



20 Years of Excellence

We proudly celebrate 20 years of dedicated training and skills development at Sondela Academy. Over the past two decades, we have played an important role in shaping the tourism and hospitality industry by equipping learners with practical skills, industry knowledge, and professional confidence.

Since our establishment, we have successfully trained and developed almost 2 000 industry ready individuals who are now contributing meaningfully to South Africa's tourism sector. Our graduates are known not only for their technical skills, but also for their strong work ethic, adaptability, and commitment to service excellence.

We specialise in key tourism disciplines that support the growth and sustainability of the industry. These include Culinary Arts, Hospitality, and Conservation.

What sets us apart is our strong focus on practical, workplace-based learning. We train learners in real working environments that meet industry standards, ensuring they are well prepared for employment. We also work closely with industry partners to keep our training relevant and aligned with current tourism needs.

As we celebrate this 20-year milestone, we remain committed to developing skilled professionals who strengthen the tourism industry, support conservation efforts, and contribute positively to economic growth. We look forward to continuing our journey of excellence for many years to come.





And with that, the 2025 season comes to an end.



January

Newsletter





Stage Race

To the great relief of students (and quite possibly a few staff) the final event of 2025 was the Sondela Family Mountain bike Stage Race.

The cyclists brought the bikes, and the students brought the vibe, and the mud removal.



Student Formal- Peaky Blinders and the 1920s

The biggest dress-up of the year is always the final Gala for the year. This event in particular is an opportunity for the event managers from the likes of KykNet BuiteExpo and Ford Trailseekers and the Premier Horse Event to show their appreciation for all the hard work of the learners. The best part of this event is always the shock of seeing the students in something that is not khaki.





Up for Grabs!

3rd year students take on the world

Sondela Academy is proud to present the Professional Development Class of 2025. Mornies and Lohandri have successfully found employment already. That means there are still 6 legends waiting for you. Captive Animal Management - Danike, Izandri, and Jeska. Game Ranch Management - Lesego, Chezaan, Anru, Heinrich, and Janco.



2026 AT A GLANCE



January

1 New Years
3 Open Day
10 Open Day
17 Open Day
24 Open Day
25 Skills Intake

February

2 Spec Intake
7 Open Day
9 PDY Intake
11 Group 1 Tambuki Skills
17 Group 2 Tambuki Skills
18 Valentines Ball
21 Open Day
26 WOP Gala

March

7 Open Day
9 FGASA Group 1 Start
8 - 10 HOSTEX
9 Group 1 FGASA Starts
14 Open Day
16 Skills Intake
21 Human Rights Day
27 Graduation Class of 2025

April

3 - 6 Easter
Weekend
18 Open Day
24 - 27 HUNTEX
27 Freedom Day

May

9 Open Day
15 - 17 Centurion Cycle Challenge
22 - 24 Premier Endurance Race

June

5 - 7 Land Cruiser Festival
13 Open Day
16 Youth Day
20 Open Day
27 - 28 Ford Trailseekers

July

6-10 Chef Competition
11 Open Day 11
15 Snake Handling
18 Open Day
20 July Intake (All years)
22 Christmas in July
24 - 26 KykNET Buite Expo

August

10 Womans Day
10 Group 2 FGASA Starts
14 - 16 Bakkie Festival
21 Parents Day
22 Open Day

September

4 - 6 Sondela E-MTB Race
19 Open Day
24 Heritage Day
27 - 7 Oct Professional Hunting

October

8 Skills and Spec Coffee with
the Director
9 - 11 Celebration Weekend 20
Years
17 Open Day
23 Animal First Responder

November

2 FGASA Trails Guide Starts
7 Open Day
10 - 13 Weapons Competency
21 Open Day
27 - 29 Sondela Stage Race

December

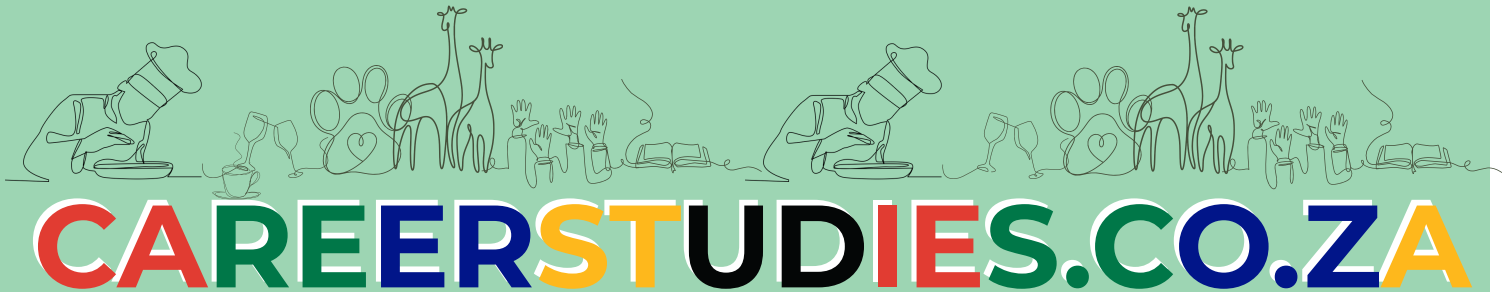
2 Student Gala
5 2027 Contract Signing
12 Open Day
16 Day of Reconciliation
25 Christmas Day
26 Boxing Day

January

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