

Outeniqua Chair Challenge

UADS x Engagement Office



Rolling Towards Inclusion: Mandela University Participates in the 2025 OCC Wheelchair Challenge

In a powerful show of unity, inclusion, and community spirit, Nelson Mandela University proudly took part in the 2025 Outeniqua Chair Challenge (OCC), held on 22 March 2025 at Carpe Diem High School in George. This vibrant event brought together professionals, students, and community members in an engaging experience focused on fostering safe spaces of interaction between persons with disabilities and able-bodied individuals.



The OCC Wheelchair Challenge was nothing short of a blast! Designed to promote inclusion, celebrate achievements, and provide a platform for interaction and education, the event successfully reached a diverse audience and cultivated an exhilarating spirit of positive competition. Volunteers consisting of staff and students from Nelson Mandela University joined the blended race where they got the opportunity to assist wheelchair users during the 5km race. This race stimulated both body and mind while offering opportunities for deeper understanding and connection.



Throughout the day, several interactions created moments of joy, teamwork, and learning. These interactions allowed attendees to experience life from another perspective, build empathy, and demonstrate that inclusion is not just about access—it's about shared experiences.

The event was also rich in networking opportunities. A wide range of organisations showcased their services at interactive stalls, and attendees had the chance to connect with relevant partners, broadening the reach of advocacy and awareness.

The staff and students expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to be part of something so impactful and meaningful. Each participant was awarded a medal in recognition of their outstanding and spirited involvement.

As part of its ongoing commitment to community engagement, Nelson Mandela University views events like the OCC as essential in shaping socially conscious graduates. Through the work of the Universal Accessibility & Disability Services (UADS) and the Engagement Office - Hubs of Convergence, the university continues to champion inclusivity, accessibility, and transformation—both on and beyond campus.

Looking ahead to OCC 2026 and similar initiatives, we remain steadfast in our mission as the MandelaUni community to create inclusive environments and drive community-centred change.

In summary, the OCC Wheelchair Challenge 2025 successfully fulfilled its mission and left a lasting impression on all involved. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the organisers, volunteers, partners, and all participants who made this event a meaningful and memorable one. Together, we continue to roll forward—united in purpose and driven by compassion.

