



100WAVE CHALLENGE

1 DAY. 1 MISSION. 100 WAVES

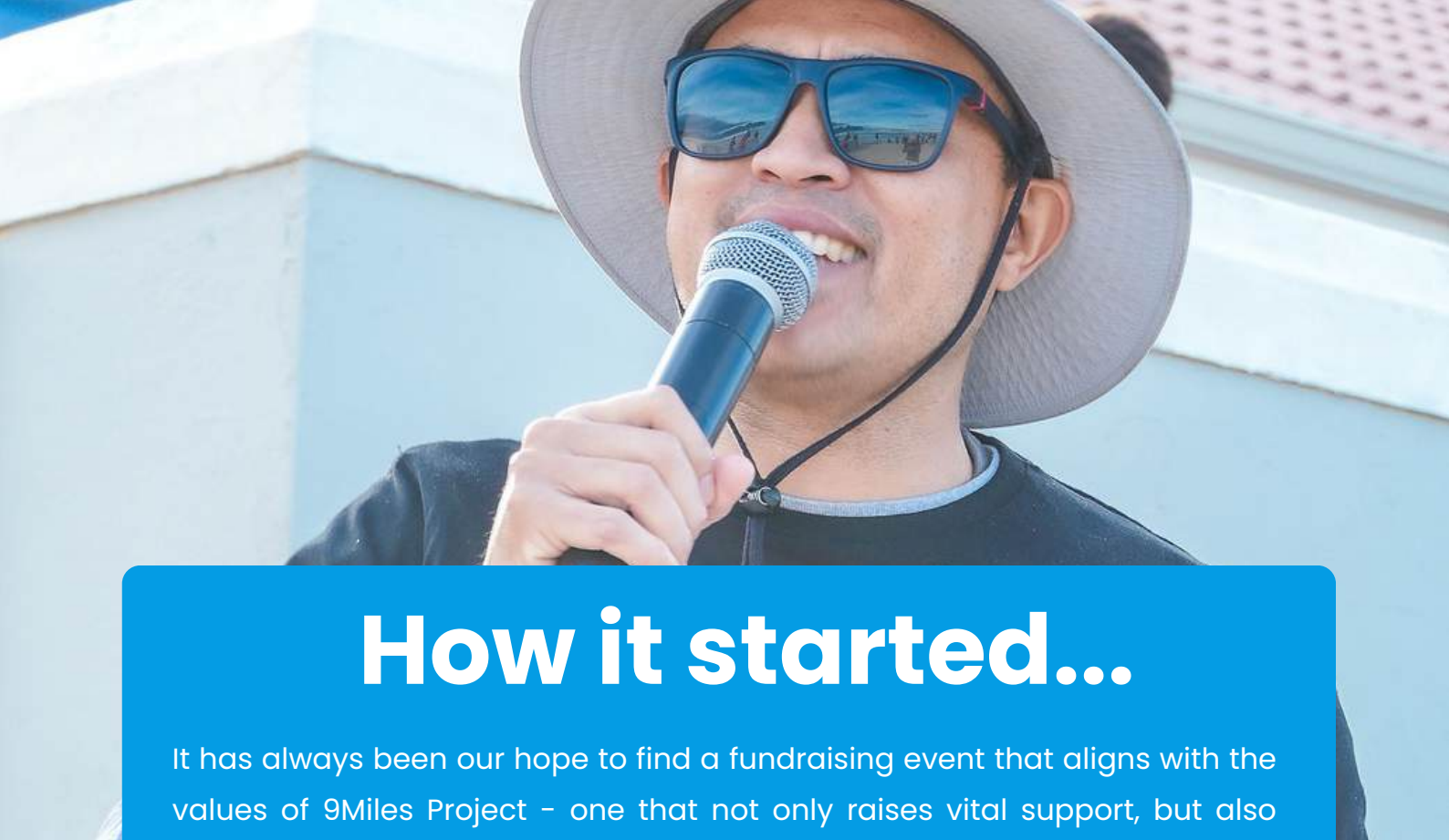
CLOSE OUT REPORT

9 MAY 2026 | MUIZENBERG BEACH





Changing a child's life cannot happen in isolation... it takes a village. Real impact happens when communities come together and take collective action with a shared purpose to create spaces of hope, belonging, and opportunity. That is the heart behind the 100Wave Challenge, using recreation to unite people and build stronger, more connected communities. — Nigel Savel, 9Miles Project Founder.



How it started...

It has always been our hope to find a fundraising event that aligns with the values of 9Miles Project – one that not only raises vital support, but also brings people together around a shared purpose.

After a successful inaugural 100Wave Challenge in 2025, we are incredibly grateful to have found a model that reflects what we stand for. What began as an idea shared across oceans has now found a home on African shores, helping us create opportunities and support for youth in marginalised coastal communities.

The journey began in July 2024, during a trip to California, where our founder, Nigel Savel, spent time with surfing pioneer and World Champion Shaun Tomson, founder of the Instinct brand.

Shaun introduced Nigel to Joe Sigurdson, co-founder of Boys to Men Mentoring (B2M), an organisation renowned for its impactful mentoring programmes in San Diego County. One of their flagship fundraising events is the “100Wave Challenge,” a surf-a-thon that challenges surfers to catch 100 waves in a single day to raise funds for B2M’s programmes.

Inspired by the potential to support and uplift youth through this initiative, Joe generously gave 9Miles Project permission to adapt and implement the concept in South Africa for the very first time – laying the foundation for what has now become a powerful movement of community, courage and collective impact.



How it went...

What started as a calm, picture-perfect morning in Muizenberg – one of South Africa’s most iconic surf locations – quickly grew into one of the most exciting surf events to hit the beachfront in recent memory.

Saturday, 9 May, arrived with clear skies, mountain backdrops, and the colourful Muizenberg beachfront glowing in the early morning light. But the ocean had other plans, delivering big and demanding waves – the biggest swell Muizies had seen in a long time!

Still, our teams showed up and gave it their all. Sunrise teams set the tone early for a day defined by courage and community. From sunrise to sunset, people came together to take on 100 waves, helping create opportunities, safe spaces and brighter futures for the youth in our programmes.



This year reminded us that progress is not made in perfect conditions. It is made when people keep showing up, even when it’s tough, because someone else’s future depends on it.

Sher’Neil Savel, Co-Founder



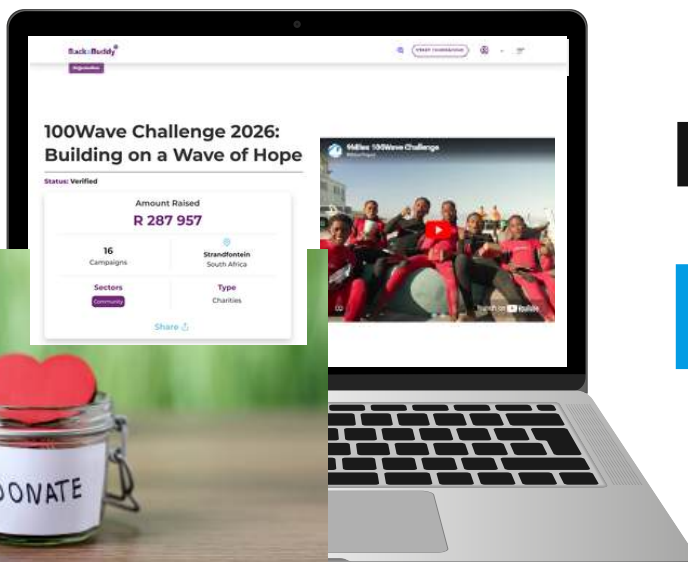
The impact made waves far beyond the shoreline. With an initial fundraising goal of R250 000, this year we once again surged past it, raising an incredible R287 957 in support of youth in underserved coastal communities.

These funds will go towards surf therapy, education, mentorship, life-skills development, and creating safe spaces for young people across our 9Miles Project locations.

TARGET:
R250 000



FUNDS RAISED:
R287 957





At a glance:

300

attendees

100

Participants

2

Water safety partners

48

Staff & volunteers

2

Paramedic & Safety officers

15

Safety & Security representatives

Thank you to the following infrastructure and logistical partners who were on the ground, ensuring a safe and compliant event:

- Strandfontein Surf Lifesaving
- Nexgen Surf School
- NUtec Digital Ink's BRG team (Health & Safety officers)
- Michael van Dieman (Paramedic)
- Jackery South Africa
- Progressive Production Audio
- Cape Tents





Leading the charge...

Before most of Muizenberg had even opened their curtains, surfers were already battling some of the toughest waves the beachfront has seen in years. But through cold water, heavy sets and wipeouts, teams and solo surfers kept paddling back out – with smiles, encouragement, and determination carrying them through.

12-year-old **Leo Rietveld** captured the heart of the day with his relentless perseverance, while **eXp Realty** teams **Property Wave Riders and Excellence Catchers**, many of them beginners, pushed through the challenging conditions together.

The energy continued with **Team Now Now**, alongside 9Miles Project staff members **Pearle, Marishka, and Faieq**, as well as donors **Greg Thijss**, representing **Brother Bees Honey**, and **Mark Hendricks**, who surfed side by side with the children in our programme, bringing pure joy to both our Cape Town and Elands Bay teams.

Young **Gabriel Fisher** also returned for his second challenge, completing all 100 waves by himself, and 3 **Western Province Waveski** teams brought energy and excitement to the shoreline.

Even in the toughest conditions, the water was filled with laughter, teamwork, and a reminder that perseverance looks powerful when done together.

Our Brave Challengers...



Western Province Waveski
Neck-and-neck, all 3 teams finished their 100 waves.



Matt Bromley
Called in reinforcements to finish the challenge with his sons and nephews



Greg Thijss - Brother Bees Honey



Western Province Waveski



Western Province Waveski



JT - Flare Surboard Revival Project



Team "Nel Family Wave" — back for their second challenge, taking it on together as a family with incredible determination, heart and passion.



Team Now Now Media



Gabriel Fisher



Leo Rietveld



eXp Property Wave Riders



eXp Excellence Catchers



Faiq Samodien

Individual who raised the most funds



The Locals



Jami Marnitz

Having not surfed in years, she courageously signed up for the 100Wave Challenge on the day, making a powerful return to the waves.



Gareth Sparg



The Badgers



Team Hyrox



Sedres Family



Surfing Samurai's



Mark Hendricks



The INKredible Surfers from NUtec Digital Ink



Flux Full Circle



Beyond the break...

While the surfers battled heavy sets in the ocean, the shore transformed into a vibrant space of movement, colour and sound – a reminder that the 100Wave Challenge extends far beyond the water.

Diony Lalieu and her team from **Oceans Pledge** led beach clean-ups alongside a sandcastle building competition that drew families right in. Every corner of the shoreline was alive with laughter, teamwork, and hands in the sand.

Keagan Curtis returned to the shoreline with his unmistakable sound, debuting a new 100Wave song that carried across the beach, drawing people in from every direction as they followed the sound through the crowd, tying the day together in rhythm.

At the art station, **CBN Southern Africa** added a creative, hands-on space where participants could slow down, relax, and enjoy gentle artistic expression in a peaceful atmosphere. **InnerKids Games** brought joy to everyone who participated, while e-biking proved to be a crowd favourite thanks to **Beat & Nicole Fehr** from Cycle Village AG Switzerland, adding an extra layer of excitement to the day. A special **Superbook** guest, **Gizmo**, also made an appearance, delighting both children and adults who stopped in their tracks with excitement.

Ripples of activity...



Fueling the Fun: Food & Drink sponsors!

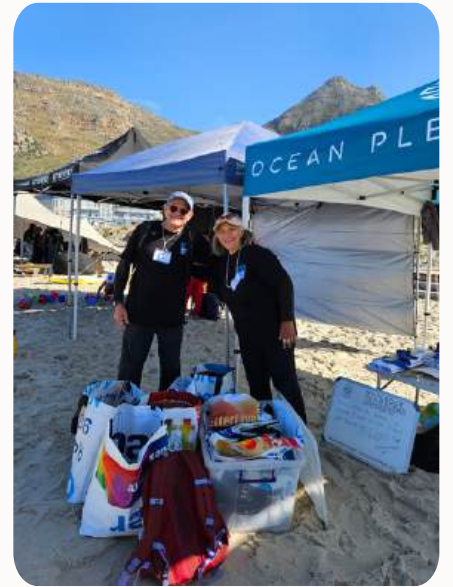


A huge thank you goes to the following sponsors and donors who kept our staff, volunteers, visitors, kids and participants well nourished and hydrated throughout the day:

- Aquabella
- PVM Nutritional Sciences
- The Flying Pan
- Table Seven
- Kitchen Republik
- SALT & Sirocco Cafe
- Revive
- Spar Weltevreden
- Seattle Coffee
- Wajid's Chicken Tikka and Take-Aways
- The Burch Family at Sunni Stores
- The Sedres family
- Wildwood
- Kay's Kitchen
- Pizza Inn - Strandfontein
- Fresh Stop (Bayview)



Sunshine & smiles...



In their own words...

❤️ 114 💬 3 🔄 14 🚩 28 📌

👤👤 Liked by vanreenenjuanay and others
reefshopsa 100 waves for a massive cause. 🌊

We were honored to support the @9milesproject 100 Wave Challenge at Muizenberg on May 9th. While the goal was to raise awareness and support youth development through surf therapy, Mother Nature decided to turn up the volume with some of the biggest sets Berg has seen in years.

Seeing the community come together to tackle these conditions for a greater purpose is what South African surf culture is all about. Proud to be part of this movement.

soldbyvaughn Saturday morning, salt in the air, boards in motion 🌊

We showed up for 100 Waves with the crew at 9 Miles, riding with purpose and backing a cause bigger than the ocean itself. From first paddle-out to the final wave, the energy was pure gold.

Big respect to every team, organization, and surfer who took on the challenge and helped turn waves into impact 🙌



NUtec Digital Ink

It is so heart-warming to witness the positive change 9Miles makes in so many young impressionable minds and lives



Table Seven

Thank you so much for having us. We had the best time being a part of this amazing experience.

❤️ 13 💬 4 🔄 1 🚩 1 📌

👤 Liked by nexgen_surf and others
jami.marnitz On a whim the night before, saw a poster advertising this event and decided to give it a go.. what a crazy and humble experience!

100 waves, done as an individual! Wow! The emotions struck hard at the 93rd wave.. I couldn't believe I had come this far, no breaks or rest, just the push to finish, the push the fight to show myself, I CAN!! 2.5 hours later, I stood up on wave 100!!

So so incredibly stoked! What a rad event to be a part of and I will definitely be there again next year!

👍❤️ eXp South Africa + 27 6 shares

Most relevant ▾

👤 eXp South Africa · 1d
It takes a village! 🌊🌊🌊

Reply Hide



👤 phil.nel 22h · ❤️ by author
Another amazing event team 9 Miles! Well done!! 🙌🔥❤️ 1
Reply Reply with a reel Hide
👤 Reply to phil.nel...

Thank you to the 9Miles team for everything you do for the youth and surf culture in South Africa 🇿🇦

👤 Bryce Fisher · 3d
Super awesome day , wellll done you guys. Blessed with a perfect day too
Reply Message Hide 👍🗨️



Waves of joy...



We had three 9Miles Project kids' teams, including our Elands Bay team, and it was truly a joy to witness them embrace the challenge. This event provided the children from Elands Bay with a memorable experience, allowing them to explore beyond their small fishing village and catch a glimpse of all that Cape Town has to offer.

Capturing the moment...



A heartfelt thank you to **Alan Van Gysen** & daughter **Keahlo**, **Brad** and the Head in the Clouds team, **Colin Fitch Photography**, and our extended media team **Brian Savel** & **Beat Fehr**. Your lenses & drones did more than capture the action - they preserved the true heart of the 100Wave Challenge through moments we'll relive for years to come.



And let's not forget our own in-house photographer, Stanton Boois & PR Officer, Margo Carelse

In the news...

BackABuddy is with **9Miles Project** at **Strandfontein Pavilion**.
25 April at 08:00 · Cape Town · 🌐

Catch a wave, change a life! 🌊

The **100Wave Challenge** is officially back and making a splash at Strandfontein Pavilion on Saturday, 2 May 2026!

Last year, over 250 of you filled the beach with "stoke" and helped the **9Miles Project** raise over R176 000 for mentorship, education, and surf therapy.

Whether you're a pro surfer, a grom, or a cheerleader on the sand, there's a place for you. You can surf solo, join a team, or simply support the movement.

Every wave surfed and every Rand raised reminds a young person that they are seen and loved. Let's ride this wave together!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dno4TEJ4OQ&t=20s>

👉 Comment "waves" to find out how you can get involved!

#9milesproject #100WaveChallenge #surfforapurpose #communitysupport #southafrican See less



❤️ 19 🗨️ 🔄 🏠 2 📌

👤👤👤 Liked by vanreenjuaney and others
expressoshow The 100 Wave Challenge in Strandfontein brought together community, connection and purpose this past weekend. 🌊❤️... more

Expresso Morning Show - Live TV



1 x Article from False Bay Echo

1 x Article from BackABuddy



1 x CapeTalk Radio interview

New Beach, Same Mission for the 2026 100Wave Challenge



2 x Articles from GoodThings Guy

100 waves of impact as 9Miles Project raises over R280 000 through the 2026 100Wave Challenge

13 MAY 2026

On Saturday, 9 May 2026, 9Miles Project hosted its 2nd Annual **100Wave Challenge** at Muizenberg Beach, transforming the beachfront into a powerful celebration of community, resilience and collective impact.

Inspired by a global movement that originated in California, the 100Wave Challenge invites participants to surf 100 waves in a single day while raising funds in support of vulnerable youth. This year's event brought together surfers, volunteers, families, sponsors, and community partners with one shared purpose: creating spaces of hope, belonging and opportunity for young people in underserved coastal communities.

2 x Articles from Zigzag

People's Post

NOVA NEWS...

Menu ☰

Community

Home » News » **Muizenberg surfers unite to raise R282 590 for vulnerable youth**

Muizenberg surfers unite to raise R282 590 for vulnerable youth



Keanan Harmse |

14 May 2026

1 x Article from People's Post



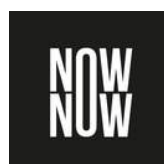
1 x interview conducted with CCFM

Snapshots of fun...



You caught our vision...

A heartfelt thank you to all our partners, donors, and suppliers who embraced our vision and collaborated with us to make this event a success!





Thank you for being our village!

A sincere thank you to every person who made this year's 100Wave Challenge possible: our participants, donors, partners, volunteers, staff, families, and supporters.

Participants paddled out. Volunteers stepped in wherever needed. Partners gave generously. Supporters stood firmly alongside us. Every wave caught, every hour volunteered, every donation made, and every word of encouragement shared mattered, because real impact takes a village.

To our **participants**, thank you for your passion and perseverance.

To our **donors and partners**, thank you for believing in our mission and investing in the future of young people in underserved coastal communities. Your support helps us continue creating safe spaces through surf therapy, mentorship, education, and holistic support programmes.

To our **volunteers and staff**, thank you for showing up tirelessly, adapting constantly, and giving everything to make the day possible.

This year reminded us that meaningful change does not happen in perfect conditions, it happens when people keep showing up for one another. A powerful reflection of what becomes possible when a community moves with purpose.



PARTNER WITH PURPOSE

From every wave surfed to every hand lifted in support, the 100Wave Challenge proved one powerful truth: when a community comes together with heart and purpose, anything is possible.

The excitement is still in the air, and we're already looking ahead to the next 100Wave Challenge which is earmarked for **8 May 2027!**

If you'd like to get a jumpstart on partnering with us on next year's event, we'd love to connect with you. Reach out to us at info@9milesproject.org or give us a call on +27 082 042 7701.

