

Going beyond products and profit

THE three winners in the social entrepreneur category of the 2007 FNB Enablis Business Plan competition — all from the Western Cape — each contribute something more than just products and profit to the community.

Virgin Mobile SA has recognised the three winners by awarding them each a "business bundle" — cellphone and airtime worth more than R5 000 each. Peter Boyd of Virgin Mobile SA said: "Social entrepreneurs are a vital bridge between community-building and the world of business."

The three winners in this category are:

Debbie Alcock, Burchells Foods, Western Cape

Burchells Foods not only manufactures its own range of 32 Gourmet Africa products but also "own brand" products for various top retailers.

Peter Jacobs, Whisper Boat Building Academy, Western Cape

The Whisper Boat Building Academy (WBBA) gives deaf, disadvantaged students the opportunity to learn boat building skills to an international standard.

Atila Szabo, Clean Works Consulting, Gel Fuel xChange, Western Cape

This business markets and distributes an alternative and safe fuel (ethanol gel fuel) to low-income households. Enablis

GEP gets Gauteng going

MORE than half the competition entrants this year were from Gauteng, thanks to Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP) funding of special training workshops and a provincial information campaign.

GEP chief executive David Morobe said: "While we congratulate the winners and look forward to their success, GEP will also ensure that every Gauteng entrepreneur who entered a business plan into the competition gets the opportunity to attend an intensive follow-up workshop where they will be assisted to develop a personalised action plan for their business implementation."

"We believe that there are many entrepreneurs who did not win but still have viable business ideas, and we want to help them take their business ambitions to the next level."

Morobe said further details of the workshops will be made available this month.

GEP is Gauteng's small business development agency.