

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

We wish the following team members a very happy birthday!

- 18 April - Robyn Bowden
- 19 April - Theo Oldjohn
- 29 April - Natasha Rossouw
- 30 April - Vanessa von der Heyde



With teamwork anything is possible!

'Teamwork divides the task and multiplies the success'

Even though we each have our own responsibilities and daily tasks to complete, in the end it all comes together to complete the bigger SI story.

Every little thing you do, impacts another person or being in this space. Adults influencing children, staff influencing students, soil influencing plants and the space setting the scene for everything else...thank you to each individual for bringing it all together beautifully.

Take a few minutes and watch this video – a very good story of how anything is possible when you work together as a dedicated unit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jU4oA3kkAWU>

ECD course underway

On Wednesday, 5 April, we welcomed our new group of ECD level 4 and 5 course participants, who will be with us for the next few months.

To help us deliver training of a high quality as well as an unforgettable experience for students, it takes a lot of hard work before, during and after.

Thank you to Zainab and her team for getting everything ready, and a special thank you to Maya for preparing the library so beautifully to make our students feel welcome!



All set for the new term!

During the school holiday the Lynedoch Children's House teachers enjoyed some time to prepare new materials for the second term - we are sure the children will enjoy all the new activities! We look up to our teachers and are proud of how you help the children to grow and develop in a loving and inspiring environment. Thank you for your commitment!



We wish our Children's House and SPARK School a wonderful start to term 2. Please remember to join in the SPARKS Fly every morning at 07:45 to start your day off on a joyful note!

Important dates: 18 April - 1 May 2017

18 April:

Schools opening

20 – 22 April

The roof of the building will be fixed, we apologise in advance for any noise that may disturb.

27 April & 1 May

Public holidays

Yippies grateful for support

We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to a memorable experience for our visiting YiP students! One of the students shared the following lovely thank you letter with us:

Dear Jess,

I am one of the students of the Youth Initiative Program who visited the Sustainability Institute in February. I have been reflecting on my experience in South Africa in January and February and I realized how important and helpful it is to have people like you connecting us to institutions and opening doors in these.

I want to heartily thank you for supporting us Yippies in such an open way. Thank you again for everything you did for us. The experience, especially in the Montessori crèche and the SPARK school is still very much alive in me. I still think of the students of the 6th and 7th grade very often.

*With very warm regards,
Jonna-Marie König*

Systems and Technologies for Sustainable Agriculture module a great learning experience

The Food Systems Centre (FSC) held the second (of three) Postgraduate Diploma module from 27 March to 1 April. Professor Raymond Auerbach (from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University) facilitated the sustainable agriculture classes (organic farming, agroecology, permaculture etc). The group did some exciting farm tours to Reyneke Wines and Spier Biodynamic Farm, as well as to a new small-scale organic veggie grower on Reyneke Wines.



Biodynamic wine farmer, Johan Reyneke, with PGD student and intern, Maxime.



FSC would like to thank the SI team once again for all their help in making this module such a success. From the Hospitality team who arranged Raymond's stay in the guesthouse, to Aron for leading such lovely morning work experiences in the garden, we love the teamwork that makes modules at the SI such a special experience for our students!

Farmer Angus from Spier Biodynamic Farm with the students.

Indigenous wild foods at the SI!

Did you know that the SI has 27 indigenous plants growing on site that are edible? (This is obviously not including the veggies and herbs growing in the food garden) Neither did we!

Indigenous food is becoming more and more popular, and is a great way to cultivate food suitable to the climatic conditions of a specific region. The Food Systems Centre (FSC) wants to bring these plants to our own space, so that students, staff, gardens and visitors can see the plants in the SI food gardens, and then taste meals prepared with them in the Green Café and Eco-lodge. The first step was taken last week, when the FSC organised a Wild Foods Survey Day for FSC staff, some hospitality staff, the Agroecology students and some of the gardens team. The day was facilitated by Cape Town's resident expert on indigenous edible plants, Loubie Rusch.



Loubie (centre, in black) talking through the 'weeds' table with the group.

The 27 collected plants were displayed on three tables, categorised as 'weeds', 'herbs', etc. The Agroecology students were particularly excited about the 'weeds' table as many recognised these as wild foods they had consumed in the Eastern Cape, often cooked up by their grandmothers. The next step will be planting some of the plants that are edible, but which aren't already growing at the SI, into the SI food garden. The FSC staff will also liaise with the Agroecology students to record the Xhosa names of certain plants and gather any traditional uses of these plants.

We are hoping to arrange another similar day for SI staff soon. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the Wild Foods at the SI project, please feel free to get in touch with Candice, Tai or Aabida.



Our new Hospitality Coordinator, Gillian, identifying 'weeds'.



Raz and one of our awesome interns, Lesley, showing what treasures they collected in the garden.

Share what is happening at the SI!

Every second week, InSide News will share some of the most important and latest news about what is happening at the SI over the next two weeks. Everyone is welcome to share news updates that is relevant to the SI team. Please send your news or important event dates to lesego.si@sustainabilityinstitute.net

