

# Yearly News

*2014*



I'm Fiyo Nwabisa, I come from Barkly East. At my home I was staying with my two brothers, I was at school from grade 1 to grade 8. At my home I liked to wash the dishes during the day & washed my clothes. I liked to stay at my home. Because of illness I stayed at Tygerberg hospital a long time. Then from January 2014 I come from Tygerberg hospital to Ikhaya- Loxolo project- it's a home of peace who deal with disabled people, Ikhaya-loxolo make sure that those people are safe 24hours a day & also run the garden, farm & pre-school. My role at this project I'm a helping in the garden & in the house. What I like so much is that I continue with education. I'm fine to be a part of Ikhaya-Loxolo because I get more information, Ikhaya-Loxolo makes me happy.



*Nwabisa on the top left, together with other Ikhaya Loxolo residents*

*Dear readers,*

Unbelievable but true- another year has gone by..... This is my 10<sup>th</sup> year to write Ikhaya Loxolo's yearly report and my main aim in doing so is to convey an insight into our work and lives, more than just stating the facts of what's new. I hope I will succeed in my mission!



*Working together: care-giver 'tata ka lompiza', residents Simnikiwe and Ondela organise the timber donated by Langeni Forestry*

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*Residents and care-givers have tea together*



We are happy to say that for the first time we were able to fill all our 14 available beds with residents with special needs this year and have another 4 lined up from January 2015. Then we are really full to capacity and who knows, might have to think about extending?

Our gardens have grown and developed immensely this past year, doubling its income generation and feeding, including the pre-school children, up to 40 people a day every day!



*A small part of our garden showing mustard and cabbage in this picture*

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*One of our twelve 10mx10m drip irrigated gardens (there are another 15 drip irrigated beds of 3mx15m at the new farm); pre-school wendy house and big communal rondavel in the background.*



*preparing vegetables for sale- the house is getting too small soon*

*Prepared veggies are ready to go: either to the doctors at the nearby Madwaleni hospital, the Haven Hotel, Lavender Blue Farmstall in East London or the Spar in Elliotdale. Previously we*



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*grew more vegetables than we had a market for, but this year it has finally turned: we can't satisfy yet the amount of veg which is in demand, so we are expanding all the time....*



*No garden produce is ever wasted at Ikhaya Loxolo: what we don't eat and don't sell locally or at the various places described above, gets eaten by these guys*

Our garden is also what has brought us closer to at least one governmental department. For an agricultural show and competition, Mr Noqa, the agricultural advisor of the Department of Agriculture in Elliotdale, had invited Ikhaya Loxolo to take part in competing for our ward and district (Elliotdale), and without hesitation we agreed to join. It was an interesting experience, seeing the produce of other farmers in the area, showing off one's own produce and be strengthened in our believe that organic is the best!



*Elliotdale District (our) stall.*

*Pat and Pumla, our two garden managers, showing Ikhaya Loxolo's home baked bread, which competed and was the only one in its category 'oven baked bread' at the show*





*Thandisizwe, our long time volunteer and member of the management committee, is extending the banana grove*



*Other than a wendy house for class room, our pre-school is still waiting for funding; to pay the teacher Nickelwa, to feed the children who are presently nourished by Ikhaya Loxolo's own produce and products.*

*Nevertheless, Ikhaya Loxolo is able to provide good quality care and education, surely the best in our rural area, as we are equipped with educational materials (thanks to privately given gifts), toys, an educated teacher, a professional supervisor, a gifted handy man and timber as well as an outside play area. It's the running cost that's beating us!*





*A common occurrence in our winter=dry season. This fire got out of control just outside Ikhaya Loxolo's yard. People often start a planned and guarded fire for different reasons (burn old fields, suspected snakes near homes etc), but with a*

*bit of wind it easily spreads. People of the neighbourhood then quickly join the battle to try and extinguish the fire with shovels or blankets and often Ikhaya Loxolo's watering cans and access to water as well as our people have helped to put a fire out.*

A huge job to be done this past year has been the fixing of the big rondavel's roof. Some of the poles in the roof structure had broken (having to carry an incredible weight once grass is wet from rain and hit by Gail force winds).



*The broken poles exposed*

*First step: taking down the 'old' grass*





*Masses of the old, taken down grass. A small part of it could be re-used on the thatch, the rest was a welcomed 'gift' to our garden team for mulching*

### Exchanging the poles:



*Binding grass, which we had cut and dried first for the new thatch*

*FINNISHED!*



**Dear readers, as you well know by now, without you, our sponsors and supporters, I couldn't show you any of the above! It is thanks to your help that Ikhaya Loxolo is able to help others, the ones who really need looking after. I apologise for not being able to list all supporters individually, as such a list would just get far too long. I will here only list the biggest and ongoing donors:**

1. **Kindertreuere e.V.** in Germany as well as "**Business means Responsibility**" in Germany (who are already ongoing supporters of Ikhaya Loxolo) have both rushed to answer our urgent call for funding this year and donated Euro 3000 and Euro 5000-by doing so helped to keep our home and farm alive and the care for people with special needs ongoing!
2. Sisters **Veneshree and Kashree Naidoo**, South Africa, are kindly sponsoring Lilitha and Nwabisa, who are both as yet unable to pay Ikhaya Loxolo' monthly fee. Thank you so very much, you have enabled us not only to feed and care for them, but also to give them a little 'extra' (same as all others) like clothes or a nice hairstyle at x-mas.
3. **Ikhaya Loxolo Entwicklungshilfe e.V.**, our partner organisation in Germany, is ongoingly supported by private households, businesses and family in order to help fund Ikhaya Loxolo- a detailed list of these supporters can be found at the German version of my yearly

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report. We thank all these helpers a million, as they are the ones who are mostly carrying Ikhaya Loxolo's running cost, which is the most difficult to raise funds for.

4. The management of the '**wildrunner**' as well as all the **wildrunners** who have contributed to support our organisation-for funds to be used in 2015. Thank you all so much, especially managers **Tamaryn and Owen Middleton**, who have chosen Ikhaya Loxolo as the project to be supported this year.
5. **Matthew and Sue Chaskalson**, who we met by chance and luck at the Haven Hotel, have donated a considerable amount to purchase an industrial stove after our previous small one had broken down. This has been such a great help as we are now not only able to cook and bake for ourselves, but also bake and sell bread to the doctors at Madwaleni hospital. Thank you so much!
6. **The Marincowitz Welfare** has repeatedly donated R 100 000 to Ikhaya Loxolo, which helped us buy food and pay pocket moneys to our, by now, well trained care givers! We appreciate your help so much!
7. **Solheimar Community** for people with special needs in Island is one of our longest and oldest supporters and have transferred funds again for 2015. You are wonderful, thank you!
8. **Bontle and Clare Hendry** are supporting Ikhaya Loxolo monthly and we certainly need it- thanks so much!
9. **Jennifer Less** and all who I have had to leave aside in this list- thank you very very much for your trust in us and support!
10. Last but not least: the **ROTARY CLUB IN MTHATHA** are looking after Ikhaya Loxolo ongoingly, may it be by donating toys, blankets, food parcels or this year also the wendy house for our pre-school. Thanks friends!

A special thanks to **Dave and Rejane and the lodge at Bulungula, Nikola** and staff at the Haven Hotel, **Geoff and Karen Chandler** and their staff as well as the **doctors at Madwaleni** for support in kind, which helps to keep us happy and strong- thank you very much!

#### **A Madwaleni hospital OT's kind words:**

Madwaleni Hospital staff have recently benefited hugely from the amazing work that Ikhaya Loxolo is doing. In October we started receiving regular fresh produce boxes, these have a variety of fresh vegetables and herbs, some common to us and others a mystery which have enticed our culinary minds! It

has been such a privilege to have fresh vegetables delivered right to our door at Madwaleni Hospital, in the middle of nowhere!

We have also had the privilege of working with Alex and her team with some of the Ikhaya Loxolo residents. Witnessing the work they do with people who would otherwise be very outcast and uncared for and how they flourish under the nurturing hand of Ikhaya Loxolo has been amazing.

The commitment and love shown by this team of people is quite remarkable, we are blessed to be able to witness it and share in the fruits of their labours in the form of fresh produce.

Thank you Ikhaya Loxolo!

Kind regards

Madwaleni Hospital Staff

In school holidays we always have hordes of scholars asking for jobs, and obviously we can't afford to pay them all but take in as many as we can afford to pay, as work in the garden is always extensive.

Here are one scholars thoughts:

"Ikhaya Loxolo is a place that help people or place that supports families of all areas. This place they train the people with special needs.

This place they train the people to have the information about growing and using products.

Ikhaya Loxolo they want someone to support them because they struggle to support those disabled people.

Children are different and some are more special than others in living their lives.

I am Zusiphe Sihloba. I am a boy and 18 years old. I am going to do grade 11 in Cape Town next year, right now I am a worker at Ikhaya Loxolo and I love Ikhaya Loxolo because they gave me a job this December holiday.

I am the animal support at all times, I feed and check them for problems.

At other times I help other workers to plough in the garden. When these plants grow we sell it. Other plants have holes or spots, we can take it and feed it to the animals."



*This is a photo taken at Ikhaya Loxolo's x-mas outing at the beach, ending with a braai at Ikhaya Loxolo this week*

**I hope your Christmas celebration will be as enjoyable as ours was and wishing you a lovely start into the new year!**

Thanks to you all for reading these news and your support!

Kindly,  
Alex and Ikhaya Loxolo family