

# UKUWELA IINDABA QUARTERLY IMPACT JUNE 2025

It's the middle of the middle of the year and here at Ukuwela we are keeping it light! Here's a quick work joke to get us started:

I asked if I could leave early the other day, and the boss said, 'yes, if I made up the time.' I said, 'sure, it's twenty past fourteen.'

Seriously, our Ukuwela candidates are literally making up time! Justin Barnard received his Vasbyt Award on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2025 marking his one-year employment anniversary at Hartenbos Pick and Pay. Manager Heinrich was there to do the honors, and we cannot be prouder of this magnificent team! Justin enjoys his job, works hard, never misses work and boasts a whole new vocabulary consisting of store products!



**ABOVE: JUSTIN (LEFT) WITH MANAGER HEINRICH, FROM HARTENBOS PICK AND PAY, ENJOYING THE MOMENT. UKUWELA IS PROUD OF YOU, JUSTIN!**

We're not just making up time, we are also making the most of our time! Chef Lianda from NQtac Hospitality Training presented a fantastic course for our learners focusing on basic kitchen hygiene, knife skills, laying a table and serving food. The training culminated in a practical session where our chef team prepared soup and our serving team laid the table and served our esteemed guests. Our learners did it all, worked with chef knives, polished glasses until they shone, poured drinks, pureed soup and all of it done with enthusiastic smiles!



**ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT: PREPPING VEGETABLES, LAYING THE TABLE TO PERFECTION AND SERVING WITH STYLE!**

Big congratulations to two of our senior learners, Keagan Prins and Othandwayo Baadjie, for completing their Barista training under the guidance of Rudy de Bruyn of Ciro's. Their training concluded with a practical session where learners served guests with the coffee order of their choice! Thank you, Rudy for always showing up for our learners over so many years in so many ways!

Our senior learners made up their hours putting theory into practice when the boys participated in work exposure at Protea Hotel by Marriott King George and our senior girls worked in the kitchen at Geronimo Spur. It was a wonderful experience for our learners to gain exposure and experience in the hospitality industry. Special thanks to Elgin and Anwin from Protea Hotel King George who added the personal touch when they visited the school to hand over certificates and inspired our learners with the positive accounts of three Ukuwela candidates who are working at the hotel!



**ABOVE LEFT: CARPE DIEM GIRLS HARD AT WORK IN THE KITCHEN AT GERONIMO SPUR**  
**ABOVE RIGHT: OLD BOY BRADLEY SHOWING THE ROPES ON POOL MAINTENANCE AT PROTEA HOTEL KING GEORGE**

Ukuwela believes in being solution-driven and finding new answers for old problems. With job opportunities being few and far between Ukuwela has invested in paid work experience where Ukuwela candidates get the opportunity to work at a host employer, with the funding sourced by Ukuwela. Ukuwela candidate, Teghan Maralack, started as intern at Carpe Diem School providing support to the pottery division of the school where she is a shining star!

Magic can happen when people make the time to listen to other's stories. A very big thank you to Lee-Anne Meyring, Acting Director of Community Safety and Mobility, who listened to Tywineesha's story and, in collaboration with the George Municipality, created an internship opportunity for her at the George Motor Vehicle Registration Office. Thank you to the team at George Licence Office (as we know them) for being so accommodating, welcoming and inclusive! Tywineesha is growing in knowledge, skills and confidence and enjoys every minute of her job!





**ABOVE LEFT: TALENTED TEGHAN IS ALL SMILES WHEN SHE IS SURROUNDED BY POTTERY. ABOVE RIGHT: TYWINEESHA WITH SAMANTHA (WHO PUTS THE SUPER IN 'SUPER'VISOR!)**

Ukuwela is pleased to report that our first candidate who participated in a paid work experience opportunity was offered an extension of her contract with the funding taken over by the host employer. Congratulations to Andisiwe Mbexa and thank you to Mungo for your support and investment in our candidates. We are proud to share an excerpt from an email received from Melissa (Mungo HR and Payroll), who reported that Andisiwe '... is a very keen learner, and her work ethic has been exemplary – she is always willing to help wherever she can and always goes that extra mile.' Keep up the good work, Andisiwe!

Not only can magic happen when we listen to each other's stories, but dreams can come true. The lovely people from Boshoff Visser heard that Ukuwela candidate and Boshoff Visser employee, Anthea Human, dreams of starting a needlework and craft business. The Ukusa Trust sponsored a sewing machine and overlocker to get her started. In Anthea's own words: 'A dream came true today!'. May your dreams take flight, Anthea!



**ABOVE RIGHT: ANTHEA AND CHRISTIAAN SHARING THAT MAGICAL MOMENT WHEN A DREAM BECOMES REALITY**

One of Ukuwela's longstanding items on our wish list finally came true when the talented Christa from Candlelight websites created our very own and brand-new website! Visit us on <https://ukuwela.co.za> to share in the magic of our learners!

None of this would be possible without the support of our facilitators (that's you Des and Asi), our parents, the school and the donors who support us. Thank you for making it count for our learners and making our learners count!

Keep it light and bright!

*The Ukuwela Team*