**PROJECT BOOSTS SKILLS!**

Young people help with recycling

By BULELWA GININDZA

YOUNG people from Lilydale and Justicia villages are keeping themselves busy through the Swikoxeni Waste recycling project.

The project near the Kruger National Park started in 2017 to conduct awareness and clean-up campaigns on waste issues that are negatively impacting the park.

The project focuses on hot spots along the main road and villages. Unemployed young people are volunteering to keep the environment clean by recycling tins, bottles, paper and plastic.

Phindile Mambane (34), who joined the project in 2018, told *Daily Sun* they were playing their role in keeping the environment clean. “The project has also helped us gain skills in the process,” she said.

Jeremiah Mashava, a social ecologist, said the project started as an awareness campaign to teach communities about a number of things.

He said the project was doing well although they weren’t well equipped.

“We have to compromise but the production continues. Local businesses around here are supporting us,” he said.

Phindile said the project manager Beethoven Mashele said the project was doing well.

The project near the Kruger National Park is part of the entire whole ecosystem. Human beings are also part of the ecosystem,” he said.

“The rivers that flow through the park come from the community. They’re flowing through the community and if those rivers are clean, it means our park is clean,” he said.

**Chief: Amadlozi kept boys safe**

By BONGANI MTHIMUNYE

WHEN they went to the mountain, they were boys and now they are back as men.

Ndebele initiatives are back from the mountain for initiation.

They left on 27 April and came back on Thursday night, 30 June.

They spent a gruelling two months in the bush to be transformed into men.

Ndebele Chief William Ntobela said he sent 42 boys to the bush for initiation and he’s happy they are all back.

“I thank my ancestors for keeping the boys safe. It was not easy and there were a few challenges but I am happy there were no fatalities.

“All I want from the new initiatives is to respect elders. They must apply the lessons they have learnt from the bush to lead a good life. Education is very important and they must go back to school. They are men now and they must not be involved in gender-based violence, crime and drugs,” he said.

Community leader Elias Sikholosana thanked the parents and everyone involved for making sure the boys were safe.

“We have produced future men who will take the culture forward. They have learnt valuable lessons and must conduct themselves well,” he said.

An initiate, Matjihla Mtsweni (19), said: “I am happy to be back as a man.”

Madzela Sikholosana (20) said: “I am going to live by all the lessons I have learnt from the bush.”

**Tackling hatred with pen, paper**

By JABU KUMALO

YOUNG author Mmbulaheni Mashudu wrote the book *Ndi Vengo De?* to motivate other young people.

The book was published in 2020 and has been translated by Ako El Edach publishers into English and titled *What Kind of Hatred Is This?*

The 27-year-old author from Shakadza Village in Limpopo said people needed to find what they love and do it with all their might.

Mmbulaheni said *Daily Sun*: “What I can say to other young people is that you must trust in what you do and you must have confidence.

“Don’t look down on yourself. Young people must keep doing what they love to do, do it again and again, until they get it right.

“Many people have found talents within themselves that they never even knew existed. That was what encouraged me to also start putting my writing skills to use.

“You must be the driver of your own life. Don’t let other people discourage and oppress you.”

Mmbulaheni believes one of the biggest enemies of society is the lack of love.

“People should stop discriminating against each other because of the different backgrounds they come from,” Mmbulaheni said.

Love is the only thing that completes us.