

YEAR 2017 HIGHLIGHTS





FOUNDER'S NOTE

2017 truly was a phenomenal year where we saw so many things come together, and we had glimpses of the great things to come...

We forged many great partnerships and managed to grow our small team with additional team members and volunteers who are as passionate about youth and community development as we are.

Our 4th Annual Community Surf Challenge and Family Day was bigger and better than ever - attracting over 1000 visitors - and saw the launch of our Acoustic sunset sessions, as well as the Development surf competition in partnership with Share The Stoke Foundation.

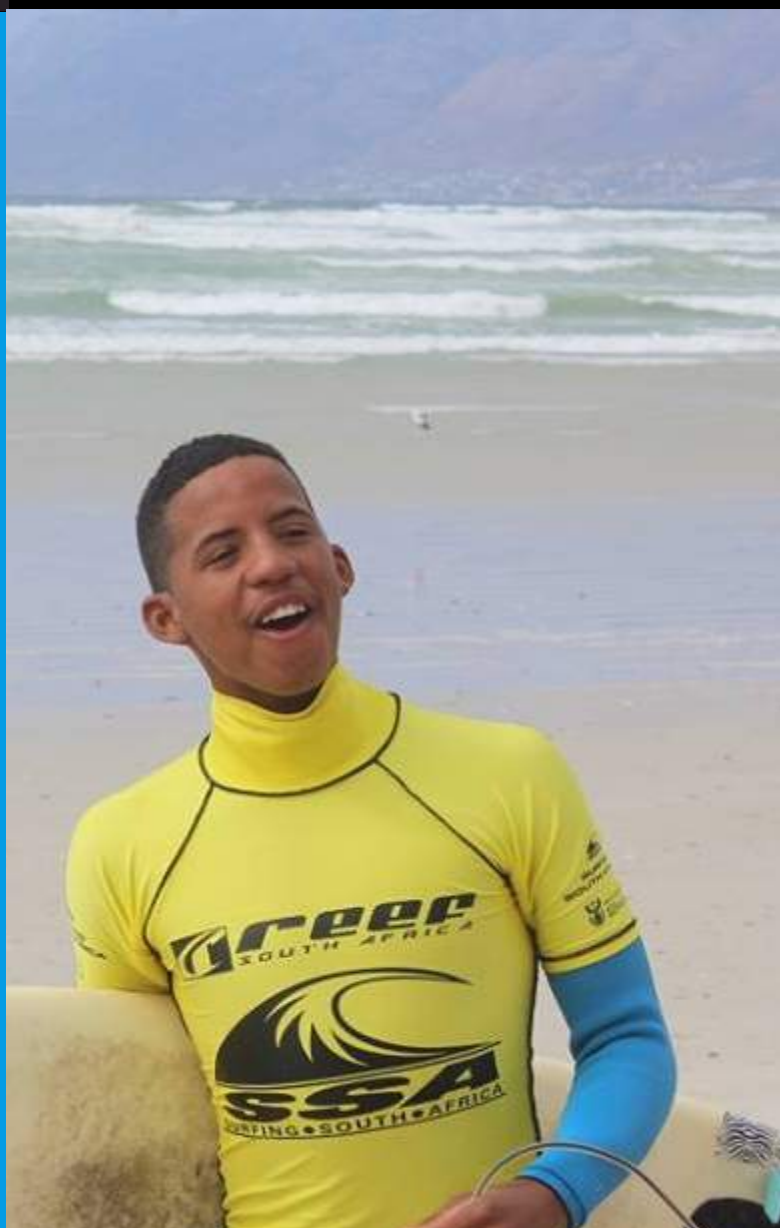
In addition to our Strandfontein kids, we further entrenched ourselves on the East and West Coasts with our projects in St Francis Bay and Elands Bay - as a result we had 66 kids to cater for at our Christmas parties in the three locations... a task which Surfer Santa pulled off with great aplomb.

Somehow, despite all the challenges facing non-profit organisations, and business in general, we managed to achieve so much with your help and a lot of grace, and we look forward to going even further in 2018 when we celebrate our 5th birthday!



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PROJECT GROWTH

We added 15 students to our mentorship programme from the two communities in Strandfontein that we service: 7de Laan and OppermansOord. This was our 4th intake at the project increasing the amount of students to 35. In 2013 we started with only 1 girl in the project and we have increased to 13 girls ranging from 10 to 16 years.



STRANDFONTEIN, CAPE TOWN

ELANDS BAY, WEST COAST



In March 2017 9Miles launched the West Coast Elands Bay Outreach Project after a collaboration with the “10 Days and 10 Nights” project. Our team visits every 6 weeks to host a life empowerment surf clinic with the youth, conducting lessons derived from our curriculum. There is very little, to no extramural activities or youth development programmes within this region and even though they live within walking distance of one of the most popular surf hotspots in South Africa and are exposed to surfers, they have never had the opportunity to experience the sport for themselves.

We currently work with 24 young individuals in the small town and we visited the area 7 times in 2017

Our St Francis Bay Project launched in April 2017. The learners are from a small informal community known as SeaVista. We have 10 boys within the project and it operates twice a week with each session consisting of a lifeskill lesson, fitness and surf training. Our head facility coach is a local surfer from the community who, despite having a fulltime job, mentors and trains the kids on weekends. Although the project is very young, change in behaviour, attitude and character is apparent. The premises was generously provided by Kouga Municipality for our kids to have a safe environment to conduct our lessons and store our equipment. There is a great support from the community as well as the town of St Francis Bay.

ST FRANCIS BAY, EAST COAST



LEARNING ADVENTURES

LEADERSHIP CAMP - JEFFREYS BAY

In addition to the annual J-Bay trip, our mentors (young adults) had the opportunity to visit Plett Puzzle Park which not only exercised their minds but bodies too. The trip to the Wolf Sanctuary was incredibly informative as watching and learning about the wolves taught us leadership, unity and working together for the benefit of the pack. They have strong family values and reminded us that everyone in the pack plays an important role regardless of their responsibility or social order.



CHRIS BERTISH SCREENING

In August, Chris Bertish invited all our students to attend the SUP Crossing Talk and Film screening at The Avenue, V&A Waterfront. After the talk we also had the amazing opportunity to visit the Two Oceans Aquarium and everyone was very excited to see the diverse sea life. The kids also enjoyed a delicious Woodies burger which was generously sponsored by the V&A Food market.



SAVE OUR SEAS



In December, *We Care Collective* and Save our Seas Foundation invited kids to a fun morning in Muizenberg and taught them how to become ocean guardians. The kids participated in games and talks which educated them about ocean life and the perils of plastic.

ECO FUN DAY

In September we were invited to attend the ECO Fun Day at the Navy Sports Field in Glencairn. We were taught how to perform CPR by the Fire and Rescue team, some raced against time to see who could put on a firefighters' suit the fastest, and others got up-close-and-personal with snakes and other exotic creatures. Our 9miles Project team was the first-prize winners and won free entry into any SANParks National Park in South Africa.

LEARNING PARTNERS

HELP2READ SOUTH AFRICA

Illiteracy is a huge challenge in our communities - a scourge that, without early intervention, is passed on from generation to generation.

Education is, therefore, one of the key pillars of our Curriculum and we provide after-school support and tutoring for our kids.

We are very blessed to have Help2Read South Africa as a partner that provides us with training on how to teach kids to read, how to develop their innate storytelling abilities, and how important positive, fun interactions are for developing young minds.

They also support us with stationery, books, and educational supplies



AWAKENING THE SOUL SURFER CURRICULUM



We were able to print 40 copies of our 200-page curriculum in full-colour thanks to the kind sponsorship of Rawson Constantia.

We are also very thankful to them for their continued commitment to our project

TUTORING

We have partnered with Bandle's Tutoring and Learning Centre to provide our struggling students with reading lessons and we are very grateful to Bandle Pather for her dedication and continuous feedback regarding the progress of our students.





9MILES 4TH ANNUAL SURF CHALLENGE AND FAMILY DAY

In April we (in addition to the regular Surf competition) also partnered with Share the Stoke Foundation to birth the Academy Cup which is an outreach surf competition for other surf projects from around the country. We also launched our Acoustic Sunset Sessions at the 2017 event, hosting local prestigious musical jazz legends such as Frank Paco and Spencer Mbadu.

COMPETITIONS

JORDY SMITH OUTREACH TAG TEAM

What a great honour and privilege it was for our students to be a part of the Jordy Smith Cape Town Surf Pro in June hosted by Surfing SA on the shores of Melkbosstrand. All the participating teams received personal encouragement and empowerment from World No.3 SA Surfer Jordy Smith.



TIGER'S MILK WINTER COMPETITION

SHARE THE STROKE OUTREACH GAMES

In June our students also participated in the Tiger's Milk Outreach tag team competition where they charged and braved the cold waters of Muizenberg and showed exceptional sportsmanship throughout the activities of the day.

They also participated in the Share the Stoke Outreach Games in November

BILLABONG SA JUNIOR CHAMPS IN JEFFREYS BAY

Nathan Perries was selected for the Under 14 Western Province team and represented Surfriders (WP Team) and Faieq Samodien participated in U18 Development team



SPECIAL VISITS

MATT BROMLEY

Big Wave Surfer and 9Miles Project GoodWill Ambassador, Matt Bromley, visited us on many occasions in 2017. He shared his many travel stories, and principles like the courage to overcome, the patience to endure and the strength to rise above.



MICHAEL CARNEGIE

We were stoked to have Michael Carnegie, environmental educator, visit our clubhouse and share a fascinating, and interactive session with our kids...The students explored the local rock pools and then tackled a fun art project which involved painting seaweed which they transformed into vuvuzelas.



LEGAL AID

Legal Aid South Africa hosted a very informative session at the Strandfontein Lifesaving clubhouse in December and provided us with important information on the valuable free services that they offer. In addition, they also offered our kids a self-defence lesson and gifted them with branded drawstring bags and lovely hotdog rolls.



SAOTA

In September we visited the offices of SAOTA, an international architecture and design practice in Cape Town.

They are one of our longstanding, committed partners and have been instrumental in keeping our "doors open" and the lights on.

- Compassion in Action CBS conducted quarterly health assessments for our students. We are blessed to have fantastic partners who assist us in building healthy and robust kids.
- Christian Surfers from Jeffreys Bay visited for a week in May.
- In June our students received a warm surprise with colourful knitted beanies and scarfs from the St Phillips Catholic Church KOLPING family craft group.



TEAMBUILDING AND SCHOOL GROUPS

We hosted many outside school groups at our clubhouse this year for surf, or life empowerment sessions as this a very big component and aspect of our project. Some of them include:

- Harold Cressy High School - in partnership with Matt Bromley and Jade Knight
- Our 2nd annual GEM (Girl Empowerment Movement) Workshop (in partnership with Christel House Academy) in September
- Shekinah Youth group
- Strandfontein Community Policing Forum





4TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY SURF CHALLENGE & FAMILY DAY

Our 2017 event was bigger and better than ever! We hosted it over 2 days, drew over 1000 people (compared to 250 in our first year) and launched our Acoustic Sunset sessions



Activities included: Community Surf Challenge, Surf Lessons, Outreach Academy Cup Surf Competition, Sandcastle Building, Treasure Hunt, Kayaking, SUP(Stand Up Paddle), Beach Soccer, Beach Volleyball, Acoustic Sunset Sessions (Live music concert), Skate Jam, Car Park-off, Creative Wall (Live graffiti), Jungle theatre...and much more...



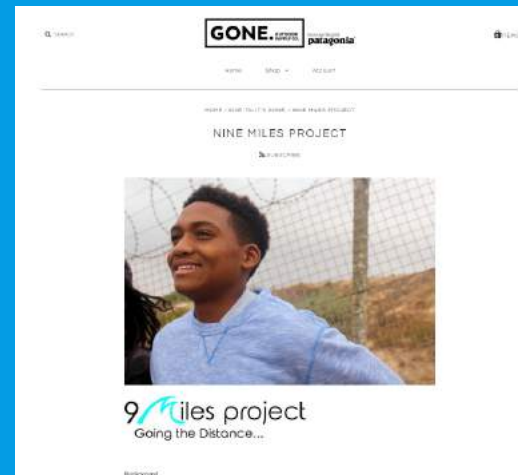
RECOGNITION AND ACHIEVEMENTS



- The project was nominated in the “Recreation Body of the Year” category at the SA Sports Awards. We didn't win in our category but we were still so honoured by the nomination.
- Nigel received a Civic Award from the City of Cape Town in 2017 and was one of 10 residents who was awarded civic honours by Subcouncil 23 in Mitchells Plain
- Nathan Perries made the U14 Western Province team and was filmed for Xcellerate, an SABC show which follows young individuals as they train and prepare for the sporting event that may change their lives. Nathan’s episode will air in February 2018.



MEDIA COVERAGE



- Matt Bromley, our Goodwill Ambassador, was on the cover of the October Big Issue magazine and 9miles was featured on page 18.
- Nigel and Danica, our Operations Head, were interviewed on Smile FM and Radio Tygerberg.
- We received extensive coverage of our annual event from the likes of ZigZag magazine, People's Post, Plainsman, The Son etc. and received online coverage from GONE.



FUNDRAISING

- The Wavescape Artboard Auction raised a record R772 000 for ocean charities - one of which was 9Miles
- Deon Bing, intrepid surfer and radio personality created a Sushi Platter at Manga restaurant whereby R10 of each platter comes to 9Miles and the diner receives a rad 9Miles keychain
- R100 Campaign - recruiting 100 people to commit to R100 per month
- Vehicle Campaign - we established a great partnership with the Peninsula-77 Round Table in an effort to obtain minibus vehicles for the project.
- Patagonia film FISHPEOPLE was screened as part of the Wavescape Festival and we received the proceeds from the evening that included a raffle for a R2, 500 Patagonia hamper.



CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Our Christmas parties were bigger and better than ever! The 9Miles Team, with the help of amazing volunteers and supporters, were able to bring Christmas cheer to over 60 children in three different locations.

Elands Bay learners received personalised custom-made skateboards crafted by Kingdom Longboards, St Francis Bay Surf Project boys received awesome Billabong gear sponsored by Lotto and a delicious Christmas lunch at Rambling Rose restaurant sponsored by St Francis Bay United Church.

Strandfontein students were treated to live entertainment, a delicious lunch prepared by Keanon's Kitchen and were presented with wonderful gifts donated by our loyal supporters and sponsors such as Sunni Stores, FutureGrowth and Capricorn Pick 'n Pay.



THANK YOU

to everyone who made our 2017 journey
so exciting!

