

GAM

GROCOTT'S MAIL

11 January 2019 • Vol. 149 Issue: 001

Your newspaper, **FREE OF CHARGE**

Record results for Class of 2018 – Page 3

New Year's Cup action - **SPORT**



Good start to 2019



Children arrive at Good Shepherd Primary School for their first day on Wednesday. The school year started smoothly for public schools this week. Report on Page 11. Photo: Steven Lang



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RESPONSES IN GRAHAMSTOWN 06/12/2018 – 13/12/2018

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Disturbances - 2
Arrests - 2

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Public Order Police negotiate with Ghost Town residents who blockaded upper Trollope Street on Monday 7 January in a service delivery protest.
Photo: Sue MacLennan

Drama as residents protest over dumpsite

By SUE MACLENNAN

Ghost Town residents on Monday 7 January barricaded the road below Sugarloaf Hill – the route to the Makana Electricity Department, Hoogenoeg and Makana Brick in Makhanda (Grahamstown) – in protest against dumping in the area and poor service delivery.

A major clean-up led by the Grahamstown Residents Association, supported by Makana Municipality, local business and the Army, was conducted in May 2015. Dumping in the area quickly resumed, with some residents in the area using it to dump household waste. At the time, they said unreliable collection and not being given black plastic bags were to blame.

Garden services, building contractors and other businesses made matters worse by carting waste to a garden refuse tip there rather than to the municipal landfill.

A group of residents in the area successfully campaigned to have the site closed and fenced off; however the dumping by both residents from other areas as well as businesses continued on the open land below the fenced-off area.

This week's protest was because

residents of Ghost Town, below the former garden refuse tip, were furious that the dumping had been allowed to continue and believe Makana Municipality should have intervened to reverse what was by Monday not only a shocking sight in a residential area, but also an obvious health hazard. When *Grocott's Mail* arrived, a group of children was rummaging through the dumped waste. "Ons soek speelgoed," they told our reporter.

The protesters barricaded Trollope Street north of Fitzroy with tyres, plastic crates and garden waste on Monday morning and vowed to remain there until Makana Municipality responded to their demands.

Around 10am, a dozen Public Order Police officers from Port Elizabeth arrived and negotiated with the protesters. Spokesperson for the Ghost Town protesters Weston du Plessis told POP's Warrant Officer Serfontein that the community had many issues that Makana Municipality needed to address. First and foremost, they wanted the councillor for the area, Mthunzi Fatyi, to tell them how he would address their situation.

"We want a councillor who will care about this community," Du Ples-

sis told Serfontein. "We want the municipality to co-ordinate programmes to address the drug use that they say is a 'coloured problem'. We want coloureds to also be employed at the municipality. We want this rubbish to be cleared from here and for it to stay clean.

"When this mess is cleared up, then we will leave."

Serfontein said he would bring the councillor to come and address them.

At 10.45am, with no sign yet of Fatyi or anyone else from the municipality, the frustrated residents set fire to some of the piles of rubbish on the hillside. There was panic as the fire quickly took in the tinder-dry conditions, and a wooden power line pole caught fire.

As the fire then rushed towards houses next to the site, residents brought out hosepipes, as well as buckets and bottles of water to quench the flames.

Serfontein and the Public Order Police returned with Fatyi as fire engines arrived.

In his discussion with Du Plessis, Fatyi laid the blame for the situation on municipal officials. "You see them sitting behind Shoprite when they are supposed to be working," the

Ward 3 councillor said.

The situation was resolved when front end loaders arrived – one from Makana Brick Managing Director Colin Meyer and one organised by Makana Acting Community Services Manager William Welkom. They quickly cleared the area.

Meyer then bought black plastic bags and distributed them to residents, who collected loose litter on the east side of Trollope Street. Welkom said the municipality would return with more black bags.

"The front-end loaders can't work on that side of the road because they will damage water pipes and cables, but the people said they would collect the rubbish if we provided the bags," he told *Grocott's Mail* as the protest headed towards a resolution.

Interviewed at the site, Meyer said while the blockade of the main route to Makana Brick was hurting his business, he understood the residents' frustration and fully supported them in their protest.

"Tomorrow I'll bring trucks in and we'll cart all of this away to the dump. By tomorrow I think this problem will be resolved and this site will be clean," Meyer told *Grocott's Mail* on Monday.



FRIDAY 11 JANUARY

Partly cloudy. Light ENE wind.
Temperature: Min 14°C Max 33°C
Tides: Low 00:16 12:40
High 06:37 18:39

SATURDAY

Partly Cloudy. Moderate SSW wind.
Temperature: Min 13°C Max 28°C
Tides: Low 00:48 13:21
High 07:16 19:17

SUNDAY

Sunny. Light southerly wind.
Temperature: Min 14°C Max 29°C
Tides: Low 01:24 14:10
High 08:01 20:05

WEATHER & TIDES

MONDAY

Partly cloudy. Light easterly wind.
Temperature: Min 14°C Max 31°C
Tides: Low 02:10 15:19
High 09:03 21:12

TUESDAY

Partly cloudy. Moderate SSE wind.
Temperature: Min 14°C Max 24°C
Tides: Low 03:18 16:50
High 10:23 22:48

WEDNESDAY

Cloudy. Moderate easterly wind.
Temperature: Min 16°C Max 18°C
Tides: Low 05:01 18:17
High 11:43

THURSDAY

Partly cloudy. Moderate easterly wind.
Temperature: Min 21°C Max 34°C
Tides: Low 06:29 19:20
High 00:23 12:51

FRIDAY

Partly cloudy. Moderate SSW wind.
Temperature: Min 15°C Max 33°C
Tides: Low 07:30 20:11
High 01:30 13:47

Temperatures and tides were correct
at the time of going to press

Class of 2018 smash records

By SUE MACLENNAN and AZLAN MAKALIMA

The public schools class of 2018 has produced the best set of matric results in the history of Makhanda (Grahamstown). The dramatic improvement has been driven by two no-fee schools, Ntsika and Nombulelo, according to Gadra Education Manager Ashley Westaway. Westaway said the pass rate, the number of successful candidates, the Bachelor rate and the number of Bachelor passes have all hit record highs.

"The overall Grahamstown pass rate was 78% (436 out of the 558 candidates entered) and the city's public schools produced over 200 Bachelor passes for the first time ever. In fact, as many as 238 candidates (43% of the total cohort) reached this significant milestone," Westaway said. Read Westaway's full analysis of Matric 2018 on page 7.

"We are grateful that we have a learner who is a top achiever and that our results are amazing," Ntsika Secondary School principal Madeleine Schoeman told Grocott's Mail as excited matrics flocked to the school to collect their results on Friday 4 January.

Victoria Girls' High remained the top school in the district with a 100% pass rate, closely followed by Graeme College at 96.87%, then Ntsika Secondary (84.94%) in the 2018 National Senior Certificate exams.

With the biggest Matric 2018 class among local public schools, at 127, Nombulelo Secondary School also had the highest number of passes (101).

Gadra Matric School retained its 100% pass rate, with 101 of the 173 students enrolled obtaining Bachelor level passes.

The top NSC matric achievers in the District were Tashin Patrick, from Graeme College, District Top Learner, and Usiphile Gazi from Ntsika, District Top Learner from a historically disadvantaged institution (HDI).

Ntsika is one of Makhanda's (Grahamstown's) HDIs that has thrived on strong support from a Rhodes University/Gadra partnership that offers mentoring for learners, and leadership training for senior staff.

"The quality of the results have improved a lot – it is so much better than last year," said Schoeman. The school is down from its 2016 zenith

of 87.14% and last year's 85.33%, but Schoeman is focused on quality.

"We are proud of the number of bachelors and diplomas passes we have. The pass percentage is not quite the same but it is still fine."

Of 93 who wrote, 36 achieved Bachelor passes, meaning they are eligible to apply for admission to university, 27 achieved Diploma passes and 16 a higher certificate.

Support from Rhodes and Gadra Education

Support and attitude are to thank for Mary Waters Secondary School's continued rise out of the matric doldrums to improve their pass rate by 16.22%, says Principal Faith Coetzee.

Glowing with pride on Friday 4 January as pupils came into the offices to collect their results, Coetzee told Grocott's Mail, "We have had so much support for our learners and our teachers from the Rhodes/ Gadra mentoring programme, the Rhodes Education Department and the District Department of Education. That, along with the hard work of our teachers, and supportive parents has helped these learners achieve



Victoria Girls' High School 2018 matrics celebrate their results. The school retained its 100% pass rate, unbroken since 2004. Photo: Steven Lang

their goals. Their hard work has been rewarded."

Coetzee has high praise for her teaching staff.

"They have a very positive attitude – they're open to learning and support. We are all very aware that it's not about us, it's about the children."

Coetzee said Gadra Education Manager Ashley West-

way had been a great source of strength and advice, and the Rhodes University/ Gadra Education Nine Tenths mentoring initiative, along with other support programmes by the Rhodes/ Gadra partnership had played a big role in the school's improved results.

The recognition that matric is not just about the Grade 12 year, and extending the men-

torship programmes to begin in Grade 8, was also significant, Coetzee said.

"Slightly disappointed" was the Principal of Khutliso Daniels, which from a 25% pass in 2017 to 58.06% in 2018, a jump of 33.06%, has seen the most dramatic improvement in its matric results.

Continued on Page 8

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MRS DAKSHA RAMA
(born in India) passed away after a short illness on Tuesday 8 January 2019. Funeral service was on Thursday 10 January. Loving wife of the late Jaychandra Rama (Died 2003). She leaves behind son Chetan (15 years). Daksha will be sadly missed by her mom and sisters in India and family and friends in Grahamstown. "May her soul rest in peace, safely in the home of our Lord". For further info: Harry Rama 083 442 0120 (brother-in-law)

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Peace and proper leaders

What are you looking forward to in 2019?
Lindani Donyeli asked.



XOLANI MALI
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST
I hope we can have leaders with courage. They should be selected by the people, not their political groups. We should have leaders who put people first.



BONGILE NOCONJO
BEER PROPERTIES
Unity. If we are different, let's sit down and discuss the problem: problems are there to be solved.



GIVEN MADINDA
EYE STORE
I don't want to borrow any money this year. I want to save money for December.



CLIVE CHRISTIAN
PENSIONER
Peace.



DAVID DOUGLAS
RHODES SECURITY
Creation of jobs and proper advertisements, for everyone to see the jobs.



SINETHEMBA KADU
CAR GUARD
I hope to get a job.

Joza B&Bs to list online

By SUE MACLENNAN

A number of Joza B&Bs have listed with online booking startup, KasiAccom.

At the recent launch at the Graham Hotel, entrepreneurs John Rammutla and Chelens Makondo told B&B owners that they could list on KasiAccom for free.

KasiAccom would take 7% commission on bookings and the site's developer was working on a secure online payment system, Rammutla said.

Extension 6 B&B owner Notyolo Bungane said she would try out the listing. Her three-star accommodation is a favourite with company employees seconded to Makhanda (Grahamstown) from larger centres.

Kwam eMakana-affiliated B&B owner Buyiswa Dywili said, "I think it is a good idea because we don't manage to put our B&Bs on websites.

So we have no business throughout the year except Festival. I think maybe we are going to get something out of this."

Rammutla and Makondo are upbeat about the future of township accommodation. In their statement on the website, Rammutla and Makondo write: "We thought, wouldn't it be great if they could be one online platform where all South Africans and tourists from around the world could always go and have access to thousands and thousands of



The KasiAccom team present their online booking startup to township B&B owners at the Graham Hotel. Photo: Sue MacleNNan

listed township accommodation/properties from the comfort of their mobile devices and computers."

The KasiAccom team promised to take photographs of local township B&Bs for the website.

Asked how they check the quality of the establishments advertised on their website, Rammutla told *Grocott's Mail* that KasiAccom has a team of dedicated ambassadors across South Africa.

"They are always ready to visit the accommodations listed on our platform and confirm the physical addresses provided on the website," Rammutla said. "Verified properties will have a green sticker on them labelled 'verified'. This is in line with KasiAccom's commitment to ensuring that safety of our users remains a top priority."

Rammutla said they decided to launch KasiAccom here in Makhanda (Grahamstown) because this was where he first experienced the struggle of finding decent and safe accommodation in the township areas.

"When I arrived in Grahamstown last year in September, I tried to look and search online for a site where I can look at a range of accommodation showing pictures, features and prices for ease of comparison," Rammutla told *Grocott's Mail*. "I found nothing."

Affordable and safe

Then he began to ask, Is there actually decent, affordable and safe accommodation in the township areas of South Africa and is there an easy and safe way of accessing it? "This led me on a journey and after some research, I discovered that, yes, there is accommodation ranging from short term to long term – but there is very limited safe and reliable access to it."

During his research, Rammutla also learnt that the only support and assistance the township accommodation businesses receive comes from the municipalities' tourism divisions.

"I applaud municipalities who actually make the ef-

fort to offer a helping hand to these businesses," Rammutla said. "I discovered, however, that most township B&B owners had serious challenges paying the municipalities' tourism departments the stipulated yearly flat fees required if the B&B is to remain listed on the municipal database."

Service fee

This was where KasiAccom came in.

"Not to undermine the efforts of the municipality to help township accommodation businesses, but to complement their efforts," Rammutla said. "With KasiAccom, landlords do not pay anything to list their accommodation with us: they do not pay any flat monthly or yearly fees."

"Starting 1 June 2019, across South Africa, KasiAccom will be introducing an in-built booking system for guests to book township B&Bs online instantly. This will come with a low 7% service fee per booking transaction completed through KasiAccom, the lowest service fee in the market."

"We have structured our business model in such a way that B&B owners do not pay us anything if we do not get them guests. They get charged only when we bring guests to them."

Rammutla was born in Limpopo province and matriculated in 2010 from Ramogabudi Secondary School. He graduate with a BSc Civil Engineering degree in 2015 at the University of Cape Town. He is currently working as a Candidate Engineer and doing a part-time MSc in Transport Studies (Civil Engineering) at UCT.

"I am passionate and determined to contribute to the development of our country, local communities in particular," Rammutla told *Grocott's Mail*.

Alongside his professional work and KasiAccom, he also runs a non-profit-organisation called HiAfrica that aims to empower and develop young people from rural communities of South Africa.

NATIONAL
ENGLISH
LITERARY
MUSEUM

an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

FEEDBACK ON SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC FOR A NEW NAME FOR THE MUSEUM

The change of mandate of the National English Literary Museum to include the literatures of the indigenous languages of South Africa is imminent.

Towards the end of 2018, the museum invited members of the public to submit suggestions or ideas for a new name for the museum that would reflect this change. The suggestions were considered by a special committee of the museum's Council. After careful deliberation, the Council has decided to forward the following proposal, a name that implies an inclusive concept of literature within the African context, to the Minister of Arts and Culture:

Amazwi

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NATIONAL
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MUSEUM

an agency of the
Department of Arts and Culture

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

DESIGN OF NEW CORPORATE IDENTITY AND MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

Reference number NELM2019/01

The National English Literary Museum is embarking on an exciting phase in its history with a new name and new mandate.

The museum is therefore seeking a service provider with a proven track record to design a new corporate identity for the museum and provide marketing and communications services including, but not limited to, the implementation of branding, writing, editing and filing of media releases and media monitoring, and a social media strategy. The contract will initially be for six months.

Please email info@nelm.org.za or telephone Patricia Peterson on 046 622 7042 for the detailed Terms of Reference and Standard Bidding Documents.

The documents can also be collected at the museum.

National English Literary Museum

25A Worcester Street, Makhanda (Grahamstown) 6139

Private Bag 1019, Makhanda (Grahamstown) 6140.

The closing date for submissions is 4 February 2019 at 12 noon.

The National English Literary Museum is a Schedule 3A Public Entity and service providers will need to be registered or intend to register on the National Treasury Central Supplier Database. The appointment of the service provider will be based on functionality, 80/20 PPPFA and price.



An indication of just how low Settler's Dam is right now. The first picture was taken on Christmas Day 2015 when the dam was near capacity, the second on 30 December 2018 as the reservoir nears the point where no more water can be pumped out. Photos: Simon Pamphilon

Day Zero looms for city supply

By ROD AMNER

The official estimate of the water level at Settler's Dam is a paltry 15%. The much smaller Howieson's Poort is at about 25%.

Four consecutive years of well-below-average rainfall have taken their toll. Grahamstown Residents Association secretary Tim Bull estimates that the dams' water supply to the western side of the city will last for another 35 days before they reach their 'dead water' level.

High temperatures and evaporation can reduce these

estimates, though rainfall can extend them.

However, unless there is substantial rainfall, we will reach Day Zero mid-February - the start of the Rhodes University academic year.

If a floating inlet is introduced at Settlers dam, pumping lower could extend dam water supplies until about the end of March 2019.

Once there is no dam water available, all of Makhanda (Grahamstown) will be reliant on the 10 megalitres a day currently supplied by the James Kleynhans Water Treat-

ment Works, which sources its water from the Orange River system.

Current daily demand is about 22 megalitres a day.

If the dams run dry this will necessitate rationing.

Despite restrictions and warnings, the Makana Municipality reported in December that water usage had not declined.

Work has begun on doubling the capacity of the James Kleynhans Water Treatment Works from 10 to 20 megalitres per day, but this will continue for several years and will

almost certainly be too late to save the city from major disruptions if drought conditions persist.

Makana Municipality has imposed stringent water restrictions and the Council has taken the following resolutions:

- A fine per offence will be charged for people contravening the restrictions as per the municipal by-laws;
- The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and Acting Director of Engineering and Infrastructural Services (DEIS) have been granted authority to review

the restrictions based on the raw water supply and treated water in the Municipal systems until the restrictions are removed subject to monthly reports to Council being submitted;

• The CFO and DEIS have been granted authority to approve additional staff/overtime/shift work to manage the city's water supply when necessary until the restrictions are removed in consultation with the Municipal Manager;

• The Municipality will make a formal application for re-

vised volume abstraction to the Department of Water & Sanitation;

• Makana Municipality will prepare a project plan with a budget for submission to the Department of Water and Sanitation to improve the water supply and storage at the Howieson's Poort pump station and to improve water treatment at James Kleynhans.

The Municipality has urged residents to adhere to the water restrictions and encouraged them to invest in water tanks to harvest rainwater.

Foot and Mouth confirmed in Limpopo

STAFF REPORTER

Positive laboratory results have confirmed Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) in cattle in the Vhembe District of Limpopo, the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries said on Tuesday.

In a statement, the department said samples were collected during a disease investigation after reports of cattle with lameness were received. The positive location is just outside the FMD Control Zone in the Free Zone without vaccination.

"A team of experts from the department and the Limpopo Veterinary Services is on the ground conducting further investigations to verify the results and determine the extent of the outbreak. The control

measures will be determined by the findings of this investigation," the department said in a statement.

The matter was reported to the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) on Monday.

"As a result of this development, the official OIE recognised FMD-free status of South Africa is temporarily suspended. Consequently, any exports where FMD free zone attestation is required, cannot be certified," the department said.

FMD is a severe, highly contagious viral disease which affects livestock with significant economic impact.

The disease affects cattle, pigs (both domestic and wild), sheep, goats, and other cloven

hoofed animals. The disease does not affect human beings.

Signs of disease may include depressed animals, sores in the mouth of animals causing reluctance to eat and lameness.

Any suspected case of the disease in animals must be reported to the local State Veterinarian immediately.

The department said the affected area is under quarantine and no movement of animals and animal products are allowed.

Farmers further away from the outbreak are cautioned to observe bio-security measures - not to allow any new animals into their herds, and to minimise the movement of their own herds to other farms. - SAnews.gov.za



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Vision pays off

We wish all our city's schools success in 2019, at the start of the school year. And we celebrate with the class of 2018 the landmark result they have achieved, with Makhanda's (Grahamstown's) best matric results ever.

We are greatly indebted to Gadra Education Manager Ashley Westaway for taking us step by step through these results and what they mean.

We are greatly indebted to the committed teachers, parents, student mentors, Gadra Education and other NGOs and Rhodes University Vice Chancellor Dr Sizwe Mabizela for having the vision to act on the one thing that changes lives – education for all – through their partnership programmes.

The comparative photographs of Settlers Dam at Christmas time in 2015, and around the same period in 2018, posted by *Grocott's Mail* on Facebook recently, caused shock in the community. Pictures talk louder than words, and we hope that page 5 shocks residents into water-saving action – and that the municipality will let us into its contingency plans for when Day Zero arrives, no more water can be pumped from Settlers Dam, and the entire city will be sharing the already insufficient 10 megalitres currently available from the eastern water treatment works, James Kleynhans.

Farmers are of necessity resilient and pragmatic – so when you hear one of the district's most successful and experienced farmers talking of imminent disaster, that comes as a shock. Veteran commercial farmer Justin Stirk, speaking about the drought and the effect it's having on farmers, said, "If you think things are bad now, winter's going to be disastrous."

Stirk says, unequivocally, that in the 27 years he's been farming, this is the worst drought he's ever experienced, with three years of below average rainfall and three dry winters.

Farmers are running out of grass for their cattle, dams are empty and, for the first time, Stirk says, he's hearing of boreholes completely drying up.

"Farmers are either having to cart water to keep their stock going, or go to the expense of drilling deeper and deeper in the hope of finding water."

Making it worse is the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Limpopo, meaning the export market for animal products is shut down until South Africa is again declared FMD-free.

"Everything's stacked up against us at the moment. Even when we do come out of it, economically things aren't going to be good," Stirk said.

"Food prices will go through the roof some time – and it's not the farmers' fault – we're just trying to survive."

If it takes a farmer, or a photograph, or a letter from a German student, to shock our community into action to think and act differently about water, let them be heard.



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LETTERS to the Editor and COLUMNS



The Grocott's Mail Christ Cheer Fund recently handed over a cheque of R14 150 to Child Welfare to use at the Ikhaya Losizo Children's Home. With some of the home's children are (from left) Tendai Wapinduka (House Mother), Vathiswa Bentele (House Mother), Peter Breetzke (Pro Carmine Choir Director), Amanda Mata (House Mother), Mfuzo Dyira (GBS Mutual Bank), Woineshet Bischoff (Director of Child Welfare SA Grahamstown), Jayne Morgan (Pro Carmine Choir Member), Sindiswa Dunjwa (Social Worker) and Donnay Oosthuizen (Grocott's Mail). GBS and Pro Carmine, which raised audience donations at their annual Christmas Cheer concert, were the biggest contributors to the fund in 2018, at R3 700 and R2 648 respectively. Photo: Azlan Makalima

A message from Germany about Makhanda's drought

In September last year we had the wonderful opportunity to spend some time as visiting students in the Department of Environmental Science at Rhodes University, away from our home university in Erlangen, Germany. Within the first few days, our host where we stayed and the staff in the Environmental Science department alerted us to the ongoing drought and the dire predictions if water consumption was not reduced.

Coming from Germany, where water supply is taken for granted, it was a new experience for us. We took it to heart and did our best to limit our water use. We also became interested in how citizens of the town were responding and coping, and never missed an opportunity to discuss such with the many different people whom we met during our three engaging weeks in Grahamstown.

We also had an opportunity to visit Cape Town, where the international-headline catching, and recently ended drought, was equally severe to that in Grahamstown.

What was very different however, immediately obvious to even casual visitors like ourselves, was the manner in which the entertainment sector in the two cities reacted to the drought.

In Cape Town, most restaurants and bars had signs encouraging patrons to minimize water use from the taps, to flush the toilets only when necessary and some had even turned off the water and provided patrons with waterless hand sanitiser instead.

No such initiatives were apparent in Grahamstown. Because of our interest, we made a deliberate plan to try to visit every coffee shop, restaurant and bar in the commercial area of Grahamstown and observe if they had emulated Cape Town in any way.

We did not find even one coffee shop, restaurant or bar

that had notices urging patrons to limit their water use. None had notices about limiting the flushing of toilets, and none had provided hand sanitiser to replace the washing of hands. Overall, it seemed that the food sector in Grahamstown was unaware about the drought, or if they were, felt there was no role they could play. It was a very stark contrast to how the same sector in Cape Town had responded.

We don't know why this difference exists, but the drought is still dire in Grahamstown, and so there is a greater need for action, not just in the food/restaurant sector, but by all citizens of Grahamstown, in their homes and in their businesses. Fortunately, we did find that in many homes, people had gone to great lengths to reduce their water use.

Let us also not be complacent about water use, even when the drought breaks.

The latest reports from the United Nations show that climate change is accelerating. Severe droughts will remain a common occurrence in the Eastern Cape and may even become more frequent. South Africa is already in the top 20% of countries in the world when it comes to aridity and it is not going to change.

It is therefore necessary that everyone in the country start to think more about water and how to save it and use it efficiently, not just in times of drought.

We hope that these observations will make some difference and prompt reflection, and at the same time, we hope that Grahamstown and its surrounds will soon enjoy long, soaking rains to refill the depleted dams. In the meantime, our experiences in Grahamstown have changed our own attitudes and practices towards water even back in Germany. Every drop counts!

Adila Costa and Laura Pehal

Kind constable was a lifeline in an anxious time

I live in Randburg, Gauteng. I have an aunt who lives in Grahamstown and on Wednesday 26 December, our family, having made many, many unsuccessful attempts to contact her on both 25 and 26 December, were, to say the least, extremely concerned. Being holidays, the only assistance we could enlist was that of the Grahamstown Police.

To this end, I would like to sincerely thank a very special Constable Frans. Sadly, I have no other information*. He was an absolute lifeline, calming me down and offering every

possible assistance to find my aunt.

He is to be commended! How wonderful if all our policemen followed his exemplary attitude.

Linda Britz

* *Grocott's Mail's* sources indicate it was most likely Constable Kevin Frans, who was on duty that weekend, who helped the writer.

Thank you for bringing hope to Ethembeni's aged

The committee of Vezi Danga Welfare Organisation for the Aged at Ethembeni Old Age Centre would like to thank all the sponsors, donors, visitors and volunteers who assisted the centre to re-open in 2018 after it faced financial difficulties in 2017. 2018 was a wonderful year for the elderly people who

visited the centre and there were lots of activities to keep them happy.

We hope to work with you in the future.

Ethembeni Committee

Record heights for local schools

By ASHLEY WESTAWAY

ANALYSIS



Ashley Westaway

The public school Class of 2018 has produced the best set of matric results in the history of Makhanda (Grahamstown). The pass rate, the number of successful candidates, the Bachelor rate and the number of Bachelor passes have all hit record highs. The overall local pass rate was 78% (436 out of the 558 candidates entered) and the city's public schools produced over 200 Bachelor passes for the first time ever. In fact, as many as 238 candidates (43% of the total cohort) reached this significant milestone. Most encouragingly, these significant improvements were driven by two no-fee schools, namely Ntsika and Nombulelo.

A look at the cohort

The full cohort of 2018 (referring to the total number of full-time matriculants entered by their respective schools to write all seven subjects) was 558 candidates, an increase of 11% compared with the 2017 cohort. This is a significant statistic because it reflects candidates who were entered into the final examinations on merit. The two schools that accounted for the increase in cohort size were Ntsika and Nombulelo, with the latter contributing the lion's share. Schools where the matric classes diminished were Mary Waters and TEM Mrwetyana. We can confidently say that the former was something of an anomaly since the Mary Waters class of 2019 is considerably larger than last year's group.

A necessary condition for Makhanda (Grahamstown) to emerge as a city of genuine educational excellence is for the cohort size to increase significantly, to 750 at minimum. This would be in line with the 'retention rate' in the Western Cape, which has by far the lowest drop-out rate in the country.

Of Makhanda (Grahamstown) 2018 Grade 12s, all in the city's no-fee schools, 163 were 'progressed' from Grade 11, meaning that they failed that grade but were pushed through into matric in line with government policy. The problem for these learners is that they were required to

pass their June and Trial examinations in order to qualify to write all seven subjects. They failed to do this and were thus modularised, meaning that they were required to select three of their six subjects (excluding Life Orientation) to write as a 'module' of examinations in November 2018. They were then cast out of the school system and have to have immense fortitude and resolve to prepare themselves for their second module of examinations (in their other three subjects) in June 2019. Very few, if any, will succeed; 'modularisation' is the evil twin of 'progression'.

We can be quite direct and forthright that a clear strategy to move toward the target cohort number of 750 is to improve pass rates in Grade 11. In the short-term, the two schools that are most strategic in this regard are Nombulelo and Mary Waters, but the ultimate truth is that unless the serious systemic problems at Nathaniel Nyaluza and TEM Mrwetyana are addressed, the public sector will be unable to reduce the drop-out/push-out rate to below 40%.

After taking cognisance of the 558 full-time candidates and 163 modularised learners, we are left with close to 500 of the young people who entered Grade 1 in 2007 who we cannot account for today, in educational terms at least. The fundamental reason that Grahamstown, like all other places in the Eastern Cape and most regions of the country in fact, has so many outright drop-outs is that most local no-fee primary schools are failing to teach our children how to read, write and do arithmetic. Unless and until the primary sector is held to account in this regard, the high schools will necessarily bleed hundreds of learners, year-in and year-out.

Analysis of the performance of the 558 full-time candidates

Grahamstown's Class of 2018

performed very well across all performance measures. Typically, the pass rate is used as the overall indicator; this is quite reasonable since obtaining a National Senior Certificate (NSC) is an important achievement and has significant implications in relation to employability, amongst other factors. Similarly, the number and percentage of Bachelor passes are assessed to determine top-end or good quality performance. 'Bachelor' refers to obtaining a NSC of good enough quality to be admitted by a university for Bachelor degree studies.

Both the number of passes achieved and the overall percentage pass rate are significantly up from 2017. The number of successful candidates increased by 15%, climbing from 380 to a new Grahamstown record of 436. This increase was driven by Nombulelo and, to a lesser extent, Ntsika. The Nombulelo numbers are remarkable; whereas the school produced 41 passes in 2017, in 2018 this number more than doubled to breach the 100 mark! Similarly, the pass rate climbed three percentage points from the 2017 mark, to reach a record pass rate of marginally higher than 78%. The primary reason that this historic high has been achieved is that six of the city's nine schools produced pass rates of over 80%.

Whereas the community of Makhanda (Grahamstown) is accustomed to the fee-paying schools invariably obtaining close to perfect rates (in fact, perfect in the case of Victoria Girls!) we have never before seen three no-fee schools obtain 80% or above in the same year. Ntsika, Nombulelo and Mary Waters thus go down in history as Grahamstown's first triumvirate of successful no-fee high schools. Encouragingly, this points to an equalising of basic education in the city and to improved educational opportunities being created for poor and working-class youth.

This claim (of a levelling of the educational playing field) is further substantiated when considering the remarkable improvement in the number of Bachelor passes produced in 2018, from 197 (the previ-



Ntsika Secondary School principal Madeleine Schoeman (seated) gives matriculants the good news about their results on 4 January 2019. Ntsika and Nombulelo drove Grahamstown's public school 2018 matric pass rate up to 78%. Photo: Azlan Makalima

ous record) all the way up to 238. All of this improvement is due to greater contributions from the no-fee sector. To be explicit, whereas the previous record number of Bachelor passes produced by this sector was 62, in 2018 it produced 102 Bachelor passes. This is probably the most dramatic and significant statistic of all from the local 2018 matric results! (The number of Bachelor passes produced in the fee-paying schools was flat, increased marginally from 135 in 2017 to 136 in 2018). In this regard, two schools namely Ntsika and Nombulelo stand head and shoulders above the rest. It is thus apt to say a few words about each.

The Ntsika fairy-tale continues unabated... Under the dedicated leadership of Principal Madeleine Schoeman, the school has gone from strength to strength. For the past five years, every year the cohort size has increased (from 47 in 2014 to 93 in 2018), number of passes has increased (from 38 in 2014 to 79 in 2018) and the number of Bachelors has skyrocketed from 7 in 2014 to 36 in 2018.

Performance at the top-end was particularly encouraging in 2018, with an unprecedented number of learners registered for Mathematics and Physical Sciences. For the second consecutive year, the school produced the top

achiever from the no-fee sector in the Sarah Baartman District; Usiphile Gazi obtained distinctions in Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Geography and isiXhosa.

Whereas improvements at Ntsika have been steady over a protracted period, 2018 saw Nombulelo surging forward in a surprisingly dramatic fashion. Anybody who follows local schooling knows that inspirational Principal Nicci Hayes has made her mark since taking the hot seat in late 2015. 2017 saw the first signs that the school was on track for a return to its erstwhile glory days. But the scale and quantum of the improvements registered in 2018 speak to Hayes's effectiveness in galvanising her teaching staff: Nombulelo's Bachelor passes more than doubled, from 14 in 2017 to 34 in 2018.

Grahamstown in Context

The Eastern Cape Province registered a significant improvement in its pass rate, of about 6 percentage points, up to almost 71%. However, it managed this increase on the back of a further decrease in cohort size. In fact, the cohort size has dropped by over 10 000 learners over the past two years, to approximately 82 000 in 2018. As explained above, Makhanda (Grahamstown) managed both a significant increase in its local co-

hort size as well as an increase in the pass rate. Furthermore in 2018 Grahamstown produced a better pass rate than any other provincial city. (Port Elizabeth was the runner up, producing a success rate of 76%). Whilst there are still major challenges, what makes 2018 significant is that it re-established Grahamstown as the most successful educational city in the Eastern Cape. Indeed, 2018 was a most significant 'breakthrough' year for public schooling in the locality. We have outperformed the rest of the province by some margin.

The final frontier

In conclusion, it is necessary to highlight that the Grahams-town District Office of the Department of Basic Education has a responsibility to intervene with intent and impact in TEM Mrwetyana, Nathaniel Nyaluza and to a lesser extent Khutliso Daniels. These schools constitute a full one-third of local public school learners in the District. Unless the problems hampering them are effectively addressed, there is little chance that the city will emerge as a centre of educational excellence for all of its young people. But at least we can rightfully claim that, going into 2019, public education in Grahamstown is more equal now than it has ever been before.

In 2018, Makhanda (Grahamstown) produced a better pass rate than any other provincial city – including PE.

School-by-school Breakdown of results

School	2015		2016		2017		2018	
	Wrote	Passed	Wrote	Passed	Wrote	Passed	Wrote	Passed
Graeme College	54	53 (98%)	62	62 (100%)	59	58 (98%)	64	62 (97%)
Khutliso Daniels	29	7 (24%)	20	10 (50%)	32	8 (25%)	31	18 (58%)
Mary Waters	109	80 (73%)	120	85 (71%)	106	70 (66%)	62	51 (82%)
Nathaniel Nyaluza	106	24 (23%)	67	32 (48%)	53	24 (45%)	56	14 (25%)
Nombulelo	162	86 (53%)	79	45 (57%)	50	41 (82%)	127	101 (80%)
Ntsika	67	47 (70%)	70	61 (87%)	75	64 (85%)	93	79 (85%)
PJ Olivier	23	22 (96%)	38	31 (82%)	26	24 (92%)	30	25 (83%)
TEM Mrwetyana	55	22 (40%)	55	14 (26%)	21	9 (43%)	14	5 (36%)
Victoria Girls	83	83 (100%)	69	69 (100%)	82	82 (100%)	81	81 (100%)
City Total	688	424	580	409	504	380	558	436
City % Pass Rate	61.6%		70.5%		75.3%		78.1%	

School-by-school Bachelor performance

School	2015	2016	2017	2018
Graeme College	36	43	40	46
Khutliso Daniels	0	3	0	5
Mary Waters	13	13	16	19
Nathaniel Nyaluza	6	6	8	8
Nombulelo	25	7	14	34
Ntsika	11	22	22	36
PJ Olivier	13	13	17	16
TEM Mrwetyana	2	0	2	0
Victoria Girls	73	64	78	74
Total	179	171	197	238

'Believe in yourself, no matter what'

By AZLAN MAKALIMA

Grocott's Mail visited Usiphile Gazi (18), the Department of Education's Sarah Baartman District top achiever from a Historically Disadvantaged Institution. We spoke to the Ntsika Senior Secondary School matriculant about how she prepared for her success and her future plans.

Usiphile performed well in Life Sciences, Physical Science, Geography and isiXhosa in her matric exams.

"I was focused from the first day of school," she said. She created her own summaries after reading from a textbook and used these to prepare for her final exams.

"I am proud of myself and I am grateful that I passed Imatric with flying colours," said Usiphile, who plans to study Medicine.

On Saturday 5 January, Usiphile, her parents and her



Usiphile Gazi

teacher, Mr Masiza, attended the Eastern Cape Top Performers' Award Ceremony in East London. Not only did Usiphile receive many accolades, she also received a laptop.

"After the ceremony I learned that, if you believe in yourself and in whatever background or situation you facing at the moment, it should nev-

er determine your future. You have to believe in yourself, no matter what," Usiphile said.

Ntsika is one of Makhanda's (Grahamstown's) HDIs that has thrived on strong support from a Rhodes University/Gadra partnership that offers mentoring for learners, and leadership training for senior staff.

Usiphile's mother, Monica Gazi, played an important role on her success, taking over the household chores when Usiphile had to study or take afternoon classes.

"Some of our neighbours don't even know my child because she doesn't roam the streets," Monica said. "She goes to school, comes back and locks herself up in her room to study. I would even take over the cooking some nights, so she could have time to revise. She's been passing very well in every term," said

Monica. Usiphile handled peer pressure by associating herself with learners who were more focused on their books as she was. She was also an encouragement to her friends.

Both Usiphile and her mom were amazed by the rural areas pass rate at the ceremony, as they believe these are more disadvantaged than the schools in Makhanda. They wish every learner could pass well and attend the ceremony for motivation to study further.

"I wish our kids could stop the substance abuse and focus more on their studies, especially those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds, said Monica.

"Kids shouldn't let their situation or peer pressure predict their future. When you are educated, you overcome any obstacles."



Graeme College. Photo: Sue MacLennan



Mary Waters High School. Photo: Sue MacLennan



Nombulelo Secondary School. Photo: Steven Lang

Mom, teachers, friends... and a lot of hard work!

By SUE MACLENNAN

Professionals who don't treat teaching as "just a job", and a mom who believes in him are two of the keys to Graeme College matriculant Tashin Patrick's success in the National Senior Certificate exams in 2018. Tashin, who scored the top marks in the Sarah Baartman District, shared some of the secrets of his excellent academic record in an interview with Grocott's Mail.

All except one of Tashin's marks were in the 90s, with 96% for Physical Science his top score.

"You've got to set yourself high goals," Tashin said. "Goals that some might think are unattainable - but you've got to find the will and determination to work hard to achieve them."

Tashin has also clearly been very settled for most of his school career. Born in Grahamstown, he attended Oatland Prep until completing Grade 3, when he moved to Graeme College. There he found a "really amazing" support structure.



Tashin Patrick

"The teachers at Graeme are really dedicated. It doesn't seem like it's 'just a job' to them. Also, the school is very good at facilitating your personal goals, so I had the space to do things outside the curriculum."

His biggest gratitude, though, goes to his mom Lorraine Patrick.

"My mom's been there for me throughout my whole school journey," he said. "From helping me with my Grade 5 science projects to emotional support in recent

years. She's always been there to tell me she believes in me."

His friends matter to him - and no, it wasn't all about his books. Debating, Choir and cricket are just some of the activities Tashin embraced during his time at Graeme, and we couldn't help asking how he fitted all that in. And did he have any social life at all?

"I feel the sporting and cultural activities helped me develop as a person and so they actually helped my academics," he said.

"First you need to really want to do those things, be aware of how much time they'll take, and manage your time accordingly."

It's important, he says, to allow yourself to drop some of your activities in order to focus on one thing when necessary.

Keeping your friendships thriving can be more of a challenge, he admitted - but a lot of it has to do with having the right friends.

"I make sure to see my friends when I have a break - that's really important.

They're very accommodating and we have similar goals - they're just as focused."

Tashin's daily regime started with completing as much homework as possible during free time at school. He had a sporting or cultural activity most days after school and would usually be home by 5pm.

A rest and supper would follow, then he'd sit down to tackle more homework, or a project before bedtime.

"Weekends there would usually be sport or debating."

Some words of advice? "Dream. Don't be complacent: you don't have to conform to others' expectations."

"There's no substitute for hard work: it always pays off eventually, and if you're doing something for the right reasons, it will be worth it."

This year, Tashin will be studying Actuarial Science at the University of Cape Town. That done, he plans to get a Law degree.

"Then we'll see - I try not to think too far ahead!"

PJ Olivier. Photo: Sue MacLennan

By ASHLEY WESTAWAY

The most significant aspect of Grahamstown's 2018 matric performance is the phenomenal increase in the cumulative number of Bachelor passes from the six no-fee schools. The previous high was 62, but in 2018 this number leap-frogged all the way to 102.

Significantly, 89 of these Bachelors (or 87% of the total) were delivered by three schools, namely Ntsika, Nombulelo and Mary Waters. In this piece, I try to help the readers of Grahamstown understand what lay behind this achievement.

In 2014 Dr Sizwe Mabizela was appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University. In his Inaugural Address in early 2015 he undertook to re-position the institution, such that it become far more relevant to, and connected with, the community of Grahamstown. He went on to highlight education as a pri-

ority sector in this regard. To give substance to this specific commitment he established a planning team comprising intellectuals and activists from inside and outside Rhodes. There are three details from the plan that they came up with that are crucial to understanding the Bachelor surge.

First, Dr Mabizela asked Gadra Education to manage the implementation of his plan.

Given the community good will that Gadra enjoys and its strong relations with local schools in particular, this was an appropriate and forward-thinking move. This is a core partnership, out of which numerous other partnerships have emerged. The success that has been achieved is rooted in an understanding and embrace of the value of local institutions working together in partnership.

Second, a key strategic drive is to support the emergence of excellent education

institutions in the no-fee sector at both primary and high school levels. The high schools identified in this regard were Ntsika, Nombulelo and Mary Waters.

For the past three years, the Rhodes-led education intervention (commonly dubbed the VC's Initiative) has targeted its high school programmes on these three schools.

The basic rationale for this is 'to get bang for one's buck' or returns on one's investment. Before moving on from this point, it is necessary to acknowledge the outstanding and committed professional teams that work in and for Ntsika, Nombulelo and Mary Waters.

Madeleine Schoeman, Nicci Hayes and Faith Coetzee (the respective Principals) employ various and varied leadership styles and methods, but all are effective in ensuring that 'the hard yards' in their schools are done, in the form of good

quality teaching. Without this, the VC's Initiative would not be able to achieve anything.

Third, the plan asserts that different educational objectives should be pursued with different age cohorts. For example, whereas the remediation of literacy problems is a key objective in the Foundation Phase (Grade 1-3) interventions, in the final three years of high school, the main objective is to try to assist those learners with an inclination to study and an aptitude in studying to obtain a good quality matric pass.

In other words, it unashamedly and unequivocally targets top-end learners. It does this not because they are more deserving than bottom-end learners, but simply because this is what makes educational sense when working with 16-18-year-olds (as opposed to 6-8-year-olds).

Of course, from the perspective of Rhodes, a secondary rationale for this is that it

serves Dr Mabizela's mission to make the university more accessible to local disadvantaged students.

There are two specific interventions or programmes that have been designed to support and encourage top-end students, namely 'nine-tenths' mentoring and various bridging courses.

Mentoring is offered to approximately 170 Grade 12 learners every year, across Ntsika, Nombulelo and Mary Waters.

This carefully structured programme focuses on areas of aptitude that have a direct bearing on academic performance in the final examinations. These include personal planning (aspiration and ambition), study skills (with a focus on summarising) and submitting tertiary applications.

Mentoring services are delivered on a voluntary basis by carefully selected and thoroughly trained Rhodes students. Most of this work is

managed by the superb Community Engagement division at the university (RUCE), under the excellent leadership of Di Hornby. Nine-tenths has been implemented for the past three years and the impact that it is making has become increasingly evident over this period. The programme works not only because it builds the skills of matriculants (mentees) but also because of the inspirational agency of the Rhodes mentors.

In order to give impetus to his drive to improve the accessibility of Rhodes to local disadvantaged students, in 2016 Dr Mabizela asked Gadra to design and host a bridging programme.

In 2017, 10 local students who had obtained Bachelor-level passes but were unable to secure a university place were offered the opportunity both to upgrade two school subjects at the Gadra Matric School and to register at Rhodes for Psychology 1.

The pilot was very successful, to the extent that it has been institutionalised in expanded form.

From 2019, there are additional bridging courses offered in the Faculties of Science and Commerce. It is likely that there will be at least 40 local students registered for these courses in 2019.

The fact that these programmes can be supported by the Gadra Matric School is a massive strength, since it has proved adept at preparing its bigger cohort of students for the demands and disciplines of tertiary study.

A real benefit of the bridging programmes is that they enable those of us who work in the public schools to incentivise performance in the final examinations, knowing that we are equipped to honour the promises and undertakings that we make. I have no doubt that the 2018 spike in Bachelor passes is directly linked to the expansion of the

bridging programmes.

So it is clear that there are a variety of programmes (including 9/10ths mentoring, the bridging courses, the Gadra Matric School or GMS) that are all working towards the same objective of increasing local throughput to Rhodes.

It should be emphasised that the GMS has entrenched its position as the biggest feeder school of Rhodes. If one adds up the numbers of all the local students who will be registering at Rhodes as first year students through these programmes, one quickly reaches a ballpark number of around 130.

This is by far the highest number of local disadvantaged students admitted to the university as first years in a single year.

And thus Dr Mabizela's vision is coming to fruition, quicker and more significantly than anyone in this city could have even imagined in 2014.

NOW READ

101 Bachelors and zero fails for Gadra Matric School: bit.ly/GrocGadra2018

Changing the future through quality results: bit.ly/Groclkamva2018

Records smashed by the class of 2018

From Page 3

"According to our projections, we had a target of 77% and we are slightly disappointed," said Radio Mcuba. "We are grateful still because we have more bachelors than we had last year - four in Maths and Science and one bachelor in history.

"The district gave us a target of 60% and we reached 50%. We have high hopes for this year - we will do even better," Mcuba said.

Teaching and learning standards

Victoria Girls' High School has enjoyed a 100% pass rate since 2004. Of 82 who wrote in 2018, 74 achieved Bachelor passes.

the performance of the 2018 class, they have maintained the school's long-standing tradition of the 100% pass rate, and, more importantly, the over 90% Bachelor's pass rate," Principal Warren Schmidt said.

"They have given the class of 2019 a worthy benchmark to aim for, and hopefully exceed."

"Thank you to all the pupils, parents, staff of the school for their efforts in keeping VG the top performing public school in the area."

"Graeme College is very proud of the class of 2018," said deputy principal Greg von Molendoff. Top achiever in the District Tashin Patrick, Daniel-Keagan Hockly

and Tadiwa Mafuma were the three A aggregates, among those making up the 67 subject As in Graeme College's class of 2018.

"We are very proud to have a 97% pass rate for 2018, with a 72% Bachelor pass rate. It is pleasing to have 99% of the candidates who passed receive either a bachelor or diploma pass," said Von Molendoff.

In 2018, Gadra Matric School (GMS) enrolled 173 students. Of these 101 (58%) obtained Bachelor level passes, 67 (39%) Diploma passes and 5 (3%) Higher Certificate passes. No student failed, said Gadra Education Manager Ashley Westaway.

GMS has specifically focused on enabling its students obtain good quality results. It is thus very pleasing that GMS has again, for the 4th consecutive year, assisted over 100 of its students to obtain a Bachelor level pass," Westaway said.

"This strong performance in the final examinations confirms that GMS will remain the biggest feeder school for Rhodes University in 2019. Gadra Education is committed to assisting Dr Mabizela (the university's Vice-Chancellor) in his bid to make the university more accessible to local youth, and GMS is a key institution in this regard."

This was the third consecutive year that GMS had maintained a 100% pass rate. "As far as individual sub-

jects are concerned, highlights were an average improvement of 13% in Physical Sciences and of 11% in Accounting. These are strategic subjects in relation to the science and commerce fields respectively," Westaway said.

Of the local schools in the Grahamstown Cluster Management Centre, PJ Olivier and Mary Waters followed Ntsika at 83.33% and 82.25% respectively. Grahamstown (Makhanda's) Nombulelo Secondary had a 79.52% pass rate.

Of the 30 Grade 12s of Hoërskool PJ Olivier who resulted, 25% were successful, giving the school an 83.33% pass rate - a decrease of 8.9% in 2017.

Of those who passed, 16

(53.3%) achieved Bachelor passes, five a Diploma pass and four a higher Certificate. The school's top achiever was Daniel Retief with an 83% aggregate.

"I'm moderately satisfied with the 2018 results," said Principal Joubert Retief.

"Our Bachelor Pass rate of 53.3% and the fact that there are more subjects with learners receiving subject As indicate that the standard of teaching and learning is on par with what is required."

"Congratulations to the teachers and learners that used every opportunity and reaped the benefits of their efforts. There is no replacement for hard work to achieve success and I hope that the class of 2019 will

raise the bar. Thanks to all the parents who supported their children throughout."

Tragedy mars matric joy Joy with strong results at Nombulelo Secondary School was tempered by the sorrow of the loss of Zikhona Ndokweni, a Grade 12 learner who passed away in Peddie on Friday 29 December and was buried in Riebeeck East on Thursday 3 January.

"Though we don't know the full details of her passing, we do know that Zikhona had been battling cancer for a number of years," said Principal Nicci Hayes.

"She received a special award at our prize-giving for her dedication, conscientious attendance of school

and cheerfulness, despite extremely challenging personal circumstances.

Zikhona had signed up to assist with the skills course the school will be introducing this year. She will be sorely missed by the staff and by her peers."

Despite a slight drop in the overall pass rate percentage, Hayes was delighted what the learners had achieved.

"We are particularly proud of Mhlahli Breakfast, who has led the way academically throughout the year," Hayes said. Breakfast achieved two As and three Bs.

"We are pleased to have maintained a fairly strong matric pass rate this year," Hayes said.

percentage being slightly down on last year [from 82% to 79.52%], we are happy that the number of learners passing has increased but also that our "strong passes" i.e. Bachelor and Diploma passes [34 Bachelor passes and 46 Diploma passes] have improved compared to last year," Hayes said.

"Credit to our staff, the learners (especially those who formed study groups and worked late into the night at school revising) and our whole support network including staff from the district office, iKamva, GADRA, Rhodes and all the other individuals and organisations that give so much to bolster our learners during their most critical year."

Strong District results In Ndlambe, Kuyasa Combined was fourth among the top five performing schools (83.78%). Port Alfred High achieved 82.81% and Nomzamo 80.48%, while in Bathurst, Velile Secondary achieved 78.94%. Alexandria High was at 73.33%.

Alicedale's Hendrick Kanise came in at 76.92%. Nathaniel Nyaluza saw a catastrophic plunge by 23.28%, with less than a quarter of the 67-strong class of 2018 passing. Just over a third of TEM Mrwetyana's 55 candidates passed.

The Eastern Cape Department of Education's Grahamstown Cluster Management Centre (CMC), as the old Grahamstown District, now

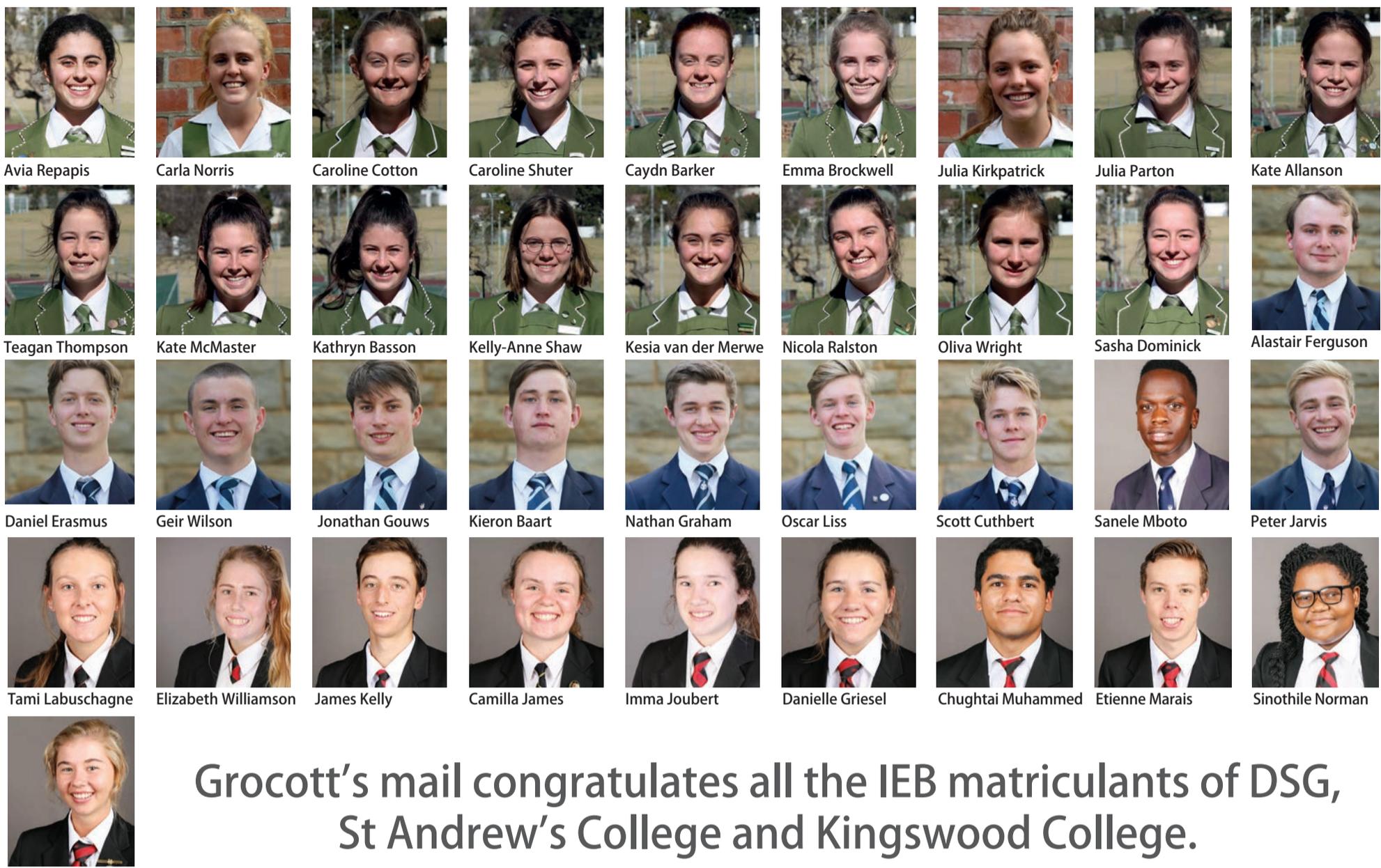
looking at the District results and would comment later.

The worst pass rate in the Eastern Cape (55.6%) was in Amathole West which incorporates Nxuba, Nkonkobe, Amahlathi and Ngqushwa local municipalities.

Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga announced the national results in Gauteng on Thursday evening, where the Gauteng province led the provinces followed by the Free State province.

Nationally, the matric class of 2018, who sat for the NSC examination, achieved a 78.2% pass rate.

The pass rate, which is inclusive of the progressed learners, was a 3.1% improvement from the 75.1% achieved in 2017.



Avia Repapis

Carla Norris

Caroline Cotton

Caroline Shuter

Caydn Barker

Emma Brockwell

Julia Kirkpatrick

Julia Parton

Kate Allanson



Teagan Thompson



Kate McMaster



Kathryn Basson



Kelly-Anne Shaw



Kesia van der Merwe



Nicola Ralston



Oliva Wright



Sasha Dominick



Alastair Ferguson



Daniel Erasmus



Geir Wilson



Jonathan Gouws



Kieron Baart



Nathan Graham



Oscar Liss



Scott Cuthbert



Sanele Mboto



Peter Jarvis



Tami Labuschagne



Elizabeth Williamson



James Kelly



Camilla James



Imma Joubert



Danielle Griesel



Chughtai Muhammed



Etienne Marais



Sinothile Norman



Danika Peenz

Grocott's mail congratulates all the IEB matriculants of DSG, St Andrew's College and Kingswood College.

Strong Independent Schools results

STAFF REPORTER

Independent schools in Makhanda (Grahamstown) were successful in the IEB Matric examinations for 2018, with all three enjoying a 100% pass rate. The Diocesan School for Girls' Dux scholar, Nicola Ralston, was placed on the IEB Merit list for Outstanding Achievement. This means she is placed in the top 5% nationally across six subjects and attained a Level 7 for Life Orientation. Nicola was also the top IEB matriculant in the Eastern Cape. Caroline Shuter (Johannesburg) was placed in the top 1% nationally in Geography, Life Sciences and Mathematics.

Emma Brockwell (Bedford); Caroline Cotton (Grahamstown); Nicola Ralston (Port Elizabeth); Avia Repapis (Grahamstown) and Caroline Shuter (Johannesburg) all achieved a full house of Seven Distinctions:

Placed in the top 1% in the country for individual subjects were:

Geography: Caroline Shuter and Kelly-Anne Shaw

isiXhosa First Additional Language: Ntombizethu Mphahla and Achumile Sintwa
Life Sciences: Caroline Shuter

Mandarin Second Additional Language: Yingge Wang
Mathematical Literacy: Victoria Barnes

Mathematics: Caydn Barker and Caroline Shuter

DSG girls attained an outstanding 230 subject distinctions and 233 B symbols. This means that 38% of all symbols achieved by the 86 candidates were distinctions and 39% were B symbols.

"We are proud of our academic record which I know can be largely attributed to the strong work ethic among our pupil body, good parental support and a well-trained, committed and dedicated academic staff. I congratulate the entire team," said Principal Shelley Frayne.

Rising to the challenge - Kingswood College

The Kingswood College Matric Class of 2018 achieved a 100% pass rate and 138 distinctions

were obtained. The top 10 pupils of 2018 gathered a total of 52 distinctions. The Kingswood College Deputy Head Girl for 2018, Tami Labuschagne, achieved an 88% overall average. Tami, who hails from Somerset West, has obtained seven distinctions for all of her subjects. Danielle Griesel, who comes from Port Alfred has achieved an overall average of 87%

Imma Joubert, from Alexandria, has achieved an overall average of more than 85% with six distinctions.

Danika Peenz, obtained six (6) distinctions in the final examinations and an 82% overall average.

Camilla James and Elizabeth Williamson who come from Grahamstown, achieved five distinctions each. Camilla will attend Rhodes University this year and will register for a BSc, while Elizabeth will be studying Psychology at the University of Cape Town.

Muhammad Chughtai, James Kelly, Etienne Marais and Sinothile Normaneach achieved

four subject distinctions.

The newly appointed Kingswood College Head, Dr Colleen Vassiliou, said, "I would like to congratulate the class of 2018 for rising to the challenge and giving of their best in the final examinations."

'A truly exceptional group' - St Andrew's College

The 2018 St Andrew's College Matrics achieved a 100% pass rate, and all the boys have qualified to study at tertiary level for degree (96%) or diploma (4%) courses. The 103 College boys who wrote the exam achieved a total of 153 subject distinctions. 11 514 candidates wrote the National Senior Certificate through the IEB this year with a 98,92% pass rate nationally.

Daniel Erasmus, from Port Elizabeth, achieved eight distinctions (7 IEB distinctions and one A Level distinction).

Daniel was placed in the top 1% of all the IEB candidates who wrote Accounting, Mathematics and Physical Science. In addition, he was

placed on the IEB Commendable List for candidates who achieved results in the top 5% in five subjects (and received 80% for Life Orientation).

Grahamstown pupils Jonathan Gouws and Head of School, Peter Jarvis, both achieved a full house of seven IEB distinctions.

Kieron Baart and Alistair Ferguson each achieved six distinctions. Scott Cuthbert, Nathan Graham and Geir Wilson each achieved five distinctions.

Jonathan, Peter, Kieron, Scott and Geir are joined by Sanele Mboto and Oscar Liss in achieving A Aggregates.

James Baker, Jonathan Campbell and Geir Wilson were placed in the top 1% of all the candidates nationally who wrote Mathematical Literacy.

Headmaster Alan Thompson said, "I am delighted with this year's Matric results. They not only reflect some outstanding achievements at the top, but also provide some inspiring examples of what is possible when good attitude

meets with a great work ethic. There have been some notable improvements throughout the year which have culminated really positively here.

"The Matric class of 2018 has been a truly exceptional group of boys. They have given of themselves generously over many years and enjoyed much success in their time at College. They have finished a good year very well indeed, with an excellent set of academic results that reflect that positive approach.

"Of course, a great end to the academic year does not come about by chance. It reflects the hard work of many -boys, staff, and parents - all working together to create excellence in this place. I record my grateful thanks to a great team for a job done well!"

Grocott's Mail congratulates all the IEB matriculants who wrote their exams at these three schools. The IEB is an independent assessment agency that offers a range of certified accreditations. They are accredited by Umalusi for school and adult assessment.

DSG girls among isiXhosa top achievers

STAFF REPORTER

Makhanda's (Grahamstown's) Ntombizethu 'Zethu Mphahla and Achumile Sintwa (18) were among the top 1% nationwide for top marks in isiXhosa in the recent IEB examinations. Achumile and Zethu both schooled at Diocesan School (DSG) and are among

the select few gifted scholars, whose high school education was covered by the non-profit organisation, Student Sponsorship Programme.

Student Sponsorship Programme (SSP), a non-profit trust, has provided educational opportunities since 2000, to 1 500 talented South African

students from low-income families to attend the best high schools countrywide.

Chosen out of more than a thousand children nationwide for their top marks in English, Maths and Science, the duo also qualified for the high school scholarship because of their emotional intelligence

and empathy.

"I love Xhosa because of its idioms, these are full of lessons and very interesting. I also love it because it is my mother tongue," said Achumile, who plans to study a BCom and major in accounting.

Zethu is "studying towards becoming a chemical engi-

neer, specifically biofuels". SSP's sponsorship of her education meant, "I was exposed to a different world than the one I was used to. I value that SSP hasn't given up on South Africa's youth - some of us were given the chance to have a better future and the only way to get out, was to work

ten times harder than every other child."

Her advice for fellow youngsters, "The sooner you realise you have no limits, you will fly - don't underestimate what you are capable of doing." - Copy supplied by Student Sponsorship Programme

Smooth start to school year

GROCOTT'S MAIL REPORTERS

On a whistlestop tour on the first day of school this week, Grocott's Mail found most Makhanda (Grahamstown) Primary Schools up and running. The Department of Education delivered stationery packs to the schools last year, giving learners a head start. With the exception of one or two schools, when *Grocott's Mail* visited, school transport was working, teachers were in their classrooms and, at the no-fee schools, school meals were being served. Every school had more applications than it could accept – most because of their infrastructure limitations – simply not enough space to meet the huge demand for quality schooling for the town's children.

The major problem that three of the no-fee schools – Fikizolo, Samuel Ntsiko and Archie Mbolekwa are facing is the unavailability of water. The principals are concerned with the high temperatures and that children will need to drink water and go to the toilet. This means that they will have to take the children out before time, and that will interfere with their teaching. They said the municipality fills their tanks with water but there are often delays.

Here's a snapshot of what we found at some schools across the city.

Graeme College

The school traditionally starts a day early – "It sets the right tone for the boys," said Principal Kevin Watson on Tuesday. Of 350 applicants, the school, which educates boys from Grade R to Grade 12, was able to accept 45, bringing to total number to 658.

Victoria Primary School

Acting Principal Michelle Rafferty said so far, all was going to plan. They had orientation for their new girls on Tuesday. VP took in 252

applications by June (their closing date for applications) and have managed to place 76 girls. Their total enrolment for 2019 is 463 girls.

Samuel Ntsiko Primary School

Principal Nombulelo Koliti was not yet sure of the number of admissions, as they were still counting the number of pupils for each class.

"I believe 2019 is going to be a smooth ride," Koliti said. "We are already teaching and we are proud that the parents are getting used to the facts that we don't relax on the first day of school. Parents registered their kids from the previous year, we are thankful. The new development of the informal settlement is causing us to lose a number of pupils each year. We received our stationery at the end of last year and we are now more than ready to take off for the year.

Fikizolo Primary School

Principal Zoleka Kate said preparations for school this year went well because they already had their stationery. "The challenge we still encounter is parents who did not register their kids before the school closed last year. We are not yet sure of the number of kids we admitted this year, as our clerk was still counting this morning."

Good Shepherd

Principal Manie Cronje said from 298 learners in grades 1-7 last year, this year they have grown to 316 and are at their maximum capacity. They had more than 220 applications for 2019.

"As a highly functional school in the CBD, Good Shepherd is a no-fee school in high demand and also very popular. Good Shepherd is a public school on private property and is the oldest school in Grahamstown – 135 years old this year. We are blessed to work very closely with the



Archie Mbolekwa. Photo: Azlan Makalima

Good Shepherd Trust," Cronje said.

Oatlands Preparatory

Acting Principal Alison Dugmore said the school has 340 learners in total. They had 100 applications but only 30 places because of limited space, with delays in the Department's building of additional classrooms.

Grahamstown Primary

Principal Leon Coetzee said the school has 307 learners in total. They have 15 new learners in Grades 1-7, of 40 new applications, plus 45 new Grade Rs.

It's a challenge for learners and staff because the school was packed up ready to move to its temporary premises while the new interactive school is built on the existing Currie Street site. However, there was a technical hitch, so lessons are taking place in

the old classrooms for the first two weeks of the school year.

George Dickerson Primary

Principal Anthony Douglas said the school takes 760 learners in total and admissions are not yet confirmed. "We help the poorest of the poor. We can't turn children away. Most who come late are not from Grahamstown and come here under difficult circumstances – such as when their parents have passed away.

Correctional Services came and cleaned up the school ahead of the first day. Founded in 1884, the school will be 135 years old in 2019.

St Mary's

Principal Gerard Jacobs said the total number is 765. Of around 50 applications for Grades 1-7 they were able to accept 15 and 35 remain on

the waiting list.

Transport is a challenge. There were 55 applications, but the Department accepts 39. "There is a group of learners who need transport and haven't been accommodated," Jacobs said.

"It's been a tricky start, because the school is short of a Grade 7 teacher, a Grade R teacher and an HOD post." While these posts would be filled, it meanwhile put pressure on existing staff.

NV Cewu

Principal Anele Ndyolashe said the school takes 720 learners in total. Of 90 Grade R applications, 85 were accepted – "and they're still coming in in dribs and drabs". Of 65 applications for grades 1-7, 40 were accepted.

No children at the school use scholar transport because they all live within 3km of the school. Construction of the

schools new early childhood development centre is under way and they are looking forward to its completion.

Makana Primary

As schools in Fingo Village are losing learners to the new Inkanini informal settlement, so the Joza schools – Makana Primary in particular – are gaining them.

"Our total number is 530," principal Nkhosi Williams said. "We have 66 new learners this year including 32 Grade Rs.

No one has been turned away – although there is this culture of coming at the last minute."

The new informal settlement, Inkanini, was putting pressure on the school, Williams said.

• Sue MacLennan and Azlan Makalima contributed to this overview.



George Dickerson. Photo: Sue MacLennan



Grahamstown Primary Photo: Sue MacLennan



NV Cewu. Photo: Sue MacLennan



Fikizolo Primary. Photo: Azlan Makalima

Makana tourism
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GAM
Grahamstown
Big Week

Arts and culture was alive and well during the festive season, in and around the Creative City

Ndlambe Music Fest



Via Kasi Movers performing live at the Ndlambe Music Festival on 23 December 2018 at Prince Magongo Stadium in Port Alfred. Photo: Azlan Makalima

The Original South African
JDE CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

JDE 165

- ACROSS**
- 1 Establish everything on the other side of popular thoroughfare (7)
 - 5 Monkey about loco and other public transport (7)
 - 9 Old Marine leader shoots fellow mediator (9)
 - 10 Meneer points to temptress (5)
 - 11 Bill has endless understanding in First Grade, responding to ... (13)
 - 13 ... ten 'lions' trying to be defiant (8)
 - 15 Drove along street to circle (6)
 - 17 Nice assimilation of hymn and improvisation (9)
 - 19 He rose as awkwardly as a male who gives birth (8)
 - 22 Ban live reminder to add flavouring and to put this on your braai (8,5)
 - 25 A large weapon instils fear (5)
 - 26 Running away from work in group (9)
 - 27 Praise even the ou's girl (7)
 - 28 Nude res excites final recipient (3,4)
- DOWN**
- 1 Report lazy hero (4)
 - 2 Replacement paths – are other roads and tracks superior to them? (7)
 - 3 African fig, doringboom and kiepersol primarily used for lean-to (5)
 - 4 Makes fun of light and so-on, unfortunately (8)
 - 5 Led astray after prison and taper (6)
 - 6 Desperate ending in front of trench (4-5)
 - 7 Sculptor carved in brine (7)
 - 8 Random guess: no gay temples? (10)
 - 12 Heading north I hurt - first big ache about American coast (5,5)
 - 14 Boy is full of energy - geesh he loves women's company (6,3)
 - 16 Base note affects tones (8)
 - 18 A Rolls Royce lugs debt (7)
 - 20 Dagga cigarettes are amazingly free in student accommodation (7)
 - 21 Draw rolling lea to river (6)
 - 23 Turn over page found in shifting dune (5)
 - 24 Sit around before first revolutionary commotion (4)

Makana tourism
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GAM
Grahamstown
Weekly What's On

- Mondays**
GRAHAMSTOWN BRIDGE
6.30pm at Grahamstown Bowling Club. Duplicate Bridge. Contact Sheila Hicks 083 442 3322 .
- SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING**
7.30pm at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Learn Scottish Country Dancing in a friendly social setting. Beginners welcome. Contact Jennifer Williams 084 589 7149
- Tuesdays**
SENIORS BRIDGE AND TEA
2pm at Christ Church Speke Street. Come and boost your weekly bridge. Join our 10 to 20 cheerful, friendly players. Cost R10 per person per week. Contact Maureen 046 622 5215.
- Thursdays**
GRAHAMSTOWN BRIDGE
1.30pm at Grahamstown Bowling Club. Duplicate Bridge. Contact Sheila Hicks 083 442 3322 .

Eastern Cape Film Festival



The fourth edition of the Eastern Cape Film Festival took place at the National English Literary Museum eMakhandha during early December. Audiences enjoyed all-day screenings of local films, outdoor theatre performances, stand-up comedy, live music and workshops run by some of South Africa's most prominent directors, producers, actors and scriptwriters. Photo: Khuthala Nandipha

St Andrew's Pipe Band



The St Andrew's College Pipe Band celebrated its 80th year of existence in 2018, and is believed to be the oldest school pipe band in the country. Girls from DSG have played in the band since 1995, when Christine Harris became the first DSG piper, and since then a good number of girls have played in the band, several of them holding the position of leading side drummer. In 2018 another historic milestone was reached, when Lucy Ter Morshuizen became the first DSG girl to hold the top position of Pipe Major. Photo: Supplied

Bridge Results

Grahamstown Bridge Club
Thursday 13 December 2018
4 Table 28 Board Howell Movement
PAIR NAMES

1 Val Buchner & Jenny Haswell	67.86%
2 Mary Schudel & Peter Midlane	61.90%
3 Sheila Hicks & Ilva Benyon	52.98%
4= Pair 1	49.40%
4= Pair 7	49.40%
6 Pair 8	42.86%
7 Pair 5	41.07%
8 Pair 4	34.52%

Thursday 3 January 2019
4 Table 21 Board Howell Movement
PAIR NAMES

1 Carol Stanton & Jo Fitzhenry	69.84%
2 Viv Botha & Val Buchner	61.11%
3 Torquil Paterson & Hennie Fick	58.73%
4 Jeanne Ackermann & Derrick Newson	54.76%
5 Pair 1	49.21%
6 Pair 8	42.06%
7 Pair 5	34.92%
8 Pair 2	29.37%

Monday 7 January 2019
2½ Table 25 Board Howell Movement
PAIR NAMES

1 5 Mary Godlonton & Merle Murray	65.00%
2= 2 Val Buchner & Jenny Haswell	50.00%
2= 4 Dave Gain & Allon Poole	50.00%
4 Pair 1	47.50%
5 Pair 3	37.50%

For more information contact Sheila Hicks 083 442 3322 .

Sudoku

		2				7	
	1	9		7			8
			8		1		2
	3		9				4
							1
			6			5	
		8		5			9
6				3		7	1
7					6		

Winner for 14 December is Sheila Hicks

Compiled by George Euvrard

Crossword Solution for 14 Dec JDE 164

1	S	P	R	A	N	G		5	L	I	F	E	L	I	N	E				
	H	R	O	E					R		A	U								
9	H	E	I	R	L	O	O	M		10	A	R	T	E	R	Y				
	R	A							O	T		E	S							
11	C	O	G	N	I	S	A	N	C	E			13	R	U	E	D			
	M	G							N		R		A							
14	M	O	L	E					15	O	C	E	A	N	O	L	O	G	Y	
	N								T				I					U		
17	D	E	L	I	N	E	A	T	E	S				19	S	A	G	E		
			N						N				E		H	U				
20	P	U	K	E					22	T	A	B	E	R	N	A	C	L	E	
	S	X	R						U					L	E					
24	B	U	L	A	L	A			25	M	O	D	U	L	A	T	E			
	A	C	N						P					A	O	H				
27	F	L	A	T	T	E	R	Y						28	B	O	W	O	U	T

Long queues at understaffed Addo

By STEVEN LANG

Early risers wishing to enter the Addo Elephant Park as soon as the gates opened at 7am were disappointed over the recent festive season. If they arrived at 6.50am they were confronted by a long line of people who had similar plans.

Usually during the year, seven o'clock arrivals have to contend with two or three groups of regulars who swiftly make it through the paperwork.

Before November 2018, it used to be possible to fill in the forms online, print them out and then hand them in at reception together with your Wild Card. Now, for some strange reason, online forms are not acceptable and visitors have to fill out a form (pen not supplied) inside a book.

Over the holidays, visitors had to fill out the book, get it checked and stamped by the lone person at reception, and then physically take the book to a group standing further

down the line.

People stood in line for about an hour to get through reception to then wait for their turn at the gate. On both days I visited the Park over the festive season there were no additional staff members at the gate so that one person had to take down licence plates on clipboards and inspect the boots of cars going into and out of the park.

The only time I have ever tried to fill up my car in the Park at the Main Camp filling station, a single, photo-copied sheet of paper stuck to one of the pumps read 'No Fuel'. Inquiries about when the station's tanks were due to be replenished were met with a big smile and a shrug of the shoulders.

The parking lot at the Main Camp was utter chaos without any form of traffic control. It was jam-packed with passenger cars, buses, trailers and dozens of game-drive vehicles trying to move in both directions of the single lane be-

tween rows of parked cars.

Vehicles also filled the parking areas around Hapoor and Rooidam, two of the biggest watering holes in the park, but by and large, drivers were respectful and allowed each other to find a good viewing spot. However, there is always one driver, usually in a large SUV, who leaves the engine running to keep his air-conditioning humming and so disturbing an otherwise peaceful scene.

In spite of the large number of visitors, game viewing was superb especially at the water holes. The drought and careful management of the water supplies has ensured that you can park at almost any water hole and watch a stream of animals come by.

There is no place on planet Earth better than Hapoor Dam to watch elephants.

The Addo Elephant Park Communication Officer has promised to release statistics about visitors as soon as they are received from head office.



Visitors to Addo Elephant Park wait in the queue to go in. Photos: Steven Lang



Game viewing was superb at Addo this December, especially at the waterholes.

My Garden



From left to right: Luvuyo Tetani, Nobathembu Peter (supervisor), Monde Maguma, Maxi Funani, Thembisile Jali and Simphiwe Nkatshe.

Just before the December holidays, Community Work Programme participants went to Raglan Road Clinic to reap the rewards of their planting. They have planted cabbages, carrots, beetroot and pumpkin for the clinic's elderly patients. They also provide vegetables to the Multipurpose Centre Old Age home in Raglan Road. "The giving hand is the blessed one," said supervisor Nobathembu Peter. - Story and photo by Lindani Donyeli

FOR ALL YOUR GARDEN REQUIREMENTS

- Trees • Pots • Compost/potting soil • Shrubs
- Water features • Seedlings • Garden Ornaments
- Fertilizers • Garden Furniture • Tea Garden



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Tel: 046 622 6069

Settler City Toyota

AT SETTLER CITY TOYOTA GRAHAMSTOWN

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Grocotts Mail

11 January 2019

1. PERSONAL

Death

PAPENFUS - nee Dugmore **PAT** passed away on 3 January 2019. Lovingly remembered by all family and friends.

HUMAN WALTER JOHAN



18/01/1951 - 30/12/2018
Rus in wrede. Baie Liefde, Eggenoot, kinders en kleinkinders. Die gedenkdiens vind plaas op Saterdag 12 January 12:00 te NG Kerk Grahamstad.



MZWAMADODA TITI MHASE

Passed away peacefully on Friday 4 January 2019. Funeral Service will be on 12 January 2019. It will start at home at 07:00 at No 13 "U" Street, Grahamstown and proceed to Grahamstown Town Hall at 09:00

Funeral



The Funeral Service of the late **GUNGXE NAFEYA "KROMIE MAQHUDU"** will be held at **St Augustine Church, Joza.** Time: **09:00** Date: **12/01/2019**

www.grocotts.co.za

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Grocott's Mail

offers contract advertising at discounted rates.



NONAYI JONSON GOTYI Uhlala kwa 1958 Kuyga Greenbushes 6390 ungcwatywa ngomgqibelo umhla we 12 January 2019. Funeral will be conducted at 1958 Kuya Greenbushes 6390

MLINDELI MICHAEL MPALALA Uhlala kwa 71 Extension 9, Grahamstown, ungcwatywa ngomgqibelo umhla we 12 January 2019. Funeral will be conducted at St Augustine's Anglican Church, Grahamstown

Siyakubonga Funeral Services

Funerals arranged by **Siyakubonga Funeral Services.** 6 Cobden Street Grahamstown Tel: **087 357 7047** Please go and our facebook page, all notices available on every week.

TSHATSHENI AYANDA uhlala kwa 1102 Ntente Street, Port Alfred ungcwatywa ngoMgqibelo umhla we 12 January 2019.

GONGXO XOLISWA JULIA uhlala kwa 2101 Sakwatsha Street, Port Alfred ungcwatywa ngoMgqibelo umhla we 12 January 2019.

In Memoriam



SINAZO ZANDILE ADAM (nee Manentsa)

A year ago God took you away to a better place. What it meant to lose you, no one will ever know. Thinking of you today & always. Every day we honour your memory. Love and miss you forever. Love Mama, Gco & Asa

2. ANNOUNCEMENT

Notices

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS, PROTEA GROUP. Drinking problem - get help from us! Meetings 7.30pm, Monday night at the Princess Alice Girl Guide Hall, African Street, opp BP Garage.



1. Child Welfare SA, Grahamstown is looking for the biological mother of **Lubabalo Zuke born 2006/03/06** and **Siyanda Zuke, born 2003/08/31** The biological mother is Phumla Zuke and is alleged to be in Malawi. Please could the mother or anyone knowing her details contact Ms Ziyanda Mooi, Social Worker at Child Welfare Grahamstown SA on 046 636 1355 as soon as possible.

2. Child Welfare SA, Grahamstown is looking for the biological father of **Sesona Memani, born 2013/08/04.** The biological father is alleged to be Benathi Ndayi and his whereabouts are unknown. Please could the father or anyone knowing his contact details contact Ms Ziyanda Mooi, Social Worker at Child Welfare SA - Grahamstown on 046 636-1355 as soon as possible.

3. Child Welfare SA, Grahamstown is looking for the biological father of **Likhanye Nqebeya, born 2012/10/26.** The identity and whereabouts are unknown. Please could the father or anyone knowing his details contact Ms Ziyanda Mooi, Social Worker at Child Welfare SA - Grahamstown on 046 636-1355 as soon as possible.

3. SALES & SERVICES

Pets



For Well Cared-for, Happy Pets

Furniture

2ND HAND HOUSE. High Street. Buyers & Sellers. Quality furniture, antiques, removals. Contact: **073 470 6105**

Home Maintenance

MARIUS BARNARD PLUMBING & RENOVATIONS Cell: 0794630872 24 Hours Service Email: mbholdings01@gmail.com



For all your Refrigeration Air Conditioning & Electrical requirements **PLEASE CALL WILLIAM** 083 427 4350 William@reedselectrocool.co.za



Miscellaneous Wanted

Cars and Bakkies wanted in any condition. Old Models are welcome too Please contact Himat on : **082 722 6183**

Services Offered

GRAHAMSTOWN TREEFELLING & GARDEN REFUSE REMOVAL Cell: 079 157 3401 WhatsApp Only: 0712114723 Email: mbholdings01@gmail.com. Treefelling and stump removal. We undercut any quote.

DIGS TO DIGS REMOVALS Furniture Removals (local & national), Deliveries & Daily Refuse Collections. Call / WhatsApp: **081 436 9750**

GRAHAMSTOWN TREEFELLING & GARDEN REFUSE REMOVAL Loads or bags. 7 days a week. Call Marius at 079 157 3401

Transport

YABO'S TOURS

*Reliable & safe journeys
*For funerals, local & long distances.
For bookings call 079 814 9700 or e-mail yabotours@gmail.com

4. EMPLOYMENT

Employment Wanted

I AM looking for a cleaning or a housekeeping job. I am also a good baby sitter. Looking for any domestic work. I am good. Contact Clara 078 349 4117

MY name is **NTOMBUVUYO NDIYIBI**, you can call me Ntosh. I am a domestic worker. I am married and have 1 child. I used to work at Priority Cleaning Company as a cleaner also at Pick n Pay as a general worker. My number is 063 436 9822 or 060 328 1792.

I AM a young Zimbabwean lady looking for part time jobs. Cleaning, laundry or shop assistance or waitress. Contact Vimbayi 084 625 0886.

Employment Offered

ST MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

55 Albany Road, Grahamstown, 6139 046 622 5187

School Governing Body Post **GRADE 7 SUBJECTS: MATHEMATICS, NATURAL SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY**

Medium of instruction: **Afrikaans and English**

Closing date: **1:00pm, Friday 18 January 2019**

Requirements:
• Completed EDP 01 application form
• Certified copy of green South African Identity document
• Certified copies of all academic qualifications, which must include appropriate training as an educator
• Certified copy of membership certificate with SACE or proof of application for registration

Applications must be hand delivered or posted to: **The Principal, St Mary's RC Primary School, P.O.Box 436, 55 Albany Road, Grahamstown, 6139.** No faxed applications will be accepted.

8. LEGALS

ESTATE LATE

In the Estate of the late **MICHAEL JAMES SMITH**, Identity Number **3307185027089** of **359 Alistair Street, Cannon Rocks, Eastern Cape**, who died on **28 August 2018**

ESTATE NO 003006/2018

All persons having claims against the above Estate are required to lodge such claims with the undersigned within thirty days from date of publication hereof.

Dated at Grahamstown this 10th day of **DECEMBER 2018**

WHITESIDES Attorneys for Executor 53 African Street **GRAHAMSTOWN (MR NUNN/LV/10935)**

ESTATE LATE

In the estate of the late **MPHUMEZI GAVEN MDAKA** Identity Number **700530 5608 087** Date of death **18-8-2015** Marital status: **Unmarried** Last address: **63A, Ext 1, Joza, Grahamstown**

Estate Number **2897/2017**

The First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above-named estate will lie for inspection at the offices of The Master of the High Court, Grahamstown for a period of **21 days** from the date of publication hereof.

LEON KEYTER ATTORNEYS PO Box 720 Grahamstown 6140 Tel **046 622 9401** Email: lkeyter@telkomsa.net

ESTATE LATE

In the estate of the late **VINCENT JADI** Identity Number **20207 5756 087** Date of death **-11-2017** Marital status: **Unmarried** Last address: **9 Jadi Street, Ext 1, Joza Grahamstown**

Estate Number **03731/2017**

The First and Final Liquidation and Distribution Account in the above-named estate will lie for inspection at the offices of The Master of the High Court, Grahamstown for a period of **21 days** from the date of publication hereof.

LEON KEYTER ATTORNEYS PO Box 720 Grahamstown 6140 Tel **046 622 9401** Email: lkeyter@telkomsa.net



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Grocott's Mail

Where Your Company Money..... Makes Money!

Makhanda keeps the Cup

The New Year's Cup offered spectators thrilling football, VIP vibes and the chance to see SA's future soccer talent in the making. Photos at the semifinals on 28 December and final on New Year's Eve by Sue MacLennan



Hosting the NYC must benefit local football

From Page 16

My best moment of the tournament was when Manyora decided to entertain a packed Dlepu stadium with some kasi flavour and got a standing ovation from the appreciative crowd. My worst moment was witnessing bad officiating in the final after both teams tried their best to play the best football to entertain a huge crowd that filled Dlepu to the rafters. The officiating overshadowed the good football that was played on the day.

This was the third edition of the NYC, but I still have not seen how the hosting of this tournament helps our local football. The LFA plays no significant part in this tournament except greeting players before the start of the games. Makana LFA executive member Akona Heshu admitted when I interviewed him that they don't play any role in this event.

That is so strange considering that they are the custodians of football in Makhanda, the host town of this tournament. It is a well known secret

of the NYC, but I still have not seen how the hosting of this tournament helps our local football. The LFA plays no significant part in this tournament except greeting players before the start of the games. Makana LFA executive member Akona Heshu admitted when I interviewed him that they don't play any role in this event.

that the LFA has no sponsors for the league and premier league teams are made to compete for less than R3 000 in it. The stadium that hosts the final of the NYC is in a very bad state with no change rooms, toilets or water. The fans are made to sit on hard cement and there is no shelter to protect them from the hot sun and rain.

When I asked the Mayor, Nomhle Gaga, about the state of Dlepu at the launch, she said, "This tournament is played in stadiums exactly like Dlepu and we cannot fix things that are being vandalised by the community. The community needs to play its part in making sure that people do not vandalise the stadium."

I can not really tell you when the stadium will be fixed, as we have just built a multipurpose centre at Foley's Ground," said Gaga.

I think this is where the hosting of this great tournament should benefit the local football: by assisting the LFA, or donating something so that

the local teams compete for decent prizes. Most of all, to assist them with the renovation of change rooms and toilets that will also benefit the visiting teams - our municipality seems to have no solution for the deteriorating state of our only football stadium.

One of the local coaches and former footballer, Thozamile "Bashin" Yaka, said "I don't know why high-profile officials like Danny Jordaan keep on coming to Makhanda when they are doing absolutely nothing to help the state

of our football. He comes to this stadium every year and turns a blind eye to the condition of the stadium when he could even use his own money or connections to fix the stadium."

Lastly it will still be very interesting to see how this NYC benefits local football, players, coaches, referees and administrators. So far the only thing that local football lovers can be happy about is that the trophy remains here at home. Fans are already looking forward to the 2019 edition.

Let officials feel the heat

Makhanda recently witnessed the third edition of the New Year's Cup, which I have been following for the past two years. The 2018 edition started with a low-key launch which included speeches from various sponsors and stakeholders which also concluded with the draw. It was very disappointing to notice that the local football association took no part whatsoever in that launch. Certificates were awarded to the recipients of the NYC fund which helped them with sport administration courses.

What seemed so strange was that most of those recipients, if not all of them, did not even know their names: the MC would call out the name and all of them would stand still until somebody pointed at any one of them and it was only then that they would jump forward to collect their certificates. Something just did not seem right and it will be very interesting to see if they will get a chance to show their skills in the same NYC tournament that has equipped them with the skills.

Round robin games were played mostly at the Army base with just a few at Rhodes, which once again made it very difficult for most of the football-loving people to watch the games due to transport problems. Speaking to some of the visiting coaches who were here for the last two editions, they told me that their players wanted to play at JD Dlephu as the atmosphere there was completely different compared to any of the other venues. Makhanda had eight representatives in this year's edition, but six of them failed to make it past the first round. The biggest casualties were defending champions, Maru.

Sakhulutsha made it to the last 16, but were also knocked out. I think the standard of the 2018 tournament was very high compared to the last two editions and there are a number of things that I attribute to our local teams' downfall.

Despite the enormous talent that our local boys have, they still lack a lot of experience in game management: how to deal with some critical stages of the game. It is also very easy to see the difference between a well coached player and a player who just relies on natural talent alone.

When Maru won this tournament, they got help from four or five players who were used to playing big tournaments like these and you could easily see the difference they made with the quality they possessed. Grahamstown United won the tournament, but there were only two or



Chis Totobela

three local players in their starting line-up. The rest were players acquired from elsewhere and you could not doubt their quality and experience on the big stage.

Another difference between our local players and the visiting players is that the visitors play against quality opposition week in and week out and are also coached by very good coaches who know exactly what they are doing. For example, Grahamstown United invited a good coach from PE to come and help them - and it paid off. Speaking to him, you could easily see that he is a very good game reader and tactician who plans well ahead of games.

Some of our local teams still suffer from ill discipline. This tournament requires a lot of discipline, as it is played at a crucial time of the year. The refereeing did not match the standard displayed by the teams on the pitch. The officiating has not been up to standard for the past two editions, but for the 2018 edition it was even worse.

It is very rare to hear so many coaches complaining about officiating - even the coach who won the trophy. It is also very rare to see the football-loving crowd at Dlephu being annoyed by poor officiating - but it happened a few times in the 2018 edition and what happened in the final was a disgrace.

Once again, the Addo Academy coach echoed the sentiments of other coaches I had spoken to when he complained about accommodation of his team. He believed the organisers could have done a much better job. He said, "It is very sad to see teams that come to participate in this big tournament being given such accommodation. Organisers need to get their act together."

"Another thing that we are not happy about is that we were fetched at 9.30 from our accommodation for the final that was suppose to start at 3.30 and we were left in the hot sun with no shade. As you can see, the stadium has no shelter. During the game, we were exposed to the hot sun on the benches. I really think that the organisers need to value the participants the same way they value their VIPs and referees," said Klein-boo.

Continued on Page 15



Grahamstown United makes a bid for Addo Academy's goal in the final of the New Year's Cup on 31 December 2018.

Photo: Sue MacLennan

Locals thrill to New Year's Cup win

By CHRIS TOTOBELA

All roads led to JD Dlephu stadium on New Year's Eve, where the final of the 2018 edition of the New Year's Cup took place.

In the third- and fourth-place play-off, Zwide Pirates beat Manyora by a single goal - which was an own goal. Zwide Pirates took home R25 000 while Manyora went home with R20 000.

In the main game, underdogs Grahamstown United faced overwhelming favourites Addo Academy in front of a packed stadium. The game started at a very high pace with both teams attacking each other and missing early chances.

The home side settled down much quicker than their opponents and started stringing a lot of passes together forcing their opponents to foul them constantly.

Addo Academy tried to fight back, but could not match the great midfield prowess of their opponents. In the 22nd minute of the game, the home side took the lead after a great move that started in the middle of the park and was expertly finished by Lingeletu Gwabe who wrong-footed the keeper and forced him to watch as the ball sailed into the net. The stadium erupted

with loud cheers.

Academy tried to fight their way back into the game but failed to convert the chances they created. Six and a half minutes later after conceding they were caught ball-watching at the back after a well delivered corner kick found Thamsanqa Gwabeni unmarked and he steered the ball home with his head.

Academy seemed confused after the second goal and struggled to put a few passes together.

The referee stole the show with less than 10 minutes left in the first half when he made a decision that could have been a game changing one when he sent off a Grahamstown United player after a 50/50 ball. The home side went to the break one man short.

In the second half, Academy started pushing forward searching for a goal, but United's defence stood firm.

Academy finally reduced the deficit after a controversial goal that got the fans talking.

The referee awarded a free kick to Academy just outside the box.

He ordered the United players to move back to the required distance - and as he was doing that, Academy took a quick free kick that found

Siyabulela Ngqina unmarked and curled it into the net while United players were still busy listening to the referee.

United players' protests fell into deaf ears.

Academy piled on the pressure and forced United to defend, but the defence managed to hold on until the final whistle.

It was really a good football game, an advert for Eastern Cape's talent marred by very poor officiating.

Grahamstown United's captain, who was also named as the man of the match, Luthando Boo, said after the game, "It was a tough game but we listened to the coach's instructions. I am happy that we managed to keep the trophy here at home despite of all what we went through in this game," said Boo.

United's coach Nkosinathi "Reason" Fountain said, "We knew what we were up against and we prepared very well for them and tactically we were much better than them. I am happy that we represented Makhanda so well and did not disappoint the huge crowd that came here today."

"The only thing that killed our spirit is the referee. I mean it was there for everyone to see... it was bad. I would like to promise the people of

Makhanda that we will try our best to defend this trophy in 2019," said Fountain who walked away with the coach of the tournament award.

Goalkeeper of the tournament went to Aphiwe Fezi while Simnikiwe Mbonde was voted as the NYC 2018 future star. Both from Addo Academy.

The player of the tournament award went to Lizo Norhutshu of Grahamstown United.

Addo Academy coach Simphiwe Kleinboo was devastated after the game and said, "The game was good and tough but our opponents had a very good game plan and they kept our danger man quiet through out the game. But I am very disappointed with the officiating. This game deserved a better referee. We will come back again next year and try and rectify all the mistakes we have done in this final."

Grahamstown United walked away with the grand prize of R100 000, a trophy and gold medals while Addo Academy got the consolation prize of R50 000 and silver medals.

**NEW YEAR'S CUP FINAL
2018 - GRAHAMSTOWN
UNITED 2 -
ADDO ACADEMY 1**