From dusty Qunu to Big Apple

Madiba's birthplace also origin of science-fiction writer now based in US

Barbara Hollands
PARKFIELD/CORRESPONDENT

SAVY the name 'Qunu' to any South African and he will immediately recall Nelson Mandela's birthplace. Qunu, a small farming town in the Eastern Cape, is a place whose every inch of land and every citizen is imbued with the spirit of South Africa's national hero.

However, there is another Nelson Mandela. Barlow Aplton, a 19-year-old student at the University of the Western Cape, is the quintessential example of how South Africa is changing and growing.

Aptly named, Aplton is a student who has dedicated himself to the memory of Nelson Mandela. His passion for writing and social justice has led him to South Africa's birthplace, Qunu, to learn more about mohair – the material they would use for their fashion show hosted by Nelson Mandela.

"I think it's important to be inspired by the legacy of Nelson Mandela and to bring about positive change in the community," Aplton said.

The fashion show was well received in the Eastern Cape, and the organizers were excited to introduce mohair to Japan's younger generation.

Mohair moji brings fashion students to Bay

Shanoor de Jager
MOTORSPORTS/TELEKOM S A

TWO Asian fashion students are making the most of their time in Nelson Mandela Bay to learn more about the city's culture.

The University of the Western Cape's fashion students, who are currently studying for the Mohair module, have been given the opportunity to combine the designers with those from the university's fashion show in August, earning them the chance to introduce mohair to Japan.

"It's a great opportunity to work with Japanese designers and learn more about the fashion industry," said one of the students.

A statement from the production company thanked the filmmakers for their contribution to the film industry, especially in light of the recent tragedy.

"The Expendables is a film that we are proud to have produced," the statement said. "We wish the families affected by this tragedy all the best in their recovery."