

Markers at the matric marking centre in Cape Town concentrate on marking the maths literacy paper.



Picture: Iun Landsberg

## 'Please be lenient as I didn't study enough'

Kashlefa Ajam

In the 10 years that Grace Tunzi has been marking matric exam papers she has seen it all: some learners beg her to be lenient when marking their papers and some even leave their phone numbers for her to call her in case she misunderstands their answers.

"Yes, I see the funniest things, you can't help but laugh at how some learners can try to influence a marker."

Tunzi teaches consumer studies to Grade 10s to 12s at Parktown High School for Girls and marks papers on that subject. "I have always enjoyed marking, but this year was especially exciting with the new curriculum."

"This year had been the first time that markers wrote exams on the new curriculum, the National Senior Certificate, with every candidate taking either maths or maths literacy. A total of 592 000 matrics wrote the exams."

Tunzi has been a senior marker for about five years, but this year she applied to be just an ordinary marker. "When I was a senior marker I had to double-check that an ordinary marker had marked the paper correctly, but this time I was interested to see how learners handled the new curriculum - and they did good [sic]."

Sometimes, she says, markers have to carefully read answers and interpret them in order to understand what a learner is trying to say.

"It's not as simple as having a memo in front of you and looking to see whether the answer is perfect. We often have to consult with other markers who are of the same cultural background as the learner so as to clearly understand what the learner's answer is. It can be difficult, but it is so rewarding."

When asked about the funniest things she has seen on answer sheets, Tunzi said: "My favourite right now was from a learner who wrote her cell number on the answer sheet with a message that read 'Please call me if you have a problem in understanding what I am trying to say so I can explain it to you'."

"Or they say things like 'I'm begging you please, please be lenient with me. I didn't study enough'. The most common message I see is 'Please be lenient. Save South Africa!'"

On Wednesday, Umalusi, the council for quality assurance, announced that the 2008 matric results had been approved.

Umalusi spokesperson Bette Kun said that after an assessment of the testing process, the council could say the results were "consistent with regulations and policy, and the results are therefore approved."

"Umalusi used rigorous quality assurance methods to assure the assessment results and to confirm the credibility of the National Senior Certificate," said Kun.

She called the monitoring methods "comprehensive and integrated".

# New Year in the South Pole

Climbing a 4 800m peak is just the start

Wren Mast-angle

Jason Grove will be battling temperatures of as low as minus 35°C on Mount Vinson near the South Pole as South Africans celebrate New Year.

His attempt to climb this daunting 4 800m peak is just the start of an expedition that will take six adventurers hiking 115km to the South Pole after the climb.

If Grove succeeds, he and two other South Africans, Sean Disney and Donald O'Connor, will become the first hikers from the African continent to complete the double task.

Grove will also be heading for the South Pole to plant a Peace for Africa flag as part of a growing campaign in South Africa to bring peace to the continent.

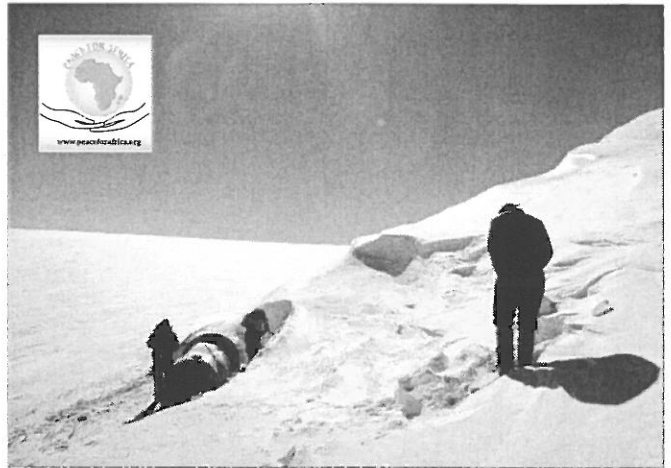
He says the gruelling preparation for the month-long expedition included dragging a tyre around for kilometres at a time and spending up to four hours a day in the gym under the guidance of a personal trainer.

"But this is only half of it. Mental preparation is an absolute necessity, and one has to reach deep down in moments of crisis or when you feel you can't go a step further."

And he should know - having already tackled and succeed with two peaks out of the seven he has tasked himself to climb in achieving the Seven Summits honour.

"Meditation has formed an integral and vital part of my mental preparation and I have had the added incentive of doing this under the guidance of the Thai monks who run the Johannesburg Meditation Centre and who represent the Dharmadharma Peace for Africa movement," he says.

"Finding these hidden reserves is closely allied to finding peace within oneself, and this is exactly what they are advocating. I will support the Peace for Africa movement and highlight it



Jason Grove in training for his expedition on Mount Vinson near the South Pole. The party of six climbers will brave temperatures of minus 35°C in the month-long expedition.

through my expedition to the South Pole. "It is my firm belief that if everyone was able to find peace within, then aggression and turmoil would abate in South Africa."

"For me, learning to go the extra step is an ideal I want to translate into how my company does business. In part, I am calling on other corporates and individuals to do the same, and you will be able to see the respondents' names on the website [jasongrove.co.za](http://jasongrove.co.za), which will follow the expedition. People can follow the expedition in real-time via the website."

The party left Joburg yesterday to fly to Sao Paulo and on to Punta Arenas un-

der the guidance of Adventure Dynamics, a company that sets up expeditions for people around the world. The CEO of Adventure Dynamics and leader of the expedition, Disney, has climbed Everest and has scaled all the seven summits.

"They will then hitch a lift on a military cargo plane to Patriot Hills, an American base well into Antarctica. "We will wait for the weather to clear, which could be anything from an hour to two days, before being flown from there to the base of Mt Vinson," Grove said.

"We will set up three camps during the ascent. Less oxygen found in the far southern latitudes means you can add an

extra 1 000m to the difficulties we face. While the 4 900m mountain is rated as a lesser climb than Everest, the combination of it and the hike to the South Pole certainly rates it as just as arduous."

After being flown back from Vinson to Patriot Hills for restocking of supplies, the team of Disney, Grove and O'Connor will be joined by Vaughan De La Harpe (another Seven Summits climber) and they will be flown to a drop-off point before hiking 156km to the South Pole.

The group will walk 6 to 10 nautical miles a day during their 115km hike to the geographical South Pole in temperatures dropping as low as minus 35°C.

## Next World Cup hosts get more time to prepare

Clayton Barnes

Fifa's executive committee has confirmed it will announce the host countries of both the 2018 and 2022 World Cup tournaments in 2010, giving the two countries eight and 12 years respectively to prepare.

This comes a month after Jerome Valcke, the world football body's general secretary, told the Soccerex conference in Joburg that Fifa was considering the move to allow more time for major infrastructural work.

Valcke said South Africa's rush to complete construction work for the 2010 Fifa World Cup was proof that future hosts needed more time to prepare.

On Sunday this was rubber-stamped by Fifa's executive committee, which announced in Tokyo that a simultaneous bidding process for two World Cup tournaments would start next month.

Interested football associations would be invited to submit applications for either the 2018 Fifa World Cup, the 2022 Fifa World Cup, or for both tournaments, said chairman Sepp Blatter.

For 2018, four of the six international Confederations will be eligible to host the tournament: CAF (Confederation of African Football) and CONMEBOL (South American Football Confederation) are not eligible as they will host the Fifa World Cups in 2010 and 2014.

"Bid registration forms will be sent to all associations in January 2009, and the Fifa executive committee will appoint the two hosts at the climax of the bidding procedure in December 2010," said a Fifa statement.

South Africa won the bid to host the

2010 Fifa World Cup in 2004, giving the country six years to prepare.

During his visit to SA last month, Valcke said that although a lot of work remained to be done before the 2010 World Cup, he was confident that SA and the local organising committee (LOC) would deliver.

LOC spokesperson Jermaine Craig said eight years or more would have been great for South Africa to prepare, but he was confident that, despite having had only six years to prepare, the country would remain true to its promise to Fifa.

## Talk Radio 702 presenter in legal wrangle over guesthouse loan

Talk Radio 702 personality Allan Barnard is fighting a Cape High Court sequestration application lodged against him by a French woman, who lent him more than €30 000 (R407 000) in 2003 to help him and his business partner start a guesthouse.

Barnard (47) admits in court papers that Catherine Debray lent the money to him and Julien Debray, but says the loan was not due, nor payable in full, on demand.

He argues that the parties had a verbal agreement that Jobert would receive 30% of the guesthouse business in lieu of repayment. But Barnard says she reneged on this agreement and demanded payment.

It was never a term of the loan that she be entitled to payment on demand, he says.

Now the woman has turned to the High Court to try to obtain a provisional sequestration order against Barnard.

In an affidavit before the court, Jobert said she lent Barnard the money in February 2003 when he and Debray wanted to make alterations to their property in the small Boland town of Fiebeek-Kasteel so that they could operate the guesthouse.

Barnard is to oppose the sequestration application.

Judge Basheer Waglay postponed the case to August. - *Patina Schroeder*

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