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Community Benefits Again from UTi Rhodes Trail Run

The annual UTi Rhodes Trail Run once again facilitated and donated tremendously to the local community.

The Trail Run has a number of projects it encourages and this year the visiting runners and their friends and family opened their hearts and wallets.

The organisers of the event sponsored Sydney Speelman's entry as well as donated the Polar Bear certificates which were on sale at Walkerbouts. All proceeds from the sale of the certificates goes towards the Rhodes Vulture Restaurant. The organisers also made a donation to the Vulture Restaurant.

A special project this year was the donation of wall heaters to the Zakhele Rhodes Public School. Sufficient heaters were handed over to ensure that every classroom has at least two heaters to ward off the bitter chill. Receiving the heaters on behalf of the school, Rhodes Public School teacher, Jonica Schoeman, "Some of the children walk 11km to school each morning in this freezing weather. The heaters will be of big benefit

to make the classrooms more comfortable and learning easier".

Two Johannesburg based companies, both with very close links with the event and the organisers, donated brand new sports kit to the school.

Apula South Africa, an advertising and design company, donated soccer uniforms and legal firm DM Kisch Inc. donated netball uniforms. *These extremely smart outfits will be seen in action shortly. "No pressure on the teams but we do hope for good results"* said a DM Kisch spokesperson.

The 'Run to Read' project continued with a healthy supply of new reading and workbooks being donated.

In the past the children at the Rhodes Christian School have received stationery, beanies and confectionery

over the race weekend and this year each received a smart scarf kindly sponsored by a group of Nelspruit runners. The Nelspruit runners handed over identical scarfs to the children at the Zakhele Rhodes Public School. The Rhodes Christian School also benefits each year from the Friday and Saturday meals and snacks sold to the runners and spectators.

One of the runners again hand knitted a large number of gloves which were handed over to the Zakhele community together with a significant donation of warm clothes from the runners. Adventure Inc, a trail run event partner, donated 50 blankets to the needy in Zakhele, while UTi couriers



An icy water point. - Photograph by Greg Raubenheimer



The hand-over of heaters to Zakhele Rhodes Christian School — Photograph: Greg Raubenheimer

facilitated the transport of a large amount of the donations.

The trail run also arranges the donation of sanitary items for girls in Zakhele.

A major and immediately gratifying donation this year was the refurbishment of the playground in Zakhele. Staff from DM Kisch volunteered to spend a few days sanding and repainting the swings and jungle gym and donated a new slide which was an instant hit. The children sat watching the painters splashing away and enthusiastically shot to the slide as soon as they were given the go-ahead. "Line,

line, line" became the cry of a DM Kisch director as she made sure the children waited their turn, eagerly jostling each other, as the slide was a huge attraction.

Two of the trail run participants generously donated the paint for the playground refurbishment.

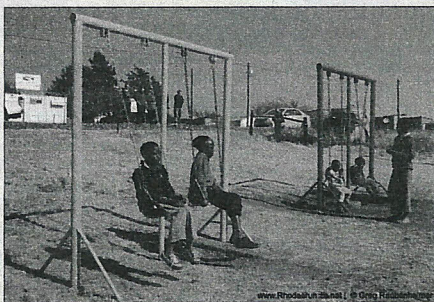
There were other donations to the community and the

surge of generous hearted visitors is a boon not only for the schools and community but is also a massive boost for local tourism.

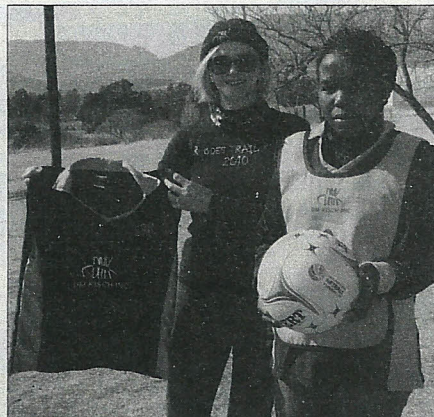
Jonica Schoeman said: "As a community we really appreciate very much all that is done for us. We never take it for granted and are most grateful for what the trail run provides".



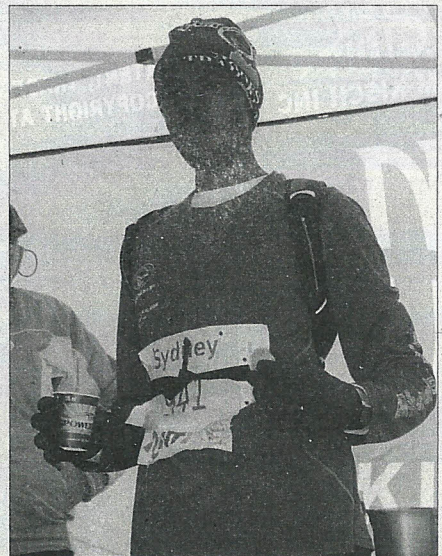
Soccer uniform donated by Apula South Africa. — Photograph: Greg Raubenheimer



The playground after DM Kisch revamped Photographs: Greg Raubenheimer



The Netball Kit that was donated. — Photograph Greg Raubenheimer



Sydney Speelman at Mavis Bank Check Point - King of the Kloof. Sydney, a Barkly runner, went on to finish in a good third position. Congratulations Sydney. Photograph: Greg Raubenheimer