

Stellenbosch region excels at National Eskom Expo for Young Scientists Competition in 2004

Colette Janse van Vuuren (right) was a learner from Bloemhof Girls' High School in Stellenbosch till the end of 2004. According to her research, the DNA obtained from the saliva and buccal swab samples amplified sooner than that in the blood. They are therefore suitable replacements for blood as a source of DNA for molecular diagnosis in certain cases. She won the Derek Gray Memorial Award at the **2004** National Eskom Expo for Young Scientists Competition. Colette represented South Africa at the Stockholm International Young Science Seminar (**SIYSS**) in December 2004: one of 24 young people from 16 countries around the world to be a guest at this prestigious function!! SIYSS is held in conjunction with the Nobel Prize Awards Ceremony.

Visit [the following web site](http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/articles/20050105/Feature1.asp) to read more about this event. <http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/articles/20050105/Feature1.asp> (Also visit the rest of this site for interesting articles and ideas.)



Lynette van Wyk (left) from Somerset College won the Meiring Naude Memorial Award in the Physics category. She created a microgravity environment by making a miniature version of NASA's drop tower in which to observe the reactions of objects which require gravity to work in a way humans consider normal.



Daniek Joubert (above, right) a learner from Vredenburg High School wanted to find out whether the expiry date on medication indicates a decrease in the effectiveness of the medication or whether it is a marketing trick. She also won a gold medal and will represent South Africa in Chile in 2005.

Danielle Conry (right) from Vredenburg High School analysed the pollution on Shelly Point Beach (north of Saldanha Bay) for six weeks and wanted to determine whether the weather has an affect on the amount of waste on our beaches.

Lynette, Danielle and Daniek will represent South Africa at the International Science EXPO in Santiago, Chile in 2005.



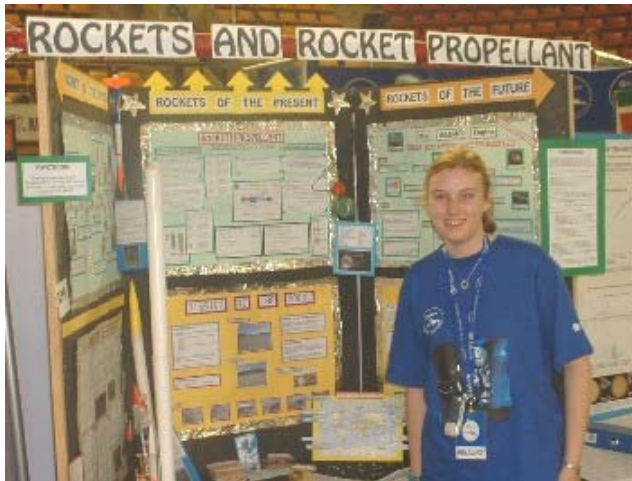
Anrich Marais is the third learner from Vredenburg High School who participated and he also won a gold medal. Anrich experimented with different shapes of parachutes to be used in specific occasions, specifically in planetary exploration.

Keascher Allies and José May (photo right) from Mary Help of Christians Primary School in the Paarl won a silver medal as well as the South African Institute of Civil Engineers' Best Housing project Award. They investigated ways to reduce the spreading of fires in informal settlements.

The following participants won silver medals too:

Willie and Jaco de Wet and Jaco van Rooyen from Piketberg High School, Marizanne Knoesen from Bloemhof Girls' High

School as well as Debby-Jo Ford and Melissa van Schalkwyk from Weston High School in Vredenburg.



Esté Oosthuizen from Bredasdorp High School (photo right) won a bronz medal. She was also the winner of the Royal Aeronautical Society of South Africa Award. She visted NASA in July 2005!

The following participants also won bonze medals:

Simoné Theron from Bloemhof Girls' High School, Melanie Niewoudt from La Rochelle Girls' High School, Nonkuthalo Xapile, Rhenish Girls' High School and Zukiswa Mbilini, also from Rhenish Girls' High School