



MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGO: Immediate

Local Primary Schools Celebrates Arbor Week

Sedgefield Primary School and Fraaisig Primary School, celebrated Arbor Week by grabbing shovels and planting trees in and around their school grounds. Learners from these two schools joined in on the environmental campaign to promote a more beautiful and environmentally friendly community.

Knysna Executive Mayor, Georlene Wolmarans spoke on the significance of Arbor Week in creating a more sustainable future. "Arbor Week aims to promote a better understanding of trees; it also encourages the planting of trees in communities as well as highlighting the importance of trees for creating a sustainable future", she said.

"The theme for this year's Arbor Week is "Plant for the planet - Grow green. Each year a "Tree of the Year" is chosen by national government and this year it is the Bushwillow tree. The Bushwillow tree is an important plant in their habitat and is often used in African or Indian herbal medicine", she said.

At Sedgefield Primary school on Thursday, September 3rd, the afternoon started off with Andrew Peterse from the Youth Environmental Services (YES), and Lorraine McGibbon from WESSA giving a talk to Sedgefield Primary learners on the importance of trees. Mr. Peterse and his colleague, Geneva Harker, assisted with planting trees on the school grounds along with teachers and learners. Altogether 30 trees were planted on the day and an additional 20 trees were given to Fresh Start to plant in the Smutsville community.

On Friday September 4th, Fraaisig Primary School participated in the Arbor Week campaign by planting 30 trees in and around their school terrain.

"These greening initiatives have resulted in residents taking a greater sense of ownership of their natural environments", Ms. Wolmarans said. They have been made aware of the consequences of littering and vandalism and the implications of dumping and by-law transgressions", she continued. "It's great to see residents taking the initiative to beautify our town and also in the process becoming more environmentally conscious", she concluded.

Photo Captions: WESSA Project Co-ordinator, Lorraine McGibbon, giving a talk on the importance of trees to Sedgefield Primary School learners.

Fraaisig Primary School learners happy to help beautify their school and showing off their green fingers.

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