

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Martin Luther King Jnr

AA

That is what this term was all about. In the world of Ukuwela, AA is short for **Advocacy Activities**. Together with our candidates, learners and educators we spread the word about the needs, abilities and achievements of young people with disabilities. Early in the term we kicked off with an exhibition which we coined 'Make the Transition Possible'. The day was all about getting community resources in the room to showcase the support services they offer particularly to our school leavers with disabilities.

Suzanne Stark, Ukuwela project lead, presented a disability awareness session to the staff at Lancewood in George. The focus was on 'invisible disabilities' and staff got the chance to experience what it could feel like to live with an 'invisible' disability. We're in the game of busting myths about the stereotypes of people with disabilities in the workplace and couldn't be happier to share the successes of our working candidates!



THE LANCEWOOD HR TEAM WITH SUZANNE (SECOND FROM LEFT)

The annual Carpe Diem Umbulelo breakfast held on the 9th of September was the perfect opportunity to showcase the abilities of our learners who graced guests with their talents singing, dancing and reciting. The breakfast is Carpe Diem and Ukuwela's way of saying thank you to those who support us. We were so privileged to have the passionate people of the George Herald attend and feature Ukuwela and its candidates in a printed article on the 17th of September!

Advocacy is contagious and what a wonderful thing that is! Ukuwela received a visit from Injini who explored the needs of young people with disabilities and the support they require. It was more than a visit, their talented tech team developed a great, high quality video of Ukuwela which we believe will go a long way towards advocating the vocational needs of people with disabilities. Have a look at the video by clicking [here](#).

WE

We're staying with the acronyms! Ukuwela remains dedicated to developing the work skills of our learners. This term's **Work Exposure** took our senior girls to Geronimo Spur where they portioned, sliced, diced and helped with food preparation in the kitchen. Spur really has a taste for life and treated every learner to a delicious Spur burger!

Our senior boys got the chance to put their culinary and domestic skills to use in the kitchen at Protea Hotel by Marriott King George. Doing dishes, preparing food, clearing tables, surface cleaning, even making sauce were no problems for these handy boys!



WHEN HOSPITALITY SKILLS HIT HOME! WORK EXPOSURE THIS TERM AT GERONIMO SPUR (LEFT) AND PROTEA HOTEL KING GEORGE (RIGHT)

EMPLOYMENT

No acronym is needed for our favourite activity: Employment!

Jadon Remas started his employment journey at Kloppers on the 2nd of July where he is working in the storeroom. We are grateful towards Mr Klopper, the two Heins and Sazi for backing this opportunity.

Sinokuhle Halam also started her first job in the kitchen at the The Haven, Blue Mountain Retirement Community, on the 22nd of July. Thank you to Christo, Rina and the team who support Sinokuhle. Ukuwela team members, Desiree van der Vyver and Asisipho Ndzoto deserve more than just a mention for supporting both candidates to make a start.



JADON (LEFT) LOOKING GOOD AT KLOPPERS, SINOKUHLE (RIGHT) WITH A SMILE AT THE HAVEN AND INTRODUCING KEAGAN (BELOW) AT THE WHITE PEACOCK STUDIO

But wait, there's more! And a whole lot of it. Keagan Prins made his debut at the White Peacock Studio where he is participating in an internship learning more about the world of dance, drama and theatre. This boy from Albertinia is going places! We love the post owner Quinton made to introduce Keagan to the studio!

A big thank you to the Garden Route District Municipality who fund these opportunities through their Work Integrated Learning program.



THE FULL CIRCLE

Skills training came full circle for Shevone, Angie and Abigail who received their certificates after completing a 6-session Foundation Barista Course presented by Root Coffee.



CONGRATULATIONS TO SHAVONE, ANGIE AND ABI FOR COMPLETING THEIR BARISTA TRAINING

Another Ukuwela candidate who completed the full circle is Anthea Human who, with the support of Desiree, has joined the Association for Persons with Disabilities (APD) in Groot Brak to support her with needlework projects. We are so grateful that Anthea has a place where she feels she belongs, people who support and guide her, the opportunity to develop her skills and doing what she loves. What a gamechanger local support can be! Thank you to the Ukusa Trust for supporting Anthea's project.

This term Dimitri Vaaltyn received the prestigious Vasbyt Award for completing his first year of work at Aloe Restaurant and Deli/Engen Albertinia. Thank you to Eileen and her team of exceptional ladies for giving him a chance and investing so much care and support!



RIGHT: DIMITRI AND EILEEN. CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR VASBYT AWARD!

Ukuwela loves sharing what we have learned and a recent presentation to therapists of the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) took us on a journey which started back in 2023 when Alexander Africa was placed at Pathcare. We checked in on him and his supervisor for feedback. It turns out the 'guy is going great' (to use his father's words). Three years down the line, wearing his lab coat, doing his work and making us so proud!



ALEX IN HIS OFFICE AT PATHCARE. LEGEND.

We are so happy to have so much to share with you! And we should not stay silent, because what we have to say matters. And it can change lives.

Yours in advocacy,

The Ukuwela Team



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