

# news

● Gqeberha divorce attorney Joanne Anthony-Gooden hopes to empower more women and change perceptions around her profession

## Bay legal eagle picked for key law society position

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Gqeberha family law expert and divorce attorney Joanne Anthony-Gooden intends to use her skills to impact lives and empower women attorneys during her tenure as co-vice-president of the Law Society of SA.

It is the first time a woman attorney from the Eastern Cape has been nominated as vice-president of the Law Society of SA and also the first time the society's top positions have been held by women.

Anthony-Gooden, now part of the society's all-female presidents' committee, said the journey ahead was an exciting one.

She would meet newly elected president Mabaeang Lenyai and co-vice-president Eunice Masipa in the coming weeks.

She said she was looking forward to identifying key projects to tackle during her three years in the position.

The announcement of the three nominated positions was made last week at an event held at Emperors Place in Gauteng.

Admitted as an attorney in 1999, Anthony-Gooden said some of the projects she most looked forward to were empowering women attorneys



HERE TO HELP: Gqeberha attorney Joanne Anthony-Gooden is co-vice-president of the Law Society of SA

Picture: EUGENE COETZEE

and developing a mechanism to address the overall wellness among all attorneys.

The 46-year-old has for the past two years been a shadow representative on the executive committee of the law society and is the Eastern Cape counsellor on the Legal Practice Council, among other posi-

tions. "From a gender point of view we need to show transformation... and address what we, as the presidents' committee of the LSSA, can do for the profession.

"From a legacy point of view, we must ensure the profession is protected and we must ensure efficiency in our

systems. It is all about getting things to work better, making sure everyone has access to justice and to change the attitude people have that lawyers are corrupt," Anthony-Gooden said.

With her offices based in Bird Street, Anthony-Gooden has since the start of her legal

career been actively involved in all aspects relating to family law.

Her dream of becoming a teacher dashed at a young age when her father told her there was no future for her in the profession, Anthony-Gooden went on to develop a keen interest in educational law and is now the lecturer for legal education and development for the law society.

"I enjoy being an attorney, helping people and keeping it fresh and real — every day is different," Anthony-Gooden said.

Speaking about her reputation as a top divorce attorney, Anthony-Gooden said people sometimes criticised her for "destroying families", which she said was not the case as usually the situation was already in disarray.

"We try to find workable situations. While the work we do can be soul-destroying, we always try to fix the situation and find a solution.

"It is always about the children, we do not pick winning sides," she said.

"One of my stronger points is that I do not sugarcoat things.

"I don't tell my clients what they want to hear, but rather my professional opinion based on facts and the law."

**WATER WONDER:**  
Thousands of litres of water are being pumped from three boreholes drilled at northern areas schools in a partnership between Ford SA and Gift of the Givers. Pictured here at Fontein Primary School in Gelvandale are Shawn Govender of Ford, Martyn Landmann of Gift of the Givers and Neil Stander of Ford. Picture: FREDLIN ADRIAAN



## Boreholes making difference at northern areas schools

Herald Reporter

As dam levels continue to dwindle in Nelson Mandela Bay, northern areas schools have been given a lifeline after a R2.5m investment to secure a steady water supply in several suburbs.

Thousands of litres of water are being pumped from three boreholes and shared among residents in the area.

Ford SA communications manager Dudu Nxole said the boreholes had been purposely placed slightly off the school premises to allow the entire community access to a secure water supply.

At the end of last year, the seventh year of drought in the region, Ford SA partnered with the Gift of the Givers Foundation in sinking boreholes and conducting plumbing repairs at Fontein Primary School in Gelvandale, Helenvale Primary School and Republiek Primary School in Windvogel.

While the overall capacity of the metro's main supply dams was sitting at 14.43% yesterday, the Fontein Primary borehole is capable of augmenting the school's water supply by up to 57,000 litres a day, the Helenvale Primary borehole by 150,000 litres a day, and the unit at Republiek Primary about 68,000 litres a day.

Ford Struandale Engine Plant manager Shawn Govender said the extraction from the boreholes was restricted to ensure minimal impact on the linear aquifer from which the

**The ongoing drought in Nelson Mandela Bay has reinforced the need for every individual, school and company to become water-wise, reduce their water consumption, recycle water wherever possible and address leaks and wastage'**

water was pumped.

"The ongoing drought in Nelson Mandela Bay has reinforced the need for every individual, school and company to become water-wise, reduce their water consumption, recycle water wherever possible and address leaks and wastage," Govender said.

"Educating our learners is essential so that they become advocates for water-saving initiatives in their communities and play a part in helping tackle this crisis now and in the future."

In addition to the boreholes, plumbing repairs, maintenance and upgrades were conducted at the schools, as well as at Sapphire Road Primary School in Booyens Park and Loyiso Senior Secondary School in Zwide.

Helenvale Primary School

principal Patrick Palmer said the water was used in the Early Childhood Development section as well as irrigation of the fields and a soon-to-be-developed vegetable garden.

"This borehole water is making a big difference to our school by enabling us to provide a steady supply of water for our ablutions and cleaning requirements, and helping us maintain the grass for our playgrounds, which are so important for our young pupils," he said.

"One of our retired teachers is busy trying to secure seeds and seedlings for us so that we can get our garden project going, and the success of this project will only be possible by having access to the borehole water."

Sapphire Road Primary School principal Alicia Baatjes said the school predominantly served underprivileged communities, with about 80% of its parents being unemployed, hence the assistance was truly appreciated.

Gift of the Givers Foundation director Badr Kazi said the project was an excellent example of a proactive partnership between the private and public sectors.

"Strategic interventions act as a catalyst for sustainable change, giving learners the tools to further enrich their learning experience without the additional burden of worrying about an essential service we all take for granted," Kazi said.

## Lebanese breast cancer survivors choose tattoos over taboos

Maya Saad

For Lebanese breast cancer survivor Roula Saad, a decade-long struggle with the disease was not over until tattoo artist Joa Antoun concealed her surgical scars, helping her deal with the physical and psychological impact of a double mastectomy.

"I hated looking at myself in the mirror; I changed a lot. I felt I was forced to live in a state of grief.

"I was mourning my femininity and the loss of part of my body," Saad said.

"I was not reconciled with myself at all, nor with my own image."

The mother-of-two now



HIDING SCARS: Roula Saad, a breast cancer survivor, at Lebanese tattoo artist Joa Antoun's studio in Dekwaneh, Lebanon Picture: EMILIE MADI

proudly wears her tattoo designs as a testament to her victory over the disease.

She described it as a therapeutic and life-changing experience, adding: "It was like be-

ing born again."

In addition to offering tattoos to conceal surgical scars, tattoo artist Antoun, 31, has also been offering free nipple tattoos, designed to look three-dimensional.

Often in their 50s, many of the women she works with were reluctant at first, she said, reflecting social taboos in Lebanon.

"They thought that it was not worth it, that it was too late for them."

"But getting these tattoos is becoming more normalised and accepted," said Antoun, who also helped survivors of the 2020 Beirut port explosion cover their scars with tattoos.

Marie-Therese Chamma, a 52-year-old who had treatment, said shedding her hair and losing weight was not as troubling for her as losing her breasts to the disease.

"I looked at myself and could see the scars... I could not fully accept what was happening to me, but told myself I can always change things after finishing [treatment]," she said.

After viewing Antoun's website, she decided to seek her help.

"I was very hesitant, but I felt that she is aware of how we feel and of our fears so I called and took an appointment."

Reuters

## Death of SA crew member aboard cruise ship accidental, says MSC

Suthentira Govender

The death of a South African crew member aboard its ship, MSC Orchestra, resumed cruises to SA in January after pausing operations for a month.

It has been conducting three-night and four-night voyages from Durban.

"We have been in communication with her family and ex-

tend our deepest condolences to them for their loss," Mavuso said.

"The death, which we believe to have been of an accidental nature, as is usual under such circumstances, is being investigated by the local authorities and we will continue to provide every assistance."

According to Crew Center, a

website run by ex-crew members sharing their experiences of life and work on cruise ships, the woman's colleagues were devastated by her death.

The website said according to a source she had suffered a severe injury.

"There was a medical emergency announcement on the ship's PA system and medical

staff rushed to help the crew member.

"Unfortunately, they couldn't save the crew member."

"The crew member is a South African woman who was working in the crew mess. "Our source said this was her first contract," it said. — TimesLIVE

MSC Cruises SA spokesperson Lebo Mavuso said the woman crew member died on Thursday night.

The ship left Durban for a three-night voyage on Friday.

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