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KLASERIE

KRONIEK/CHRONICLE

Intriguing masters *of camouflage and stealth*

What is
Koevoet?

At grass
root level

**CLOWNING
AROUND
in Acornhoek**

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photo Allison Sharp

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Clowning around in Acornhoek

Story by Corné Havenga, photos by Esté Gerber

Children's Eco Training (CET) and South African Medical Expeditions (SAME) recently partnered with Clowns Without Borders South Africa (CWBSA) when they visited several schools in the Acornhoek area as part of their Injabulo performance tour. CWBSA is an artist led humanitarian organisation, dedicated to improving the psycho-social condition of children and communities in areas of crisis through laughter and play.

The aim of the performance tour is to raise awareness of important issues facing communities by relating to the experience of those affected. Performances are offered in neutral locations such as public schools to reduce stigmatisation of children who have been impacted by HIV/AIDS, poverty and violence.

The CWBSA transformed the schools' playgrounds into open air circus shows. The clowns had the children in absolute awe and created an atmosphere filled with joy, happiness and hope. The children were transported to a magical world and while serious issues were addressed there were smiles all round. The CWBSA group placed great emphasis on malaria and stressed how symptoms must not be ignored but addressed immediately. The message was simple yet very relevant to the significant increase in malaria deaths in the Mpumalanga and Limpopo area.

CET would like to thank the CWBSA team for their entertaining and educational performance. Your clowning around has brought great joy to all the children in the community and provided many with much-needed stress relief. Laughter is indeed the best medicine.



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