

Start-up with SocioNext

Running from 28 February to 4 March at the Unit 6 Community Hall, SOCIONEXT will deliver their highly interactive hands-on training in social innovation, entrepreneurship skills development and rapid prototyping. The SOCIONEXT methodology works. A survey of previous participants showed that 49% are still active in business, 11% in the businesses created during the workshop, 38% in other businesses. Mr Price Foundation is supporting this programme and is eager to see the results.



Simon Maphumulo explains what Msenenge Environmental Landscapes can offer to local business executives.

#DoMorePlay brings wooden toys to children

AS PART of an ambitious Enterprise Development Project, DO MORE FOUNDATION has partnered with the Association for People with Disabilities (APD) KZN and CHEP to provide affordable and durable wooden toys to support cognitive learning for vulnerable young children in Hammarsdale.

As DO MORE FOUNDATION's focus is on early childhood development, enterprise development and easing hunger it looks forward to seeing this partnership grow, most especially for the outcomes for the young children they support. Find more at www.domore.org.za.

SMMEs ON A ROLL

Three local black-owned SMMEs were invited to introduce their businesses at a HCRDA event on 18 November 2021. All were impressive: Ugodo Health and Safety Consultants secured multiple meetings and at least three new contracts!

"We met a number of large firms at the meeting the HCRDA arranged. Safal Steel, Merlog Foods and Geo Plumbing and Plastics Sales have since called us and we have had meetings and have training planned. This introduction was invaluable," said Wiseman Shange, Managing Director of

Ugodo Health and Safety Consultants.

Ugodo, Nathi Africa and Msenege Environmental Landscapes also attended the HCRDA's first SMME Engagement sessions in November. These were held to support SMMEs to develop compelling propositions with which to approach potential customers.

All 16 SMMEs that attended reported that good value was achieved. Plans for 2022 are afoot to include a further five SMME workshops consisting of presentations by:

- larger businesses in Hammarsdale /

Cato Ridge on what commercial opportunities exist for SMMEs

- funders on what they can offer SMMEs
- experts on a variety of topics of relevance to SMMEs
- SMMEs themselves. This will enable SMMEs to get feedback from other attendees on their pitch presentations

SMMEs will also be able to network and engage with the HCRDA and identify areas of collaboration. Interested SMMEs are encouraged to register their business at www.hcrda.org/smme-directory



Okwethu Umqhele members in their new premises at USE-IT show off new products.

New clients and premises for sewing co-op

OKWETHU Umqhele Cooperative Sewing Initiative's client base is growing quickly with Amakhosi Lodge, SPAR Hammarsdale, CNG Attorneys, CDS Attorneys, and the Institute for Regulatory Compliance Talent Development Institute, joining as customers.

The company began in 2018 when a group of unemployed young women received basic sewing training from the DO-MORE foundation. The group registered as a private company in 2020.

In July 2021 the young entrepreneurs

moved to the eThekweni Use-It Site in Hammarsdale where they design shopping bags sold at local Spar stores, as well as designer umbrellas sold by Rosehip Design, a local business that exports umbrellas to the United Kingdom. Lucky Bean and S.G Branding contribute pattern-making expertise, as well as canvas offcuts.

This is a wonderful example of how local businesses can help youth break the cycle of poverty by providing assistance to high potential SMMEs.

Crusader rewards brave partner with bakkie

IN JULY 2021, when Crusader Logistics' Cato Ridge warehouse was threatened by looters, the company called on safety and security partner Cyril Ndlovu, CEO of Nhlalenhle Security Services (NSS Security), who raced to the scene to defend the warehouse from potential destruction.

In recognition and appreciation for this selfless act and coming to the rescue when needed, Managing Director Stuart Roos of

Crusader Logistics presented NSS Security with a second utility bakkie.

During the handover, a delighted Ndlovu said, "Our relationship with Crusader Logistics is the reason we have such a successful business now. That gift of the first bakkie, years ago, allowed us to expand and grow our business. We saw it fit to protect those who have helped us get to where we are as a company".



Cyril Ndlovu, NSS Security owner and Stuart Roos, Crusader Logistics MD

The Hammarsdale Cato Ridge Development Association (HCRDA) is an NPC comprising 38 companies which came together in 2021 to support growth, employment and transformation and to make the outer west a better place to work and live in. It aims to work with staff, the community, government partners and other stakeholders to address common challenges, to create a stable climate to retain and grow existing businesses, attract more companies to the area and create more jobs. In an effort to keep the community up-to-date with local developments Hammarsdale Cato Ridge Sebenza will be printed every three months and widely distributed. It will also be available online at www.hcrda.org/sebenza. Send stories or contributions to info@hcrda.org.



Join thousands of outer west residents and follow the HCRDA facebook page for updates from our members, job opportunities and local area news.
facebook.com/HCRDA



Smile! You're on camera!

The outer west, like much of the country has significant issues with crime. To see how it could help, HCRDA met with SAPS who said cameras were needed. Six Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras were installed by HCRDA on the key routes around Hammarsdale and Cato Ridge. We plan to install six more during 2022.

How do ANPR cameras work?

ANPR cameras take an image of every number plate that pass them. They immediately check them against lists of suspect vehicles managed by SAPS. If a suspect vehicle passes them, they send SAPS a message. They can also identify and track suspects after a crime has been committed. If your vehicle is stolen or you would like to report a suspicious vehicle report it to SAPS who can assist.

76 jobs for HCRDA

ETHEKWINI Municipality has partnered with the HCRDA to support its mission to make Hammarsdale and Cato Ridge a better place to work and live.

HCRDA has secured a Public Employment Programme (PEP) grant to employ 43 people from the outer west for five months, starting February 2022. These employees will be tasked with maintaining infrastructure – especially key roads and roadways. It is hoped this will make the area more inviting for businesses considering the area as a location and better for those already here.

The outer west is benefiting further from the PEP programme as the HCRDA will also employ a further 33 people who will continue the SMRT.BIO roll out begun in 2021. They will support work-seekers in their communities to develop digital CVs on www.smrt.bio/durban. The goal of SMRT.BIO is to make work-seeking more efficient and affordable for both work-seekers and employers.

The HCRDA is grateful for the support of eThekweni Municipality and pleased that it can direct these resources for the benefit of the Outer West community.



Colonel Dladla and Sergeant DD Nowatha and Warrant Officer BC Memela were recognised and rewarded for the Best Arrest at the Mpumalanga station.

Top cops

KEEPING the area safe can be a difficult and thankless task. With this in mind the HCRDA showed its appreciation to law enforcement officers who go 'above and beyond'. Top performing officers from SAPS Hammarsdale, Mpumalanga and Inchanga and Durban Metro Police Hammarsdale station were nominated by the station commanders, and at a ceremony last year were recognised in the categories of Bravery, Best Arrest and Innovation/Inspiration. Each received a certificate and R400 gift voucher and our sincere thanks for their contributions. These ceremonies will be continued throughout 2022.

Reaping rewards from thriving vegetable gardens

160 ELDERLY women across Hammarsdale, Inchanga and the Valley of 1000 Hills are currently enjoying the fruits (and vegetables) of their labour, thanks to a partnership between Kerry Foods and local non-profit organisation, the Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT).

Over the past four months, 4000 vegetable seedlings have been grown in HACT's plant nursery and distributed among grandmothers and their families which include over 890 orphaned and vulnerable grandchildren identified as being at high risk for malnutrition.

Through agricultural training and ongoing mentorship from HACT the new gardens are flourishing and sewing seeds of change in more ways than one.

"Our garden has been a blessing in so many ways," said 62-year-old Jabulile of Kwanyuswa who cares for her four grandchildren. "The children are now eating healthy food and spending time in

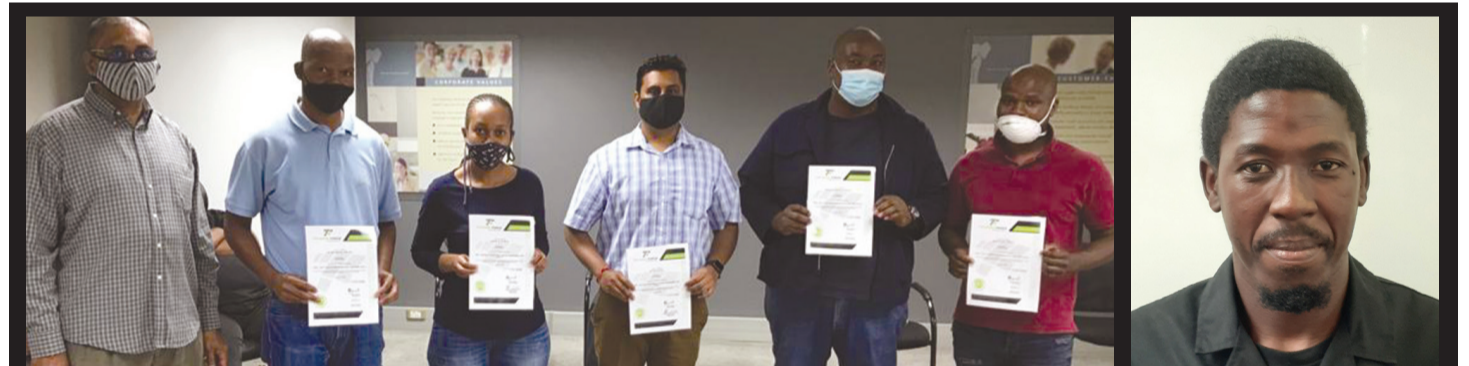


HACT staff Mzi Mchunu, Claire Hodgkinson and Xolani Zondi with some of the vegetable seedlings that were distributed to local grandmothers.

the garden has helped relieve my stress."

Kerry's Procurement Manager, Laryn Kurten said the Covid-19 pandemic had highlighted the need for improved food security. "Kerry are proud to be supporting the team at HACT who specialize in working alongside local communities to find sustainable solutions that make a tangible difference in people's lives."

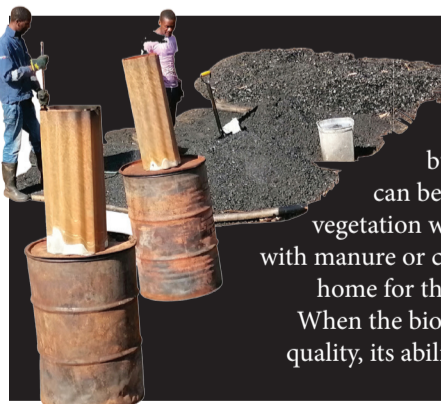
In addition to the establishment of the home vegetable gardens, funding pledged through Kerry's MyCommunity grants programme has also been used by HACT to by food for patients in the organisation's one of a kind, 24-bed inpatient facility which provides free medical care and treatment to children and adults suffering from advanced stages of AIDS or cancer.



Aligned to its global motto 'results are created by people', and its commitment to developing its team, Fibertex Operations Executive, Sandesh Singh awarded certificates to Felumuzi Mbuyazi, Bongani Majola and Njabulo Mbhele who completed learnerships in Production Technology, and Palesa Musa and Kedaran Naidoo for Generic Management. Electrician apprentice Mlungisi Mluleki Mbeje passed his Trade Test as an Electrician. Singh said: "We look forward to mentoring more future leaders and unlocking the potential within them, so that they can be the best version of themselves and make a valued difference to our organisation and the community."

Green business opportunity opening for local entrepreneurs

TO IMPROVE the environment and create a business opportunity in the outer west, the HCRDA piloted the production of biochar. It produced about 20 tons of biochar to test its effectiveness and donated it to agricultural co-operatives in Hammarsdale and Cato Ridge. It is now looking for an SMME to support to make biochar commercially for sale to garden shops in Hillcrest, Kloof and Assagay. If you would like to apply to be this entrepreneur visit <https://www.smrt.bio/vacancies/apply/1878>



What is biochar?

Biochar is charcoal (which is made by burning any woody material and which can be produced very simply, and from alien vegetation which is prevalent in the region) mixed with manure or compost. The charcoal provides a good home for the nutrients in the manure or compost. When the biochar is ploughed into soil improves its quality, its ability to retain water and its productivity.

