



Meet Damian Marais

CAP

Bredasdorp

Damian Marais hails from a small town called Bredasdorp in the Western Cape. He is the eldest of 3 children. He was fortunate to be raised by both his parents who strived to see him become the best version of himself. Growing up he looked up to his father as a role model.

Damian enjoys taking walks and listening to music. He is a positive role model to many young boys in his community and his actions inspire the youth to want to do better for themselves.

How did you discover your passion for community development?

I am a man who prides himself in bettering the lives of others. I am always there to listen and give advice to others. As a result, I hardly introspect and take time for myself. At some point in my life, this led to confusion because I did not really know myself. All I knew was that I was passionate about giving back to the youth and developing my community.

If you could change one thing in your journey, what would be and why?

I would stop underestimating myself and put myself first. I would focus more on knowing and bettering myself. The feedback I received from my parents and teachers has proven to me that I do have what it takes to be a positive role model.

What impact did your role as a YeBioneer have in your community?

At the end of 2022, many parents contacted me. They asked me to start my own After School programme. I believe this is because these parents trusted me and could see the impact in their children's lives. I worked with grade 5's, by providing a safe space for them.

This interview was conducted and compiled by fellow YeBo Academy student, Batya Cele.

YeBo Academy Class of 2023