

The Transformation Times



sundays river citrus company

Volume 15

December 2022



IKAMVA LETHU
our future

IKAMVA LETHU FARMS (PTY) LTD

The Journey continues...



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We mentioned in our previous Transformation Times that Phase 1 and 2 were fully planted . The planting of Phase 3 is now in progress, and roads are being constructed between orchards. A total of 121056 trees were planted in Phase 1, and 2, and Phase 3 will see another 55500 trees planted.

At dam 4 , a 350kva electricity point is being constructed to supply electricity to Phases 4 and 5, Phase 4's pumphouse will be completed in March 2023. By the end of this year, Phase 4 will be completely cleared, ripped and ploughed. Plant Phase 4 at September 2023.

Farm implements have been purchased to cater for the expansion of the farm. The first crop will be harvested in 2024.

We have constructed entrances to the farm, limed roads, and renovated an old building to use as administrative office and boardroom.

We would like to thank the CGA-GDC Development Fund, for chemicals and fertilizer to the value of R800 000 received.

The Jobs Fund (CGA/FNB) funding has been approved and we are currently waiting for it to be disbursed.

To be continued....





SUNDAYS RIVER FARMING TRUST (SRFT) / SIKHULA SONKE ENTERPRISES (PTY) LTD



It has been a difficult year for the citrus industry. The disheartening and discouraging unrest, that started in April 2022, has brought home the importance of building solid and trustworthy relationships.

Although volumes were higher this year, prices were down, which means that all of SSE's five farms (Willowtree, Siyaphambile, Siyathemba, Glengrove and Sophumelela) are experiencing difficult financial times.

As a result of the generous support we received from the CGA-GDC Enterprise Development Fund, we were able to buy fertilizer and pesticides to the value of R3 000 000 to protect our crop in 2023.

Through the Jobsfund and CGDC the following were received :

Siyaphambile: -Electric fences on borders of the farm and 2 spray machines

Willowtree: -1 Spray machine

Sophumelela: -1 Spray machine and funding for replanting orchards

Glengrove: -1 Spray machine

Siyathemba: -An electric fence along main road

We are dividing a house on Siyathemba farm into four residential units to add to our income—generating activities. We will keep you posted about the “SSE Village”

As for now we will keep the faith, be positive and do as much as we can to produce quality fruit for the new season.



MBUYISELO PLASE (PTY) LTD



Mbuyiselo Plase (Pty) Ltd
Citrus Farms

Although it has been a difficult year for the citrus industry, the grant money received was a blessing for Mbuyiselo. From the CGA-GDC Enterprise Development Fund they received a mulcher and “bossiekapper” to the value of R221 950. They also received from the amount of R800 000 for fertilizer and chemicals from the CGA-GDC.

A new irrigation and fertilizer pump was installed and fencing is being erected through the Department of Agriculture (Government). Materials for the fencing are awaited and this project will also assist with job creation.



LUTHANDO FARMS (PTY) LTD



The Citrus Growers Association approved Luthando Farm's application for R5 632 600 funding from the Jobs Fund and FNB for future replanting development, production costs, and infrastructure requirements. From the CGA-GDC, the farm received a Landini Solis tractor valued at R298 700 this year. Additionally, the CGA-GDC provided a grant of R800 000 for fertilizer and pesticides.

Wind and Thrips damage played a big part in lower packout percentages on Navels in 2022. (Average of -8% down compared to the 2021 season.)

Soft Citrus/Nova volumes were up by +126% and intensive pruning was done to control Alternaria on them. Lemon volumes were down from last year as predicted. Nadorcott and Valley Gold are picking up in volumes, although the fruit is small, the volumes will increase each year. There was no significant difference between "off" and "on" years in Valencia volumes.

The water purification system for the worker's houses was upgraded and a flowmeter was installed on SRIB side from sump to dam. We are currently busy preparing to replant 7 ha. Fruit theft from the neighboring local community, livestock and baboon damage to the young trees and crop, remain a risk and management continues to monitor it in an effort to minimize losses. Theft of poles and fencing have also been an issue.



ACCREDITATION & TRAINING

Training

In March 2023, before the SIZA audits and the season begins, we will complete the first half of the generic training required for 2023. In addition, 18 members are doing NQF 2 Plant Production National Certificate through the CGA, which should be completed by December 2023.

Accreditations

We had 2 SIZA audits this year, namely SSE and Farm Services. SSE went from a Bronze to Platinum Status. The auditors were very complimentary of the 5 SSE farms saying that they could see the farms "lived" SIZA & GlobalGAP. Farm Services went from Bronze to Gold and were also complimented on their clean farms and good management systems.

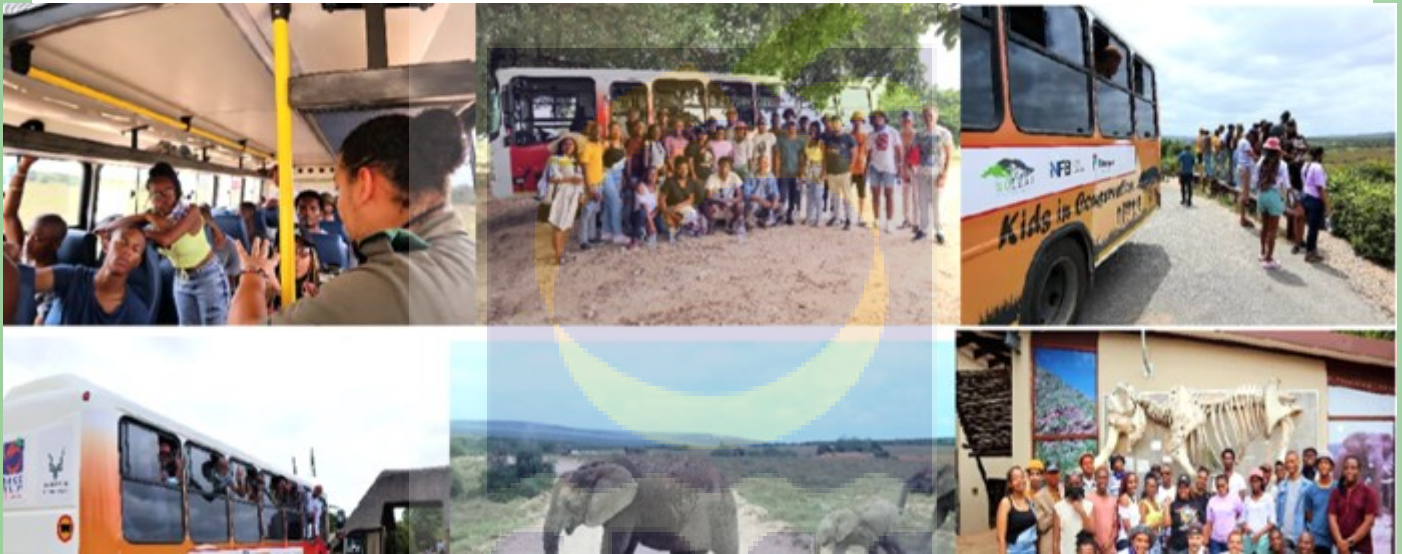
The GlobalGap audits are in full swing and so far, we have completed Mbuyiselo, SSE, Farm Services and Skinner. The auditors were again complimentary about the farms and Management Systems as there were no non-conformances.

Well done to these farms! It is the first full-audits done on the Entecom System and it is working well.

SRCC – FOUNDATION TRUST

Unity in Africa/IGEMS Student Addo Park Excursion

The Unity in Africa's IGEMS Phase One students started their program with a trip to the Addo Elephant Park. They were driven in style in our Kids in Conservation Bus. Their trip to the Park included a Game Drive with Addo providing a Guided Tour, which proved to be very informative, and interesting. For some of these students, this was a first trip to the Addo Elephant Park.



Career Expo at Kirkwood High School

The foundation took the opportunity to set up a stand at the Career Expo hosted by the Sundays River Municipality at Kirkwood High School. The Grade 12 Learners from High Schools throughout the Valley, including children from Paterson attended this Career Expo. The purpose of the Expo was to inform and enlighten them regarding various jobs and career paths available post Matric. Stakeholders in the Valley took part in this event and the Foundation provided transport for the Paterson and SRCC Samkelwe Learners. Lucio Zumo from SRCC Agronomy, Lizo Ngqula from SRCC IT and Mugabe Sepeng from Operations took time out of their busy schedules—to give back to the community—by imparting valuable knowledge to the Learners. Once the Learners left the stand, they left with a head full of information and a handful of citrus.



Grade 12 Winter School – Maths & Science

The Grade 12 Winter School was run in conjunction with the Department of Education's programme during the first two weeks of the June / July school holidays. There were 40 Maths students and 6 Physical Science students. The children were hosted by St Colmcille High School in Kirkwood for the two weeks. The programme started on Monday, 27 June and finished on Friday, 8 July 2022. The Foundation supported the children with the services of a private Maths and Science Tutor for the duration of the programme. The Learners also received some fresh, juicy citrus treats!

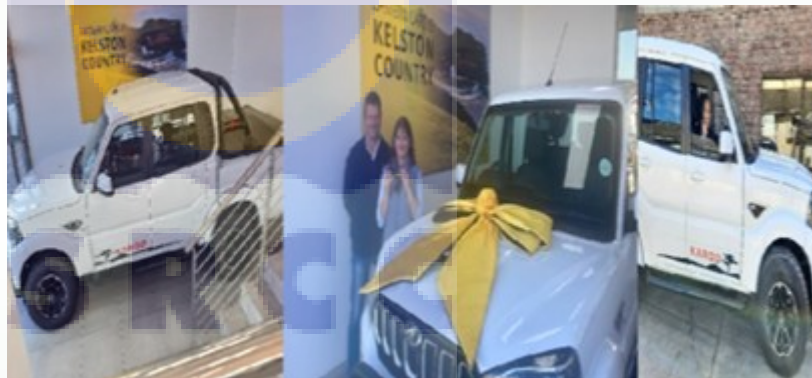


Foundation Trust Vehicle

A dream came true for the Foundation, a brand new double cab bakkie with 4-wheel drive was purchased for the use of Foundation activities! This was truly a momentous occasion. We took delivery of the vehicle in August and the vehicle has been busy in the Valley ever since! Subsequent to the hand over, a new Donor to the Foundation has agreed to sponsor the cost of the vehicle



SRCC – FOUNDATION TRUST



The Moses Mabida Computer Lab progress report

Since the opening and launch of the ICT lab at the School, there have been four hand-over meetings with Messrs. Marwayi, Wine and Mavuso. The Grade 12's have been using the computers to complete projects and do research for assignments, which they were never able to do before!



September was a busy month!

Vusimzi Primary School (in Nomathamsanqa) took their Grade 4 Learners to Lupus Den farm for a visit where the various processes regarding Citrus farming was explained to them and La Trobe Primary School's Grade 4 learners visited the Addo Elephant Park.

The foundation teamed up with the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs & Tourism and the Addo Elephant Park, and took elderly community members from Valencia and Nomathamsanqa on a day trip to the Elephant Park in September. The trip ended with each person receiving a pocket of juicy Valencias

Kids in Conservation Bus Trips

Greenwood Primary School Grade 7 Learners were treated to a trip to the Addo Elephant Park as part of their Leaders in Life school outing on 20 and 21 July. The children were delighted with the experience! Addo Primary School played a rugby match against Kirkwood Primary School on 28 July. The Team of tired, but happy children posed for the photo in front of the bus. Sundays River Primary School took a group of Learners to the Addo Elephant Park on 4 August. Grade 4 Learners also from Sundays River Primary went on an outing to the Cheetah Farm. The School also took their Grade 2 Learners to the Airport Museum in Port Elizabeth on 23 and 24 August. On Thursday, 25 August Sundays River Primary had their Sports' Day with Stilting Primary School in Humansdorp.

Photos of the various outings below



Partners for Possibility (new name Citizen Leader Lab) Community Building Workshops

On Friday 5 August and Saturday 6 August, the first Community Building Workshop took place at Rietberg Primary School in Kirkwood. This was a first for the Sundays River Valley!

The participants included members of the School Management Team, School Governing Body members, Community leaders – Church leaders, Pastors, Teachers from schools, Ward councilors and Business leaders. The Mayor, Mr Rune also attended the opening of the Workshop and welcomed everyone.



Friday, 12 August and Saturday 13 August. The Mayor, Mr Rune, showed his continued support for this program by joining the workshop in the morning. Included amongst the community members was Warrant Officer Lama from the Addo Police Station and Sisters Breda & Mary from the Place of Mercy & Hope. Ms Jim-Wabanie from the Dept. of Education also pledged her commitment to the initiative of making the Schools the Centre of the Communities.



Opening of STAR Victim Support Centre

The STAR Victim Support Centre was officially opened on the property of the SAPS in Addo on Friday 26 August 2022. A container serves as the offices. The container has been converted into a lounge / reception area, with a bathroom and two counselling rooms. Shirley Kula is the Project Manager of the Non-Profit Organisation.

This is an initiative of the Sundays River Collaborative, driven by Theo and his Team. This Centre will be supported by the Foundation through the Psychosocial Services offered through the Foundation Trust. The program started at 10:30am with a local Pastor – Grace Dolph – giving thanks in Prayer for this Centre and the people who will be offering their services.

Warrant Officer Lama welcomed everyone and Kim Goeda from Social Development (Kirkwood office) explained the significance of establishment of this Victim Support Centre. Mayor Rune and Councilor Jomo also attended and addressed the guests.

Mr Mbewu from Social Development (based in Humansdorp) also attended the proceedings. This is the beginning of a very significant initiative in Addo in an effort to combat the scourge of Gender Based Violence and other Human Right's abuses.



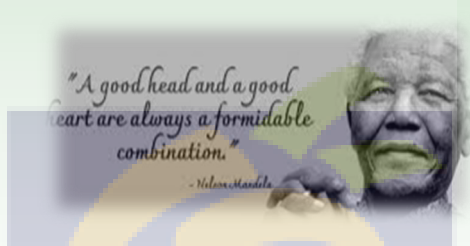
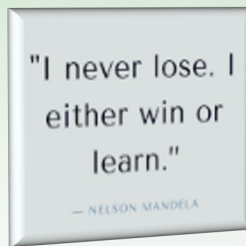
SRCC Foundation 67 Minutes for Mandela Day – Toy Drive

Friday, 22 July dawned, a beautiful sunny winters' morning in the Sundays River Valley - a day full of promise and hope!

The toys, which were generously donated by SRCC employees, were sorted and split between two Daycare Centres in the Addo area. Monique Windvogel and Nomsa Keta read stories to the children, which they thoroughly enjoyed. Thereafter they got stuck into the boxes of donated toys! This was followed by ball games and the highlight of the morning was playing soccer with Garry. The children had SO much fun, which was evident from their tired, yet beaming faces after the soccer game. Guaranteed it was not only the children who had fun, the SRCC staff volunteers had just as much fun!

While the children were enjoying ball games on the one side of the Daycare Centre, another Team from SRCC Maintenance was hard at work fixing a water leak and broken pipes on the other side of the Centre. A job well done! Water leak is fixed and the water is restored.

The day ended on a high note with Clover SA donating Amazi Milk to the registered Soup kitchens and Daycare Centres throughout the Sundays River Valley. What a welcome treat this was for everyone!



A huge Thank you to all who volunteered and their respective Managers for supporting this much needed and fun-filled morning. All who work at SRCC can be proud of their visionary Leaders, who appreciate, understand and continuously support the needs of the communities in the Sundays River Valley!



CLINICS & WELLNESS PROGRAM

The SSE Social Worker has been very busy assisting people with their ID documents, birth certificates, getting children into special schools and institutions all over the province. She further counselled several people from the local community for:

- substance abuse
- teen age pregnancy
- depression
- grief and trauma counselling

We were all rather surprised and saddened by the resignation of our Social Worker at SSE Susan, who did such an incredible job on the farms and around the community. We wish Susan all the best and thank her for her years of impeccable service to our people. It will take someone very special to fill her shoes.

Due to the difficult past 2 seasons, we might prolong the replacement of the social worker and nurse for our clinic, which remained closed this year. In the meantime, we will try to motivate and continue our sessions of AIDS, TB, Alcohol & Drug abuse training as well as domestic violence training through our Health & Safety teams and posters.

SRCC FOUNDATION TRUST GOLF DAY

The SRCC Foundation presented a golf day on the 27th of October 2022 at the Kirkwood Golf Club, to raise funds for community projects. The day was very well supported and enjoyed by all.



*From the editorial team, we wish you health,
happiness, inner peace and
May peace and hope fill your life.*



Mbuyiselo Plase (Pty) Ltd
Citrus Farm



S S E
Sibhula Sonke Enterprises Pty Ltd

