

PROGRESS REPORT – 1 JULY - 31 DECEMBER 2001

Dear Friends we at ABALIMI give you our good New Year greetings! The leading article, while absolutely true, is a fiction. Life, like our work among the poor, is full of apparent contradictions and special surprises! Mrs Mlindizawe's achievements, depicted by Stewart Forrest, won him double honours in the 2001 Vuka Awards. Stewart found out about ABALIMI from Samantha, our activist admin. assistant. Now, because of Samantha, Stewart and Mrs Mlindizawe, ABALIMI is getting a state-of-the art Cold Fusion Website from Digital Commerce Pty Ltd ! (see details on Notice Board) Long live Mrs Mlindizawe! We hope that your heart is lifted when you read on. With warm regards, Rob Small, Director:

Mrs Mlindizawe came to Cape Town 10 years ago with her husband and three small children, filled with hope and dreams of prosperity in the 'big city'. Unfortunately, many other people were following a similar dream and sadly they all found themselves together - dreams shattered in barren wasteland. Mrs Mlindizawe was lucky, she managed to obtain a small piece of land on which she built her shack. But jobs were scarce and she had mouths to feed. Being a wise woman, the few cents she had she invested in seeds, seedlings and manure from her local ABALIMI non-profit nursery. Within a few months, thanks to the advice of ABALIMI field staff and a lot of hard work, she had a beautiful garden that went a long way to filling the stomachs of her hungry children. After a while her garden was so successful she even had excess vegetables to sell to friends and neighbours. She joined a community savings scheme and eventually managed to build herself a real brick house. We are all so proud of Mrs Mlindizawe we decided to make her a television star!



GREENING

ARBOR WEEK FOCUS @ KHUYASA VILLAGE, KHAYELITSHA

Always a highlight on Abalimi's calendar, this year's Arbor Week celebration, launch and focus event, sponsored by the Green Trust-WWF, was held at Kuyasa Village in Khayelitsha. Thanks to the help of the Green Trust-WWF and the Department of Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) and many other Friends, 1770 trees were successfully distributed to and planted by members of the community. A further 450 were planted at various schools and distributed to the general community from our Garden Centres. Sadly, though, demand far exceeded supply. We hope that this will be remedied for Arbor Week 2002!



↑ The community's enthusiasm was wonderful and hundreds of people turned up to join a long queue for the trees.



Each household could select one tree. They were then given a bag of manure and some organic fertilizer. To ensure the trees were well looked after, fieldworkers also distributed instruction pamphlets and gave a demonstration on how to plant and care for the trees.



Before this event, the land was almost devoid of any vegetation. Everyone is now looking forward to seeing the transformation with a tree in the garden of almost every house in this neighbourhood. The address where each tree is planted is recorded, for follow-up advice and survey purposes. Previous Arbor Week Focus Events have routinely achieved 90% success. We expect no less from Khuyasa.



↑ Many people had far to walk back home, with a heavy load of a tree, manure and organic fertilizer.

FLORAL RESEARCH PROJECT

The Green Trust-WWF sponsored a special floral research project, which was recently completed for ABALIMI by Marc Caplan. The main aim of the project was to identify on a micro-level what remaining indigenous flora there is in and around schools. Also, to encourage knowledge and interest in the indigenous flora found in school grounds and so promote a conservation ethic among learners and teachers. It was wonderful to see how attitudes changed from seeing the fynbos as 'just weeds' to appreciating it as a valuable resource. Despite the "ground zero" approach taken by developers (flatten everything in sight before building!),

27 indigenous species were found in relative abundance, of which one was rare and one on the red data list.

This project has tremendous potential to expand, perhaps to the point of establishing hundreds of "micro-conservancies" throughout the townships. It informs and supports our efforts to catalyse grassroots nature conservation awareness throughout all our projects and programmes, including urban agriculture. A copy of the report can be obtained from Samantha at 447 1256. B+W : R25.00 Full Color: R65.00



← Teachers at Luleka Primary sorting and identifying plants found in their grounds. With the help of teachers, the vegetation found in four chosen schools was thoroughly surveyed. Through this teachers and learners gained valuable knowledge and experience in identifying fynbos species and its various growth forms.

At Emithini → Primary learners enthusiasm to conserve the wetland found in their school grounds resulted in a morning spent clearing the area of litter and alien vegetation.



CNF WORKSHOP

→ The Youth are Mobilising for environmental justice! The recently founded Community Networking Forum (CNF), which interacts with dozens of NGO's and grassroots environmental and cultural activist groups, held a strategic

review workshop on the 19-21 November 2001. The workshop was attended by about 38 activists from 7 different groups. ABALIMI's Belinda Breedzke co-facilitated with CNF founder-pioneer Solomon Cedile. ABALIMI sponsored the workshop costs, using funds especially raised for this purpose by the Catholic Welfare and Development (CWD). This workshop, for the first time, brought together a number of key pioneer environmental activists and groups. There was a general call for more gatherings of this nature. One activist commented "CNF and ABALIMI, may God keep you for us because you are the reason for us to breathe". For more info on CNF contact Solomon Cedile at cnf@webmail.co.za.



↓ ILITHA

These two pictures speak for themselves. Christina Soqiba and Miriam Peterson are co-pioneers of the Chumisa Green Streets project in Ilitha Park, where together with 6 other members, they have begun to transform their neighbourhood with beautiful indigenous gardens, often in combination with home vegetable gardens. This group were ABALIMI's first horticulture course graduates in 2000. Graduates are further assisted with garden planning and implementation at home. Members of this group are so knowledgeable they now assist Abalimi with follow-up at newly "greened" schools.



→ Christina Sogiba uses tyre-stacks to grow potatoes. She uses her backyard vegetable patch to feed over 30 children who attend her backyard crèche and even produces enough to give to struggling members of her community.

HORTICULTURE COURSE

← ABALIMI's Nosisa Merlie (front row left) horticulturalist and greening fieldworker and graduates from our second horticulture course proudly display their certificates in front of the indigenous cuttings that they learnt to propagate. Members were taught how to propagate seeds and cuttings as well as transplanting techniques. The course was held as part of our budding 'Green Streets' campaign. Participants came from the Chumisa Group of Ilitha Park and a new group in Kuyasa, Khayelitsha.



URBAN AGRICULTURE

← SINDY GOES TO MARKET

Our tireless urban agriculture fieldworker, Sindiswe Mahusa gathers together beautiful organic vegetables from our community gardens to sell to the Oude Moulen Organic Market in Observatory. About five groups have now reached the point where members are getting about R100 per member per 100m² - after costs - in their pockets or on their tables. This is a lot of value for penniless people. Better is yet to come. Our research has established that group members can expect this income to at least double or treble, as the soil, their skills and their commitment improve. There is no lack of a market for high quality organic vegetables!

Another first by ABALIMI

Schools are increasingly giving over land to non-parent producer groups. This impulse was co-pioneered by ABALIMI and the community from about 1997. Schools have had to accept that they cannot, in general, run successful vegetable gardens. Teachers and school caretakers literally have too much "on their plates" to properly sustain ongoing gardens. Together with the community, therefore, we encourage schools to hand over unused land to the poor. This is working so well that it is becoming standard practice! Some examples of such gardens – most of which you have not seen before - are:



← MASIBAMBANE

This pioneer group – featured in previous newsletters - began at their homes in 1995/96. They were one of the very first groups to establish a community garden at a school. The host school, Siyazaka Primary, in Philippi, is an award-winning Green Model School for the area. The groups' 6 members, all women, have made outstanding progress and can be considered a sustainable institution. The members produce enough vegetables for their own tables and the excess is sold.

→ SAKHE

Situated on the grounds of Nomsa Mapogwana School in Khayelitsha, this unusual male-led group took over from the school in August 2001 and are already producing enough vegetables for both home consumption and sale. They also sell to teachers and voluntarily support the school's feeding scheme. The garden is maintained by 5 men and 2 women. This group is quickly expanding their production area into every unutilised portion of school grounds! They have a burning determination which humbles us all every time we visit.



↑↓ ITHUMALENG

Ithumaleng, based at Eluxolweni Primary School, started in August 2001. This garden is progressing in leaps and bounds and the group of 5 women are already making a profit through selling their produce and even donate some vegetables to the school.



← ESAM ESAKHO ISITIYA

Esam Esakho Isitiya started only a few months ago in August 2001. The hard work and commitment of its 11 members is already paying off, one need only look at the bare white sand in the foreground to be impressed! The garden is situated on the grounds of Impendulo School, Khayelitsha. Dedicated members also assist with looking after the school's own vegetable garden.



TEAM NEWS

New Year Greetings from ABALIMI!

Back row L-R: Peter Van Heerden - SEED Facilitator; Nyaniso Matwa - Seasonal Field Support Worker; Rob Small - Director; Landy Wright - Field Program Coordinator & Fieldworker; Rhian Berning - SEED Manager; Fundraiser & Fieldworker.

Middle Row L-R: Sindiswe Mahuza - Urban Agriculture Fieldworker, Belinda Breedzke - Greening Co-ordinator & Fieldworker; Christina Kaba - Outreach Coordinator and Senior Fieldworker; MaDlamini - a Friend.

Front Row L-R: Samantha Ralston - Assistant to the Director; Thembenkosi Ndobeni - Field Support Worker; Nosisa Merile - Greening Fieldworker; Leigh Brown - SEED Project Leader & Fieldworker and Lesley Booysen, new SEED facilitator.



A sad yet joyful farewell to Belinda Breedzke, who is going on to study for her Masters in Philosophy of Environmental Management and Evaluation. Belinda has been with us for over four years, to begin with as a volunteer. She co-pioneered our successful Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) school workshop program and has been a very special and caring presence whom we will all miss. A most grateful farewell also to Rhian Berning, who co-pioneered SEED Phase II and Phase III. She is going on to get her Post Graduate Diploma in Education. She, too, began as an unpaid volunteer and has been largely responsible for obtaining the magnificent support that SEED is now attracting. Fortunately for us, she has chosen to remain on the SEED steering committee! Farewell to Tracey Saunders who had to leave us quite suddenly. And Welcome again (!) to Roland Welte, who has stepped in to tide us over as Acting Financial Manager. Welcome also to Lesley Booysen and David Stephens who have just joined SEED as facilitator/fieldworker and project manager/fundraiser respectively.



Total SA kindly sponsored a beautiful student park at Phakama High in Browns Farm. Ms Hannerette Müller (Retail Sales Co-ordinator) and Robin Wentzel (Regional Sales Manager) are seen here planting a tree for Arbor day at the school. Colleen Davids (Business Advisor) and Thabisile Dlamini (Retail Area Manager) look on with the schools representatives. Thank you Total SA!

← Mrs Sperling from Delheim, plants a yellowwood tree to celebrate Arbor Day at Vuselela school where Delheim sponsored a small greening project. Thank you Delheim, the garden is looking lovely!



Thank you's

← Thank you to the Horticultural Society for sponsoring this stand at their Rose Show held at the Alphen Centre on the 3 & 4 November. This was a wonderful opportunity to generate interest in Abalimi. Our community gardeners also benefited by selling their beautiful organic veggies at the stall.



← (left to right): Lee Donlin - long time ABALIMI Friend, Leigh Brown & Rhian Berning of SEED. Lee Donlin decided to steer this year's kindness towards the SEED project (Schools

Environmental Education & Development), for Phase III. Lee's knowledge on everything from early life in Cape Town to rare stamps and world travel is impressive. NOTE: A SEPARATE SEED REPORT SHEET IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER.

Thank You to all our Friends! This is a first attempt to create a comprehensive "roll of honour", which will be perfected and updated as time goes on. This list covers our financial year, so far, from 1 April 2001 - 31 March 2002. NOTE: If there is anyone who should be mentioned or anyone who no longer wishes to be mentioned we will make amends. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and commitment. Every cent is efficiently utilised to deliver results. Audited financial statements are available on request.

Friends great and small who are regular and committed donors and funders, from approximately R1000 upwards for the year:

AC Louw Trust - market gardens & all projects
 Alfred Blesi & Karen Goy - all projects
 Anglogold Fund - SEED
 Anglovaal - community gardens
 AusAid - food growing resources
 AVMIN - community gardens
 BOE Corp - SEED
 Buxton Garden Club - all projects
 Botanics Nursery - Arbor Week
 BP South Africa - peace lily project
 Catholic Welfare & Development (CWD) - all projects
 Channel Islands Friend - all projects
 Constantia "valley" & "berg" Garden Clubs - all projects
 De Beers Fund - training and resources, urban agric.
 Dept Water Affairs and Forestry (DWAF) - Arbor Week
 Delheim Wines - Arbor Week
 Diocean College - African Language Society - greening
 Dr B Brom - all projects
 Dr M Friedlander - all projects
 EQUANT - market gardens
 G Mohr - all projects
 Helderberg Wildlife Society - trees
 Integrated Nutrition Programme (INP) - food growing resources
 Jambo International Centre - all projects
 Jan and Martin Dawkins - all projects
 JDI Foundation Trust - all projects
 Kate Bond & Bob Ashton - all projects
 Laughton & Co - all projects
 Lee Donlin - all projects
 Martin Lusty - all projects
 MISEREOR - all programs and projects
 Mr & Mrs B Lubbe - trees

Mr & Mrs Hazrigg-Kinlay - home veg gardens
 Mr & Mrs R Graham - all projects
 Mr and Mrs Gabriel Epstein - all projects
 Mr & Mrs Le Jeune - trees & veg gardens
 Mr IF Reddihough - all projects
 Mr Max Hopfl - market & home veg gardens
 Mr Mike Devito - all projects
 Mr S Maxwell - home veg gardens
 Mrs J Terry Lloyd - trees
 Mrs PJ van Wouw - all projects
 Netafim - drum drip systems
 Newlands Nursery - Arbor Week
 N/O Fund - all projects
 OLD MUTUAL - all projects
 Prof & Mrs Ruddick - all projects
 Prof L Jenkins & Mrs M Spicer - market gardens
 Reg Buenzli - all projects
 Rotary Club of Paarden Eiland - all projects
 Redhill Nursery - Arbor Week
 Mrs N Ryan - all projects
 Simon Egert - all projects
 Shadowlands Nursery - Arbor Week
 Shiela Blethyn - all projects
 St Ola's Trust - all projects
 The COLD CHAIN - vegetable gardens
 The Diana Stuttaford Charities Trust - all projects
 The GREEN TRUST - WWF-greening program & Arbor Week
 The Synchronicity Foundation - all projects
 The Shuttleworth Foundation - SEED
 TOTAL SA, Cape Town - school greening
 Waterfront Rotary - all projects

Our "extra mile" Stop Order friends: though few, your impact is great. We feel it is time you were honoured, but have taken the precaution of excluding your initials to protect your privacy.

Abrahams	Booth	Graves	Helise & Ashton	Mouton	Richardson	Waddell
Addington	Euvrard	Green	Hodgetts	Mudie	Robinson	Wilson
Been	Garber	Hammer	Lequm	Muller	Van Essen	Yates

To all our other Friends - Individuals, clubs, small business, social and church groups who often wish to remain anonymous or who have not specifically requested separate listing in the thank-you section - please remember that it is your ongoing interest and support that keeps our work going. We are deeply grateful.

notice board

Shopping List

In the past we have had a wonderful response from our friends with plenty of donations-in-kind. We are still hoping for the following:

- A large working urn for community workshops
- A large blackboard or whiteboard for training and planning
- A flower press - for a proposed herbarium at the Khayelitsha Garden Centre to support our floral research
- A volunteer with strong arms and back, plus LDV, to collect and deliver donations-in-kind - from plant cuttings to concrete slabs. We will cover your vehicle km cost.

Announcements

Project Tours: Individual friends are invited to attend our next Open Day Tour, to be held on Thursday 23 May, 9:30 - 3pm. Interested groups and clubs are more than welcome to contact us to arrange a suitable time for their own private tour. We do not charge for these tours, but gladly accept donations. Please contact Samantha or Rob on 4471256 to make arrangements.

Website Launch:

As mentioned above, we have been very lucky to win a state-of-the-art Cold Fusion Website from Digital Commerce Pty Ltd (see our front page story for more details). Our new Website address will be www.abalimi.org.za and should be up and running by early April at the latest. Thank you once again Peddytech for our previous website, announced in NL #26, which has kept us going until now.