

Print this article**Marching towards glory**

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THE Castle of Good Hope was a stronghold of sound and excitement last week as the SA Army Band in Cape Town held its seventh annual holiday programme there.

The programme, presented last week, gave interested youth groups from impoverished areas the chance to get involved with the world of marching bands.

The youth development and skills training drive was organised by the Defence Reserves Provincial Office of the Western Cape in close cooperation with the castle and the local SA Army Band, with the support of the Army Support Base in Youngsfield.

As part of the youngsters' musical and skills development training, they got to perform in public at the castle. A drill squad from the Western Province Schools Marching Drill and Exhibition Association, in their black pants, white shirts and shiny blue vests, attracted numerous visitors to the castle with their disciplined performance.

Group liaison officer Warrant Officer André van Schalkwyk says the association believes its marching drill programme helps to develop students into model citizens and future leaders, instilling a sense of self-worth, achievement, teamwork, pride and discipline.

"This drill squad is made up of the best students from the drill squads of each of the participating schools in Mitchell's Plain," says Van Schalkwyk. More marching is on the cards this Saturday, when the Western Cape Schools Mini Tattoo, an annual drill and marching competition, will be held at Vygieskraal Stadium, Athlone. Gates open at 08:00, with the opening ceremony starting at 09:00 with a military tattoo.

Bands to be featured on the day include the SA Army Band Cape Town, the Cape Field Artillery Pipes and Drums, and the St Joseph Worker Brigade Bugle and Fife Band. The Dog Unit from the Ysterplaat Air Force Base will also do a demonstration, and the Cape Field Artillery will fire a shot at 10:00 with the same guns used to fire the 21-gun salutes during state visits and at the annual opening of Parliament. The mini tattoo will be followed by performances, marches and exhibitions by precision drill squads with the Western Province Schools Marching Drill and Exhibition Association, as well as the drum majorettes and the gymnasttrada of the Western Cape School Sports Organisation. Van Schalkwyk invites Grade 12 pupils from schools across the Western Cape to join the festivity.

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