

Youth Development Programme

The Defence Reserves express their social responsibility through involvement with the local communities. The programs they implement, specifically in the area of youth development and skills training, instil and nurture a sense of self-worth, teamwork, discipline and national pride.

For many years, the SA Army Band Cape Town has been giving additional training and mentoring in music and dance, in conjunction with marching and drilling, to various local youth groups, as well as giving them opportunities to display their skills at public performances.

Based on the spontaneous responses and reactions from spectators at such performances, these youngsters also act as an inspiration and motivation to other children and young adults who witness these performances.

It is envisaged that, during the run-up to next year's Cape Town Military Tattoo 2012, the organisers will take the Tattoo to the community at various venues throughout the Western Cape.

School Holiday Youth Development Program 2011 at the Castle of Good Hope

At the start of October 2011, during the school holiday week, three talented youth groups from the Western Cape performed at the Castle of Good Hope in central Cape Town, as part of the School Holiday Youth Development Program 2011 that is run under the auspices of the South African National Defence Force – and specifically the Defence Reserves.

This youth development and skills training program is organised by the Defence Reserves Provincial Office of the Western Cape (DRPOWC) (Lieutenant Colonel Johan Conradie) in close cooperation with the Castle (Captain Francois Morkel) and the SA Army Band Cape Town (Director of Music Major Martin Chandler and group liaison officer Warrant Officer André van Schalkwyk), with the support of the Officer Commanding Army Support Base Western Cape in Youngsfield (Colonel Pieter Kobbie).

This is the seventh year that the SA Army Band Cape Town has given Western Cape youth groups from previously disadvantaged areas and with an interest in marching and bands a learning opportunity to participate in an exciting program of events over the school holidays. The Army Band is strongly committed to building bridges between the community and the SANDF. As part of the youngsters' musical and skills development, they performed in public at the Castle of Good Hope.

On Monday, a drill squad from the **Western Province Schools Marching Drill and Exhibition Association** (WP SMDEA), in their black pants, white shirts and shiny blue vests, impressed visitors to the Castle with a powerful performance. The vision of the WP SMDEA is that all learners exposed to the marching drill program should develop into model citizens,

positive role models and future leaders, and a sense of self-worth, achievement, teamwork, pride and discipline is instilled in the learners.

This drill squad is made up of the best students from the drill squads of each of the participating schools in Mitchells Plain. The relentlessly thumping beats of the drums, which reverberated all around the ancient walls of the Castle, the oldest colonial building in South Africa, ensured that the youngsters maintained a cracking pace throughout their routine, earning them well-deserved applause.



Group Photo 1: The Drill Squad from the Western Province Schools Marching Drill and Exhibition Association

On Tuesday, the **St Joseph Worker Church Lads and Girls Brigade** from Bishop Lavis braved the dark clouds and the soft drizzle to display their musical skills on fifes, drums and bugles. A non-profit organisation established in 1952, this Brigade has become one of the leading organisations in Bishop Lavis to raise awareness on all social issues and to train potential leaders within the community it serves.

The large crowd of spectators, comprising local and overseas tourists as well as several school groups, who were touring the Castle, showed their appreciation by applauding and cheering loudly, particularly when the very young drummers and fife players of the Youth Band marched into the front courtyard for their performance.



Group Photo 2: The bugle and fife band of the St Joseph Worker Church Lads and Girls Brigade

On Wednesday, it was the turn of the beautifully attired and decorated **Marimba Dancers of the Likhwezi Arts Projects** to delight the throngs of spectators at the Castle with their high-energy song and dance routines. Likhwezi (meaning “Morning Star”), established in 2003, is a community service organisation whose members come from Gugulethu, Nyanga and Khayelitsha.

The group’s repertoire combines song and dance from a variety of Southern African cultures, accompanied by marimbas, drums and percussion. Their talented dancers have performed at several corporate 2010 FIFA World Cup soccer events and have collaborated with well-known artists both nationally and internationally.



Group Photo 3: The Marimba Dancers of the Likhwezi Arts Project