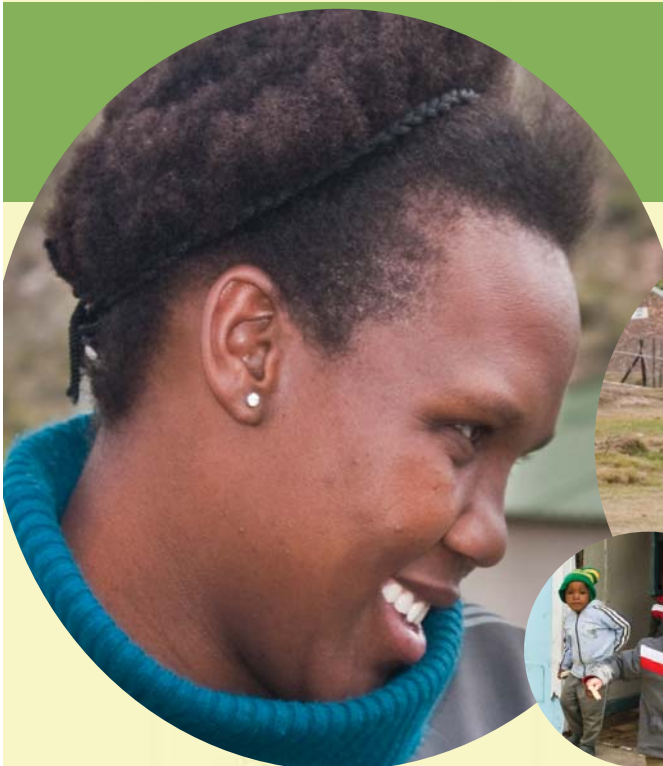
Change is a slow process that is done in stages. The most important thing is that the community recognise that they can improve their own situation through education and workshops.

The stages have already been set in motion through teachers like Petse who organise cultural events at the school and through projects like the Umthathi training that instigated the agricultural vegetable gardens at the school.



Nurturing young minds

KATE BISHOP



"They are very, very, very clever, and they are going to go far... I love teaching".



THE PEN AND A PAGE CAMPAIGN:
Help this child from Riebeeck East finish colouring in her picture.



BABALWA'S CRECHE IS IN DESPERATE NEED OF YOUR HELP. IF YOU HAVE ANY OLD STATIONERY, COLOURING-IN BOOKS, PAPER OR TOYS WHICH YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE PLEASE EMAIL beyondthegate.riebeeckeast2010@gmail.com OR DROP OFF ANY DONATIONS IN THE BOX PROVIDED AT THE PEPPERGROVE PICK N PAY. EVERY DONATION, NO MATTER HOW SMALL, CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE.

In 2009, one of the ward council representatives, Katie Mfipho, identified the need for a crèche in the Riebeeck East community and together with local community member Yolande Delpont they started building it.

Babalwa Boyi, 24, was approached to help teach at the crèche. Boyi's blood runs thick with Riebeeck East loyalty as she attended and successfully graduated from the local, Riebeeck East Combined School, which made her a perfect candidate for the job. Her only role models were her school teachers, and they inspired her to put back into the community

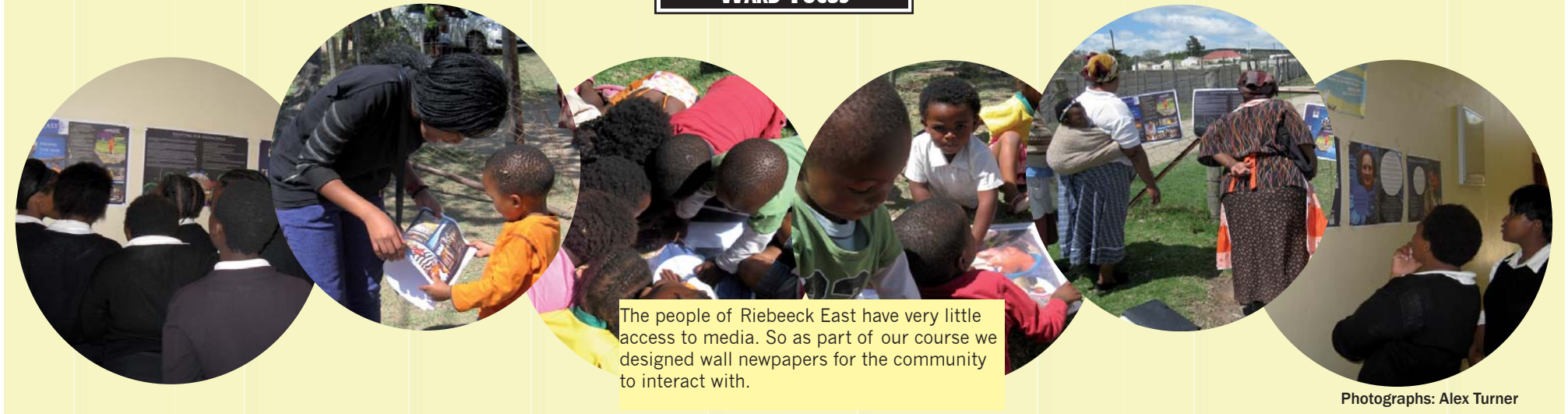
what she gained from her schooling and education.

The smell of crayons, fish paste (the choice of sandwich spread for the day), and paint dominates the classroom. A normal day starts at 8.30 a.m and finishes at 12.30 p.m, pictures of the children's art and posters of learning charts decorate the small building. The children swarm around Boyi, all demanding her attention and praise. She speaks to them gently and with affection in her voice, saying, "They are very, very, very clever, and they are going to go far... I love teaching."

Boyi decided to volunteer at the crèche because she

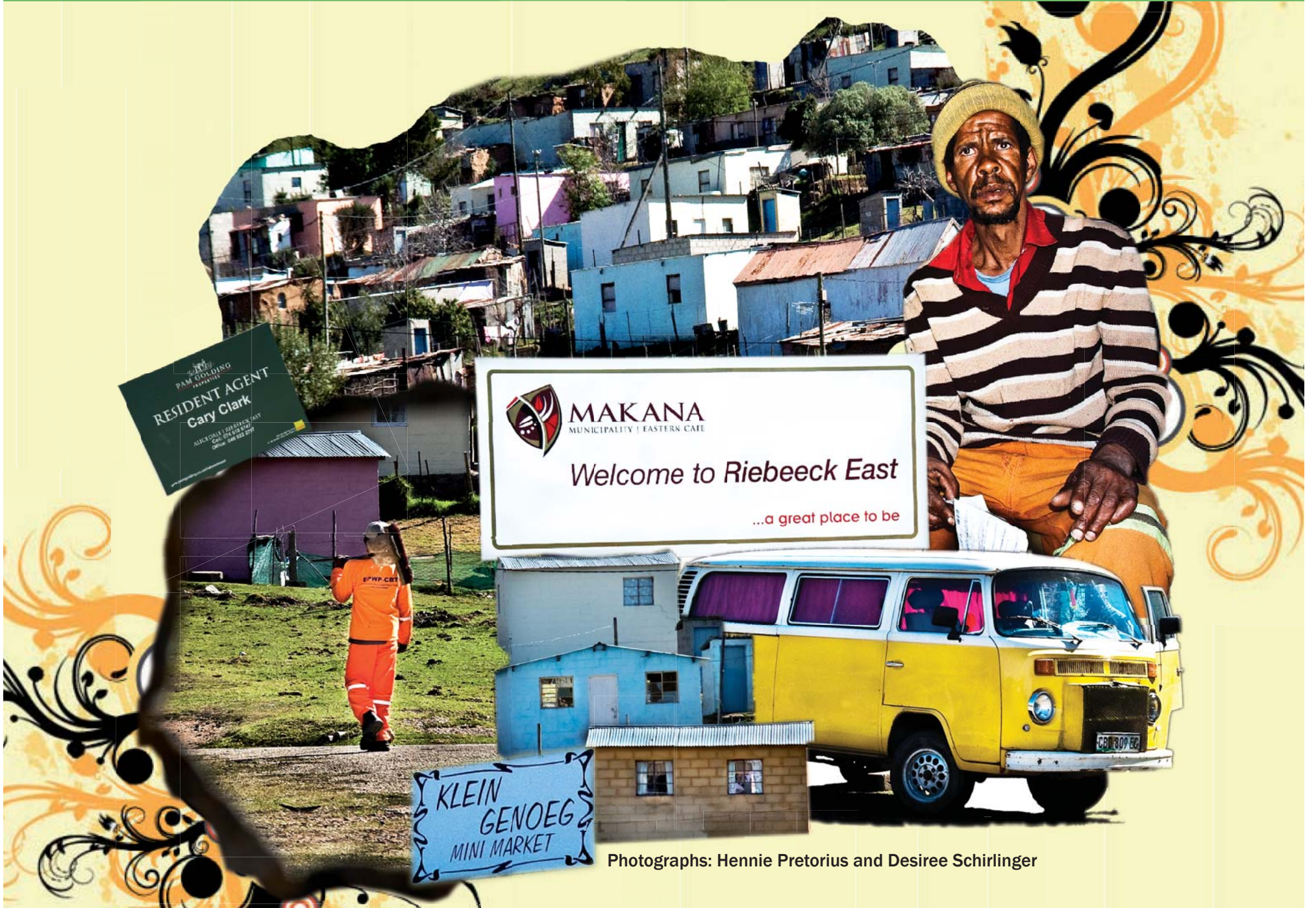
saw the children in the settlement doing nothing, and recognised their potential and need for education.

Many needs were identified for the crèche, one being a trained facilitator. Boyi was the perfect candidate, because not only was she intelligent, but she was very good with children. She travelled through to Grahamstown once a week for a year to attend the Early Years Development training course. She will be receiving her Early Years certificate at the end of September. Due to the success of the course, Delpont and Mfipho are now looking at sending a second person through for training.



Photographs: Alex Turner

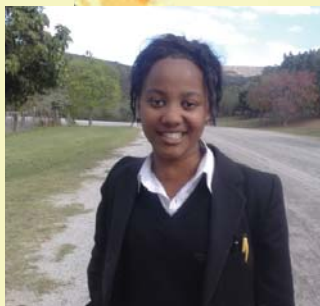
What do Riebeeck East school matrices want to be when they leave school?



Photographs: Hennie Pretorius and Desiree Schirlinger



Elwin Jansen
"I want to be a policeman because I want to end crime."



Siphokazi Kvalo
"I want to be a doctor because I want to help find a cure for HIV/ Aids."



Arrel Botha
"I want to be a lawyer because at some stage we don't follow the law."



Nomakhaya Boucher
"I want to be a social worker."



Mpumelelo Ntamo
"I want to be a doctor because I want to help people and save lives."



Johannes Roman
"I want to be a teacher, because I want to share the knowledge I have with other people."

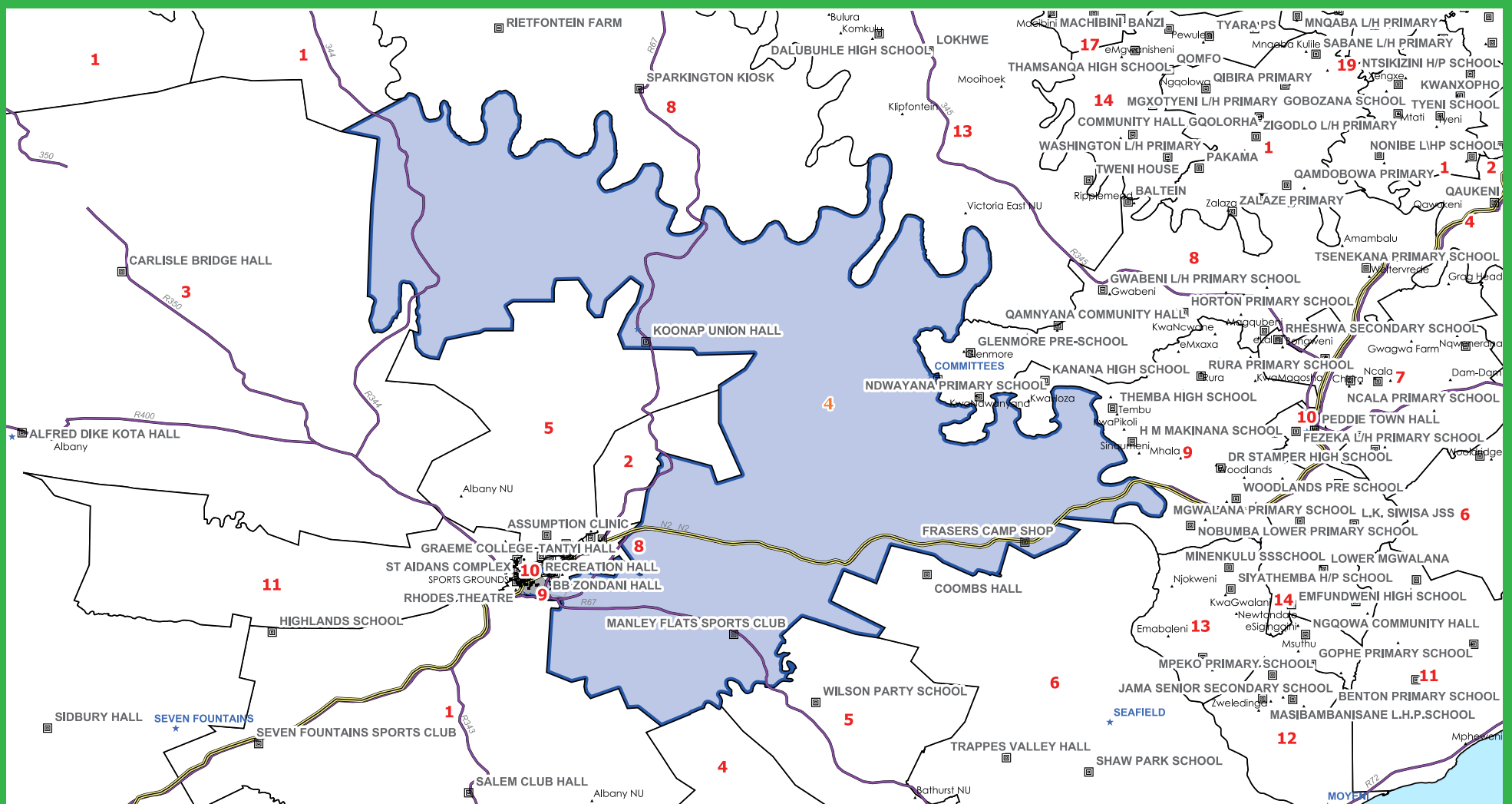
Wf ward focus

Taking a closer look at Makana Communities

WARD
4



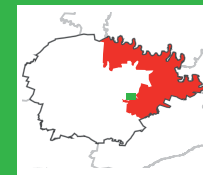
A group of *Grocott's Mail* journalists recently spent some time in Ward 4, getting to know some of the faces and places in the area. The journalists asked citizens about what life is like in their ward, including some of the challenges facing them. Over the page you will find some colourful 'hyperlocal' journalism on Ward 4. If you would like to get in touch with the journalists who put together these reports, please contact them at jddactivevoices@gmail.com.



The numbers in red represent the Ward number

▲ Placenames	Parent Farm	Total Voters :	43397
■ Places of Interest	Erf	Min :	3074
• Places of Worship	DMA	Norm :	3616
★ Police Stations	Ward	Max :	4158
■ Voting Stations			

The green block in the map on the right represents Ward 6 which Rhodes University falls into, while the larger red area is Ward 4



11 OCTOBER 2005



Melikhaya Phongolo

Makana Municipality
Ward 4 Councillor for areas which include Manley Flats and Belmont Valley.

082 614 2038

CONNECTORS AND CATALYSTS

- Xolelwa Tyibilika**
Zintle Schol
Principal
083 754 2614
- Andrew Hutchinson**
Hutchinson Properties
Owner
083 466 7614
- Mr Williams**
Belmont Valley School
Principal
- Peter Wiley**
Dairy Farmer
082 825 2684

THE ISSUES:

We organised and attended meetings and focus group discussions with members of the community, and the following issues/concerns came up as the most pressing ones:

- Problems with transport taking the children to and from school;
- Rape and sodomy among young children at school as well as by parents;
- Lack of activities for the children to take part in after school;
- Inactive community police forum;
- Extreme water shortages on the farms that result in residents having to depend on unreliable rain water.

THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS WARD:

- Manley Flats is located approximately 20km outside of Grahamstown.
- There are two schools in the area, Belmont Valley Missionary School and Zintle Farm School.
- The Yellow Piano Inn and Radway Green are just two of the B&Bs that can be found in the area.
- The area exports piquante peppers.
- Manley Flats cricket, with its oval and clubhouse plays host to local cricket fixtures as well as the occasional cattle auction.
- Hutchinson Properties do the bidding and organising of the auctions, which draw many local farmers looking for their prize bull.
- The Chamissonis Farm, in Belmont Valley, currently runs an experimental agricultural site for nutrient enrichment, using algae. This area also forms an important research site for studies on Grahamstown's water quality.

Wf ward focus ward 4



Ward 4 is one of the biggest wards in Makana Municipality. It follows, then, that its citizens have diverse interests and diverse living conditions. Their concerns, however, are not so different. In this ward focus, we bring you a snapshot of the issues people face specifically in the Manley Flats and Belmont Valley areas. We've aimed to bring you their perspectives of the topics at hand: teachers on child rape, children on school transport problems, families on the water crisis. They tell it better than we can, because they live with it every day. All our stories have a common goal – to make the citizens' concerns public; to make their voices heard, in the hope that someone will listen.

School sodomy a shocking find

We expected a grassy plot, and we expected few classrooms. We expected there to be water and transport problems. Sodomy, we didn't expect.

JADE SMITH

Zintle School is in the Manley Flats area, just off the Port Alfred road. Four journalism students – a photographer, designer, radio student, and a writer (me) – pull into the school's gate in August, having survived the kidney-rattling dirt road. We scan the row of classrooms (two) and the prefab structure in the front. No sign of life.

Zintle's principal, Xolelwa Tyibilika, notices us and comes to greet us, slightly perplexed that a group of students, bundled up in winter woollies, have arrived on

her doorstep. We explain the purpose of our visit – doing research to find issues in the area that we might be able to help with – and she takes some time to think.

"School attendance is very poor," she says, gesturing towards a classroom. Empty desks; we can't see exactly how many. "The feeding scheme runs smoothly though. We'd like to get our own garden going, but the children are too young to work in it." The 45 pupils range from pre-Grade R to Grade 4. The eldest is 13 years old.

"We'd like someone to

"We flinch. Our eyes widen. Did we hear right? Sodomy?"

coach sport here," Tyibilika continues. "The children need to keep busy after school." What do they do after school, we ask. "Sodomy," she says. "We have had cases where one child sodomises another."

We flinch. Our eyes wid-

en. Did we hear right? "Sodomy?" one of us gets out. Tyibilika sees our bewilderment and explains. "They sleep in the same rooms as their parents. The parents have sex, thinking the child is sleeping, and the child watches. They think it's a normal way of passing time and they want to try it at school."

The average age pupils become sexually active? Eight.

The next month, Zintle called a parents' meeting to discuss rape. Sodomy is not the only problem – children are raped at home and elsewhere in the community. Re-

gardless of where they happen, rapes are reported to the principal, who then takes it up with the police.

Tyibilika chairs the parents' meeting, telling them of rape cases she has dealt with. "This girl was raped, and her mother's instinct was to wash her. She also washed the child's panties." She pauses and shakes her head. "Because she did this, there wasn't evidence of the rape."

Later she says condoms should be available to all ages. I'm taken aback. We're talking about giving condoms to eight-year-olds. How

bizarre. I was still playing Hide 'n' Seek at that age. But Tyibilika's realistic attitude is inspiring.

It was this story that motivated us to create a bilingual pamphlet for parents, telling them what to do if their child is raped. We can't stop rape in the community, but we can gather basic information to empower parents. The pamphlet is reproduced below – every parent should have one. Please contact us at jddactivevoices@gmail.com if you know a place (schools, offices etc.) that would benefit from distribution of the pamphlet.

Cut out and keep: a pamphlet for parents

Umntwana wam udlwengulwe – ndenze njani?
My child has been raped – what do I do?

Abantu abaninzi abayi emapoliseni xa bona okanye abantwana baphathwa gadalala ngokwesondo. Amapolisa ayazi ngeezikhalazo eziphantsi qha. Ezi zikhalazo zenzakele phakathi April 2009 noMarch 2010.

A lot of sexual violence crimes are not reported to the police. The police only know about the following number of rapes. They happened between April 2009 and March 2010.

ERhini: 160
Impuna-Koloni: 9047
EMzantsi Afrika: 68 332

Kodwa, zininzi kakhulu ezinye!
But there are many more!

Abantu abaza kusiza:

AIDS Helpline 0800 012322
Grahamstown Child Welfare 046 636 1355
Settlers Hospital 046 622 2215
Grahamstown Police 046 603 9152
Police Sexual Offences Unit 046 603 9111
Raphael Centre 046 622 8831



Amanyathelo onokuwathatha xa ucinga umntwana udlwengulwe

Steps to follow when you think your child has been raped

1: Yehlisa umoya: Jonga amazantsi omntana, jonga umonakalo ungakanani na.
Stay calm. Check your child's private parts. See how badly they have been hurt.

2: Ungazihlambi iimpahla zomntana, amapolisa angazisebenzisa ukubonisa uba umntwana udlwengulwe nyani.

Do not wash your child or your child's clothes. The police can use stained clothes to prove your child was raped.

3: Yisa umntwana emapoliseni, suwafonela, yiya kubo kuba abasoko besiza xa befowunelwe, baxebele ngento eyenzeke kumntwana.

Take your child to the police station. Police do not always come to you when you phone. Tell the police about the rape.

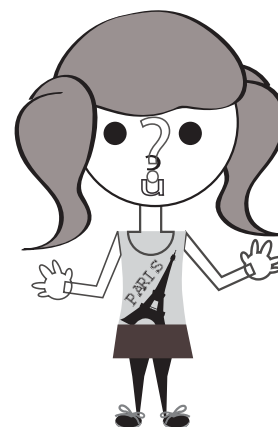


4: Yiya esibhedlele nomntwana. Ugqirha uzomjonga umntwana, lento izoncedisa ekuboniseni uba umntwana uba ebedlwengulwe.

Go with your child to Settlers Hospital. The doctor will look at your child. This will help the police prove the rape happened.

5: Ugqirha uzamxijilonga umntwana, ajonge uba akasulekanga na yingculaza, emveni koko uzomnika umntwana ipilisi eziziARV, ezizakunceda uba umntwana angasuleleki.

The doctor will do an HIV test on your child. If the test is HIV-, the doctor will give your child medicine. This is to try stop your child from becoming HIV+.



Into ezibalulekileyo ekufuneka ungazilibali:

Important things to remember:

Akufuneki kudlule iintsuku ezintathu ungawaxelenga amapolisa okanye ungayanga esibhedlele. Uba udlule intsuku ezintathu umntana engaxilongwanga ngugqirha angasulelela yingculaza.

Do not wait longer than 3 days after the rape to tell the police. If your child gets HIV treatment after 3 days have passed, they could become HIV+.

Kwaye kunyanzelekile uba umntwana azigqibe ipilisi azinikwe ngugqirha, ukuba akayenzanga lonto, angasuleleka, zingasebenzi iipilisi.

You must make sure your child finishes taking the treatment. If they stop early, it will not work.

Contributors/Abancedi:

Raphael Centre
Xolelwa Tyibilika
Zinziswa Mani
Writing & Editing: Jade Smith
Design: Tselane Moiloa

BRIGHT YOUNG MINDS... Restless learners sit through a parents' meeting at Zintle Primary School in the Manley Flats area. Parents were advised to give their children chores around the house to teach them a sense of responsibility. "This will decrease play time, and keep them out of mischief," said a teacher at the school.

Photos: Roxanne Henderson



Rape: children's **safety** starts here

JADE SMITH

After producing the pamphlet, this article marks the end of our course requirements. We could walk away, safe in the knowledge that some parents now know what to do if their child is raped.

But it's not enough. Parents can't police children 24 hours a day. Rape will still happen. Change starts with children making the right decisions for themselves; knowing how to identify and avoid potentially dangerous situations. Communities need to pull together to teach children about respecting their bodies, not letting anybody touch them, and not speaking to strangers.

Children are learning to read with stories about Ben the Dog and Jip the Cat – see, even I remember those. So what better way to teach personal safety than in a book children can interact with? I set about working on this and came up with a narrative called 'This is My Body'. The twelve-page story revolves around Mbali, a girl who is approached by a stranger, remembers her wise aunt's words about staying away from strangers and the consequences of sex, and refuses the offer of sweets. She is a clever girl, it says, because she knows her body belongs to her alone.

'This is My Body' has been voluntarily designed by a fel-

low third-year student, who also supports this project's crucial message. The pictures are in black and white. "The children will engage with the story more if they can colour the pictures in," says Jan Knoetze of the Rhodes University Psychology Clinic. "The Mbali character also gives the children a role model that they can identify with." The book is a convenient way for teachers or parents to broach the subject of personal safety with children, and they can extend Mbali's good decisions to other social situations. They can ask, "What would Mbali have done here?"

The language and tone of the book has been approved by Xolelwa Tyabilika, princi-

pal of Zintle Primary School. "This will not be difficult for children to read," she said. Tyibilika also agreed that the story would help instil personal safety values in children in a more accessible manner than bombarding them with information. The book is in English, and aimed at children aged between seven and 12, depending on their reading ability. We also plan to produce the story as an audiobook so children can listen to the material alone, or as a companion to their book.

"Interactive story books are a great idea," says a local education councillor. "They combine the need for educational information with a medium that is fun, and an im-

aginative source of learning. They should be a resource for all teachers."

But we are students, and we're working on a student budget. So far, we have produced enough 'This is My Body' reading books for Zintle School, but this story is available to school, library, organisation or individual interested in instilling these vital values in the children of Grahamstown and (ideally) beyond. Please support us in our mission to fund printing and distribution of Mbali's story to children in every community – they deserve to keep their innocence.

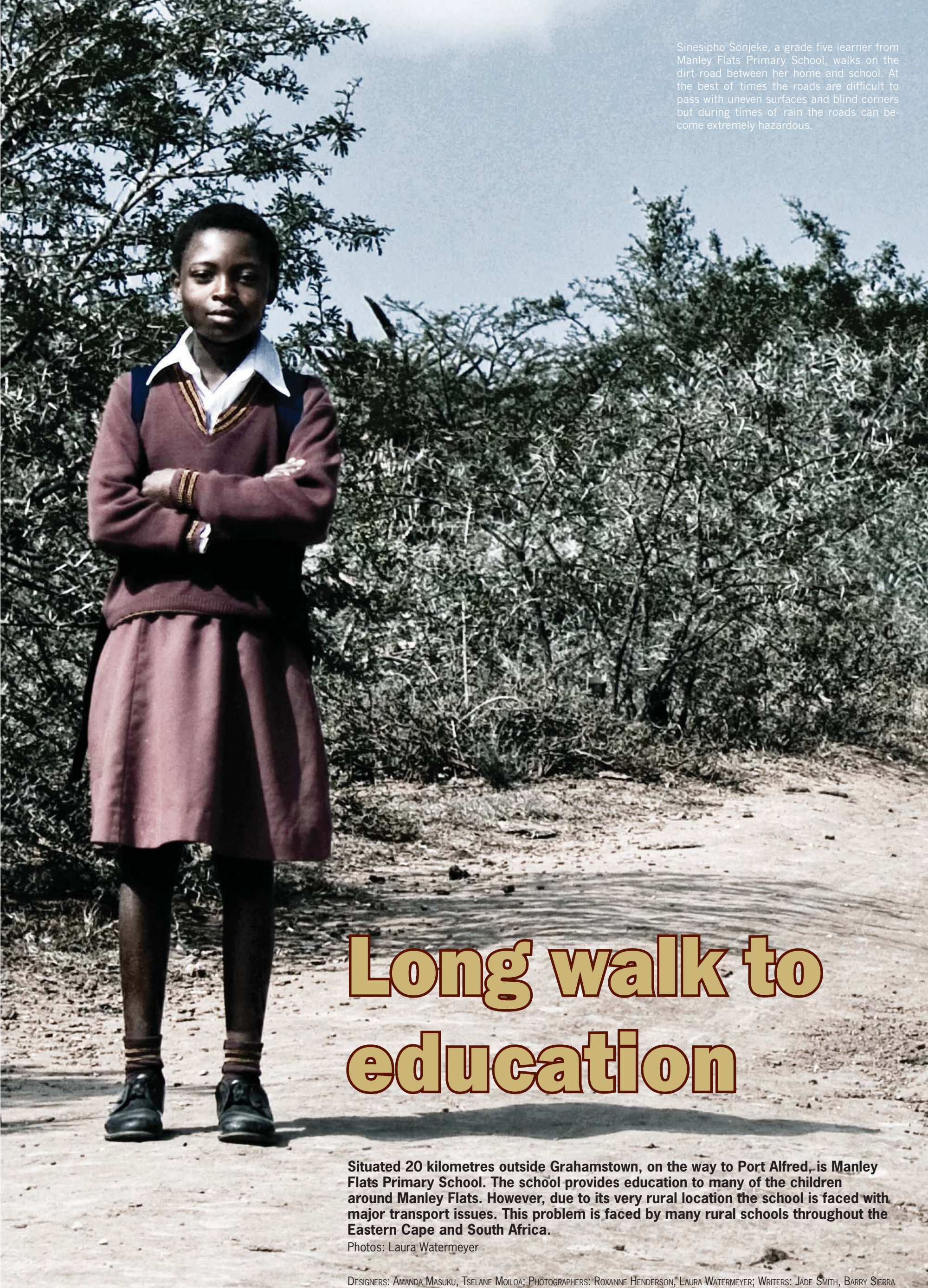
You can reach me at missjadesmith@gmail.com for more information.



SMALL PACKAGES... Zintle Primary School has two classrooms, as well as a prefab classroom where Grade R children are taught.



HELPING HAND... A teacher at Zintle Primary School assists one of the school's 45 pupils, while others go about their work.

A young girl, Sinesipho Sonjeke, stands on a dirt road. She is wearing a maroon school uniform with a white collar and a dark backpack. Her arms are crossed, and she has a serious expression. The background consists of dense, dry-looking trees and a clear sky.

Sinesipho Sonjeke, a grade five learner from Manley Flats Primary School, walks on the dirt road between her home and school. At the best of times the roads are difficult to pass with uneven surfaces and blind corners but during times of rain the roads can become extremely hazardous.

Long walk to education

Situated 20 kilometres outside Grahamstown, on the way to Port Alfred, is Manley Flats Primary School. The school provides education to many of the children around Manley Flats. However, due to its very rural location the school is faced with major transport issues. This problem is faced by many rural schools throughout the Eastern Cape and South Africa.

Photos: Laura Watermeyer

DESIGNERS: AMANDA MASUKU, TSELANE MOILOA; PHOTOGRAPHERS: ROXANNE HENDERSON, LAURA WATERMEYER; WRITERS: JADE SMITH, BARRY SIERRA



Mr Dangazele is the Chief Education Specialist at the local district office of the Department of Education. He explains that the issue of inconsistent transport is dealt with directly by the Head Office in Bisho, where they delay effecting payment of scholar transport.



Sinesipho Sonjeke often has to leave home as early as 6am to reach school on time.



Learners at the school (left) relax during their lunch break. Currently there are 51 students enrolled ranging from Grade R to Grade 7.

Two students (below) wait for their transport on the gravel road that leads to Manley Flats Primary School. Manley Flats Primary School and Zintle Primary school both share a single bus, meaning that children often have to wait for long periods after school closes to catch their transport home.



Without water...



Xolisile Mtshizana has lived in Ward 4 all his life. He is unemployed and responsible for his wife and grandchildren. The family's income consists of Mtshizana's pension and government grants provided for the children and his wife's disability. A lack of access to safe drinking water is one of the things that the family, like many others in their position, are forced to do without.

...a day in the life of the Mtshizana family

In the Manley Flats area, farm dwellers like Xolisile Mtshizana and his family live in small communities without water, electricity and other important public services. Xolisile is not employed by the owner of the farm he lives on and is therefore not seen to be the responsibility of the farmer. Yet, he cannot claim aid from the municipality as he and his family find themselves on private property. While there is room for much debate around the fate of farm dwellers in South Africa, the immediate concern is that there are people suffering without a basic necessity. Unsafe drinking water is one of the leading causes of death in the world and is a problem in the Grahamstown community.

Photos: Roxanne Henderson



This is one of two tanks shared by 25 families in the community. The tanks do not collect rainwater so are not being used optimally. Xolisile explains how the tanks are used: "The lorry that brings us water was organised by the farmer who owns this land. It only comes sometimes and we take the water and pour it in our tanks. Our councillor is [Mr] Phongolo; he has not come since we made him aware of this problem." This arrangement may bring temporary relief but is sporadic and unreliable. Farm dwellers like the Mtshizanas need to find a sustainable way to improve their lives, starting with access to basic needs like water.



During periods of drought the Mtshizana family must collect water from one of two water holes in their area. The water collected here (pictured left) is not safe for human consumption.



Angeline Mtshizana must boil water collected nearby on a kerosene cooking stove to ensure it is safe to drink. Without access to electricity, paraffin appliances are often used in the household. The kerosene stove is a health and safety hazard, particularly in view of the children in the home.



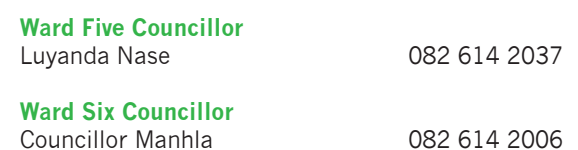
When water is available the family works sparingly with what they have and recycle water for chores around the house. Xolisile and Angeline assist each other with household tasks, especially if large quantities of water are needed. Angeline's injury to her arm prohibits her from taking on strenuous tasks.



A simple household chore like doing the laundry is not always possible due to the absence of running water. Without it, Angeline says it is difficult to keep a sanitary home.

Taking a closer look at Makana Communities

A group of *Grocott's Mail* journalists recently spent some time in Wards 5 and 6, getting to know some of the faces and places in the area. The journalists asked citizens about what life is like in their wards, including some of the challenges facing them. Over the page you will find some colourful 'hyperlocal' journalism on Wards 5 and 6. If you would like to get in touch with the journalists who put together these reports, please contact them on their blog at <http://masithetheni.blogspot.com>.



Citizen Journalists	
Luvuyo Gcule	084 046 8384
Thembani Onceya	072 045 3687
Samuel Nkohla	073 878 4344
Salinda Neko	072 238 9825
Zama Njokweni	078 242 1927

Ward 6: Starting from the R67, Ward 6's commercial hub is distinct from the more informal Ward 5. Ward 6 is much smaller than Ward 5, but it is vastly commercialised. Clustered within its boundaries are many businesses, taverns, municipal buildings and schools. Businesses here have designated lots unlike Ward 5's smaller residential businesses and spaza shops. There are signs of municipal construction on roads, pavements and bus stops and the tarred roads are unlike Ward 5's muddy, dusty and ditch-ridden ones. In places, Ward 6 is chiefly made up of properly-constructed houses painted in bright colours surrounded by businesses and government buildings.

- The issue of poor RDP housing is prolific: the shoddy construction work and issues stemming from this neglect to follow through on promises to deliver comfortable and well-constructed houses must be addressed.
- Many of the roads of Ward 5 are dusty and pothole-ridden, and these cause asthma amongst residents, as well as being less than adequate for efficient transportation and traffic flow.
- Clinics and sanitation are also big issues in these wards. An efficient system of clinics leaves some residents confused as to which clinic they should go to should they fall ill. Inefficient (or non-existent) systems of refuse collection leaves rubbish strewn across many areas, creating significant health risks, as does the lack of adequate ablution facilities for many residents, who are forced to use pit toilets that are not cleaned often enough by the municipality.
- Water quality is inconsistent, falling to dangerous levels in some parts of the wards.
- Alcoholism and drugs are both major issues, and are growing as unemployment increases amongst the adult population.
- Children in the area have little access to recreational facilities, which are crucial in keeping children off the streets.
- Although the wards do have facilities and homes for orphans and the elderly, the excellent efforts of volunteers are sometimes made more difficult by a lack of funding.

Wf ward focus wards 5 & 6

The social and economic problems in Wards 5 and 6 are indicative of much of Grahamstown's bigger issues: RDP houses remain undelivered to residents; alcoholism continues to disrupt the community; and basic public amenities are under-resourced. Despite these issues, however, many residents in these wards display an unquenchable drive to improve their lot, through the establishment of policing forums to fight crime and putting hours of work into facilities for the young and aged alike. Journalism about these two wards has been produced under the *Masithetheni* (Let's Talk) banner, inviting discussion and participation throughout the community.



Masithetheni *Let's talk*



Fired, but not out!

Like many in Grahamstown, Michael "Myoli" Tladi struggles with unemployment. He was fired from his job at an electronics company in the Grahamstown CBD for fixing electronics from home to further support himself. In spite of this, Michael has drawn upon his 27 years of experience in the field of electronics to make a living. While working from home in Extension 9, he repairs TVs and electronics, and maintains there is nothing he cannot fix. Michael is only one person part of an increasing number of informal businesses in Ward 5.

Photo: Gerry Kent

Alcoholism is ruining our community!

SIBONGAKONKE MAMA

Nozuko Stof arrived in Extension 9 in 2002. She lives with her husband and her five children. She gets along well with most of her neighbours and enjoys her life. However, alcoholism makes raising her children difficult.

There are two taverns in her street. Nozuko's 19-year-old son often sneaks away to drink at the taverns. "It doesn't help speaking to the owners because they encourage teen drinking," she says.

Alcoholism also has negative effects on the community as a whole. "Pensioners don't use their money wisely. Children suffer because of their parents' alcohol debts," explains Nozuko. She says this is because alcoholism is no longer a shame.

Nozuko also blames alcoholism in the area on unemployment, a lack of recreational facilities, and lawlessness. She believes that the area's alcoholism levels would drop if young people had more activities that they could do.

Alcoholism would also decrease if the police patrolling the area did something. "Taverns only shut down around 4am after having been open from around 6am. The police don't shut taverns down," says Nozuko. She says that government needs to reconsider the legal age for buying and consuming alcohol. "18 year olds are still very young to be consuming alcohol at their will," argues Nozuko. She suggests that the legal age should be 25 years.

"This age will also prevent parents from sending their young children to taverns to buy alcohol for them," she says. She says that the alcoholism in the area should be addressed not only by the government, but by the parents in the area as well. "Don't drink in front of your children. Children should not see you with alcohol or drunk. Learn to set an example," she advises.

Hope builds as construction on RDP homes begin

STEPHANE MEINTJES

The residents of the Ward 5 Transit Camp are pessimistic about the construction of their new homes, but the contractors have resumed work and while there are still certain challenges which need to be overcome, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel.

The Reconstruction and Development programme (RDP) began when the ANC came into power after the 1994 elections. The programme was put in place to address the socio-economic problems which were caused by Apartheid. Now, sixteen years later, the programme has encountered many problems and the community members of Ward 5 and, in particular, those living in the Transit Camp, are still without housing.

In March 2010 contracts were signed and after a long wait building in the Transit Camp started. However, construction came to a grinding halt and many residents have been left with half-finished houses while others have no houses at all.

Many of these empty shells have no roofs and no waterproofing in the ceiling. Others have no doors or windows in their new homes. The majority, however, are

even further away as they have only the promise of a new home with cement, gridded or ground foundations.

The Yose family have been waiting patiently for seven years to move out of their one roomed house into their approved RDP house. The only sign of their promised home is the empty clearing in front of their house.

Yose and other community members are feeling disheartened that the construction stopped and that they are still without homes. Yose says "It's frustrating because we have a lot of things in a small house, you know. So when they promised us the RDP houses we were very happy because the house will be bigger".

A steering committee has been started by members of the community to try and get construction up and running again. One member, Nozukile Ndubela, added, "My heart is sore. When we voted for this government we expected change but it is still the same. Nothing has changed."

However, contractors recently resumed work and residents were given reason to start hoping once again. The long awaited RDP housing scheme in the Transit Camp of Ward 5 may indeed, at last, become a reality.



Children in the Ward 5 Transit Camp celebrate the return of the contractors. Photo: Stephane Meintjes

Wards 5 and 6's unsung heroes

TERRI ADENDORFF

It's no Gotham City. No luminescent symbol fills the sky to call them, but still, heroes are present in Ward 5 of Joza, Grahamstown. The Community Policing Forum (CPF) consists of five brave individuals assisting the police with their patrols of the Ward, sharing knowledge to help prevent and control crime.

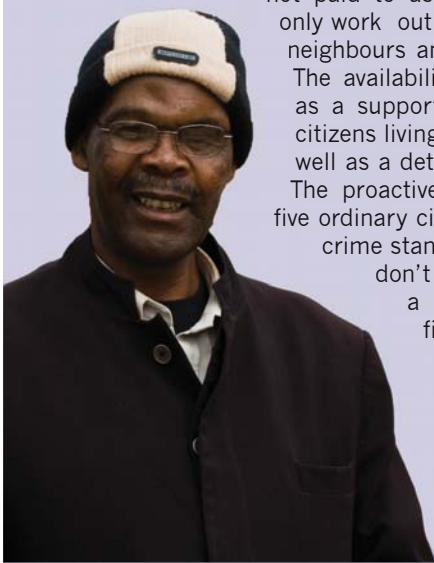
"The police can't be everywhere all the time" says Gilpin Yawa, a member of the CPF, "so we try to shorten the space between our community and the police."

Yawa and his fellow CPF members were issued cell phones, allowing them to contact the police directly should they receive a report from the community. This direct line to the residents of Ward 5 allows the CPF to decrease police reaction times, overriding the often arduous process of contacting the police on their general line.

Accompanying the police on their nightly patrols around the area, the CPF members share valuable information about possible criminal activity and knowledge gleaned from immersion within the community, allowing the police to prevent crime in an informed and efficient way.

The members of the CPF are not paid to assist the police, but only work out of concern for their neighbours and their community. The availability of the CPF acts as a support network for those citizens living in fear of crime, as well as a deterrent for criminals. The proactive stance that these five ordinary citizens have taken to crime stands to prove that you don't need a cape and a menacing mask to fight crime.

Sebenzile Plaatjie is a member of the Community Policing Forum for Ward 5. Contact him on 073 5961 576.



Children play netball at Joza's under-funded Indoor Sports Centre which lacks equipment. Photo: Tarryn Liddell

Sowing seeds of sport

LAUREN VAN DER VYVER

Organised recreation in Joza is calling for help. The Indoor Sports Centre is the only haven where the community, especially the youth, can come together to play a variety of sport. Taekwondo, boxing, soccer, netball and the gym's hefty weights keep children in a safe environment and off the street.

Inside, the centre is a hub of activity where the youth can spend their time playing sport and exercising, rather than turning to alcohol, drugs and petty crime. All it needs is a little more funding.

Every afternoon, the centre is filled with laughter from boys who pass a soccer ball in the courtyard, while girls play a game of netball.

Ntompoxolo September, a volunteer from the Makana Parks and Forests

Department, started coaching netball to girls from the age of nine in the beginning of last year. With September's experience in handball at national level and her keen interest in netball, she finds the initiative rewarding. Dan Jela, who teaches Business Studies at the school, also lends his hand at coaching the U17 boys' soccer team. While they might have a kit and soccer balls, funding remains inadequate. Jela does, however, note how the Indoor Sports Centre is a solution to the school's lack of funds. He says, "Many students go there to play after school [but] here [at the school] we need more facilities."

In 2002, the centre started with new staff from the Rotary Fund. The Indoor Sports Centre was promised money from the Department of Sports and

Recreation in Bhisho. However, it is still waiting for funding.

"I want to introduce the children to sport. It gets them away from crime and drugs," she says. "They won't do bad things. They'll concentrate on sport."

A lot of schools do not allow younger pupils to participate in sporting programmes. A large amount of children from Nompumelelo Secondary School, however, devote their afternoons to the centre as their school lacks basic sporting facilities, such as proper fields or soccer goals. According to Jela, there is a plan in place for the refurbishment of a soccer field next year. This will relieve the community's dependence on the Indoor Sports Centre, help to better the sporting development of the area and keep children off the streets.

Age in action

MEGAN HOLLIS

The Makanaskop Residential Facility, a sanctuary for 12 elderly individuals, is located in Extension 4 of Joza township in Grahamstown. One resident, Virginia Budasa, was left starving with her two grandchildren, and without any money to purchase food. "I had to visit that place and when I found out there was no one looking after her I decided to take her here," says social worker Nomfundo Mthana.

These elderly residents are cared for by Mthana, who supervises their exercise period after breakfast. Even the most frail enjoy participating in the exercise programme. After this routine, the residents can be found enjoying the sunshine in the courtyard, playing cards or knitting. Unfortunately, the supply of these recreational materials is difficult to maintain, due to financial circumstances.

These residents are subjected to poor conditions on a daily basis – wet floors and poor security structures are only a few of the infrastructural problems the home faces. Nombulelo Yeko, a cleaner and assistant at Makaanaskop,

sleeps at the facility. She worries about her safety as well as the safety of the residents due to the lack of any form of fencing. With no car at the facility's disposal, the frail or ill residents are at the mercy of the public transport system when they need medical attention at Settlers Hospital.

While the home receives money from the Port Elizabeth branch of Age in Action, it remains underfunded. This in turn results in further challenges, when food provisions are not delivered.

Vuyiswa Kepe, one of the residents at Makaanaskop, voices the appreciation that the residents share for their caretakers: "We know that they have been fighting for us. They've grown us to where we are today. We've got that love for them."

Despite these seemingly overwhelming infrastructural and financial concerns, this facility provides the only care currently available to its elderly lodgers, who would otherwise be alone and uncomfortable during their golden years.





A SPORTING CHANCE

A look at Joza's Indoor Sports Centre

By TARRYN LIDDELL

I see you

Joza's Indoor Sports Centre is one of the only areas in Ward 5 where people – especially the youth – are able to come together to exercise. The centre provides a safe environment for the area's children, who come from far to play the many sports on offer or to train or even to hang out with friends.

Man in charge

Lennox Habana, the caretaker of the centre, reminisces about when the sports centre was flourishing in 2002. He believes that the centre is a haven for the youth and that together with the community and municipality the centre's facilities can be improved to the standard at which they used to be. He also hopes that other sports centres can be opened in the area.

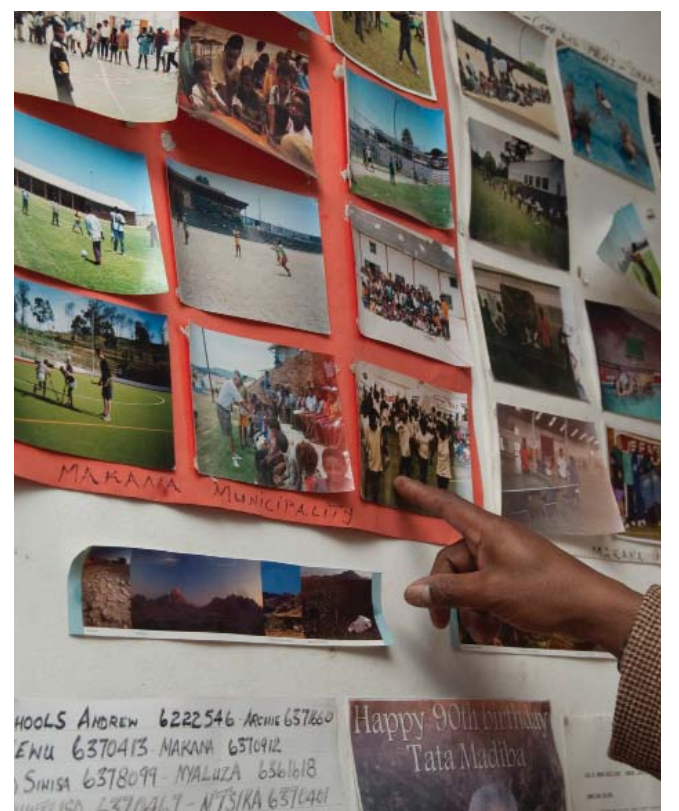


Better times

The sports centre used to host sports days as well as training clinics but in recent years funding and the number of coaches have been lacking, which has restricted what the sports centre can do.

Tight pockets

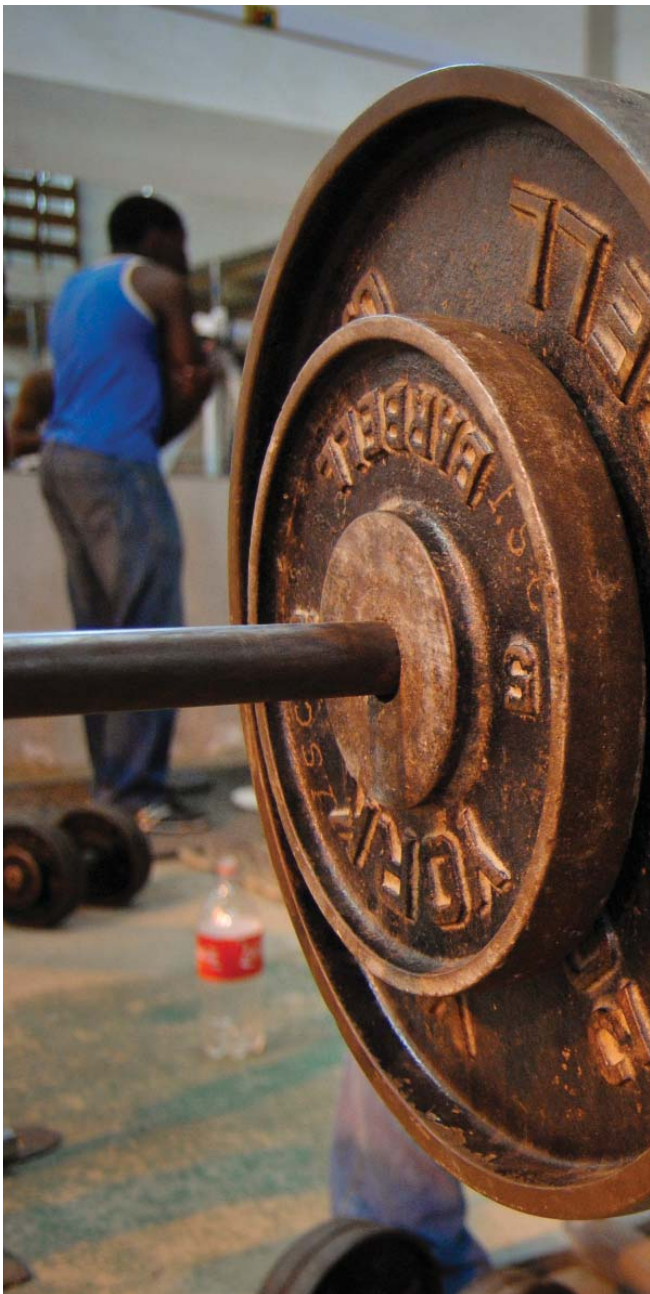
The centre is low on funds, despite it being promised money from the Department of Sports and Recreation in Bhisho. Although the centre is supported by institutions like the National Lottery and Rotary, it is still in desperate need of financial support.





Kickabout

While netball and basketball games are played indoors some children start their own games of soccer outside the sports centre in the nets provided. Although volunteers and resources are limited, the centre manages to teach children a wide range of sporting codes, including boxing, Taekwondo and basketball, in addition to soccer and netball.



A weighty task

The centre has a small weights area that needs to be expanded and new equipment received as the little equipment they do have is battered, rusted and broken. Despite this, young adults still visit the sports centre to train with the weights and to attend boxing training. Opening more centres like this one in poorer communities enables children and young adults to channel their energy and aggression in a positive way. As such, sport centres provide a distraction for children and young adults from getting involved in drugs, gangs and crime.





The Makanaskop Residential facility, a sanctuary for twelve elderly men and women, is located in Extension 4 of Joza township in Grahamstown. The six men and six women who call this facility home were each referred to the institution's staff by local health workers.

Largely abandoned and seldom visited by relatives, these elderly residents are cared for by Nomfundo Mthana, who supervises their exercise period after breakfast. Even the most frail enjoy exercising, stretching and kicking a ball around together.

Unfortunately, the supply of these recreational materials is difficult to maintain, due to the dire financial circumstances. While the home receives money from the Port Elizabeth branch of Age in Action, it remains underfunded. This results in further challenges, when food provisions are not delivered. Despite these seemingly overwhelming infrastructural and financial concerns, this facility provides the only care currently available to its elderly lodgers.

The facility is particularly in need of blankets, clothes, heaters and recreational activities for the residents.

To help, please contact Nomfundo Mthana on 078 321 8519.

A HOME FOR THE AGED

Life at Makanaskop Residential Centre

BY MEGAN HOLLIS

Golden girl

Vuyiswa Kepe, once a prominent child care giver in the community, now resides at Makanaskop Residential Facility for the Aged. She ran a crèche for physically disabled children which closed when she moved into the old age home.



Exercising old bones

Nomfundo Mthana, an auxillary social worker, exercises the elderly after breakfast. Even the frail participate, even if it means sitting on armchairs and doing stretches. There are twelve residents currently living in Makanaskop, whose ages range between 70 and 80.

A square meal

Nombulelo Yeko, a cleaner and assistant serves lunch. Residents receive three meals a day, but it is a struggle when deliveries of groceries do not arrive on time.



Power house

Nomfundo Mthana, an auxillary social worker, explains that Makanaskop faces many hardships like poor security, dependence on public transport and late deliveries. However, she says she knows that the residents have been fighting for her and her staff.



Faithful friends

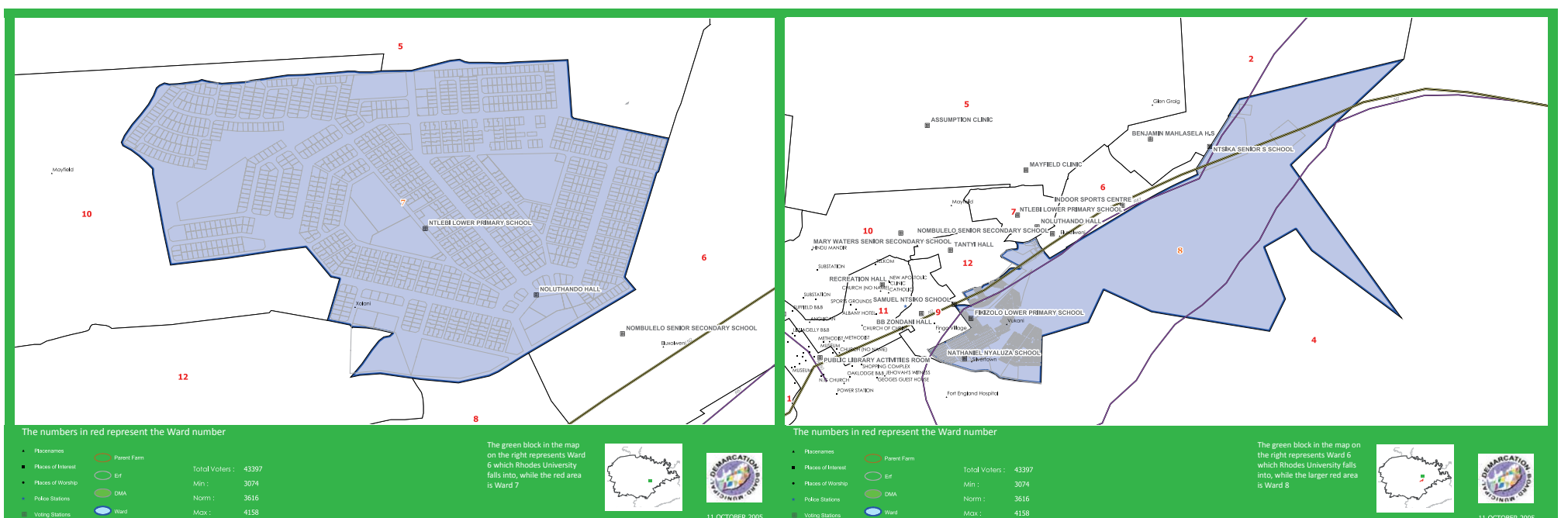
Vuyiswa Kepe and Nomzima Hesi are roommates. Here they sit in one of Makanaskop's bedrooms, most of which accommodate two people.

Wf ward focus

Taking a closer look at Makana Communities

WARDS 7+8

A group of *Grocott's Mail* journalists recently spent some time in Wards 7 and 8, getting to know some of the faces and places in the area. The journalists asked citizens about what life is like in their ward, including some of the challenges facing them. Below is a map of Wards 7 and 8, contact details for the ward councillor, details for the *Grocott's Mail's* citizen journalists working in this area, the names of some formal and informal community leaders in Wards 7 and 8, as well as a list of some of the key issues and challenges identified by citizens of this ward. Over the page you will find some colourful 'hyperlocal' journalism on both wards. If you would like to get in touch with the journalists who put together these reports, please contact them on: groupfor78@gmail.com.



Nomhle Gaga

Member of Social Services & Community Empowerment Portfolio Committee

Member of the Environment, Disaster Management & Heritage Sub - Committee

04662202215

The pages following this one will focus on Wards 7 and 8.

Ward 7 includes:

- Nombulelo Secondary School
- Noluthando Community Hall
- House of Joy Childcare Centre
- Duna Public Library

We ran meetings and focus group discussions with members who reside in this area, and the following issues/concerns came up regularly:

- Lack of recreational activities for the youth
- Lack of access to clean water
- RDP housing
- Crime
- Unemployment
- Deficiencies with the bucket system

THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS WARD:

- There will be an Internet cafe opening soon in central Joza as a resource for children and businessmen in the area;
- There are a number of churches which serve as public meeting places;
- Water collection occurs outside Noluthando Hall every day with people of all ages queuing for hours;
- A clean up campaign will be initiated by councillor Nomhle Gaga in the near future;
- Although there is a public library in the area there is a lack of recreational activities for the youth.

CONTACTS

Citizen Journalist:

1. **Odwa Funeka**
078 577 1780

Connectors & Catalysts:

1. **Phumla Dingane**
079 090 1657
2. **Thozama**
071 080 8806



Nomazwi Fuku

Ward 8 Councillor which encompasses Nathaniel Nyaluza School

Political Party:
ANC

0826042032

The pages following this one will focus on Wards 7 and 8.

Ward 8 includes:

- Themba TB Hospital
- Nathaniel Nyaluza School
- Fikizolo Lower Primary School
- Ntsika Senior School

We ran meetings and focus group discussions with members who reside in this area, and the following issues/concerns came up regularly:

- Lack of recreational activities for the youth
- Inefficient Sewrage system
- Lack of access to water
- Crime
- No communication between community members and the Municipality
- RDP Housing

THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS WARD:

- Some houses are constructed above grave sites;
- There is no public library in the area;
- Luvuyo Hall is the main public meeting place for residents;
- Many residents are self-employed and run businesses from their homes as a means of earning a living;
- There is no parking space for community members behind Noluthando Hall;
- There is a lack of recreational activities for the youth which leads to crime and vandalism.

CONTACTS

Connectors & Catalysts:

1. **Grahamstown Hospice**
046 6229 661
2. **Dumisani Zono**
073 2367 380



Wf ward focus ward 7+8

We are a group of Journalism students from Rhodes University. Our project for the semester was to engage with the community of Grahamstown and try to affect change by finding out what their problems were. We focussed on the youth of Ward 7 and Ward 8. We discovered that there is a lack of resources in both these areas, and there are no recreational activities or facilities available to them. The youth therefore roam the streets and play on rubbish heaps, which are both dangerous and unsanitary. Some of the younger children get involved with older teenagers and are therefore exposed to drugs, alcohol and crime. We aimed to find out why there are so many illegal dumping sites in these areas and how the municipality is dealing with them. We are also trying to find ways in which the community can take responsibility for their own waste, thereby creating a cleaner environment.

Page design: Divia Padayachee, Frank Hermus, Nasreen Bahadur and Yvonne Nhuta

The Ward 8 WASTEland



DIGGING IN THE DUMP...
A young girl spends her time playing in the garbage due to the lack of recreational activities.
Photo: Catherine Deiner

ALEXANDRA SMITH AND DIVANIA TIMMAL

Walking through the streets of Ward 7 and Ward 8, one thing stands out. Litter in the form of plastic bags, dirty nappies, paper, old food and broken glass is strewn around these areas.

According to Johan Esterhuizen, Assistant Director of Environmental Health and Cleansing, this should not be the case. "It is the function of the municipality to provide a domestic waste removal service," he said.

"We receive black bags every week for our rubbish," said Priscilla Tyotha, a policewoman in Ward 8. Thozama, a resident of Ward 7, backs up this statement and adds,

"They collect rubbish once a week." The bags are supposed to be used purely for domestic waste, and left on the pavement for collection. Often, however, the bags are used for other purposes and the waste is then thrown onto the street instead of being properly disposed of.

There are numerous informal dumping sites around the areas of Luvuyo and Joza, and these have been identified by the municipality. "Signs and waste containers have been put in these areas. We clean them once a month," Esterhuizen said. However signs are often stolen and sold as scrap metal resulting in people not knowing where to dump their waste.

These dump sites have become a playground for small children. Due to the lack of recreational facilities available to them, children between the ages of two and ten spend their days playing in and around waste containers. One of the children said, "There is nothing to

do, we have no place to play and no soccer balls to play with so we play on the dump." These conditions are unsanitary, and the constant lack of running water in the area means that the children are unable to bath after playing in the rubbish. "Playing in the dumps can lead to rashes, reactions, injuries, food poisoning and diarrhoea," said Gladys, a Health Promotion Officer of the Health Department's Makana Sub-District Office.

The Makana Municipality does not take responsibility for this, as they believe that they have put in place adequate measures for the maintenance of the wards. "People are not making use of our domestic routes, and are also forgetting to put out their refuse," Esterhuizen said. "We do what we can but surely the community must realise that the mess there is theirs."

In an attempt to bring the community together and collectively solve the litter problem, Nomhle Gaga, Councillor of Ward 7, has initiated a 'Keep Ward 7 Clean' campaign. She believes that it is important for the people of the community to care about their environment and actively try to keep it sanitary.

A factor adding to the pollution in these areas is the animals that roam the streets. Often, dogs owned by community members are allowed to wander around without supervision, where they rip open black bags, causing the contents to spill out onto the street. To Esterhuizen, this is another reason why community members are to blame for the dirt in the area. They should be keeping their dogs on their own property.

Two sides of the coin

What the municipality promised, and the reality facing the community

MUNICIPALITY:

- * Refuse bags are given out every week
- * People are aware of rubbish collection days
- * People must leave their refuse out on the curb for collection
- * The community must be responsible for their own waste
- * There are signs designating garden refuse dumping sites

COMMUNITY:

- » Refuse bags are given out every week
- » Many residents use their bags as building material in their homes due to poor structure
- » People are aware of rubbish collection days
- » When we leave our refuse on the curb donkeys, dogs and vagrants tear open the bags and all the litter spills out into the street
- » Some people have given up and don't care anymore about the rubbish problem
- » People steal the signs from the dumping sites which results in not just garden refuse being dumped in these places
- » People from the suburbs dump their waste in these areas



ILLEGAL DUMPING...
Open fields become dustbins to some community members.
Photo: Catherine Deiner

A waste management system that manages nothing

In 2004, the Makana Municipality drew up short-term and long-term plans to manage waste in the city. We outline these plans and ask whether anything has really changed since then.

Short-term Objectives

- Engage the public on service delivery models
- Investigate options to increase recycling or to create partnerships with the municipality, public and community which would make recycling a viable business throughout Makana Municipality.
- Eradicate counter productive waste collection methods, such as skips in certain informal areas such as Scott' Farm.
- Create a system for identification and prosecution of repeat offenders of illegal dumping
- Upgrade storm water drainage systems to enable filtering of storm water, to minimise the amounts of waste being washed downstream.

Long-term Objectives

- To comply with the process for waste management as laid down by the National Waste Management Strategy
- To create a sustainable waste management and collection system that ensures that: firstly, the environment is protected; and secondly, it empowers this community by ensuring pleasant aesthetics that attract tourism and creates opportunities and employment through resource recovery.
- Eliminate the possibility of waste materials entering riparian environments
- Lengthen the life span current landfill site by minimising landfilling
- Eliminate illegal dumping and littering
- Create and maintain opportunities and jobs in waste management sector
- Reduce costs of waste collection on the municipality through resource recovery
- Create awareness by the public and communities about the benefits of correct waste collection and disposal methods

Then:

15 May 2004: "Many garden skips in these areas were being used for general waste. In addition, in Grahamstown many garden skips are in a poor state, rusted and with large holes, adding to litter problems," according to Makana Municipality: Local Environmental Action Plan.

Now:

15 October 2010: Many garden skips in these areas are being used for general waste. In addition, in Grahamstown many garden skips are in a poor state, rusted and with large holes, adding to litter problems.



WITHOUT ACTIVITIES...
Children play in the remains of an abandoned construction site.
Photo: Catherine Deiner

ALEXANDRA SMITH AND DIVANIA TIMMAL

Nomhle Gaga sits back relaxed in a chair with one arm resting in a sling on her chest. She has been the Councillor for Ward 7 since 2006, a job which she takes very seriously and enjoys at the same time.

The role of a Ward councillor is to be a link between the community and the local government. "I am a mouthpiece for those without a voice," Gaga says. Ward Councillors are required to have meetings with the community every quarter of the year but Gaga has one every month in order to constantly be aware of the problems community members are facing.

An issue present in both Ward 7 and Ward 8 is the shortage of resources for children. One of the biggest problems in the area, according to Gaga, is the lack of land

available in order to build parks and community centres.

However, money was given by the Municipality to build a park in Phumlani in Ward 7 but it has not yet taken form. Gaga says, "The community must also look after recreational places" as often people resort to illegal dumping on open fields and areas where children could play.

To help alleviate the rubbish problem within the area, Gaga, in conjunction with her community, has set up a 'Keep Ward 7 clean' campaign.

"People are being irresponsible and think it's the role of the Municipality to clean up," says Gaga. Meetings regarding the campaign started on 22 July 2010. Notices were then sent out to the community in an attempt to prompt their involvement. Residents can get involved by contacting the Ward committee or going directly to Gaga.

The campaign is being implemented in order to remove waste containers in the area and clear illegal dumping sites. "Waste containers are there for garden refuse, but people are dumping dead dogs and leaving their waste around the containers instead of inside," Gaga says. "People from suburbs are also dumping their waste in these informal settlements."

Community members believe that illegal dumping takes place due to the presence of these waste containers. They would therefore rather be given more refuse bags, and have these containers removed.

Gaga says that another way to curb illegal dumping is "name-shaming", whereby pictures of people who dump illegally are made public. This is because residents often blame outsiders for the waste problem.

"We cannot do anything without the community," says Gaga. "We need them. This

requires commitment and we cannot force that." Gaga knows that the campaign may take a long time to show results, but it will have a beneficial impact on the community in the future.

Another one of Gaga's priorities is caring for children as she is constantly seeing empty schools and classrooms. "Children are not at school but at home and they need to go back to school. Education is not a priority for many young people. We need to start concentrating on education," Gaga says.

She is also involved in many other projects and initiatives concerning HIV, health and crime.

Gaga's term as Ward councillor is almost over.

She would like to affect change in her ward and in her community before the end of her time in office. "I want people to be represented," she says.

Soccer fun for all



GOING FOR GOAL... Team Bafana, here in possession, beat Ajax 3-0. Photo: Catherine Deiner



LEARNING THE ROPES... Naeem Patel from MSA in-training at the training camp for the younger soccer players. Photo: Catherine Deiner

“I enjoyed the soccer day because it kept me away from home, cleaning and watching TV.”



SOCCKER LEGEND... Naeem Patel fondly known as “Kaká” to the children poses for a photo with some children who formed part of the training camp. Photo: Catherine Deiner



WATCHING IN ANTICIPATION... The soccer team from the Assumption Nutrition Centre waiting for the finals. Photo: Catherine Deiner

ALEXANDRA SMITH AND DIVANIA TIMMAL

With the hype of the World Cup behind us, South Africans are experiencing a ‘soccer hangover’. The sense of camaraderie and patriotism evident throughout the Cup has fizzled out.

In an attempt to bring the youth in the communities together, a soccer tournament was held recently at Mick Foley Field. The initiative, developed by our group, was a response to the lack of recreational facilities and resources in both Ward 7 and Ward 8.

“We wanted to facilitate a relationship between the older generation that is actively involved in soccer culture and get them to mobilise the youth in their respective wards to take up soccer as a form of recreation,” said Daneel Knoetze, one of the organisers of the tournament.

“The older generation believes that there is a link between the decline in soccer and antisocial behaviour, such as alcoholism and petty crimes, in this area.”

On Saturday 2 October, teams were put together by community members, Thozzi Yaka and Thembalani Fene. Players were organised according to age-group, resulting in a junior tournament and a senior tournament. Even those who were too young to compete still had the opportunity to play and hone their skills aided by members of the Muslim Students Association (MSA), Adil Qudussi and Naeem Patel.

Akhona Nontyi, 17, a Grade 10 pupil from Ward 8 said, “There is not enough to do in the area. After school I watch TV or play soccer. This soccer day has been a great thing for many kids as it keeps them busy.”

Anele Beni, 12, a Grade 5 pupil from Ward 7 said, “On the weekends I’d rather play at home than with my friends because they smoke and drink. I enjoyed the soccer day because it kept me away from home, cleaning and watching TV.”

By noon, the tournament had come to an end and the winners were announced. From the senior division, Team A were the champions, beating Team C 5-1. Team Bafana won the junior tournament, beating Ajax 3-0. Team A’s men of the match, the Ngono twins and Nontyi, were awarded T-shirts. Team Bafana’s man of the match received a book. The spectators and worn-out participants were each given a hotdog and juice at the end of the day.

We hope that this soccer spirit can be sustained and these tournaments become a regular weekend activity.



ENTHUSIASTIC TRAINERS... Ahmed Faraz Yusuf, Adil Qudussi and Naeem Patel from MSA. Photo: Catherine Deiner



AND THE WINNERS ARE... Players of the tournament received prizes for their excellent performance. Photo: Catherine Deiner

THEN AND NOW

rise and fall of local soccer culture

Words: Kezia Swanepoel

Photos: Daneel Knoetze



Thembalani Fene pictured in Luvuyo Street where he was born and has lived all his life. Fene used to play for the United Spurs of Luvuyo, a once prominent soccer club, from 1986 until 2000. Fifteen years ago, every street in this part of Fingo had its own functioning soccer club. Today, only one or two of these clubs remain. Fene states that the soccer culture he grew up with has been replaced by the creation of shebeens and sports bars that have encouraged the support of professional soccer leagues.



Thozi "Bashir" Yaka, was one of the Newtown City Soccer Club's best players in the mid-1980s. Here he is pictured with the trophy he won for being sportsman of the year in 1986. Newtown City, established in 1982, is one of the few clubs from the golden age of township soccer that still remains active. Yaka still considers soccer his "religion." "It makes all the stress leave my body," he says.



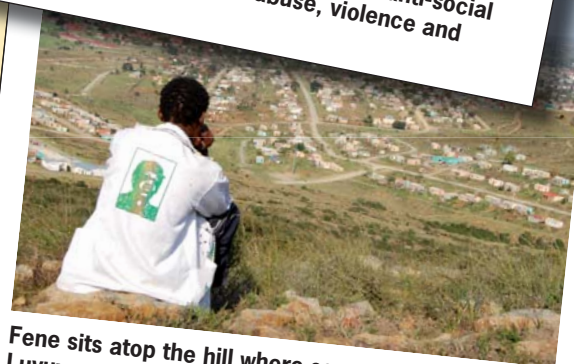
Yaka is a professional tailor. He started his own company called "Stocks and Stains." His main ambition is to merge his love for soccer with his tailoring skills by starting his own club, he hopes for the youth under the banner of "Stocks and Stains." By starting his own club, he hopes to harness this unity by bringing the youth together to play soccer while teaching them valuable tailoring skills to gain work. Yaka's wish is to recreate the old township soccer culture as a means of community-building and combatting anti-social behaviour.



PSL enthusiasts watch the semi-finals of the MTN Top 8 between Kaizer Chiefs and Orlando Pirates at the Mfanandini Tavern in Ward 8. "Fifteen years ago there were only about two black and white TVs in all of Fingo," recalls Fene. "Back then, instead of watching soccer, people played it everyday." The popularity of such leagues and the influx of sports bars in the townships, have caused the men to leave behind the old soccer leagues they created in favour of a spectator culture. With the loss of the local soccer culture in Luvuyo, there has been a rise in anti-social behaviour such as alcoholism, substance abuse, violence and petty crime.



Yaka watches from the sidelines as his "boys" perfect their soccer skills. He remains an active member of Newtown City Soccer Club. In the holidays Yaka runs a soccer training club for primary school children who live in the Newtown Street area. This training happens on the Mick Foley Fields, the very grounds where the soccer leagues of the 80s took place.



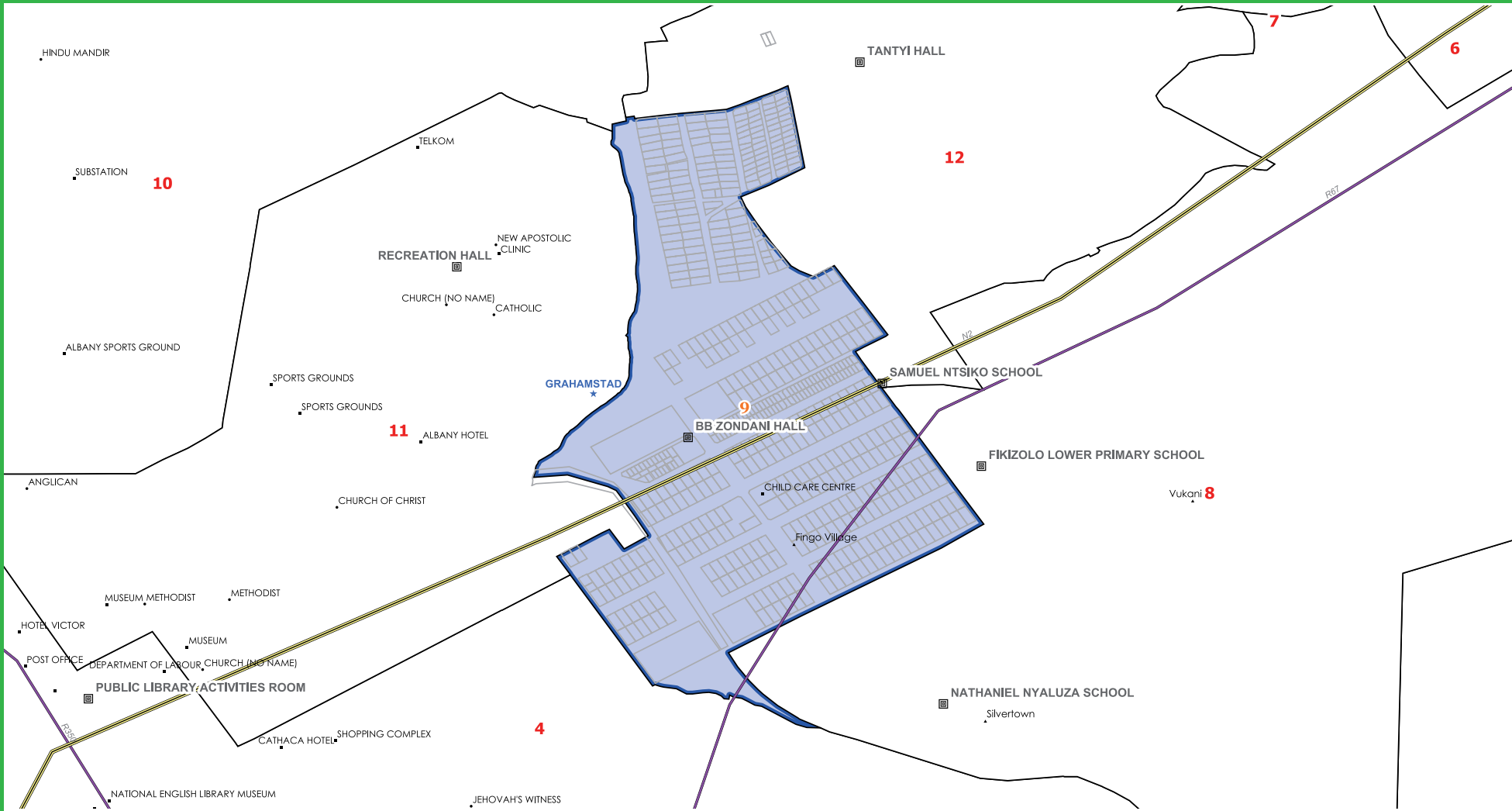
Fene sits atop the hill where soccer teams of the Luvuyo area used to train every morning before work or school. The hill used to be a hub where people met and trained, running laps up and down. Abandoned, it has become unkempt and strewn with litter. "I still come up here to just sit and look out," says Fene. "But I'm the only one. It has become so quiet and boring. People watch me here and they just think that I'm crazy."

Wf ward focus

Taking a closer look at Makana Communities

WARD 9

A group of *Grocott’s Mail* journalists recently spent some time in Ward 9, getting to know some of the faces and places in the area. The journalists asked citizens about what life is like in their ward, including some of the challenges facing them. Below is a map of Ward 9, contact details for the ward councillor, details for the *Grocott’s Mail’s* citizen journalists working in this area, the names of some formal and informal community leaders in Ward 9, as well as a list of some of the key issues and challenges identified by citizens of this ward. Over the page you will find some colourful ‘hyperlocal’ journalism on Ward 9. If you would like to get in touch with the journalists who put together these reports, please contact them on: fingovillage@gmail.com.



The numbers in red represent the Ward number

▲ Placenames	○ Parent Farm	Total Voters : 43397
■ Places of Interest	○ Erf	Min : 3074
● Places of Worship	○ DMA	Norm : 3616
● Police Stations	○ Ward	Max : 4158
■ Voting Stations		

The green block in the map on the right represents Ward 6 which Rhodes University falls into, while the red area is Ward 9



11 OCTOBER 2005



Mxolisi Patrick Ntshiba

Makana Municipality
Ward 9 Councillor for Fingo Village.

046 603 8515

CONNECTORS AND CATALYSTS AND CITIZEN JOURNALISTS

1. **Hlangabenza Klaas**
Citizen Journalist
0824891178
2. **Thenjiswa Sharpe**
Citizen Journalist
0749391385
3. **Xolile “X”**
Connector
0825915612

Issues in Fingo Village

We ran meetings and focus group discussions with members who reside in this area, and the following issues/ concerns came up regularly:

- Safety
- Litter
- Crime
- Rape
- Unemployment
- Sanitation especially the dumping site and vacant church plot
- Alcohol and substance abuse
- The Youth lack of motivation, teenage pregnancy, HIV/Aids, alcohol and substance abuse
- Lack of activities for youth

THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS WARD:

- There is a public library in ward 9 called the Fingo Library. It is free and offers a selection of books, space for learners to study, reading areas, use of the internet and use of computers to all members.
- An initiative called Fingo Revolutionary Movement, in collaboration with SASOC, is involved with the community. It is aimed at promoting education and providing activities for the youth of Fingo. Read more at: <http://fingovillage.blogspot.com>
- There is a free clinic, the Raglan Clinic, available to all ward 9 residents. It is nearby on Raglan Road and offers various kinds of health care, as well as contraceptives, pregnancy tests and information about HIV.
- New Seekers Soccer Club is a successful soccer program for the youth. It has been running since 1989 under Mthuthulezi Songogo.
- There are three schools in ward 9: Luzuko Pre-school, Ntaba Maria Primary School and Nathaniel Nyaluza Secondary School.

Wf ward focus 9

Ward 9 is a rural-urban paradox. It juxtaposes extreme poverty with relative wealth. Large, white DSTV dishes, secured to tin shanties, pepper the area. Dogs, chickens and small children over-populate the streets unsupervised. On a quiet Saturday afternoon, intoxicated youngsters roam outside the local tavern. One, laughing hysterically, pulls down his jeans' zip to proudly display his manhood. Homes made from debris are contradicted by the occasional middle-class house with a brand new car in the garage. Millions of minute glass shards take the place of soil, reflecting the sunlight and making the pavements glitter like Cinderella's slippers. But there does not seem to be a fairy godmother around to bestow a fairytale ending on Ward 9 residents. The fact is that the youth in Ward 9 need to take their futures into their own hands and there are a number of role models and "movers and shakers" to follow. *Fingo Youth Initiative* (FYI) is a group of journalists that aims to show off these role models to the community so as to inspire, motivate and empower its youth.

Inspiring the youth through drama and dance

MICHAŁ BŁASZCZYK AND JOVAN KENT

Ayanda Mancamu is an active member in the Fingo Village community who focuses on ways of empowering the youth. He is a member of SASOC and the Fingo Revolution, and focuses on drama and dance.

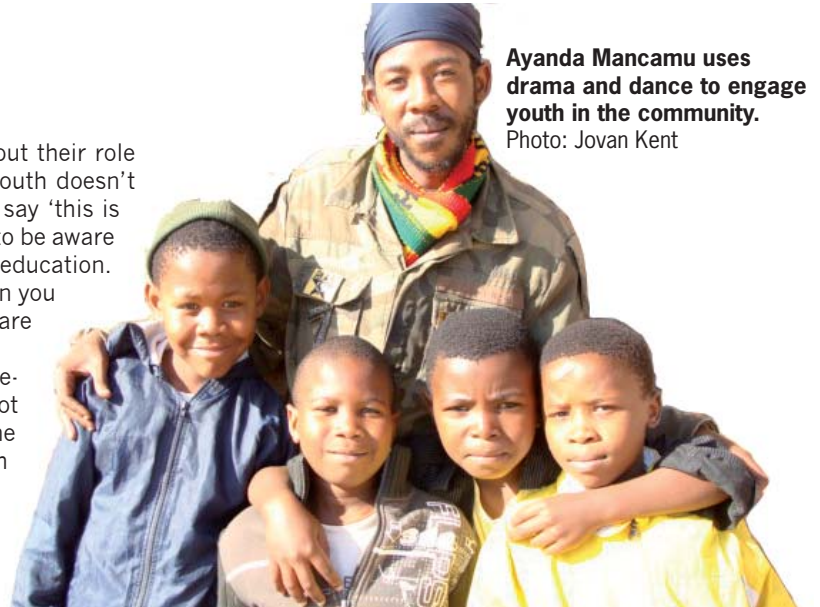
For Ayanda, drama and dance are more than just performance styles: "It's all about the message," he says, "and for people to get the message you have to dramatise." He feels that to get the youth involved, you need to appeal to their interests. He finds that this is fame and so he holds drama and dance workshops for any youth who want to get involved. These are held at Luvuyo Hall. They involve drama lessons, exercises and games.

The drama and dance group performs the pieces they have created at various venues and events. Sometimes this can be on the street corner in Fingo Village and sometimes this can be during the National Arts Festival, a school event or competition. The performances always have a message relating to one of the issues of the Fingo community, like

crime or rape.

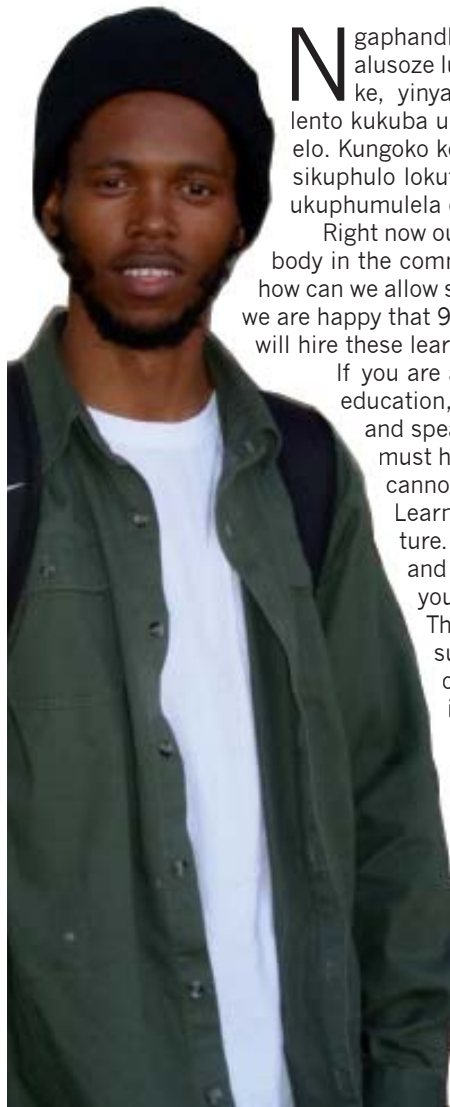
Ayanda also tries to enlighten the youth about their role in the community: "I show them that to be a youth doesn't mean you don't have the right to stand up and say 'this is wrong, we can do better'." He encourages them to be aware and independent and believes the key to this is education. "Education is your future," he says, "but it's upon you if you want to go to the next level. The teachers are on strike, but the books aren't."

Ayanda states that Fingo Revolution is a "movement, not a group, because a movement does not stop". The movement always follows up on the youths in their programs and stays involved with the community. At the moment, they are working with SASOC for its 100% Pass Rate Campaign. To get involved, go to the Fingo Village Library and ask about the Fingo Revolution's drama and dance group.



Ayanda Mancamu uses drama and dance to engage youth in the community. Photo: Jovan Kent

Dear Ward 9 Youth



Ngaphandle kwemfundo esemgangathweni uninzi lwabafundi alusoze lufamane imisebenzi; nengomso liyoba mfiliba. Leyo ke, yinyani ebuhlungu. Eyona nto ebuhlungu kuyo yonke lento kukuba ukutshona kwabantwana esikolweni sekwaba sisiqhelu. Kungoko ke singu Save Our Schools and Community (SOSAC) sikuphulo lokuthi Yes To 100% Pass Rate! Abafundi mabafundele ukuphumulela ebomini.

Right now our education is facing a huge crisis; but it is as if nobody in the community cares; it is as if there are no problems. But how can we allow schools to have a 10% matric pass rate? This means we are happy that 90% failed. Where will this 90% go after school? Who will hire these learners who have failed?

If you are a learner, and you care about your future and your education, then contact SOSAC, and please, ask us to come and speak to your parents to help them to understand what must happen to boost your education. As a community we cannot watch all our young people failing: it is a shame. Learners themselves must realise that this is their future. If you do not take responsibility for your school and your education it will become very hard to achieve your goals and dreams.

The truth is, it starts with you. Would you like to be successful or would you like to be unemployed? Of course, everyone wants a job. But no one will give it to you.

There are many talented people in Grahamstown, there are poets, writers, artists, actors, musicians. Your talents can only take you somewhere if they are backed by a strong education. Do not allow yourself to believe that education is an option; it is a MUST!

SOSAC also calls on all artists who want to further their education, and translate their talents into other skills areas to come and seek advice. It is never too late to go back to school or to study further. Grahamstown has an ABET centre in Joza, also there are other tertiary options that you can go for once you are over the age of 23. To get to university as a mature student you must show that you can write in English and that you

have a skill and talent that you are developing.

You can choose to sit at the corner and wait for something to happen; or you can make something happen. It's better to make something happen.

The SOSAC office is at Kwanyama ayipheli; we have material to advise you on careers and further education. Phone us at 082 591 5612 to make an appointment.

www.sosac.org.za

Regards

Xolile "X" on behalf of SOSAC Rhini



Nomvo Makata prepares for a tutorial outside the library. Photo: Jovan Kent

I did it. So can you!

NOMVO MAKATA

I grew up in a community where getting into Matric was such a big achievement and not doing something afterwards was such a normal thing. This idea does not put pressure on the youth to actually pass Matric and study further, yet we have a university right here in Grahamstown. It seemed very confusing to me. I told myself I wanted something different for my life. I wanted to be educated and expand my knowledge. So, I worked hard at school from a very early age. I am naturally a very determined person, but it was great having my family's and school's encouragement.

I went to Nathaniel Nyaluza for my high school years. When I got to Matric, I worked even harder because I wanted to pass and go beyond Matric – and I did. I kept telling myself that hard workers do not blame their success on luck and so I worked extra hard. During my Matric year in 2007, there was a teachers strike that dragged on for about

three months. Also, our Physical Science and Biology teacher left and we had to finish the syllabus on our own. but he was helpful by supplying us with exam past papers. I was scared of how this was going to affect my studies.

Thanks to the extra work my teachers put in and my endless effort, I passed with a merit and got two distinctions. I was determined to get accepted to Rhodes University because it was my dream, and I did. I am currently doing a Bachelor of Science degree and I plan on majoring in Zoology and Entomology.

I would like to tell all the young people who are busy with their Matric or still in school to work very hard, because at the end of the day it pays off. There are a lot of challenges facing girls especially, so we must believe in ourselves. Lastly, have a big goal in life. No matter how big the obstacles on the way are, you will be able to get over them because the goal you are aiming for is much greater.

Seeking new fields

The 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup has come to an end. Although the international spectators have left and the hype has died down, soccer fever in Fingo Village thrives. Mthuthuzeli Songongo has kept the dreams and aspirations of young soccer fanatics alive in his community. In 1989, Songongo established the New Seekers Soccer Club.

Text By Michal Blaszczyk and Jovan Kent Photos By Hennie Pretorius



1. Mthuthuzeli, sitting in his wheelchair, started the club in an attempt to keep the youth of Fingo Village off the streets.
2. It hasn't been an easy road for the New Seekers Soccer Club as they lack funds which are crucial to sustaining the soccer initiative.
3. Mthuthuzeli is aided by Mzukisi James and Michael Nathemba.
4. The players are aged between 15 years and 30 years. The younger players play for the second team and the older players play for the first team.
5. Training equipment is limited but this does not break the high spirits of the New Seekers players.
6. Many of the players dream of playing on TV one day.



Wf ward focus

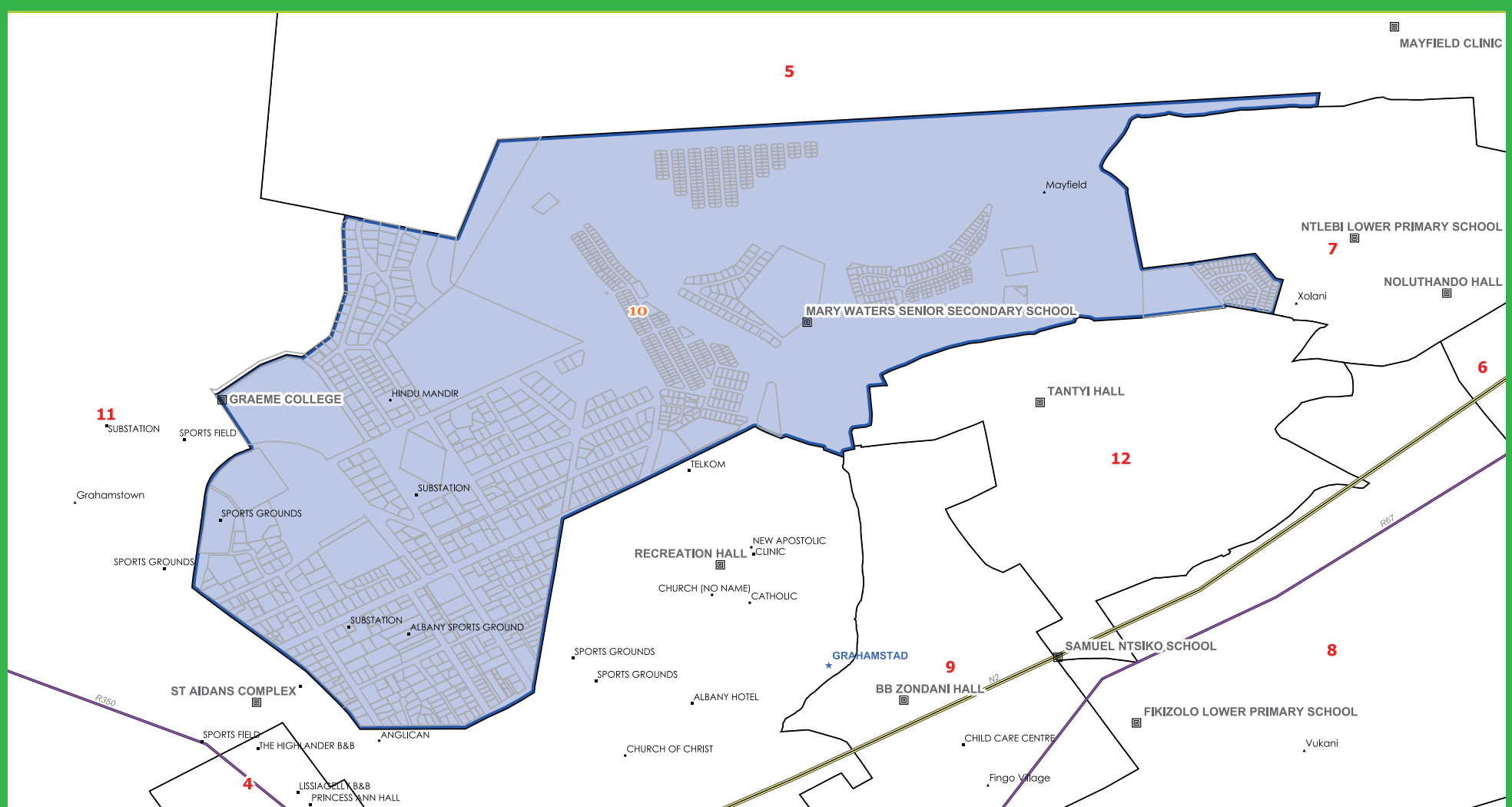
Taking a closer look at Makana Communities

WARD 10

MARY WATERS AREA

A group of *Grocott's Mail* journalists recently spent some time in Ward 10, getting to know some of the faces and places in the area. The journalists asked citizens about what life is like in their ward, including some of the challenges facing them. Below is a map of Ward 10, contact details for the ward councillor, details for the *Grocott's Mail's* citizen journalists working in this area, the names of some formal and informal community leaders in Ward 10, as well as a list of some of the key issues and challenges identified by citizens of this ward. Over the page you will find some colourful 'hyperlocal' journalism on Ward 10. If you would like to get in touch with the journalists who put together these reports, please contact them on:

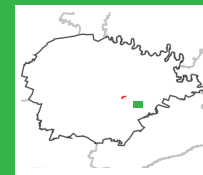
Email: jddactivevoices@gmail.com



The numbers in red represent the Ward number

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The green block in the map on the right represents Ward 6 which Rhodes University falls into, while the red area is Ward 10.



11 OCTOBER 2005



Xolani Simakuhle

Makana Municipality
Ward 10 Councillor
consisting of the Oatlands,
Somerset Heights and Mary
Waters area.

Contact Information:
Tel: 046 622 7171
Cell: 082 614 2023

CONNECTORS, CATALYSTS AND CITIZEN JOURNALISTS

1. Lena May
Ward 11 Councillor
073 675 9143

2. Marcelle Booysen
Community worker, Radio
Grahamstown,
Community Policing
Forum
072 777 2665

3. Thembeni Plaatjie
Citizen Journalist
t.plaatjie@ru.ac.za
073 597 2345

A public meeting was held at the recreation hall on 9 September where the following issues were raised by community members:

- Facilities like the cricket Oval and the tennis courts are not being maintained.
- Vandalism of buildings, facilities and the cemetery.
- Casual sex and teen pregnancies. Youngsters are using derelict buildings to party in and engage in sexual activity.
- The lack of entertainment for young people is leading to drug and alcohol abuse.
- Rape is increasing with at least one being reported per month.
- Hopelessness among the youth. Young people feel they have no future and there is no one to encourage them.
- Unfair distribution of RDP houses.

THINGS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT THIS WARD:

- There are a few dance groups in this area, who compete in competitions. Some of these groups are The Escalators, The Millennium Jokers and the B Boys.
- The Dakawa Centre was originally established in 1982 in Tanzania. It was used to provide skills for ANC exiles.
- There are a number of thriving businesses in the community, such as sewing centres, baking projects, metal work and car mechanics.
- During their spare time, the youth chill at their friends houses, play rugby, cricket and netball in the streets and go to youth groups and parties.
- The youth would like to have art and music lessons, an electronic gaming centre and a place to play sports.
- A tornado swept through this area in 2008, six houses are still waiting to be repaired.

Wf ward focus

ward 10

Active Voices covered the area between Mary Waters High School and Kingswood College in Ward 10 and found that this community is losing hope. Facilities like the Oval and the Dakawa Centre are falling apart. Houses destroyed in the 2008 tornado are yet to be repaired. The youth feel like no one believes in them and that they only get noticed when they do something wrong. Lack of activities and facilities means young people are bored and disillusioned, and many of them turn to drug and alcohol abuse. *Active Voices* did some investigating into the challenges facing your community. This is what we've found out so far...

EDITORIAL

Behind the Scenes

We had no idea what was awaiting us when we started the third year public journalism course. We were allocated a ward we knew very little about and had to wander around gathering information from strangers and arrange a public meeting. On the night of our meeting, we waited with growing anxiety for people to arrive and eventually had to make do with the 20 or so people. After the meeting, we decided to focus on youth and the lack of facilities in the area. Determined not to be conventional journalists gathering the community's heart wrenching stories that would leave us with awards and leave them high and dry, we decided that we wanted to help. We were dead set on affecting change, but admittedly we were also sceptical about how committed the community would be to helping themselves.

The community is filled with anger, apathy, hopelessness and disillusionment from years of feeling like they have been side-lined by the municipality. The youth feel like they are only noticed when they are doing something wrong. Vandalism, alcohol and drug abuse are the negative outlets of stifled expression.

We were frustrated on numerous occasions by the fact that the needs of the people have become almost completely overtaken by political back biting. We were immediately implicated in these politics, even though we naively did not know what was going on half of the time.

Despite the difficulties, we were surprised by the success of our projects. We had arranged for community members and Parks and Recreation Department staff to meet at the tennis courts. On the morning we woke up with butterflies in our stomachs. As much as we hoped that everyone would be there, we had our reservations. We were over the moon to find seven workers waiting eagerly. Soon after, Jeff Budaza from Parks and Recreation arrived. Finally the tennis courts were going to be fixed. We were impressed by the commitment and determination of the community to support this project and help improve their area, as well as by the municipality, who kept their promise.

It was also heartening to see community members, students and businesses uniting to fix the tornado-damaged houses.

A journalist should be someone who truly cares for their community, gives a voice to those who do not have the power to make their voices heard and be catalysts to affect change and create hope. This would not have been possible without the amazing, community however, who showed that they do still have hopes, dreams and the ability to turn disappointment into determination. This collaboration between government, citizens and journalists is what democracy should be about.

Active Voices

Gabi Falanga, Lynn Nowers, Lerusha Reddy and Lauren Roodt

The ball's in your court

GABI FALANGA & LYNN NOWERS

A gravelly patch behind the Albany Street recreation hall, covered in litter is what used to be two tennis courts. The courts aren't fenced and there are no nets or other equipment there. It's been about 18 years since the tennis courts have been useable.

Older residents have fond recollections of their younger days when they used to play tennis there. Marcelle Booysen, has lived in the area all her life and remembers playing tennis as a school girl, when there were many active tennis clubs.

About two years ago, the municipality and the community had made plans to repair the tennis courts, but these

fell through soon after work began. Since then, no further repair work has been done.

After speaking to both the community and to the Parks and Recreation Department, *Active Voices* found that both parties were willing to try again. In a collaborative effort, *Active Voices*, community members and Jeff Budaza from the Parks and Recreation Department, have pulled together and started putting fencing up around the courts on Tuesday, 12 October 2010.

Once the area is fenced in, the courts will be tarred and painted. Hopefully this will be something that will unify the community. Booysen says, "Sport is the one thing that keeps people together."



Mafuta Pieters, Hindrich Welcome, Elvis Roman, Chivarco Marthinus, Patrick Roman and Colin Botha are working on the renovation of the tennis court. Photo: Rachel Voigts



The outside of the Dakawa Centre welcomes visitors to the area with its bright murals. Photo: Caeri Dunnell

Down at the Dakawa Centre

GABI FALANGA

The Dakawa Centre used to be a dynamic arts and culture centre which provided poverty stricken locals with skills in textile, weaving, ceramics, sewing, silk screen printing, bead work and art. It was originally opened in Tanzania in 1982 for ANC exiles living there. The project, which was funded by the Swedish government, was relocated to Grahamstown in 1992. Today, the local community is frustrated by the doors that are mostly closed, the lack of activities taking

place there and a building that is suffering from continual vandalism. The centre manager, Ms Loyiso Mgoduka, says that running the centre has been a struggle because of lack of funding, but she still has big plans for the centre and remains positive. Since she started working there in 2007, Mgoduka has had the large hall repaired and a stage installed. The hall was used for a black rugby exhibition during heritage month in September. The centre is also used to train ballroom and Latin dancers, the Dakawa dance club prac-

tises there and a pantsula group make use of the facilities as well. Ex-convicts were trained to make pottery in the Dakawa Centre and this was sold during the National Arts Festival. Some of centre's main issues are that the textile printing and pottery equipment is mostly outdated or damaged and can therefore not be used to complete projects. There are major maintenance problems which need attention, such as leaking roofs, which causes enormous damage to floors and equipment. The outside of the buildings



Community members repaint the murals outside the Dakawa Centre. Photo: Gabi Falanga



Vandalised windows at the Dakawa Centre. Photo: Gabi Falanga



Remnants of the artwork once done at The Dakawa Centre. Photo: Gabi Falanga



Although the centre looks colourful and full of life, this is not the case on the inside where an old screen printer stands unused among other debris. Photo: Gabi Falanga

Bringing the noise back

GABI FALANGA

The youth in Ward 10 have spoken. They want to learn how to play musical instruments. The Dakawa Centre has a broken piano and a few other instruments, namely a drum kit, trumpets and guitars, most of which are in very bad condition. Dr Jeff Brukman from the Rhodes Music Department has expressed interest in helping with this project in 2011. He suggested that

music students can teach children the foundation they need in both theory and practical knowledge of music. He emphasised the importance of having a safe environment where the youth can be taught and where they can practise. Brukman also says, "These instruments are seen as a means for some type of emotional, creative outlet and advancement, which can lead later to some type of economic future in those children's lives." He encourages the local schools to get involved by donating unused instruments and helping with fundraising.

Active Voices is calling on the community to help bring the noise back to the Dakawa Centre by donating instruments, providing funding, helping to repair instruments or committing to teaching music in 2011. Contact Rachel Voigts on 072 4355967.



The cloakroom at the Oval that collapsed after the support beams and bricks were stolen. Photo: Rachel Voigts

When will the grass be green?

LYNN NOWERS

The Oval next to Grahamstown Primary School used to buzz with cricket, rugby and other sports. The deteriorating condition of the Oval is now a great concern for community members. The unevenness and bad state of the grass makes it nearly impossible for the local schools and clubs to practise on, and the community says it has been waiting for two years to have it fixed.

Kevin Bates, assistant director of the Parks and Recreation Department, says progress is being made in getting the Oval back to its best. An initiative by the National Treasury Department will see R5 million allocated to the area around Lavender Valley and the Oval in the next few months.

Advertising for a caretaker is going out now for the third time and Bates hopes someone from the community

will be appointed. After that it will be possible for the first of the funds to be released. "We don't want to do any more on the field until a caretaker has been found and the boundary wall has been secured," said Bates.

As the timeline (below) suggests, the field should be ready for matches by March next year. This will be too late for local rugby team, the Brumbies however, who are hosting the EP Super League early next year. Prominent community member, Marcelle Booysen, remains doubtful that promises to fix the Oval will be kept.

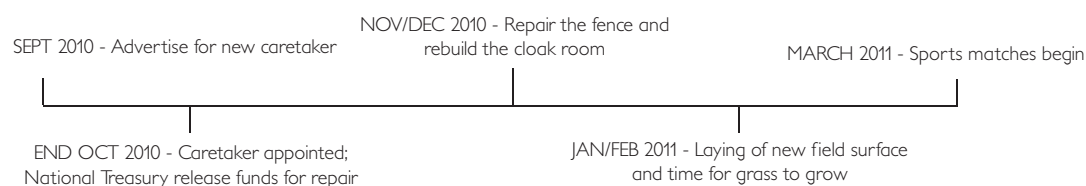
Vandalism is one of the main problems with maintaining the Oval, a frustration for both the community and the municipality. The caretaker's cottage was repaired after becoming dilapidated but because it wasn't fenced in it was soon vandalised again. The roof of the cloakroom has collapsed. The panels of the surrounding wall of the Oval

are continually smashed so people can use it as a short cut and avoid paying entrance fees to watch matches. This means cattle, goats and other animals get onto the grass and destroy it.

After the funds are made available by the National Treasury Department, the municipality will be reluctant to invest any more money in the Oval if vandalism continues. "There must be some sort of sense of ownership from the clubs as well. The municipality cannot maintain a facility by itself. The community has to play a part in looking after it," Bates said. Once the caretaker has been appointed and funds are made available, meetings will be held to inform the community of developments.

Headmaster of St Mary's School, Mr Abraham van Vught says, "Lots of people want to use the Oval. We need a roster and a caretaker for order. The Oval used to be beautiful."

Proposed development schedule for the Oval



Playing in desolate places

RACHEL VOIGTS

"The small kids in my community, they play in desolate places where there are faeces and bottles lying around," says Newton Jordaan (24).

As a resident in Ward 10, Newton has a clear insight into some of the issues in the area. He is a financial management student at MSC College and

considers his own life one of the success stories in his area.

Others are not so lucky. Newton thinks that this is a result of the lack of facilities and things for the youth to do. "The usual thing that they are saying to the kids of Mary Waters is 'you are not going to go to university. Your university is going to be Checkers and Pick n Pay and Shoprite. That's where you're going to end up. You're not going to get anything more than that'," Newton says.

As a result, there is a sense of hopelessness that grows as the youth get older. He believes the best way to combat this is by instilling the youth in the area with a sense of worth by giving them things to do. To do this, the run down facilities in the area need to be fixed and educational programmes and other activities need to be initiated.



Newton Jordaan (left) relaxes with his friends. Photo: Rachel Voigts

What we want to see in our community

CAERI DUNNELL

Active Voices asked the youth in Ward 10 what they thought about their community.



Glennelee Plaaitjes

"Everything is fine in this area, it is a nice place to live. I would like to see everyone help each other more though."



Roze Meddle

"The weather is good and all the people are nice and I like the swimming pool. I want a pool closer to my house though, that would be nice. One thing I would change is for people to stop drinking so much."



Eve Babu

"I like living here. It would be nice to play sports, like hockey and soccer."



Damyn Walton

"Everything is perfect, there is lots to do like sport, playing at the game arcade, visiting friends. The Oval is getting fixed, they must just fix the tennis court because no one uses it anymore."



Patricia Bouwer with her one-month-old baby, Rubiano. She lives alone with her three children in the house her deceased parents left her.
Photos: Caeri Dunnell

Living without a roof:
the legacy of the 2008 Tornado

REPORT BY CAERI DUNNELL AND SIZWE HLATSHWAYO



The municipality has provided black plastic sheeting, but it cannot withstand the strong winds, leaving Patricia's lounge and electricity meter open to the rain.



Thabang Tshale and Sizwe Hlatshwayo help unload the roof sheet donated by D&A Timbers.



Patricia's living room floor gets wet on a rainy day. It is hard to keep the house clean because it is so exposed to the weather.

It has been a long two years for Patricia Bouwer. Of the six houses in Wards 10 and 11 still damaged from the tornado in 2008, Patricia's is the worst affected. Most of her roof was blown off – the rest is covered with black sheets provided by the municipality. But the rain still gets in. "Sometimes the children get sick," says Patricia. "I worry about them living in the damp." She is currently unemployed as her youngest child needs looking after at home. Ward 11 councillor, Lena May, has been putting pressure on the municipality to fix the houses, but nothing has materialised. These residents have not benefited from the R10 million budget allocated to repairing the damage. The municipality was not interested in viewing and responding to journalism output produced by *Active Voices*. Patricia is not the only one affected. Her neighbour Nico Robert has a leaking roof and says he cannot sleep at night because the plastic sheeting flaps in the wind. Eumalda Hector lives up the road, and although her roof is intact, her ceiling is completely ruined. "I live with stress," she says. "When I'm in town and the clouds look like it's going to rain, I start to worry and try to get home to put the buckets out." The water leaks onto her bed and she has to rearrange the furniture when it rains. The municipality has promised these Ward 11 residents that their houses will be repaired. "We're not asking for a new roof," says Eumalda, "just that the damage be fixed."

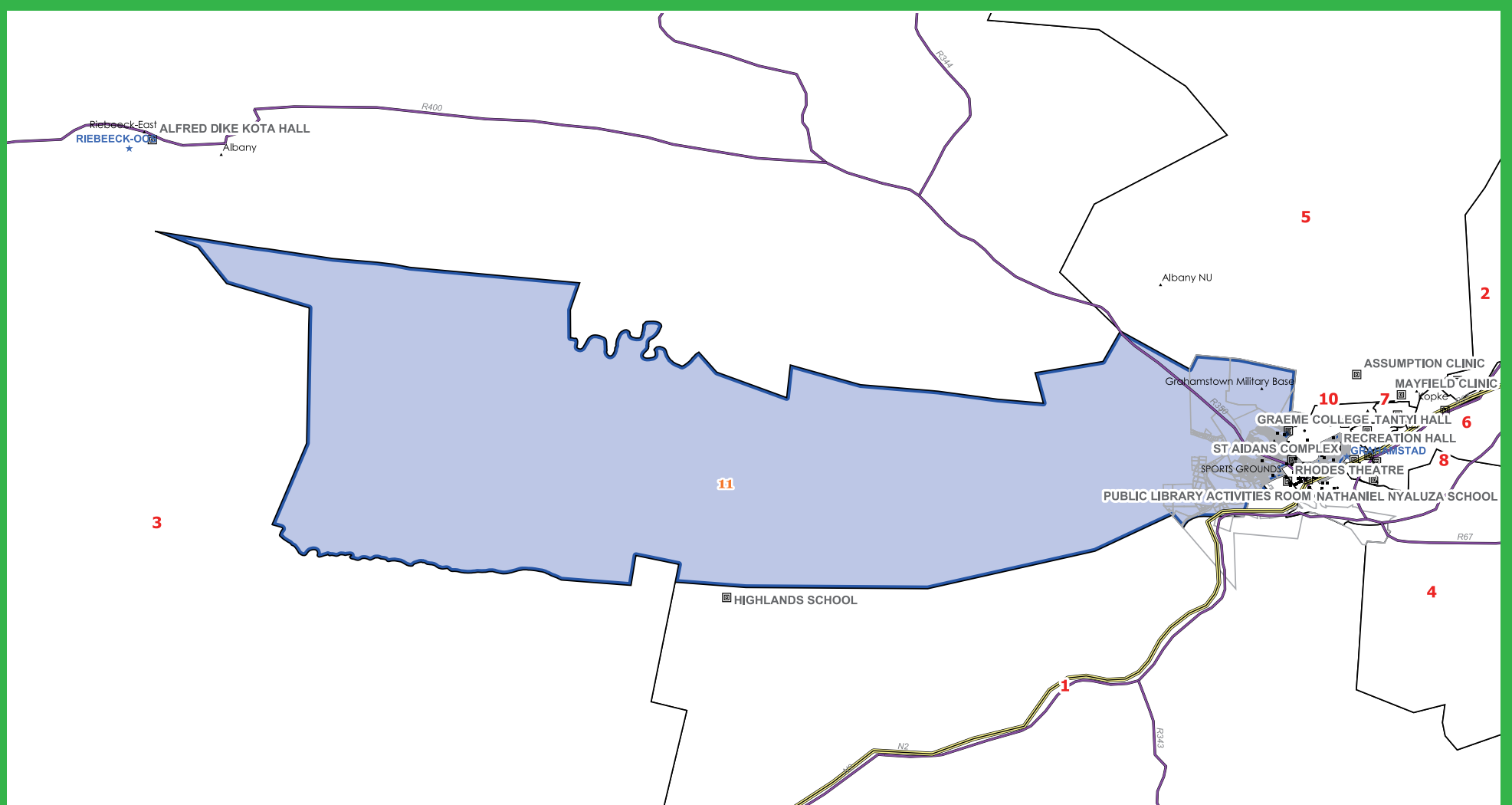
Active Voices is appealing to the community to help. It does not take much to restore these citizens' hope and dignity. D&A Timbers has donated one sheet of Big Six corrugated roofing material but Patricia needs eight more. If anyone can assist in any way, please contact Lena May (073 675 9143).

Wf ward focus

Taking a closer look at Makana Communities

WARD 11

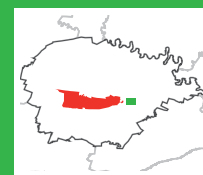
A group of *Grocott's Mail* journalists recently spent some time in Ward 11, getting to know some of the faces and places in the area. The journalists asked citizens about what life is like in their ward, including some of the challenges facing them. Over the page you will find some colourful 'hyperlocal' journalism on Ward 11. If you would like to get in touch with the journalists who put together these reports, please contact them via their blog: www.ward11makana.blogspot.com



The numbers in red represent the Ward number

▲ Placenames	○ Parent Farm	Total Voters :	43397
■ Places of Interest	○ Erf	Min :	3074
● Places of Worship	○ DMA	Norm :	3616
● Police Stations	○ Ward	Max :	4158
■ Voting Stations			

The green block in the map on the right represents Ward 6 which Rhodes University falls into, while the larger red area is Ward 11



11 OCTOBER 2005



Lena May

Makana Municipality
Ward 11 Councillor
DA Representative

Tel: 046 622 8751
Fax: 046 622 9700

CONNECTORS AND CATALYSTS:

Golf Club President:
Mr Les Reynolds
046 6361361

Director Community and Social Services:
Mandisi Plaga
046 603 6121

Director of District Office:
A T Setsha
046 603 3200



ARMY BASE... Members of the 6 SAI Battalion on parade. Civilians are permitted to watch this from a distance, in a demarcated area.
Photo: Dianne Jordan



RUBBISH DUMP... Plastic bags are strewn across the fence and surrounding areas near the Grahamstown rubbish dump.
Photo: Philisiwe Mbongwana



RIDING CLUB... The Grahamstown Riding Club is affected by the rubbish dump in Ward 11 because it damages the electric fencing and scares horses.
Photo: Philisiwe Mbongwana

Wf ward focus

ward 11

As journalists working for the public we asked the public what they wanted us to report on, and how our efforts could lead to some resolution. We discovered that the rubbish dump was one of the biggest problems in Ward 11. The dump affects business in the area: The Grahamstown Golf Club is greatly affected by the rubbish constantly blowing onto the otherwise pristine greens; the Riding Club is fighting to keep the rubbish and plastic at bay.

For years the issues around the local rubbish dump have been building up to a point where business owners and residents have nowhere to turn. We decided to focus our attention on these stories. We hope that by bringing these stories to light some change can be made.

Rubbish dump environmentally hazardous to Ward 11

TOM ESTEBAN AND PHETANE
RAPETSWANE

The industrial area of Grahamstown in Ward 11 is filled with a colourful array of plastic bags on thorn bushes, card boxes on pavements and waste on the dusty roads.

All the litter comes from the Grahamstown dump. The rubbish is stored in a deep cavity inside the rubbish dump, and is fortified by fences around the site and by the main road. Just one gust of wind causes mayhem in the industrial area.

Adversely affected by the litter that blows from the rubbish dump are the Grahamstown Horse Riding Club and the Golf Course.

Esme Bazola, the general manager of the golf course, says that she is forced to hire people to collect the rubbish at least twice a month so that the course is in an acceptable condition. Workers often fill 12 black bin-bags full of rubbish. "If I didn't hire people to clean up the mess, I would be affected," she says. "Who wants to enjoy an afternoon of golf among rubbish?"

Bazola says that the Municipality should take the initiative to hire workers to collect the rubbish that blows onto the course from the dump. "I have phoned the Municipality several times," she says, "but I never get through to anybody so nobody even hears my

complaints – never mind responding to my complaints." Our own attempts at contacting the Municipality have proved fruitless.

The poor waste management also raises hygiene concerns for areas surrounding the rubbish dump. Basola said, "The wind doesn't only blow the plastics here, it also blows the flies here, you don't want to come here in summer."

A simple solution suggested by Bazola is containing the rubbish in the site effectively, and installing containers for certain types of rubbish in the hopes that recycling efforts are more efficient.

The Horse Riding Club is also not immune to external damages caused by the dump site. Grahamstown Riding Committee member Adrienne Plaskett said the plastics damage the electric fence, and increase the club's susceptibility to crime.

It is also dangerous to both the animals and riders. "Horses are very spooky animals, and when plastics are flying around at 100km/h I can assure you it is not very fun." The Riding Club, however, does receive assistance from the municipality to clean the litter, Plaskett said. "The Municipality is quite good about getting people to clean the outside of the premises, but inside the premises we have to clean up ourselves."



Plastic packets adorn the fence surrounding the dump – poor containment has the rubbish constantly blowing from the dump into surrounding areas. Photo: Philisiwe Mbongwana



People scavenging through the unsorted rubbish looking for useful waste. Photo: Philisiwe Mbongwana



Esme Bazola, general manager of the Grahamstown Golf Club, suggests recycling bins for different types of waste. Photo: Philisiwe Mbongwana



Plastic packets scare horses, endangering riders and threaten surrounding wildlife. Photo: Philisiwe Mbongwana



Zisiwe Gabangxana helps out at Masihlule, but she believes the municipality needs to put in more effort.

Photo: Philisiwe Mbongwana

'Municipality can do better'

TOM ESTEBAN

A local recycling business headed by Angie Thomson of the Integrated Waste and Recycling Service has been collecting rubbish from the outskirts of Grahamstown's local dump, aiming to clean up the surrounding area while at the same time recycle what they have collected. She says that businesses in surrounding areas should contact Masihlule if they are having problems with rubbish being blown onto their premises.

Thomson stressed that although Makana Municipality is not directly involved with the project, she believes they are doing a good job with general waste management.

Zisiwe Gabangxana started working for Masihlule in February, collecting cardboard, plastic and various bottles for recycling. Once she has collected the rubbish, it is sent to Port Elizabeth for recycling. "I think the Municipality can do better," she says. "The environment here is not clean, we

need more people to collect more plastic." Makana Municipality, however, has no direct involvement with the recycling business, despite the desperate need for more people to be involved.

Zisiwe explained that she was trying her best to collect the rubbish, but the Municipality needs to help by supplying workers and containing the rubbish that is already in the dump. Zisiwe also felt that if it wasn't for Masihlule, the situation in the dump would be much worse.

Six years in the making

OPINION: TOM ESTEBAN

Despite various local initiatives, as a community we have yet to see government officials take a stand on the issue of waste containment. Attempts to highlight waste management issues have been met with hostility by Makana officials and contacting the Makana Municipality Environmental Manager has proved fruitless.

It's been six years since the Makana Municipality Environmental Report proposed action regarding the poor fencing and containment in the dumping site. Despite the guidelines as set out in the Action Plan, there have been no improvements on fencing or containment at the dumping site since it was recognised as a problem. Grahamstown's municipal landfill site is

registered with the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry as a medium sized 'general' site, meaning it is only licensed to handle general rubbish. Situated at a defunct quarry in the northwest of Grahamstown, the site seems to have no immediate regulatory system in place, despite the 2004 report claiming that "adequate cover is reportedly available".

Poor fencing and containment of the rubbish is not only environmentally irresponsible, but it also affects local businesses and surrounding wildlife. Despite the 2004 report calling for 'better site management' after discussing the fencing and containment problem, the Grahamstown landfill site has yet to be covered.

The 1999 National Waste Management Strategy listed "di-

rect and visible reduction in the impact of waste in public health and the environment' as a highly relevant issue within waste management in South Africa. This issue reiterates Section 24 of the Constitution which calls for a protected environment with a clear focus on pollution prevention and ecological degradation.

Despite the local and national call for environmental protection, Grahamstown's municipal landfill has yet to see simple containment efforts. If government officials are hostile and apathetic towards their own declarations, it is up to the Grahamstown community to ask more questions and force the government to take action.

Grahamstown Landfill Site

Grahamstown Municipal Landfill site is classified as G: M: B+ meaning that it is permitted to handle General waste; is of Medium size and has significant leachate (runoff) production. Landfill operation must comply with minimum requirements as stipulated by DWAF. The landfill site is situated in an old kassia quarry northwest of Grahamstown and has approximate lifespan of another 50 years at current disposal rates. For the year 2002 to 2003, 25 180 m³ of domestic refuse, 38 580 m³ of garden refuse and 6190 m³ of building rubble was dumped. Adequate cover material is available. The site has a leachate containment pond which is used to spray the landfill site to suppress dust. There are a number of issues surrounding the operation of the landfill site which are of key concern:

- There is no access control to the site which means that there is no control of what is dumped at the site. This results in the uncontrolled dumping of putrescible (degradable matter other than garden refuse) and other hazardous waste to the knowledge or control of the site operator. This may also lead to unauthorised access to the site by scavengers and other persons.
- Determine at this stage whether culls are being constructed according to the guidelines. There is also a family living on the dump site which is a cause for concern due to health conditions of this environment. Poor or insufficient fencing results in significant amounts of windblown refuse littering surrounding sites. As yet this issue has not been raised by local landowners or businesses. No formal on-site salvagers operate although informal 'picking' does occur and is discouraged by site operators and Makana Municipality.
- There is no evidence of the methane gas recovery project which was started by Dr. la Trobe in 1990. This project consisted of a system of pipes to collect from the dump feeding a modified motor vehicle engine. This engine was attached to a generator for electricity. The revival of this project could be linked to carbon credit system of the Kyoto protocol. Further details of this will be expanded upon later, should a project of this nature be considered. Note that stricter management of landfill site cell construction and closure will have to take place for a gas recovery scheme to be successful.

28

Poor or insufficient fencing

results in significant amounts of windblown refuse littering surrounding sites. As

An extract from the Makana Municipality Local Environment Action Plan, submitted 15 May 2004.

Rubbish dump: a source of jobs for community recyclers

PHETANE RAPETSWANE

The rubbish dump is a place that offers more than just a place for Grahamstown to dispose of its junk. For many it offers a livelihood, in the form of scavenging for recyclable goods to trade, or anything that can be found and used in their households. People on the dump site have been surviving for many years off the precious few scrap tin cans and other recyclable goods they could find.

The Integrated Waste and Recycling Services (IWARS) have taken cognisance of the potential livelihood that the rubbish dump can provide and have, out of the chaos and squalor that is the dump site, seen opportunity. IWARS is an initiative that incorporates education, awareness programs, skills development and correct implementation of collection and separation methods.

The much-talked-about Masihlule Recycling Projects at the

rubbish dump is one of the businesses from the Eastern Cape to benefit from the initiative set up by the IWARS. IWARS provided the infrastructure for Masihlule to collect, cardboard boxes, paper and plastic, and glass which they neatly collected and packaged for delivery to the Port Elizabeth. Mandise Planga, director of Community Services in Makana said, "It is important to empower the informal sector by creating jobs for the many unskilled people living in our communities."

Masihlule Recycling Projects is supported by the municipality in its efforts. They support Masihlule by paying for water and electricity of the small structure on the dump site. Makana Glass & Bottle Recyclers are responsible for recycling all glass bottles. On average Masihlule will churn out three enormous sacks of shredded plastic, and crushed glass a day.

More Information can be found about IWARS on: <http://www.iwars.co.za/news.htm>



A Masihlule worker collecting bottles for recycling. Photo: Philisiwe Mbongwana



Plastic bags collected at the dump for shredding. Photo: Philisiwe Mbongwana



Recycling initiatives are funded by Integrated Waste and Recycling Services (IWARS). Photo: Philisiwe Mbongwana

Who can you contact?

Makana Environmental Manager

Ndumiso Nongwe
nongwe@makana.gov.za
046 603 6056

Rhodes SRC Environmental Representative
Kiarin Gillies

srcenvironmental@ru.ac.za

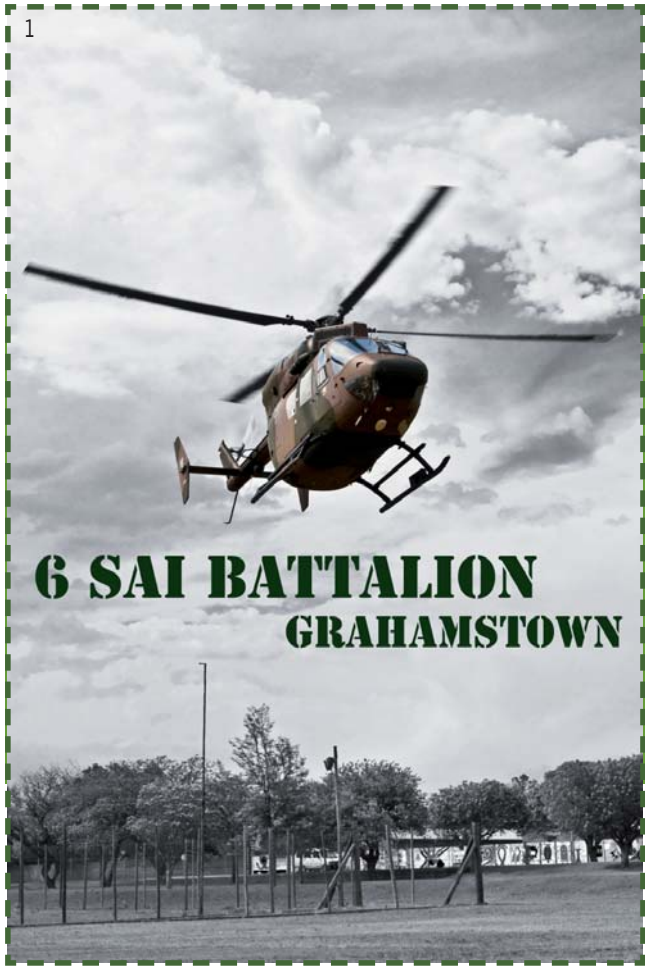
Integrated Waste and Recycling Services
info@iwars.co.za
046 622 8582

Centre for Social Development
csd@ru.ac.za
046 603 8573

THE ARMY BUBBLE:

Many residents do not know that there is an army base in Grahamstown. However, on the top of the hill, driving away from Grahamstown for five minutes on the Cradock road, you will find 6 SAI Battalion. 6 SAI is essentially a community of its own. It is a fully self-sufficient base that provides many services for people living there, from mental and physical health to having their own filling station for army vehicles. 6 SAI wishes to change the perception of being somewhat separate from the greater Grahamstown community by engaging in a variety of activities with Grahamstown schools, institutions and organisations.

Photos: Dianne Jordan



6 SAI Battalion, Grahamstown's very own army base, is situated next to the Golf course. 6 SAI is a fully functioning base and is known to have the best artillery unit in the world.



Army bases all over South Africa aim to be self-sufficient. For instance, 6 SAI Battalion has its own hospital, petrol station and fire department.



ABOVE AND BELOW... A sequence out of the parade at 6 SAI Battalion. Civilians are permitted to watch this from a distance, in a demarcated area.



The army is known to have strict guidelines and protocols. One is the well rehearsed sequence of putting up and taking down of the flags outside the headquarters of the 6 SAI base.



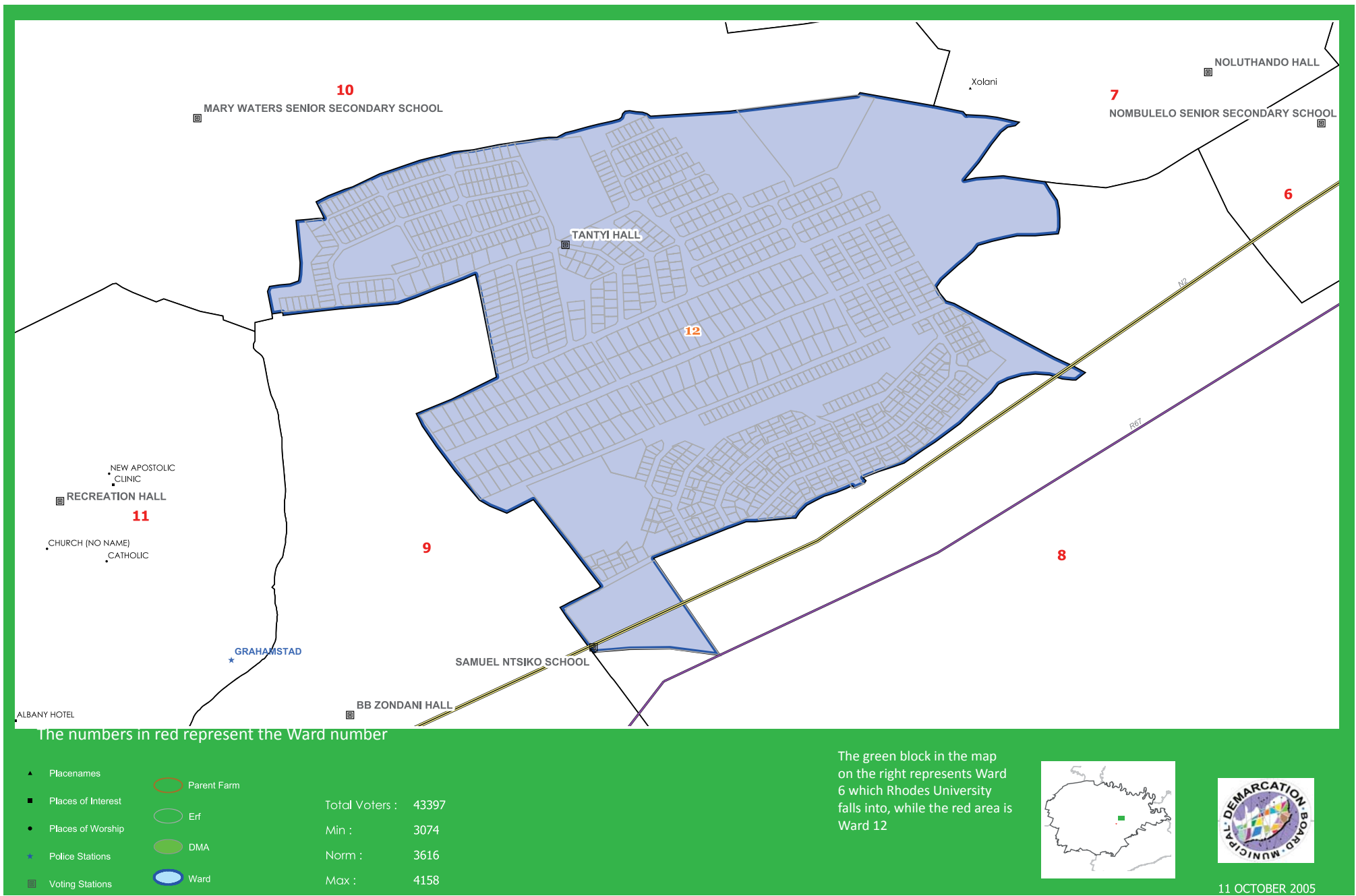
Soldiers in the army have a different way of greeting compared to civilians. Soldiers are required to salute others, especially those with a higher rank, by stamping the ground and saluting.

Wf ward focus

Taking a closer look at Makana Communities

WARD 12

A group of *Grocott's Mail* journalists recently spent some time in Ward 12, getting to know some of the faces and places in the area. The journalists asked citizens about what life is like in their ward, including some of the challenges facing them. Over the page you will find some colourful 'hyperlocal' journalism on Ward 12. If you would like to get in touch with the journalists who put together these reports, please contact them on: www.ward12makana.blogspot.com



Ntsikelelo Stamper

Makana Municipality Ward 12 Councillor

046 603 6225

CONNECTORS AND CATALYSTS AND CITIZEN JOURNALISTS

1. **Mziyanda Bulani**
Citizen Journalist
0783021907

A public meeting held at Tanty Hall on September 8 revealed that this community have the following issues:

- RDP houses are being promised to community members but the municipality are failing to deliver on their premises. RDP houses are falling apart and community members do not have the resources to fix them.
- There is a lack of adequate health and sanitation facilities in this community. Residents have to use the bucket system which should have been eradicated years ago.
- Residents worry about unemployment. They feel that they do not have adequate skills to find employment. Outside contractors do not employ locals and the youth are turning to crime in order to support themselves.
- The level of education is poor and the community are concerned about the future of their children. The lack of teachers and working facilities has meant that learners are unable to continue onto higher levels of education.
- The community feels unsafe in ward 12. They also feel that the police fail to react to crime in the area and experience racism from policemen.
- Accountability is very important to this community and they would like to have government institutions take responsibility for service delivery.
- They feel isolated from institutions like Rhodes University and feel that the university should be doing more for the community.
- There is no electricity in the informal settlement of Zolani. The settlement has been in existence for 20 years.
- Local entrepreneurs are not receiving enough help from the government when embarking on developmental projects.
- There is a lack of exposure of the community's problems in local publications.

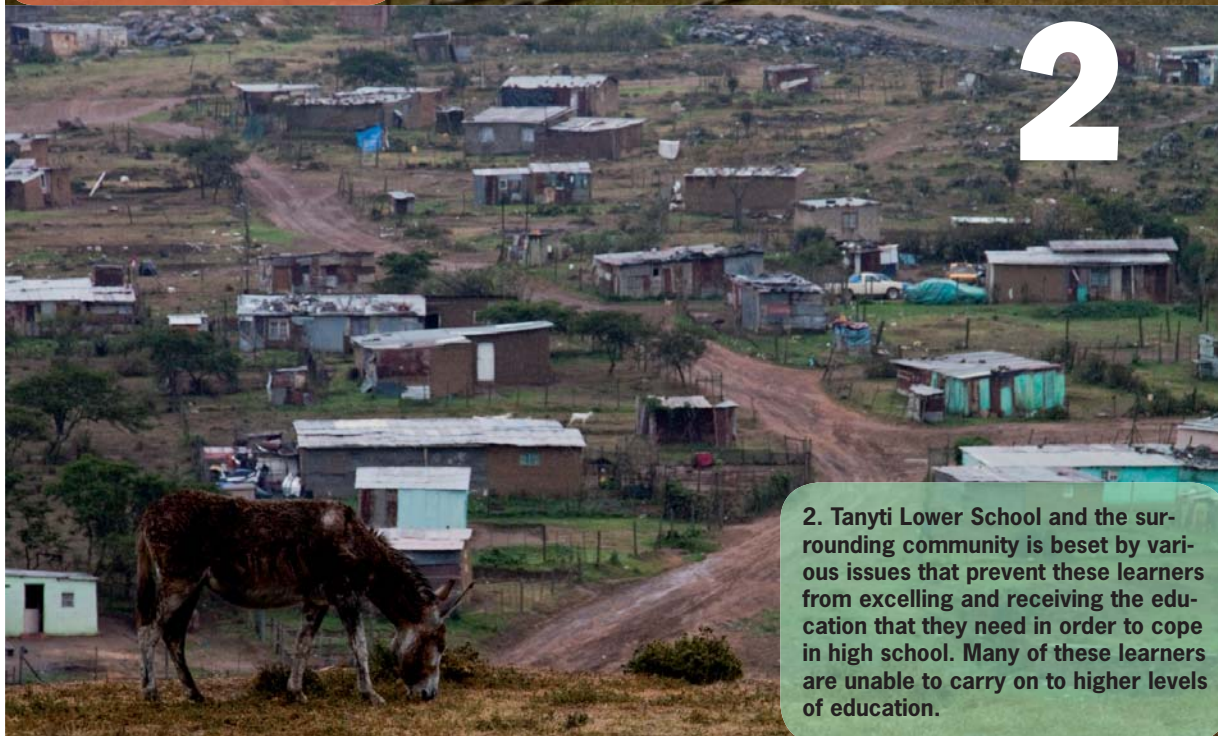
Wf ward focus ward 12

Grocott's Mail journalists spent some time in Ward 12, an impoverished township community on the outskirts of Grahamstown. We encouraged community members to voice their issues and concerns, giving them the chance to be heard. This community is passionate about education and want their children to have the best opportunities for the future. We follow the plight of Tanti Lower primary as it battles through obstacles that stand in the way of achieving brilliance. Another sensitive community issue is the bucket system. Siziwe Keswa invited us into her life for a day. The journey, which lasted for a day exposed us to the challenges the residents of Zolani, Squatters Camp in Tanti (Ward 12). Siziwe is one of the residents of Tanti who have been waiting for the government to build houses for them. The lack of housing has slowed down the construction of toilets. It is only when houses have been built that the government will consider eradicating the bucket system.

Tanti Lower: A Battle for Brilliance

We follow the plight of the school as it struggles to provide learners with an education for tomorrow.

1. Tanti Lower School is situated in the heart of the Tanti area in ward 12, an impoverished township community. There are approximately 350 children who attend this school.



2. Tanti Lower School and the surrounding community is beset by various issues that prevent these learners from excelling and receiving the education that they need in order to cope in high school. Many of these learners are unable to carry on to higher levels of education.



3. In the past, children from the surrounding area who used to play on the school grounds after hours were victims of rape and sodomy. This has perpetuated the rising rate of HIV/AIDS infection in the community.

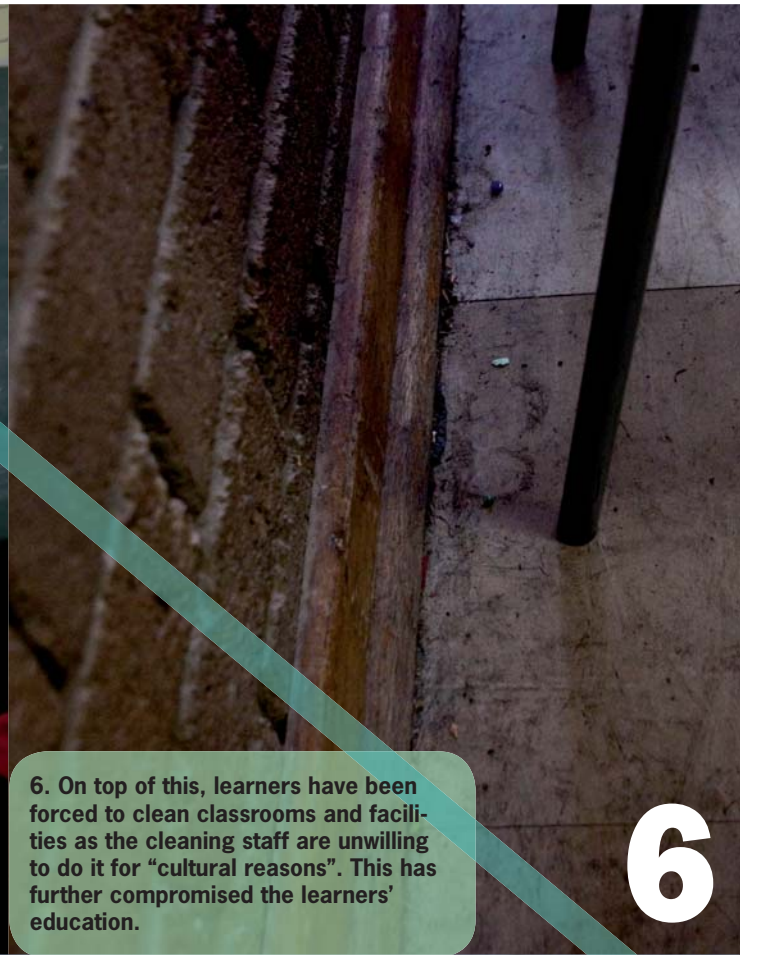


4. One of the biggest concerns for Tanti Lower is the lack of adequate security facilities during teaching hours. Although a security guard is stationed at the entrance of the school from 6pm to 6am, anyone is free to wander through the property while the children attend school.



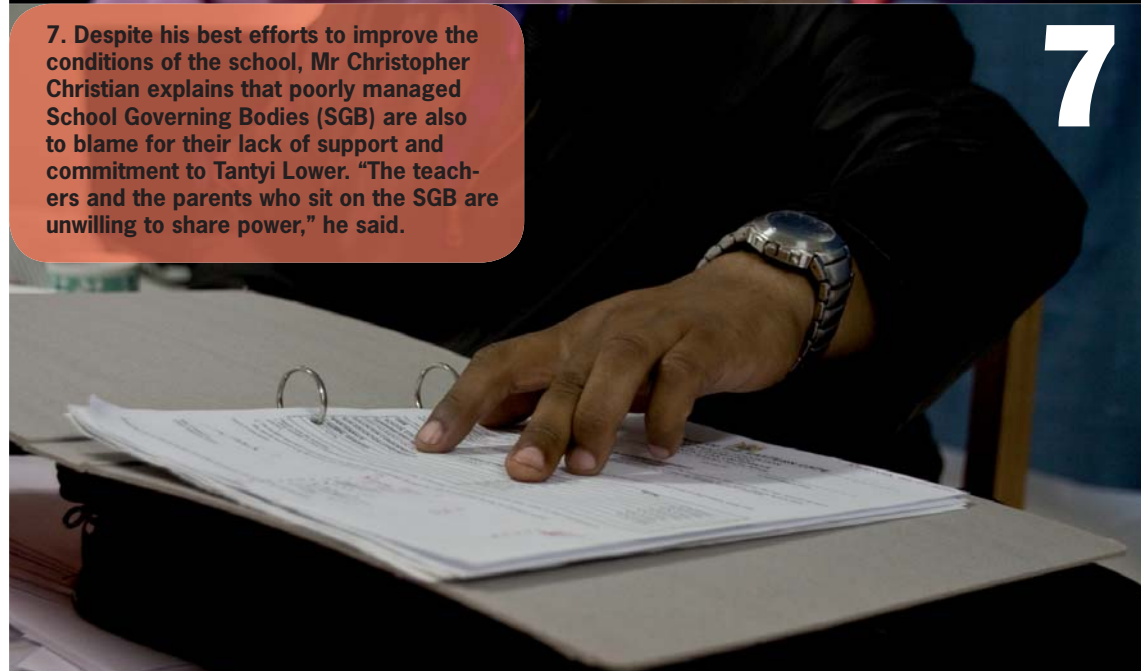
5. The load that the educators have to carry is becoming heavier each year and as a result, the curriculum is becoming impossible to manage. Learners are not taught the whole day due to the fact that there are not enough educators available or qualified to teach.

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6. On top of this, learners have been forced to clean classrooms and facilities as the cleaning staff are unwilling to do it for "cultural reasons". This has further compromised the learners' education.

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7. Despite his best efforts to improve the conditions of the school, Mr Christopher Christian explains that poorly managed School Governing Bodies (SGB) are also to blame for their lack of support and commitment to Tentyi Lower. "The teachers and the parents who sit on the SGB are unwilling to share power," he said.

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8. Christian also experiences racial tension at the school. "In my situation I am the only coloured person within the black community and when I want to do something to uplift the standards of the school, no one is willing to cooperate," he explains.

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9. Sadly, Christian does not believe that there is any hope for these learners if no real change occurs. "To me, we already have a lost generation," he says.



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10. "There are some very, very talented children at this school. My only worry is whether they will be given a chance to get somewhere in life," says Christian.

11. Christian blames the Department of Education for their inability to provide the necessary support that he needs to run a functional school.

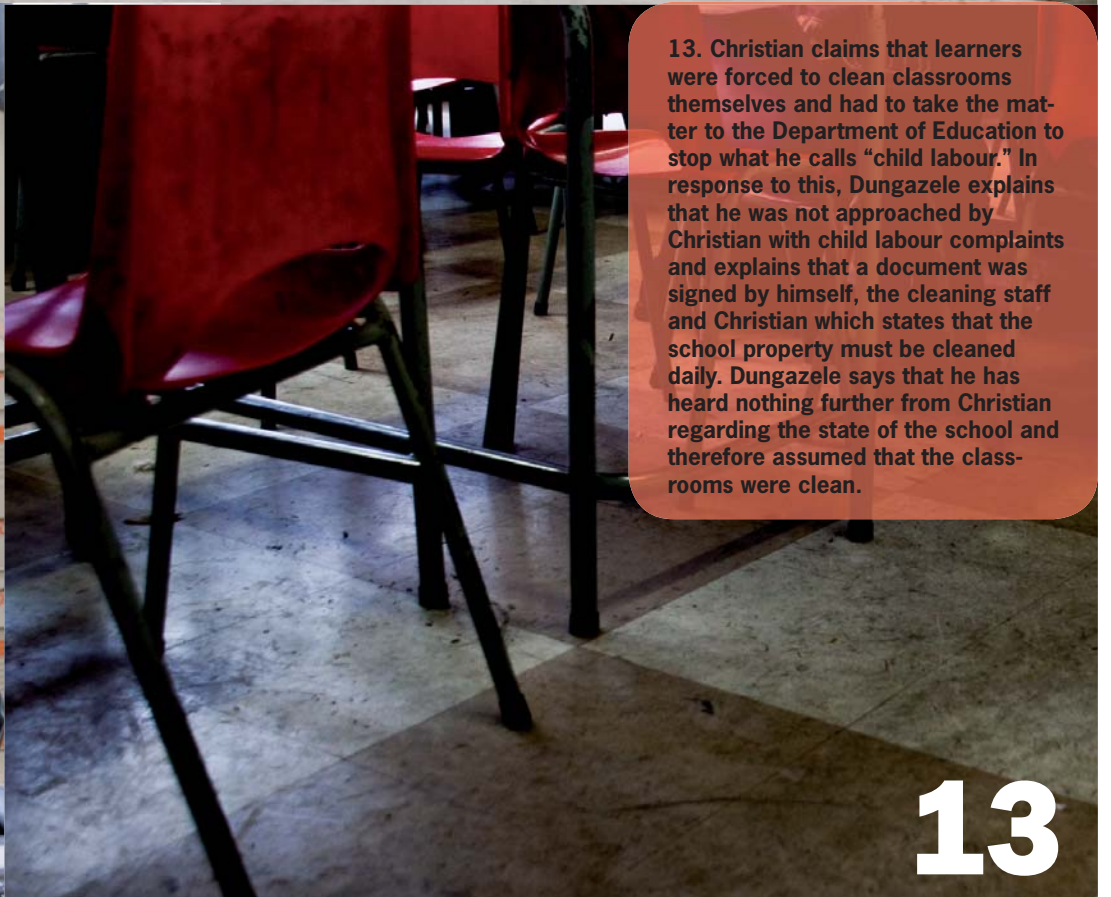


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12. Mr Dungazele, district official from the Education Department has been personally responsible for Tanti Lower since February this year. He was more than willing to address some of the claims that Christian has made.



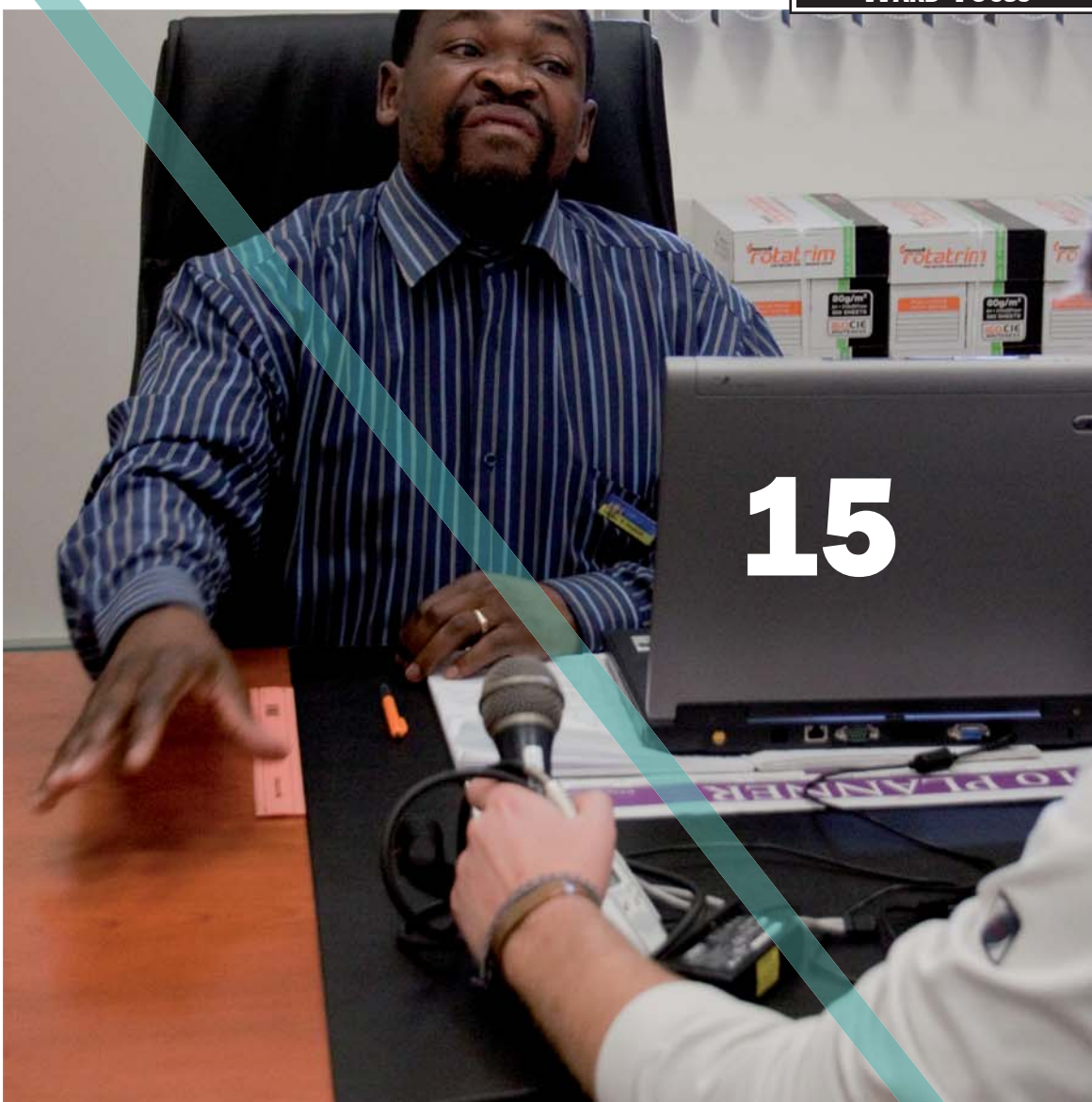
13. Christian claims that learners were forced to clean classrooms themselves and had to take the matter to the Department of Education to stop what he calls "child labour." In response to this, Dungazele explains that he was not approached by Christian with child labour complaints and explains that a document was signed by himself, the cleaning staff and Christian which states that the school property must be cleaned daily. Dungazele says that he has heard nothing further from Christian regarding the state of the school and therefore assumed that the classrooms were clean.

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14. There is a lack of teaching staff at Tanti Lower. However, Dungazele explains that the unbearable load that teachers have to carry is a result of school administrative staff not filling out the necessary paperwork. Dungazele gives an example of a teacher who took ill from February this year and has still not returned to work. Although this teacher had a medical certificate, the school neglected to fill out the necessary forms which can secure a substitute teacher for the school. "I am not saying that the school is to blame for this, but they are neglecting their duty which makes it difficult for me to do mine," explains Dungazele.



ABOVE: 15 .Dungazele agrees that the School Governing Body of Tanti Lower is an area of deep concern. "Parents who are voted into the body every three years fail to take responsibility and carry out their duties. Parents are co-opting all the time," says Dungazele. "If a member of the body decides to co-opt then there has to be by-elections to secure a new member," explains Dungazele. The Education Department struggles to get a hold on the situation because new members are leaving and joining at random. "There needs to be stronger communication between the School Governing Body and the district office," says Dungazele.

When asked about Christian's experience of racism from teachers, community members and the district office, Dungazele feels that claims of this nature only add to the many issues that Tanti Lower face. "There is no room for racial discussions in the new Constitution," says Dungazele. "It is unfortunate that Christian has this perception but I can't believe it in the new South Africa," he adds.

BELOW: 17. In conclusion, Dungazele feels that there is hope for Tanti. "We have appointed task teams to work closely with the school and there will be a reconfiguration of School Governing Body members," says Dungazele. In response to Christian, Dungazele says that the principal must put aside his perception racial tension. "Tanti is controlled in this office, but they are running through my fingers," says Dungazele.



16. Christian claims that the lack of security at the school has increased the learner's exposure to violent crime. He said that a few years ago, learners who played on the school grounds after hours were raped and sodomised. In response to this, Dungazele explains that he never heard about any incidences of sodomy or rape while he has been working with the school. "I will not deny that something like that occurred but I was never told about this in my interactions with Christian," Dungazele says. "I feel that the situation is being exaggerated," he says.