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IBI news

Deaf students become South African boatbuilders

By IBI Magazine

The Whisper Boat Building Academy for the Deaf in Khaylelitsha and Paarden Eiland, South Africa, has trained 17 young deaf people to become boatbuilders. The apprentice boatbuilders recently built five 5.8m (19ft) pleasure boats to export standards, according to a story in the Cape Town Boatbuilders Newsletter.

Four boats are being exported to the Netherlands and the fifth boat, named *Masakhane* (translated as 'Let's Develop One Another'), was purchased by the Minister of Social Development for the Western Cape. It will be used as a flagship boat in Cape Town.

The boats were launched at a special ceremony where Minister Kholeka Mqulwana was keynote speaker. She acknowledged the important work of the Academy and the contribution being made to the boatbuilding industry in the Western Cape. Peter Jacops, founder of the Whisper Boat Building Academy, spoke about the contributions of the programme's sponsors and supporters.

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Both sides seemed relieved with the agreement following the union's vote in April to authorise a strike

- **Western Marine Power buys Orca**

The UK provider of specialist leisure marine services has acquired Orca Boat Services for an undisclosed cash sum

- **Australian Marine Awards put on hold**

"Disparaging articles" from some boating media outlets has prompted AMIF officials to shelve the awards for 2009, and hold a referendum about their future



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