

NEMATO

Change a life

success in life – for youth, by youth

Newsletter, 16 April 2014, issue 3

NELSON MANDELA TOWNSHIP YOUTH EMPOWERMENT & SPORT

This month we celebrate the first graduation of a member. Athenkosi Hlekani graduated at the University of Johannesburg. He has a long history of taking our motto *success in life* to the extreme. Read his amazing story!

NEMATO CHANGE A LIFE

Athi graduated

Congratulations to Athenkosi Hlekani, he is our first member to graduate at university!

Athi has been a member right from the start of our rowing club at the end of 2005. He was elected by the members as captain for two years and as a board member he had a strong say in the direction of the club. At the young age of 16 he did the acceptance speech for the Jack Cheetham Award in the glamorous Sandton Sun Hotel that earned him the words "young man, you have a great future ahead of you" from the CEO of Murray & Roberts.

He became the youngest and first black board member of the Eastern Cape Rowing Association. As a Nemato rower he

won the Eastern Cape Junior Championships in the single scull. He was scouted as a rower by the University of Johannesburg (UJ) and received a full sports bursary, that enabled him to study. He became the first black captain of UJ rowing club and spent most of his rowing hours in the leading stroke seat in the eight.

His presentation in 2011 for the Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust, in the boardroom of Computershare in Johannesburg, convinced the trustees that our programme is worth their support, and Nemato became Nemato Change a Life.

Last year, as the only South African, he was selected to participate in a United Nations Youth Leadership Camp in Qatar, making him our first member to travel overseas. In the same year he also travelled to Europe as coach of his junior



Athenkosi Hlekani is our first graduate



Athenkosi in Paris last year

rowing team. The competition was in Belgium and they also spent a day visiting Paris.

He was short-listed with only five other rowers worldwide for the World Rowing's 2013 Parmigiani Spirit Award. This year he graduated and combines a post-graduate course in education at UJ with a part time teaching job at Jeppe High School, starting at the top of the ladder of South African schools.

We are very proud of all these amazing achievements. Well done Athi!

The thought that we have been able to help him make this all possible is exciting, but also worrying: how many talented youngsters are stuck in their townships and don't get the opportunities that Athi got?

President's Award Ceremony

This year the President's Award Ceremony took place in Keiskammahoek. It was nice to explore this rural place. We had never been there before. Seven Nemato members received their bronze and silver awards for the sport, skills training, community service and hike that they completed. It was hard work! Well done and congratulations to Akhona Quma, Siphamandla Baku, Sipiwo Makeleni and Thembani James for receiving bronze and to Lifa Nxopho, Lindokuhle Nikelo and Thulani Magongo for receiving silver. Good luck to all for their next challenge: silver and gold level.



President's Award Ceremony in Keiskammahoek

Open Day

We organised an open day for youth to experience our sports and apply for membership. The visitors could try the trampolines, compete on the rowing machines, try handball and participate in a small fencing tournament. We had about 40 visitors who registered for membership. Now we have to see who is keen enough to fully participate in our demanding programme.

Volunteer

Unfortunately our volunteer from Ireland experienced an armed robbery at night. After this experience, it would not have been right to keep him with us and we are happy that his volunteer placement organisation was able to quickly find a new placement for him. It is highly disappointing that the community protection that we experience, was not able to prevent this incident, but at least the perpetrator has been identified. He ran away from Port Alfred. It's just a matter of time before they find him.

Help us

To run our programme, we need your support. Did you know that you can make a safe and easy credit card donation on the internet? Go to our website www.matinyanafund.org.za and click the donate button, or click *here*.



kids pulling ergo at our Open Day

NEMATO ROWING CLUB

Back on track

The rowing club had some set backs this year. The members started the year not in boats, but repairing boats, and some of

the strongest rowers moved to handball, but the club is back on track now. Some new rowers came in, some old rowers came back. The boats are working. The rowers are training for the competitions later in the year.

NEMATO GYMNASTICS CLUB

Trials for Indo Pacific Championships

In early July the Indo Pacific Championships will take place in Sun City in South Africa. For this major international competition we took four gymnasts to trials in Port Elizabeth. We are very proud that three Nemato gymnasts were selected: Siphamandla Baku (double mini-trampoline and tumbling), Siphokuhle Nyoka (double mini-trampoline) and Onke Mangele (euro trampoline and double mini trampoline). The trials event took place over two days: the first day was for the

trials and the next day for a training session, fun team building activities on the beach and the announcement of the team.

Mandy at Nemato

Mandy Zoonekynd, the top coach in Port Elizabeth who is coaching our best gymnasts, came to Port Alfred for a training session at our place. She was very impressed by the talent in our club and identified 18 gymnasts with international potential. We'll try to get as many of them as possible to Port Elizabeth regularly for training sessions to develop their talent.



team building fun for national gymnasts



gymnastics top coach Mandy in Nemato

NEMATO HANDBALL CLUB

Growth

After a few years of struggling to fill a team, the club is growing fast now. It has 24 full members and 13 new

members who will get full membership when they show good attendance for two months. We'll have our first tournament in Port Elizabeth soon.

NEMATO FENCING CLUB

Eastern Cape Champs

After we started as the only fencing club in the Eastern Cape in 2012, the sport has grown to the extent that the first Eastern Cape Championships could be held, with three clubs participating. We proudly announce three Eastern Cape Champions: Mandlakhe Nikelo won the Benjamin age group (under 13 years) and Aphelele Hlekani won the Mini age group (under 15 years). Lebu Sondevu, who is probably the youngest fencer in South Africa, always competes in higher age groups. Watch out, even at the age of six he is already beating some older fencers. As the only participant he won the newly created under 7 age group. (How shall we describe this age group?) Well done guys!



Aphelele (left) gold and Anathi silver at EC Fencing Champs

CONTACT DETAILS

Nemato Change a Life

Advisory Board

Dr. Saleem Badat	Vice-Chancellor of Rhodes University
Mzamele Dikeni	Community Development, Stenden South Africa
Lesley Lambert	Consultant to Change a Life
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Board of Governors

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Aphelele Hlekani	Member			representing fencing

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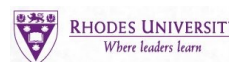
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