

# NEWSLETTER



## *Generosity is an anti-depressant*

This was a recent headline I read by a respected author and psychologist who recounted a research project where depressed people were randomly assigned to give less than a penny a day to charity work, and within two months their moods improved and depression declined. The more they gave, the better they felt!

The key to a meaningful life is found not in accumulating things but rather in giving ourselves away for the benefit of others. Small acts of kindness, gestures of love and a lifestyle of generosity are essential to our human well-being and we are so delighted to have so many of YOU choosing this lifestyle every day in our community.

From volunteering to join our reading groups in schools, donating towards disaster relief and our Street Store for the poor, or showing up to clean our parks when the call goes out – every act is shaping a better future for all!

Let's keep being a generous people and you will definitely get back more than you bargained on.

*Matt Hogarty*



### **In this newsletter you can expect:**

Program Updates

Community Impact

Upcoming Events

Join our Journey

How to get Involved

# PLACE DEVELOPMENT



The SEF teams have made a significant impact through their recent clean-up efforts.

### Key achievements include:

- Clearing overgrowth: 41,200 m<sup>2</sup> brush-cut, 35,800 m<sup>2</sup> of bugweed removed, and 13,400 m<sup>2</sup> of gardens cleared and replanted.
- Road and pavement maintenance: 13,250m of roads swept, 17,751m of pavements deweeded, and 16,320m of gutters cleared.

- Waste removal: 32,871 m<sup>2</sup> of waste cleared and 24 illegal dumpsites cleaned.
- Environmental care: 10,438 m<sup>2</sup> of alien plants removed, 20 alien trees cut, and 967 seedlings planted.
- Community gardens: 1 new community-based food garden established and 4 maintained.

Their hard work is creating cleaner, greener spaces for everyone.



## Community Service

Our students recently volunteered their time at Build-It and Howick Library, taking on tasks such as cleaning, packing, and organising. But their efforts didn't stop there – they also gave back to the wider community, showcasing their dedication and care.

They're now eager to extend their support to more local businesses and organisations. We're incredibly proud of their kindness and their commitment to serving the community.



## Waste Bikes Program

We are taking bold steps to address Howick's environmental and social challenges with the launch of the innovative Waste Bikes Program. This initiative tackles waste management, unemployment, and carbon emissions by using pedal-powered bikes to **collect recyclables, reducing landfill pressure and creating jobs** for local Enviro Champs.

Businesses can support the initiative by sponsoring bikes, with branding opportunities available. [Click here.](#)

For more details, contact [info@lovehowick.org.za](mailto:info@lovehowick.org.za).

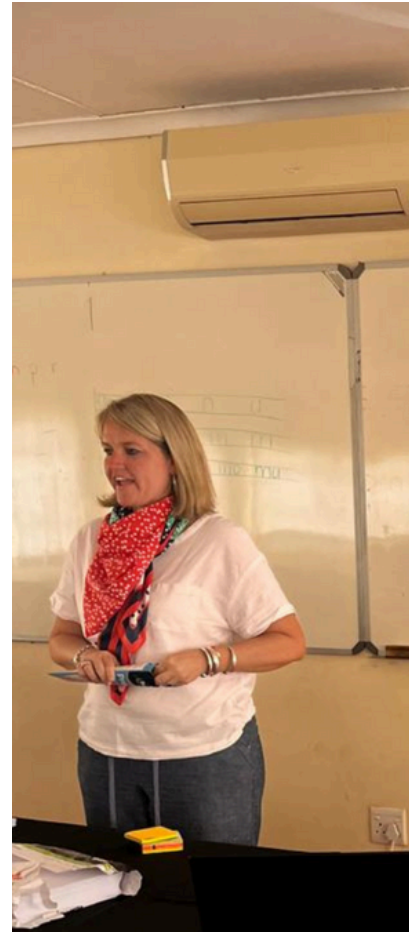
# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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## Lidgetton Flood Relief

Over 100 households in Lidgetton were severely impacted by recent floods, leaving many without homes and in urgent need of food, blankets, and essentials. During the Lidgetton Flood Relief Distribution, over 200 people received vital supplies thanks to a joint effort by Love Howick and Umgeni Municipality Disaster Management Division. A huge thank you to DJ's Spar and to The Spice Box in Howick for their generous food donation. We're also deeply grateful to everyone who donated funds, blankets, and clothing. Your support has brought hope to those in need.



## Street Store

Love Howick's recent Street Store Thrift Market was a resounding success, raising over R6000 in proceeds.

The Street Store is currently under construction to enlarge its space and gearing up to launch **BabyTown**, a dedicated section offering new and pre-loved baby essentials to the public.

**Needed donations:** prams, car seats, carry pouches, nappies, bottles, blankets, bags, etc.



## Lions River Nutrition Program Support

Love Howick recently donated food supplies to Lions River Primary School to help keep their nutrition program running during supplier delays. No child should miss a meal! Thank you to everyone who made this possible.

## Parent Workshops

Inspiring Parent Workshops at Qhamukile School in Mpophomeni are helping families build deeper connections. These sessions focus on how meaningful bonds with our children can address many parenting fears, reminding us that investing in parenting training and support groups is key to **restoring the family as the heart of society**.

Initiatives like Love Howick and Love Cities are leading the way by training 'Parenting Practitioners' to run support groups in communities across South Africa. Together, we can rebuild our nation – one family at a time.

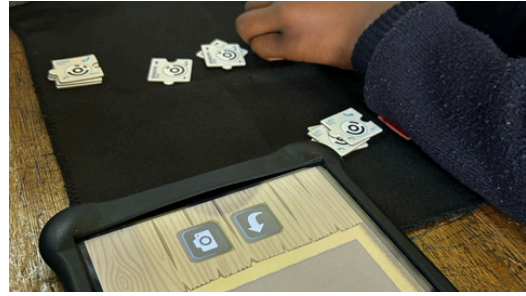
# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT



## A Visit from Denmark

On 14th February, we welcomed a team of young adults from Denmark as part of an outreach program. They joined us at a local school in Mpophomeni, engaging children in physical activities, coding, and literacy workshops. The highlight? The children learning songs in Danish!

We're grateful for their generosity and the joyful cultural exchange they brought. Here's to more connections that inspire and uplift!



## Edu-Project

Our dedicated team of Edu-Champs is passionate about transforming education by:

- Delivering impactful training and resources to boost **literacy** levels.
- Introducing cutting-edge **entrepreneurial, coding, and environmental studies**.
- Fostering environments for discovery, problem-solving, and **tech skill development**.

Last year, we celebrated a **23%** overall improvement in literacy levels across all schools!



## Transforming Lives Through the 'Gear Up Program'

Many students in South Africa's non-urban areas face long, challenging journeys to school, with some walking over 10 kilometres daily. To address this, the Rotary Club of Howick and Hilton partnered with Love Howick to launch the 'Gear Up Program', donating **40 refurbished bicycles** to students in Mpophomeni. Students eligible for the program submitted motivation letters and sketches of their dream bicycles, with recipients chosen through a draw. This initiative not only eases daily struggles but also empowers students to focus on their education.

Matt Hogarty said, "The sheer joy and shrieks of delight as bicycles were delivered show just how much these acts of kindness impact our communities."

# SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

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## Success with Mugg & Bean and Milky Lane

Love Howick is passionate about empowering our community through education and opportunity. We take pride in the courses we offer, which are designed to equip our students with the skills and confidence they need to thrive in the workplace.

Recently, we had the joy of celebrating a fantastic milestone: **12 of our Dream Centre students were employed by Mugg & Bean and Milky Lane.** This achievement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our students, as well as the strong relationships we've built with businesses in the Howick area.



## Work Ready Lite Recommendation

"Our support staff recently completed the Work Ready Lite program by Love Howick, which we found incredibly beneficial. They covered topics like professionalism, work ethic, finances, health, time management, and planning—skills that greatly impacted their professional and personal lives.

Certain aspects, particularly finance, were especially well-received, and we hope to engage Love Howick for further training.

The program is **professional, engaging, and highly meaningful.** I highly recommend it to employers."

-Headmaster Kean Broom  
**Treverton College**



## Work Ready Lite Gratitude

### **"Thanks to Love Howick for Eduhelpers Workshop Support**

*On behalf of Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust, I extend our heartfelt thanks to Love Howick for providing Sam to facilitate our 2025 Eduhelpers workshop.*

*The workshop was a valuable learning experience, equipping our Eduhelpers with essential skills and strategies to tackle challenges in schools. Sam's expertise and guidance were instrumental in deepening their understanding and preparedness. We greatly appreciate Love Howick's commitment to community empowerment and education. Your support has made a significant impact, and we look forward to future collaborations."*

Sincerely,

Ayanda Ntombela

**Michaelhouse Community Partnership Trust**

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# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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## Empowering Local Growers: The Agriculture Accelerator

We are thrilled to share the latest milestone in our Agriculture Accelerator program, which continues to make waves in empowering local communities. This initiative is designed to identify and **nurture local talent, launch income-generating vegetable gardens**, and create vital linkages to local markets for garden produce.

Recently, the program was extended to a passionate group of growers from Lions River, marking an exciting new chapter in our mission to foster sustainable agriculture and economic growth.

### Lions River Basic Seedling and Agricultural Training: A Resounding Success

On the 26th and 27th of February 2025, the Lions River Basic Seedling and Agricultural Training was successfully conducted, welcoming **eight** enthusiastic participants from the SEF community. The training was meticulously designed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to establish and manage thriving agricultural projects.

The training equipped participants with skills in **seed selection, seedling care, soil preparation, and pest management**, paving the way for improved agricultural productivity and food security in the area.

This marks another step in our mission to foster sustainable growth and community resilience. Stay tuned as we continue to expand and empower more local growers!

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# COMMUNITY IMPACT



## Dream Centre:

- **93%** pass rate
- **6** students' lives transformed through the Work Ready Bursary Program.
- Students gained **163 hours** of real-world experience
- **6** Courses conducted: Work Ready, Home-Based Care, Retail 101, Crop Production, Computer Literacy, and First Aid.



## Social Development:

- **16** residents received career counselling support
- Delivered **2** Greenlight Approach training sessions and **2** Asset-Based Community Development (ABCD) sessions to community leaders across South Africa.



## Enviro-Waste:

- **19488,5 kg** waste recycled
- **24** Illegal Dumpsites cleaned up
- **10,438m<sup>2</sup>** of alien plants removed from the surface
- **35,800m<sup>2</sup>** of Bugweed and unwanted trees cleared



## Agriculture:

- **967** Seedlings planted
- **8** participants received Agriculture Accelerator training, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to establish and manage thriving agricultural projects.



## EduProject:

- Learners impacted by program: **3,834**
- Literacy: **33%** improvement
- Entrepreneurship: **50%** improvement
- Teachers trained: **98**
- Coding: **25%** improvement
- School gardens started: **4**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## APRIL



### PROFESSIONAL SKILLS *April Courses*

Explore a world of possibilities with our professional-skills development and entrepreneurial courses at the Love Howick Dream Centre. Create a brighter future at the Dream Centre... Let your dreams take flight! Interested? Click [here](#).

COURSE NAME	DATE	REGISTRATION FEE (no refund)	COURSE FEE
Work Ready Course	31 March - 25 April	R200	R850
Home-Based Care	31 March - 11 April & Practicals	R200	R950
Computer Literacy	31 March - 11 April & Practicals	R200	R850
Office Administration	31 March - 11 April & Practicals	R200	R650
Sewing	31 March - TBC	R200	R650
Graphic Design	31 March - 11 April & Practicals	R200	R1250

#### REGISTER TODAY!

📍 19 Morling Street, Howick 📞 033 940 5075  
✉️ [dreamcentreadmissions@lovehowick.org.za](mailto:dreamcentreadmissions@lovehowick.org.za)

#### SPONSOR A STUDENT

Support our bursary fund by Zapper  
or email [finance@lovehowick.org.za](mailto:finance@lovehowick.org.za)



## JUNE 20



### GOLF DAY

To book a team, sponsor a hole, or to sponsor a prize, please click [here](#).



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# HOW TO GET INVOLVED

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## 100 CLUB | FINANCIAL PARTNER

Become an official 100 CLUB MEMBER - Donate R100 per month

**R100**

Payment Reference: *Your name + 100Club*

## SPONSOR A FOOD GARDEN

Sponsor one person through our growers program + includes a startup kit **R850**

Payment Reference: *Your name + FoodGarden*

## SPONSOR A STUDENT

Sponsor one person through the one month Work Ready Program **R850**

Payment Reference: *Your name + WRStudent*

## VOUNTEER

- Help at our monthly Thrift Market
- Monthly handyman services for our facilities
- Knit scarves and collect blankets for winter
- Join our monthly garden day at Park, Falls, CBD
- Help source donation for poor and vulnerable
- Join our Reading Buddies to read to students in schools

## BANKING DETAILS

Love Howick NPC  
Account no: 627 747 27 039  
Branch no: 220 725  
First National Bank Howick



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*thank you for supporting us!*

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