

MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGO: Immediate

Municipality highlights the importance of water during National Water Week

National Water Week 2015 took place between 16 and 22 March with the theme 'Water has no substitute', with Knysna Municipality making the most of the opportunity to teach the youth about the importance of water.

"We partnered with Lunchbox Theatre, who performed their show "The Last Drop" at various local schools," said Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans. "The show is a half hour long, time travel journey that lets the children see a world without water – and what could be done to avoid finding ourselves in that future."

'The Last Drop' was performed at Laerskool Sedgefield, Chris Nissen Primary, Hornlee Primary and the Knysna Mall, to a combined audience of 1038 learners. These grade four to grade seven students also learned about the water cycle and received tips on saving water.

"The widespread drought of 2009-2011 really highlighted the fact that, even here in the lush Garden Route and especially in Knysna, which is surrounded by water, we have to realise and appreciate the importance of clean, potable water," she continued. "Water is essential to life, but there is less available each day."

"But there are things we can – and must – do to conserve water and to use it sparingly, making sure that there is enough of this scarce natural resource for years to come," she said. "And that is why it is so important that our children understand the pressure this resource is under, and what they can do to make sure it does not drain away completely. And if we teach them how to conserve and use water responsibly at this age, it might just become a part who they become as grownups, and what they teach their children in turn."

Teachers at these schools were provided with feedback forms, and they all reviewed the show very positively. Teachers at Laerskool Sedgefield rated the show as excellent, containing lots of facts presented in a practical and fun manner. Chris Nissen Primary teachers said that they appreciated the fact that the show was interactive and that the learners had an opportunity to participate. Hornlee teachers called the show very professional and entertaining.

"Thank you to Lunchbox Theatre for working with us on this important project," Wolmarans concluded. "We all know that children learn better when they are having fun. And I know that you taught our children a lot, because they certainly had a lot of fun! It is through these kinds of partnerships, and in looking after our environment, that we can create a town where people and nature prosper."

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