

Rhodians fill translation gap

Eager young team offers excellent, accurate service

By DAVID MACGREGOR
Port Alfred Bureau

THE fine art of accurate language translations has translated into a booming little business for two Rhodes University isiXhosa experts.

With several academic and legal institutions located in Grahamstown, there is no shortage of work for honours graduates Ntombenkosi Dyosop, 23, and Pumeza Zaza Mbusela, 22.

Since they started ZaNto Translations last month the enterprising duo has already had work come in for English and Xhosa texts from the Rhodes University community engagement office, students, an NGO and even a legal document from the South African Library for the Blind.

Describing themselves as “dynamic, vibrant and accurate translators”, the team has stuck posters up all over the City of Saints and even in Port Elizabeth offering their unique services to businesses keen to pay between 65c to R2 a word depending on the difficulty of the text.

Working on laptops, Dyosop has based herself at her family home in Uitenhage to try and expand the business in Port Elizabeth while KwaZulu-Natal born Mbusela operates from Grahamstown.

Dyosop said studying at multi-cultural Rhodes University had inspired them to start their business in an effort to try and elevate the status of African languages and change perceptions that speaking an indigenous language equated to being illiterate and uncivilized.

“Having studied in a diverse and

multilingual tertiary institution, I observed how young black people prefer and appreciate English more than they do their own languages and try very hard to speak and be like their fellow English-speaking peers.

“I realised this was partly as a result of the education system and the general attitude towards these languages.”

Although born and bred in Zulu speaking KZN, Mbusela, who is an isiXhosa expert, says she was fortunate to grow up in an area that spoke a mixture of both Nguni languages.

Her isiXhosa grandmother would recite mother tongue poems and phrases to her while she was growing up resulting in Mbusela excelling in her isiXhosa school homework.

“I passed matric with distinction but I thought it was going to end there because I did not know and did not even think universities offer African language studies.”

Mbusela says her love for isiXhosa came from her grandmother – who was very passionate about her mother tongue.

“That is where my inspiration to study isiXhosa came from but I never thought it was ever going to go this far. Studying isiXhosa has been an eye opening experience.”

According to Dyosop, almost two decades into the new South Africa, indigenous languages are still yet to function properly as languages of education, technology and economics.

“There is more lip-service than implementation. English continues to take a dominant position in society as the medium of instruction

across disciplines.”

She said African languages did not enjoy “parity of esteem” and “equal treatment” with English as it should be according to Section 6 of the constitution.

“We cannot run away from the fact that a lot is lost in translation; we live in a country where not much is done about African languages, in terms of promoting and developing them,” Mbusela explained.

Finding proper definitions for words – especially technology-speak – can prove a nightmare considering there is a limited option when it comes to African language texts.

The new business has been described as really important and very exciting by Rhodes Journalism and Media Studies radio expert Jeanne du Toit.

“The existence of a professional translation unit such as this signals the importance of respecting other people’s languages, and calls people to account on issues of accuracy.”

School of Languages head Professor Russell Kaschula said accurate translations were not easy to achieve. “People who are mother tongue speakers of a language, for example isiXhosa or English, think they are automatically empowered to translate from their mother tongue into the other language.

“I am afraid translation is a discipline, a science if you like.

“You need to understand and learn the discipline in order to be an effective translator.”

He however said potential customers were in safe hands as the ZaNto team had been trained at Rhodes school of languages to be translators of excellence.



BRINGING CLARITY: Mobile translation station: isiXhosa expert Pumeza Zaza Mbusela hard at work on her laptop
Picture: DAVID MACGREGOR



NEW LEASE ON LIFE: Isobel Wolf treats a steed in rural Transkei while the owner looks on
Picture: LLOYD GILLESPIE

Duo hope to rein in poachers

By DAVID MACGREGOR
Port Alfred Bureau

TWO equine adventurers, who rode more than 7 000km around South Africa to raise awareness about African Horse Sickness (AHS), have stepped up their fight against the deadly disease.

The duo have vaccinated more than 300 vulnerable Transkei horses since they returned from their epic cross-country ride.

Instead of resting on their laurels, Riding for Horses campaigners Lloyd Gillespie and his German born wife Isobel Wolf have also been busy writing a book about their travels – while planning their next adventure to try and save the rhino from extinction.

Eagerly counting the days until they ride off into the Southern African sunset for their 10 000km “Rhino Knights – Horses for the horn of Africa!” overland odyssey early next year, the daring couple said they had teamed up with the Lawrence Anthony Earth Organisation to highlight the plight of seriously endangered rhinos.

“The protection of our rhinos is something we feel very passionate about,” Isobel explained.

“A rhino is poached every 14 hours, if this carries on in about eight years the rhino will be extinct.”

She described Riding for Horses as a partnership between horses and humans to raise awareness of global humanitarian and conservation issues – and raise funds for them.

Anthony – a world renowned conservationist and author of books like *Babylon’s Ark* and *The Elephant Whisperer* – died recently in Zululand, shortly after his current best seller

The Last Rhino hit the bookshelves to critical acclaim.

“The current rhino situation in South Africa, actually Africa, is in a state of crisis and we feel very strongly about this and believe more support is needed at the moment.”

Besides planning their epic ride across South Africa and through several neighbouring countries, Wolf and Gillespie have also been hard at work planning a television documentary on their adventures and an educational DVD on their Equine Outreach Project in the former Transkei.

The DVD will include advice on educating people on the treatment and correct handling of horses – especially in poor rural communities – and will be available through state veterinary departments, horse shops and handed out to all rural Transkei schools.

Wolf said the DVD would include the basics of horse care and handling with the aim of improving their lives – and their owners.

“We care for up to 300 horses and the list is growing.”

Treatment ranges from eradicating internal and external parasites, dressing wounds, AHS vaccinations and education and support of rural communities – especially herd boys who take care of the livestock.

“Organising the equines in the Transkei to come together is quite an interesting process,” Wolf said.

A date is set, the community liaison tells the chief and then word is spread for all horses and owners to meet at a set time and place. “Lots of things stand in the way of the community bringing their horses like funerals, pension pay outs, community gatherings and bush racing.

“Bush racing has become massive in these areas and brings with it lots of horse theft and horses that have been ridden until their hearts ‘burst’ – a term we use in horsey language to explain how they have blown their winds.

“They never recover from it.”

The couple’s book on their 581-day journey around South Africa on horseback is currently being edited and should hit bookshelves soon.

“In the Transkei and in many other rural areas of South Africa equines are used for employment opportunities, as a mode of transport and for collecting firewood and water.”

During a recent outreach near the Haven, the couple treated hundreds of horses against ticks.

“Ticks literally eat their ears off, mares have lost their teats to ticks and can’t feed their foals, stallions sheaths get eaten from the inside and form abscesses.

“Mares that have lost their teats are still covered annually and give birth to a foal destined to a death through starvation.”

Wolf says the real problem however is the screw worm fly that lays its eggs into wounds created by the ticks.

The larvae hatch out and unlike your normal fly and maggot that eats dead and rotting flesh, the screw worm eats living flesh resulting in infections that lead to a very slow and painful death.

Although there is little that poor, isolated communities can do about the problem on their own, screw worm and other diseases can be properly treated with the right know how and commitment to educate rural owners.

SA Agulhas finally retires

THE polar research vessel SA Agulhas has made its final voyage after arriving at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town on Friday, the Department of Environmental Affairs said.

“This was the last voyage of the SA Agulhas. Its replacement, the SA Agulhas II, arrived on May 3,” said Henry Valentine, director of the department’s Antarctic programme.

The ship travelled to South Africa’s Antarctic base, Marion Island, in the Indian Ocean and the UK’s Gough Island in the Atlantic Ocean, where South Africa has a permanent presence, to conduct research.

The SA Agulhas was 34 years old and this necessitated its replacement by the SA Agulhas II.

“Thirty years is a long time for a polar ship. We put the most sophisticated equipment in the new ship,” said Valentine.

“It will be a much better scientific platform than the old one because climate change is happening, and the southern ocean is key to understanding this phenomenon,” Valentine said.

The SA Agulhas II would initiate an exciting period of oceanic research, as this was in South Africa’s national interest, he said.

“It’s a sad day the SA Agulhas is retiring, but it is being replaced by the latest in oceanic technology.” — Sapa

Sisulu’s centenary celebrated

WALTER Sisulu, who would have turned 100 on Friday, was a strong but humble person who lived with a deep sense of purpose, President Jacob Zuma said.

Sisulu, a freedom fighter and former ANC deputy president, died in May nine years ago.

His centenary birthday will be celebrated with a series of events over the coming year.

On Friday, celebrations kicked off with a fund-raising breakfast for the Walter Sisulu University Foundation in Johannesburg where Zuma spoke.

He said Sisulu’s life was a reminder to the nation it had “an abiding responsibility” to guard its hard-earned democracy.

The president extended his best wishes to the Sisulu family, saying he was remembered as an outstanding South African freedom fighter, statesman and leader.

His former cellmate and Rivonia trialist, Ahmed Kathrada, told the gathering Sisulu was passionate about education.

“Despite having no formal education, he was an educated man because what Walter showed was that you do not need a certificate to be educated.”

Kathrada spent an hour reminiscing about his old friend, telling stories of Sisulu’s generosity and courage. For the last four years of their incarceration, before being freed by the apartheid government in 1989, the two men were cellmates.

In one of their many conversations, Kathrada said Sisulu told him if he was sent to the gallows he would go singing.

Sisulu’s daughter-in-law and biographer, Elinor Sisulu, said there was often speculation about why Sisulu had dropped out of school and battled to read and write.

Elinor said she suspected her father-in-law had suffered from dyslexia, which had limited his formal learning.

“It is disabilities like this that we have to consider in education to ensure people don’t fall by the wayside,” she said. — Sapa

SA Airways

Flight Times			
Arrivals		Departures	
SA1301 Durban.....	0705	SA1302 Durban.....	0735
SA8490 Port Elizabeth.....	0745	SA0462 Port Elizabeth.....	0805
SA0459 Johannesburg.....	0750	SA1362 Cape Town.....	0820
SA1361 Cape Town.....	0755	SA1404 Johannesburg.....	0825
SA1303 Johannesburg.....	0915	SA0476 Johannesburg.....	0950
SA0471 Johannesburg.....	1135	SA1368 Cape Town.....	1205
SA1367 Cape Town.....	1300	SA1306 Durban.....	1330
SA1305 Durban.....	1305	SA1372 Cape Town.....	1600
SA1371 Cape Town.....	1525	SA0480 Port Elizabeth.....	1640
SA0475 Johannesburg.....	1610	SA8489 Port Elizabeth.....	1735
SA8498 Port Elizabeth.....	1715	SA1310 Durban.....	1825
SA1309 Durban.....	1755	SA1410 Johannesburg.....	2035
SA1409 Johannesburg.....	1950	SA1376 Cape Town.....	2040
SA1375 Cape Town.....	2000		
SA0481 Johannesburg.....	2030		
TTime		Arrivals	
SA0460 Johannesburg.....	0640	11305 Johannesburg.....	1045

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WEATHER TODAY

Eastern Cape (Eastern Half)

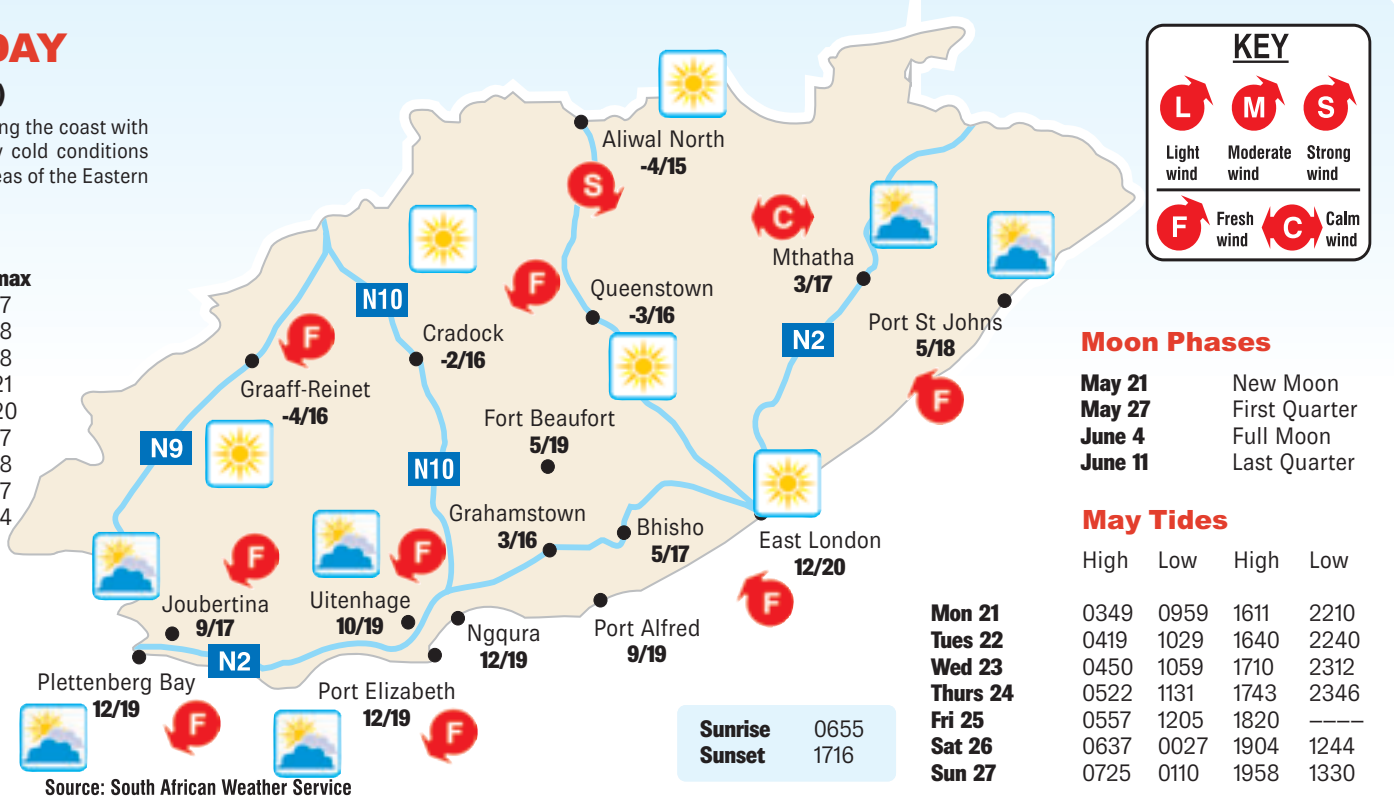
Fine and cold, but partly cloudy along the coast with isolated showers in the south. Very cold conditions are expected over the high-lying areas of the Eastern Cape.

Traveller's Weather

	min	max
Bloemfontein	-2	17
Johannesburg	2	18
Pretoria	4	18
Durban	12	21
Polokwane	6	20
Kimberley	-3	17
Upington	4	18
Cape Town	7	17
George	3	14

Yesterday's Weather

Max temp: 19.6°C
Min temp: 8.7°C
Barometer: 1018.7hpa Decreasing
Wind: 20 knots (W)
Rain (at 2pm): Nil
Humidity: 33%
Sea: 19.0°C



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