



# THE NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

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## *GTO + GTEC - Where Innovation Meets Community!*

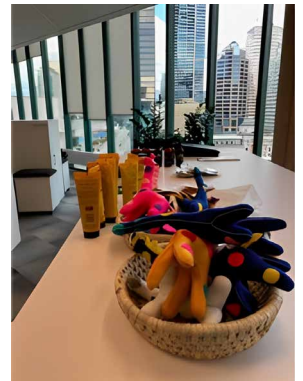
**Lindsey Bevan**, Proposal Coordinator with WSP in Victoria (Canada), generously volunteered her time to support Generating Tomorrow's Opportunities (GTO) at GTEC – The WSP Global Internal Technical Excellence Conference. During her visit, she shared valuable insights from a recent volunteer trip to Lewa Children's Home

(Kenya) and the Bulembu Baby Home Solar Installation project (Eswatini) which was funded by the GTO through the GTEC 2022 donations.



### **This collaboration also resulted in:**

- Increasing awareness of GTO including colleagues who offered their professional services (GIS, ESG) to assist the GTO in future projects.
- 20 sign-up requests for our monthly newsletter, including a client.
- Recruiting volunteers for future GTO projects.
- GTO Office Champions met face to face to connect and discuss future activities.



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During the **GTEC conference** there was also team building events (building water filters for communities in Africa and building the highest tower). The highest tower team won prizes also consisting of GTO crafts.

### The Team:

**Morgan Cardiff** (Sydney office, Australia), **Patrick Lafrance** (Montreal office, Canada), **Genevieve**

**Bourbeau** (Montreal office, Canada), **Olivier Joyal** (Montreal office, Canada), **Andrew Madison** (New Jersey office, USA), **Sara Borgstrom** (Goteborg office, Sweden), **Selga Harrington** (Canberra office, Australia), **Mariona Oliva** (Bogota office, Colombia), **Sergio Settanni** (Torino office, Italy)



The GTO also held a raffle with Heidi Schopf (Hamilton Office, Ontario, Canada) and Naemeh Naghavi (Mississauga Office, Ontario, Canada), winning baskets of handmade items from Bulembu, an NGO that GTO supports in Eswatini that provides childcare and education to more than 400 vulnerable children in their community.

GTEC 2024 was a great opportunity to introduce the GTO to the conference attendees and Earth and Infrastructure colleagues, and let people know what the GTO has been up to this year!

*The GTO Trust Is Excited to Announce That We Are Proudly Supporting the Indigenous Literacy Foundation in Australia.*



The Australian Team led by GTO Board member, Andrew Barker, has been busy identifying appropriate NGOs in Australia that align with the mission and values of the GTO. The Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF) based in Sydney (Australia) has been one of these NGOs identified. After an extensive due diligence process (which includes the financial review of audited accounts, their Board and organisation structure, past donors, etc.), it was approved by the GTO Board that we would consider a proposal from the ILF. The ILF subsequently submitted a proposal for their Book Supply and Book Buzz initiatives, which have now been approved by the GTO Board for funding.

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Through the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF), Book Supply provides access to quality, culturally appropriate books and reading materials to organisations based in remote communities where there are few or no books available.

## *ACET Gwandavale Secondary School (Zimbabwe).*

**Gwandavale Secondary School, sponsored by the GTO through the generous donation from Paul and Nancy Smolkin, opened at the beginning of 2022.**

Previously, children walked up to 40km to attend the school nearest to their village, and now only walk a few kilometres. Due to Covid, only 42 students were enrolled initially. Now with over 80 students, the third phase of Gwandavale Secondary School is complete and the school currently has six teachers.



# The Love Trust Nokuphila School (Thembisa)

**Nokuphila School** ("Place of life") is a donor-funded pre-primary and primary school, situated on the outskirts of Thembisa, near Johannesburg, and provides quality education to the most vulnerable children. Comprehensive sports and culture programmes, promote several sports talents and cultural talent such as singing, art, poetry, stage performance and others. The aim of the programme is to develop the children's natural given talents and merge them into the school's programmes so as to hopefully assist them with their future careers as they realise that it is not all individuals who opt for traditional career goals.

The City of Johannesburg's initiative to offer free swimming lessons for their preschool learners has been embraced by the school community. Started in November 2023, the children continue to attend and enjoy their swimming lessons.

2024 is a special year with the first group of high schoolers starting their Grade 8. The children are now able to continue their secondary education at Nokuphila School.

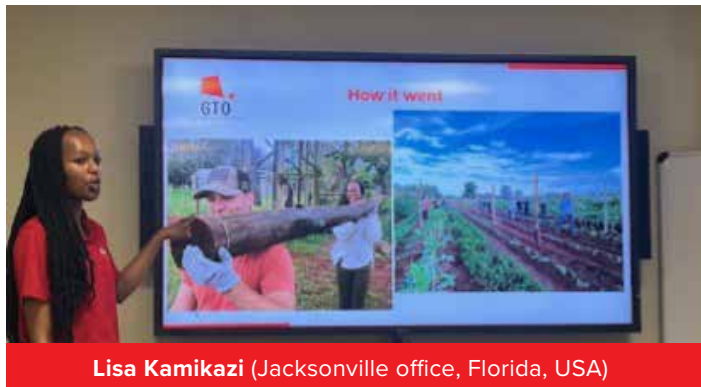


## The Love Trust sent the following :

"As we walk this journey of hope and remain committed to providing quality values-based education, we want to thank you GTO Trust for being with us every step of the way and for your contribution to this and other programmes at Nokuphila. We are excited to embark on the new journey with our high school learners. The future of our younger ones now looks brighter than before."

## GTO Volunteers Sharing Their Stories!

It was so great to see our GTO volunteers sharing their experiences and thoughts about their time at Lewa Children's Home, where they constructed a shade cloth for the vegetable garden and painted murals in the school with the children.



Lisa Kamikazi (Jacksonville office, Florida, USA)



Bryan Wilson (Sudbury office, Ontario Canada)

