



PHOTOS: DAVE SAVIDES

Plenty of good suggestions to work for the environment

# District spirit lauded

DAVE SAVIDES

‘I HAVE met over 60 000 people in 72 countries over the past 10 years, but I have never seen such an enthusiastic group as this.’

Rare praise indeed from a man who, with his family, has almost completed a journey on the globe’s seven seas and to the top of seven of the world’s highest peaks.

Dario Schwörer was speaking at uThungulu House on Friday after taking part in the District’s Pre-COP17 Awareness Walk.

‘It’s great to meet so many new

friends of the planet and see the interest in climate change issues,’ said Schwörer, a climatologist by profession and an experienced mountain climbing instructor.

Under the patronage of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Swiss Government, his TOPtoTOP Global Climate Expedition has sailed 42 613 nautical miles, climbed over 400 000 vertical metres and cycled more than 18 000 kilometres.

Everything on his yacht ‘Pachamama’ (the Incan word for ‘Mother Earth’) is wind or solar powered.

‘Having been to many places, I am very optimistic about the number of good new ideas that are being offered to combat global warming, and to see the increased involvement of young people.

‘But I have never experienced the spirit and enthusiasm as I did today.

‘By comparison, other climate marches have been like funeral processions,’ said Schwörer.

‘I urge you to take your passion and power to the COP17 summit, and to transfer it to saving the environment.’



Dario Schwörer declared Thulani Khoza the ‘Most enthusiastic marcher’ and presented him with a Swiss knife set



Swiss climatologist and leader of the TOPtoTOP Expedition, Dario Schwörer was excited to share a platform with uThungulu District Mayor, Thembeke Mchunu

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