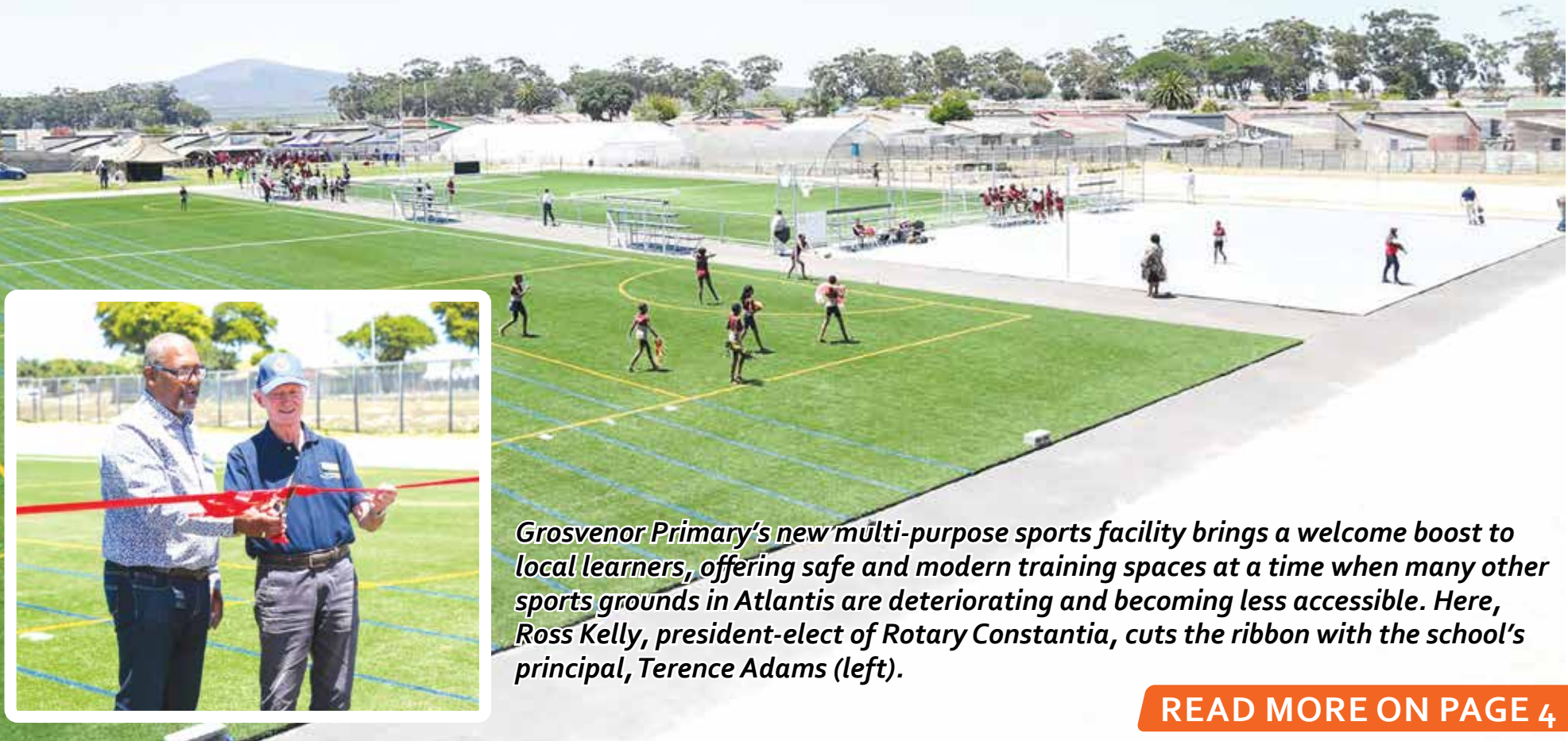


Grosvenor opens state-of-the-art sports facilities



Grosvenor Primary's new multi-purpose sports facility brings a welcome boost to local learners, offering safe and modern training spaces at a time when many other sports grounds in Atlantis are deteriorating and becoming less accessible. Here, Ross Kelly, president-elect of Rotary Constantia, cuts the ribbon with the school's principal, Terence Adams (left).

[READ MORE ON PAGE 4](#)

FRUSTRATED BY LACK OF COMMUNICATION BY CITY

Local administrators agree: Atlantis sports facilities a shocking disgrace

[TO PAGE 3](#)

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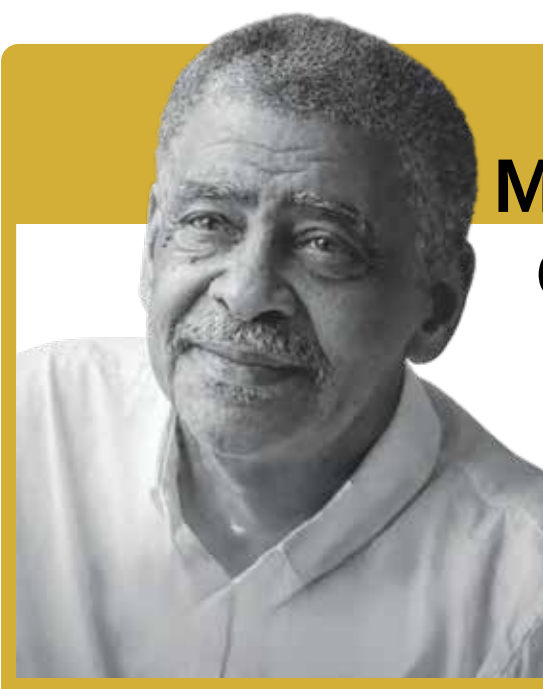
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Charles Marthinussen: Community salutes mentor, father figure and hero

It was with profound sadness and heavy hearts that Atlantis Secondary School announced this past weekend the passing of their beloved former principal, Mr. Charles Phillip Marthinussen.

Many community members, colleagues, learners and parents would agree that he was far more than a principal—he was a pillar of strength, a man of integrity, and a true servant-leader. This was evident from the scores of messages that have poured in since his passing on Saturday, 7 February.

"He led Atlantis Secondary School with exceptional wisdom, unwavering dedication, compassion, and enormous strength. His vision and commitment shaped not only the direction of our school, but the lives of countless learners who walked through its gates. To many, he was a mentor. To others, a father figure. To our community, he was a hero, a man who believed in the potential of every child and worked tirelessly to see that potential fulfilled. His legacy is

not written only in the history of our school, but in the success, character, and achievements of the many students he guided and inspired. He will forever be remembered with immense gratitude, admiration, and respect by former students, colleagues, staff, and the broader Atlantis community. His impact will continue to echo through the halls of our school and in the lives of all who had the privilege of knowing him," the school said in a statement.

On behalf of the school, the current principal, Mrs Melanie Adonis, also extended their deepest and most heartfelt condolences to his loving wife, Mrs. Marthinussen (Aunty Patsy), his son Dr. Chad Marthinussen, daughter-in-law Dr. Chanell Marthinussen, and his cherished and dearly loved granddaughter, Maia. "Our thoughts, prayers, and sincere sympathies are with them during this incredibly difficult time. May his soul rest in eternal peace."

Relief available for basic services

Indigent residents and pensioners can apply for help with services and rates costs.

The City has raised the qualifying income for pensioners and social grant recipients to R27,000, and the social support package has increased to R5.1 billion for 2025/26. Eligible households may receive free basic services and up to a 100% rates discount. Pensioners are reminded that all existing benefits must be reapplied for after 1 July 2026. Submit completed forms in person at any Customer Interaction Centre, online via e-Services, or via email: Rates.Rebate@capetown.gov.za or Indigent.Relief@capetown.gov.za.

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SASSA 'maak huis skoon' om korrupsie te bekamp

Suid-Afrika se maatskaplike toelaestelsel ondergaan tans 'n omvattende hersiening, het die Suid-Afrikaanse Agentskap vir Maatskaplike Sekerheid (SASSA) verlede Donderdag bevestig.

SASSA se hoof uitvoerende beampte Themba Matlou het gesê dit sal verseker dat toelaes slegs aan mense betaal word wat steeds daarvoor kwalifiseer. Dit is deel van 'n groter poging om bedrog te bekamp, uitbetalings te verfyn en die stelsel te versterk. "Ons moet die integriteit van die maatskaplike stelsel beskerm en toesien dat openbare geld dié bereik wat dit die nodigste het," het Matlou gesê. In totaal beplan SASSA om 420 000 toelae te herevalueer, en byna 400 000 begunstigdes is reeds in kennis gestel dat hulle hulself vir assessering moet aanmeld. Tot dusver is sowat 240 000 hersienings afgehandel. Sowat 70 000 betalings is egter opgeskort weens begunstigdes wat nie aan die verpligte hersiening

of lewensbewysprosesse voldoen het nie. Die agentskap gebruik nou verskeie nuwe verifikasie-stappe, waaronder biometriese registrasie, kwartaaliks inkomste-kontroles en datavergelyking met ander staatsinstansies soos SARS, NSFAS, kredietburo's ensm. Hierdie prosedures het honderde duisende gevalle geïdentifiseer wat verdere ondersoek verg.

Matlou het beklemtoon dat begunstigdes wetlik verplig is om persoonlike besonderhede soos inkomste, huwelikstatus en kontakbesonderhede op datum te hou. Nie-nakoming kan lei tot tydelike en uiteindelik permanente opskorting. SASSA het ook 'n nuwe selfdiensportaal bekendgestel en 'n vierde betalingsdatum by die maandelikse siklus gevoeg om begunstigdes aan te moedig om die agentskap te kontak indien 'n betaling nie soos verwag plaasvind nie.

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Sportsfields in shocking state of neglect

PETER LATEGAN



- On the far left is the current state of the Robinvale Sportsfield, in comparison to a few years ago on the photo above. On the left is Shannon Mahoney, sports developer and coach.

A visit to all the sports fields in Atlantis has left local sports administrators shocked and disappointed at what they describe as years of neglect, poor maintenance and weak communication from the City of Cape Town.

Former rugby player, sports developer and long-time youth coach, Shannon Mahoney, says the situation has reached a critical point across rugby, cricket and soccer. "Our facilities, once a source of pride, are now in a worrying state of neglect. Multiple sporting codes warn their seasons are being disrupted and young athletes are being held back. It becomes a major problem, especially in winter when the municipality simply closes fields," he says.

Mahoney explained that clubs want to help maintain and upgrade facilities, but unclear municipal processes and a lack of response make collaboration almost impossible. "Teams and spectators are frustrated, and we constantly

run into obstacles when trying to get issues resolved. We don't know who the right contact people are,"

The Atlantis Cricket Club also raised the alarm, saying deteriorating facilities are putting fixtures, training and player safety at risk. Vice-chairperson Duncan Jantjies says the City remains responsible for maintaining the grounds, yet clubs continue to pay fees for home games played on unsafe surfaces. "We held several meetings with the City and even conducted a site visit before the season, but follow-up requests have gone unanswered. The clubhouse door has broken off its rail, the nets are unsafe and regularly vandalised, and the field needs new grass and time to recover. None of this is being addressed," Jantjies says.

Poor conditions have already impacted the club's cricket activities. Training on the outfield is unsafe, warm-up matches had to be abandoned, and the B-field was declared unplayable by the Western Province Cricket Association, costing the club Amazo fixtures. Several players have been injured,

and league matches have come close to cancellation. Jantjies also questions why clubs in Atlantis are prevented from performing their own maintenance while clubs in better-resourced areas are allowed to take over upkeep. Skilled residents are willing to help but are blocked by municipal rules. "We are calling for open discussions with the City, clear plans for improvement, and the formation of an Atlantis Sports Board to ensure all sporting codes are fairly represented."

Soccer administrators echo these concerns, warning that their season expected to start in March is already at risk. One experienced administrator, who requested anonymity, says the fields are heavily worn long before the first whistle. "There's also a factory league that plays on Friday evenings. I think in a year or so there won't be much grass left," he says.

Mahoney agrees, saying he believes the solution lies in a more structured, partnership-based approach in which dedicated officials work alongside clubs during their sporting

seasons. "There are many ideas and willing people, but clubs are becoming extremely frustrated. We need less talking and more doing." Despite the rugby season ending last August and restarting only two weeks ago, nothing has been done to prepare or upgrade the fields.

Soccer clubs report the same: their season ended around September or October and begins again in February, yet fields remain untouched. Cricket is currently in season and will run until the end of March, but players say their grounds are in no better shape. They fear another season may be compromised unless action is taken urgently.

* At the time of going to press, the City of Cape Town had not submitted a response to Impact News (Editor).

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Grosvenor Primary celebrates state-of-the-art sports facilities

BENJAMIN SMITH

On Friday, 23 January 2025, Grosvenor Primary School held a grand-opening ceremony to celebrate the launch of the school's brand-new, multi-purpose sports facility worth four million rand.

The facility consists of a seven-side soccer astroturf pitch, three netball courts, and a 60m athletics track, as well as a 300m asphalt track with a width of two metres. There is also a 50m x 30m rugby pitch designed for practising scrums and backline moves. The ceremony was attended by WCED head-office

officials, Metro North Education District officials, learners, members of Rotary Constantia and Rotary Atlantis, as well as other local stakeholders. Principal Terence Adams hopes that a facility like this will boost morale among learners at the school. "It is important for us to invest in a project like this because many of our learners do not have proper resources at home. Many of them have difficulties at home, so now, through this facility, we create an environment that the kids can be proud of," says Adams. This facility is the only one of its kind in Atlantis and will also help make sports-

ground access more available for other schools. "We can also help other schools, especially with the restrictions of the other local sports field's availability, which makes it difficult to train. Now we have access here, so we don't have to travel far," Adams said.

The project was facilitated by the Rotary Clubs of Constantia and Atlantis. The clubs secured funding for the project and also assisted with planning, which began in February 2024 already. "May I say how really excited we as a club have been to become involved in this magnificent

development. We have developed a strong bond with funders to assist us in being able to tackle this type of project. It all comes to fruition when we see the children enjoying the various sports that they are now able to participate in," said Ross Kelly, President-Elect of Rotary Constantia. The club has facilitated three other similar projects in the Western Cape.

- PHOTOS: IAN HART



Damvlakke net 60%: verbruikers gemaan om water te spaar



Hoofdamme wat Kaapstad voorsien, soos die Theewaterskloofdam naby Villiersdorp, is byna 21% laer as verlede jaar

Inwoners en besighede word daaraan herinner om water spaarsamig te gebruik nadat watergebruik die afgelope paar toegeneem het.

Die Stad Kaapstad het 'n gesamentlike somerteiken gestel om daaglikse waterverbruik onder 975 miljoen liter per dag te hou. Hierdie teiken is daarop gemik om die risiko te verminder wat deur ondergemiddelde of onvoorspelbare reënval in 2026 veroorsaak kan word. Teen die einde van Desember was die gemiddelde daaglikse waterverbruik sowat 1 025 miljoen liter, terwyl damvlakke op 70,5% gestaan het.

Hoewel hierdie vlakke steeds relatief gesond is, het die Stad gewaarsku dat aanhoudend hoë verbruik later in die jaar druk op die toevoer kan plaas. Verlede week het die Burgemeesterskomiteelid vir Water en Sanitasie, Raadslid Zahid Badroodien, gesê dat die Stad se hoofvoorsieningsdamme ongeveer 19,2% laer is as op dieselfde tyd

verlede jaar. Ten spyte hiervan het die Stad Kaapstad tot dusver nog geen waterbeperkings ingestel nie. Dit is omdat die Nasionale Departement van Water en Sanitasie (DWS) gewoonlik waterbeperkings op watergebruikers toepas. Volgens die ontleding vanaf 1 November 2025 het DWS goedgekeur dat geen waterbeperkings vir Kaapstad in die 2025/2026-hidrologiese jaar nodig is nie.

Faktore wat oorweeg word wanneer daar bepaal word of daar rede tot kommer is, sluit die huidige en vorige jare se damvlakke in, reënvalpatrone in die huidige en komende jare, asook waterverbruik – veral gedurende die warm somermaande. Badroodien het gesê die Stad monitor steeds damvlakke en watergebruik deeglik. "Hoewel daar geen onmiddellike rede tot kommer oor Kaapstad se damvlakke is nie, word inwoners aangemoedig om hul waterverbruik in die komende maande te bestuur om te help voorkom dat waterbeperkings in die toekoms ingestel moet word."

Volgens die Stad kan vroeë en volgehoue vermindering in watergebruik help om watersekuriteit te beskerm, die kans op skielike beperkings te verminder en voldoende reserwes te verseker indien reënval in 2026 ondergemiddeld is. Aanpassings in watergewoontes by huishoudings, besighede en die toerismesektor is daarom noodsaaklik.



This is how households can save water

About 70% of all water used in the city is used in homes, which is why saving water at home is so critical.

- Residents are encouraged to take short, stop-start showers or small baths, noting that new or replaced showerheads may not exceed a flow rate of seven litres per minute.
- Laundry and dishes should only be washed when necessary, with spot-cleaning used where possible to save water.
- Taps and hoses should be turned off when not in use, and gardens should only be watered before 06h00 or after 18h00 to limit evaporation.
- Families are also urged to keep children's summer activities water-wise, such as using a wet cloth to cool down instead of spraying water.
- Pool owners are reminded to cover built-in and fold-away pools when not in use, which can prevent up to 95% of evaporation losses.
- Where possible, pool backwash water should be recycled, and rainwater or alternative water sources used for topping up.

Parent alert: Nestlé recalls infant formula



Global nutrition company Nestlé has recently announced the recall of certain infant formula products as a precautionary safety measure.

The decision follows internal quality checks which identified a potential risk linked to an ingredient used in certain products. The recall affects selected batches across several well-known Nestlé infant nutrition brands, including NAN, BEBA, SMA and Alfamino. The National Consumer Commission has confirmed that the recall applies

to NAN Special Pro HA 0–12 infant formula (800 g tin), specifically batch number 51660742F3, manufactured in June 2025 with a best-before date of December 2026.

No confirmed cases of illness linked to the affected products have been reported locally. Parents and caregivers are urged to carefully check the batch numbers on infant formula tins currently in their homes. Anyone who has purchased the affected product should stop using it immediately and return it to the retailer for a full refund.

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Mamre Library visits Pella Primary on World Read Aloud Day

COURTNEY ARENDSE



Last week, Mamre Library proudly led World Read Aloud Day celebrations, reaching more than 500 children through storytelling and reading activities across the community.

The day started at Pella Moravian Primary School, where the City's Disaster Risk Management partnered with the library to present an interactive puppet show. The performance brought stories to

life in a fun and engaging way, encouraging children to see reading as exciting and enjoyable. After the school visit, Grade R learners from Mamre Primary School enjoyed librarians and volunteers reading aloud to them. Research shows that approximately 81% of Grade 4 learners in South Africa cannot read for meaning, and the day's activities highlight the important role libraries and community partners play in supporting literacy development.

Free tutoring programme for high school learners

Eskom's 2026 High School Maths and Physical Sciences Learner Support Programme is offering free monthly tutoring sessions to high school learners in Atlantis, Mamre, Dunoon and Joe Slovo.

The programme aims to strengthen learners' understanding of Mathematics and Physical Sciences through monthly weekend classes led by qualified tutors and mentors. Sessions begin at 09h30 and are hosted once a month at various community venues. Learners must sign up in their local library's registration book and register at least one week before their selected Saturday class. All sessions are completely free of charge. The venues include Atlantis Wesfleur Library (Grade 12

– first weekend of each month) on 7 February, 7 March, 4 April, 2 May, 6 June, 4 July, 1 August, 5 September and 3 October 2026. Sessions are also held at Mamre Library (Grade 12 – second weekend of each month) on 14 February, 14 March, 11 April, 9 May, 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 12 September and 10 October 2026.

The programme provides structured academic support to help learners boost their confidence and improve performance in two key gateway subjects. For more information, learners and parents can contact the programme via WhatsApp at 081 002 2616 or email thitotgh@eskom.co.za.

Nipha virus no immediate risk to SA

Health authorities in South Africa are closely monitoring the Nipah virus outbreak detected in parts of Asia, especially India, where a few cases have been confirmed.

The Department of Health says there is no immediate risk to South Africa and urged calm, while the National Institute for Communicable Diseases

(NICD) continues active surveillance and public updates. Nipah virus can spread from animals like fruit bats to people and between humans, but the risk to the public remains very low. The NICD will share new information if the situation changes.

Six Milnerton High learners expelled after 2025 bullying incident

STAFF REPORTER

Six learners from Milnerton High School have been expelled following a serious assault incident that triggered public outrage after video footage of the attack gained wide attention.

The incident took place in October 2025 and involved a pupil being surrounded and beaten by a group of classmates, raising urgent concerns about school safety and accountability. The Western Cape Education Department confirmed to Impact News that the expulsions were finalised after the school completed its internal disciplinary procedures. Western Cape Education Department (WCED) spokesperson, Bronagh Hammond, told Impact News that the Head of Department had upheld the recommendation by the school governing body (SGB) to expel six learners. Five of them were in Grade 12 and one in Grade 10. "This decision follows the completion of the school's disciplinary processes and procedures for these six learners. There is one case still outstanding, and the SGB has yet to ratify their decision on the outcome of this

final hearing. The WCED is satisfied with the process thus far and how the matter was addressed by the school." Beyond the disciplinary action, eight learners linked to the incident are facing criminal charges of assault with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. Six of the accused have already appeared in the Cape Town Magistrates Court, while two juveniles are being processed separately through the justice system. The accused were released on bail because they have fixed addresses and no previous criminal records. Investigators are still finalising evidence, including photographic material, ahead of the next court date in March.

Hammond said the school has initiated a number of anti-bullying interventions and is "currently reviewing their vision and values with a specific emphasis on a zero-tolerance approach to bullying."

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Newly established Atlantis Scouts invite adults and kids to join

PETER LATEGAN



Scouting has long been recognized for its ability to shape young people into responsible, capable adults. In Atlantis, this tradition is taking root with the establishment of the 1st Atlantis Scouts, led by Richard van Niekerk (far left on photo), a former scout himself. In December last year they invested 16 children into Scouts.

Van Niekerk's journey in scouting began at the age of nine when he joined the 1st Bothasig Scouts. "Scouting taught me leadership, pioneering skills, problem-solving, and to always be kind to others," he recalls. Inspired by his own experiences, he wanted to offer the youth of Atlantis opportunities that schools or homes might not provide.

"The main reason I wanted to start 1st Atlantis Scouts is to help children develop skills like building structures, survival techniques, and problem-solving," he explains. Targeting "Cubs" aged 7 to 10 and "Scouts" from 11 to 18, the program also offers opportunities for young adults aged 18 to 30 to join the "Rovers," contributing to community projects and mentoring younger scouts.

Van Niekerk believes that these experiences help scouts grow into leaders who can, in turn, teach the next generation. He said the response has been encouraging, but more children are welcome. Due to space limitations, the group is currently based in a church hall, but Van Niekerk hopes to expand as more resources become available.

The group relies on fundraising to purchase essential scouting equipment, as Scouts South Africa does not provide financial support. Activities include hiking, camping, and both district and regional competitions. Scouts learn practical skills, from constructing survival shelters to cooking, preparing them to think creatively and independently. For parents considering enrolling their children, Van Niekerk emphasizes the personal growth scouts experience: discipline, leadership, teamwork, and a connection with the outdoors away from social media.

The Scout Law and Promise guide participants to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, courteous, and clean in thought, word, and deed. "Scouting

is not just about hiking or camping. It's about teaching leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving through practical experience. The best way for a scout to learn is by doing," he adds.

They meet every Saturday from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm at All Saints Church in Avondale. On 14 March 2026 at 16:00, they will host an open day for Cubs (7 to 10 years old children), which will be launched this year. Parents interested in enrolling their children can contact Richard van Niekerk at 078 637 8502.



Investing in your skills may be the most impactful hustle you take on

At the start of a new year, many people pause and ask a familiar question: What do I want to achieve this year? For some, the answer involves growth, whether its earning a qualification, sharpening skills, or even shifting into a new field. But while ambition is widespread, access isn't. Not everyone has the time, finances, or flexibility for a traditional degree.

This is where upskilling becomes a practical alternative. In South Africa's current job market, employers increasingly value relevant, job-ready abilities. Accredited short courses and certificates offer a way to stay competitive without putting life on hold. There are many accredited institutions offering short courses, many with flexible payment options.

iQ Academy, a registered private higher education institution, offers Higher Certificates and short courses in Office Administration, Human Resource Management, Project Management, and Business Administration. These qualifications are valuable for individuals seeking entry-level roles, administrative positions, or formal recognition of workplace experience.

Public universities contribute strongly to the upskilling ecosystem. The University of Cape Town (UCT) delivers academically rigorous online short courses through platforms like GetSmarter and edX. Popular options include Project Management, Monitoring

and Evaluation (M&E), and Data Analysis for Management, skills highly sought after in corporate, NGO, and development-focused environments. These courses carry the credibility of a leading university. For those drawn to compliance or safety-focused careers, Absolute Health Services (AHS) provides SETA- and QCTO-accredited health and safety training. Courses such as First Aid Levels 1-3, Health and Safety Representative, and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) are legally required in many workplaces and create opportunities across construction, manufacturing, and logistics.

FAMSA's training centre (FAMtrac) offers short courses in Basic Counselling Skills, Trauma Support, Domestic Violence Counselling, and related support fields. Many are accredited and include CPD points (Continual Professional Development), making them especially useful for those working in NGOs, education, wellness, or human resources.

Completing the picture is West Coast TVET College, a public technical and vocational institution with a campus in Atlantis. The college offers short skills programmes and occupational courses that build practical, workplace-ready abilities. In-demand options include engineering modules, business courses, computer literacy, customer care, and hospitality.

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Ambitious Atlantis kickboxers show great resilience

PETER LATEGAN



In just a few short months, the Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) team, Atlantis Lions, has grown from an ambitious dream into a source of pride and inspiration for the local community.

The team has faced every challenge with determination, training with limited resources, raising funds to afford travel, and turning a borrowed community hall into a thriving space where passion and purpose unite. Under the leadership of their coach, Ezra Perrang, with support from Sensei Dave Venter, Coach Sevi Malgas, and the mentorship

of Elite MMA, the fighters have exceeded every expectation. Late last year, competing at the Cape Town Trials and the Western Cape Championships, the team brought home an impressive tally of eight gold, nine silver and seven bronze medals. Among their standout performers were Ethan Perrang, who earned double gold and silver in the Older Cadet division; Toriq van der Berg, who medalled in every Junior event; and seniors Amy Leigh Feinauer and Darran Esau, who each secured multiple podium finishes.

"Our athletes are still new to competitive kickboxing, but their

heart and resilience are unmatched. They have worked hard, raised their own funds and continue to make our community proud," says Perrang. The Cape Town Kickboxing Association continues to provide mentorship and guidance with the dedication of Elite MMA has also played a vital role in helping the team refine their technique and grow in confidence.

In addition parents, sponsors and supporters have been instrumental in securing a community hall for training and raising funds to send the fighters to competitions. Despite these successes, the club

still faces financial challenges as they prepare for the South African National Championships next year. "We fight as lions in the ring and we stand with pride in our community, building discipline, respect and unity through the sport of MMA," added Perrang. The club has become a symbol of perseverance, teamwork and hope.



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