

2026 AFRIKABURN EVENT SURVEY



Art: Changing Room. Photo: Steven Morrow

THROUGH THE PRISM, THE NUMBERS

- 10 847 Event Participants
- 902 Survey Respondents
- 165 Mutant Vehicles
- 159 Theme & Support Camps
- 86 Artworks
- 20 Burns
- 15 Performances
- 6 Binnekring Events
- 1 AfrikaBurn





Art: The Crossing by Nathan Honey
Photo: Reza Assar

CAN WE TRUST OUR SURVEY?

WE HAD 902 SURVEY
RESPONDENTS.

Sample size: **628**

This means 628 or more measurements/surveys are needed to have a confidence level of 99% that the real value is within $\pm 5\%$ of the measured/surveyed value.

Confidence Level: ?	99%	▼
Margin of Error: ?	5	%
Population Proportion: ?	50	% Use 50% if not sure
Population Size: ?	11000	Leave blank if unlimited population size.
Calculate ▶ Clear		



I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. GIVE ME THE JUICY STUFF:

- According to the information you gave us, pretty much all of the people who participated in Through The Prism had a great time.
- It can still be great, while at the same time things make it harder and rub up against you, but that's why we gather in the middle of a desert and not a city.
- South African Burners are at the core of our movement, coming year after year to AfrikaBurn.
- After a slow decline in volunteers in recent years, we've seen that trend reverse. According to initial feedback from the volunteer portfolio this has been mainly driven by foreign participants looking for a meaningful way to gift at the event.
- The weekend warrior narrative continues within our community, yet the gate data simply does not back this up.

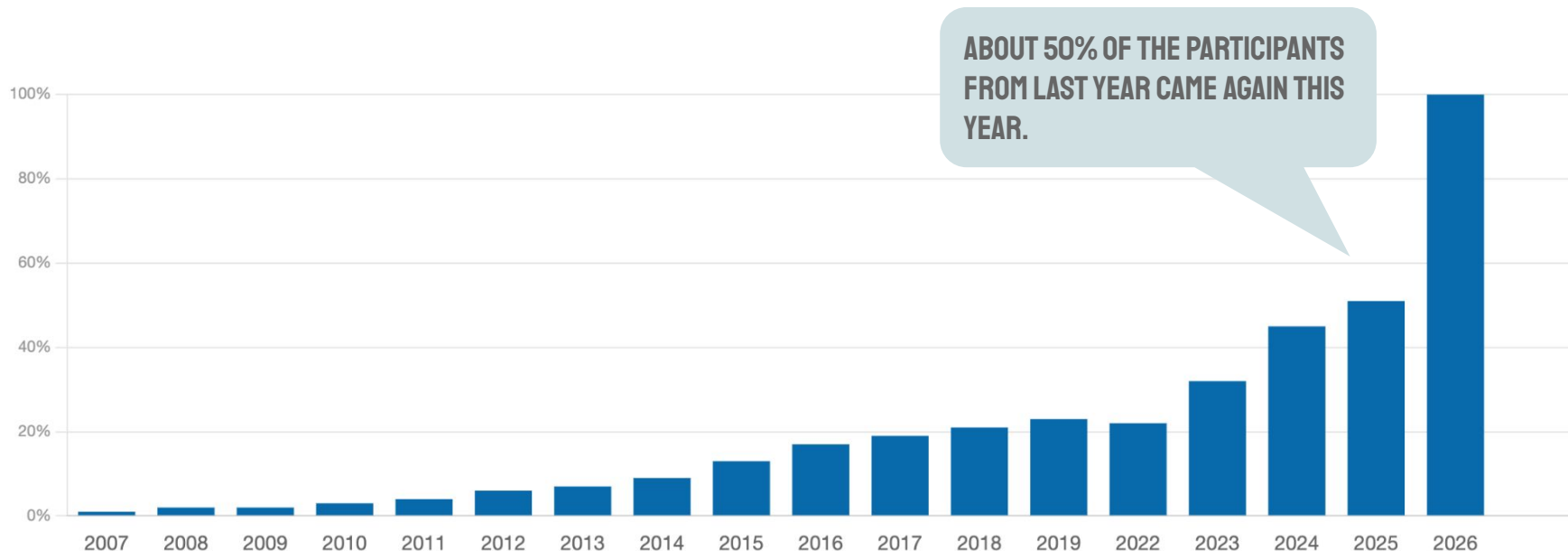


I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS. GIVE ME THE JUICY STUFF:

- There were nowhere near as many Russian participants this year as you thought.
- Participating in AfrikaBurn is expensive. Costing on average over R13,300, without any camping equipment or a ticket.
- AfrikaBurn is not broken. Although we experiment and re-invent AfrikaBurn every year, there are no major deviations from the event feedback in recent years.
- We're a diverse bunch of weirdos, but the 11 Principles are still the cornerstone of our event that everyone values.
- Our community really cares about AfrikaBurn and how it evolves. We got moerse-long essays and detailed feedback from so many passionate burners in the survey. **Thank you.**



PLEASE SELECT THE YEARS YOU HAVE ATTENDED AFRIKABURN?

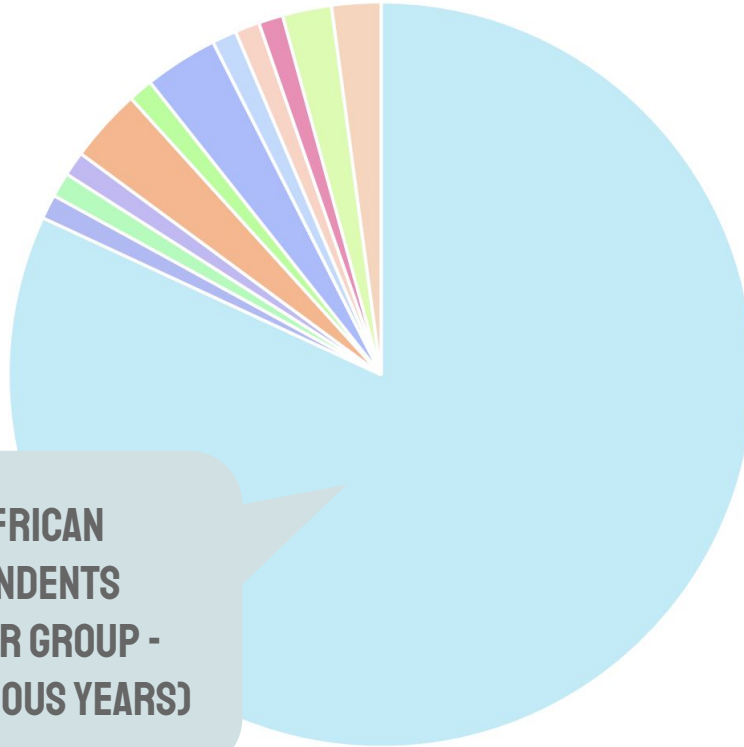


ABOUT 50% OF THE PARTICIPANTS FROM LAST YEAR CAME AGAIN THIS YEAR.

IT SEEMS THAT 3 YEARS IN A ROW IS ENOUGH FOR MOST PEOPLE



WHERE DO YOU LIVE?



**MORE SOUTH AFRICAN
SURVEY RESPONDENTS
THAN ANY OTHER GROUP -
(AS WITH PREVIOUS YEARS)**

South Africa	77%	686
Australia		
Austria		
Belgium		
Botswana		
Brazil		
Canada		
China		
Denmark		
Estonia		
France		
Germany		
Greece		
Ireland (Republic of)		
Israel		
Italy		
Kenya		
Lesotho		
Malawi		
Mauritius		
Mexico		
Monaco		
Mozambique		

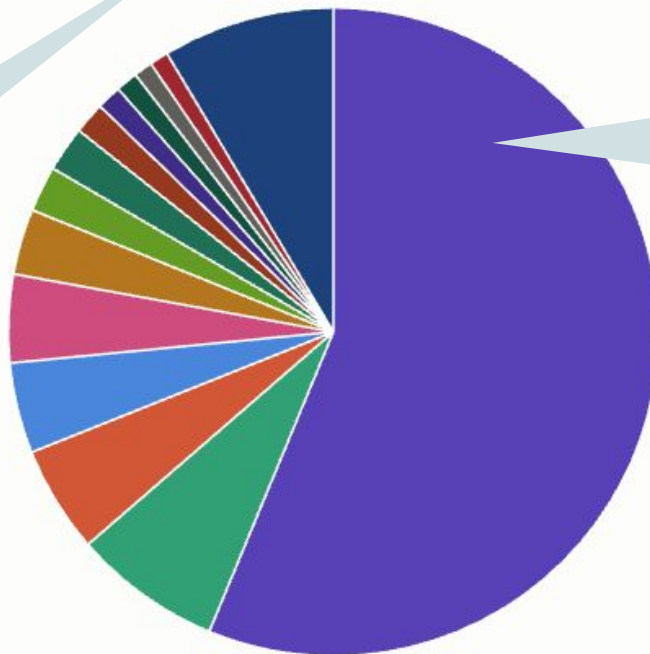
South Africa	77%	686
Netherlands	3%	28
Germany	3%	26
United States of America	2%	19
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2%	22
United Arab Emirates	1%	5
Switzerland	1%	12
Réunion	1%	9
Mozambique	1%	5
France	1%	11



THE ACTUAL TICKET DATA

South Africa 56.2% Germany 7.4% France 5.3% United Kingdom 4.5% Netherlands 4.4%
United States 3.3% Switzerland 2.3% Russia 2.3% Australia 1.6% Spain 1.2% Réunion 1.1%
Belgium 0.9% Canada 0.9% Other 8.6%

**NOT AS MANY AS
YOU THINK!**



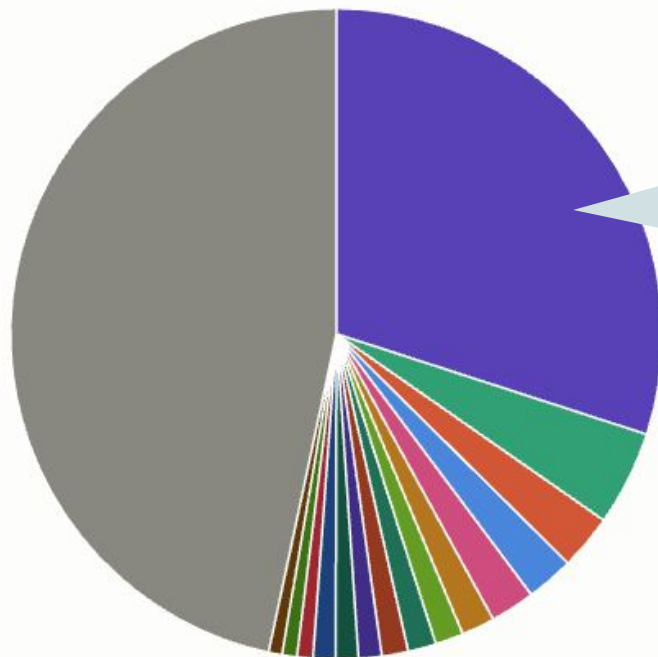
**OVER HALF FROM SOUTH AFRICA
(56%) AND A POSITIVE TREND
YEAR ON YEAR**

10,612 registrations across 90+ countries



THE ACTUAL TICKET DATA

■ Cape Town 30.0% ■ Johannesburg 4.7% ■ London 2.7% ■ Amsterdam 2.4% ■ Berlin 2.2% ■ Stellenbosch 1.7%
■ Somerset West 1.4% ■ Paris 1.4% ■ Pretoria 1.3% ■ Moscow 1.1% ■ Munich 1.1% ■ Zurich 1.1% ■ Durban 0.8%
■ Nairobi 0.7% ■ Hamburg 0.7% ■ Other 46.7%



**30% LOCAL
SLAAPSTAD
BURNERS**

10,543 registrations across 2,049 unique cities · "Other" spans 2,034 cities



ACTUAL GATE DATA (WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE?)

Day of the week	2026		2025	
	Date	Count	Date	Count
Friday	17-Apr-26	7	18-Apr-25	30
Saturday	18-Apr-26	43	19-Apr-25	7
Sunday	19-Apr-26	9	20-Apr-25	4
Monday pre-event week	20-Apr-26	14	21-Apr-25	31
Tuesday pre-event week	21-Apr-26	21	22-Apr-25	94
		94		166
Wednesday pre-event week	22-Apr-26	180	23-Apr-25	73
Thursday pre-event week	23-Apr-26	234	24-Apr-25	215
Friday pre-event week	24-Apr-26	610	25-Apr-25	442
Saturday pre-event week	25-Apr-26	1067	26-Apr-25	1045
Sunday pre-event week	26-Apr-26	1056	27-Apr-25	910
		3241		2851
Monday event week	27-Apr-26	3184	28-Apr-25	3141
Tuesday event week	28-Apr-26	1353	29-Apr-25	1310
Wednesday event week	29-Apr-26	1880	30-Apr-25	2099
Thursday event week	30-Apr-26	955	01-May-25	1074
Friday event week	01-May-26	220	02-May-25	230
Saturday event week	02-May-26	14	03-May-25	0
		10847		10705

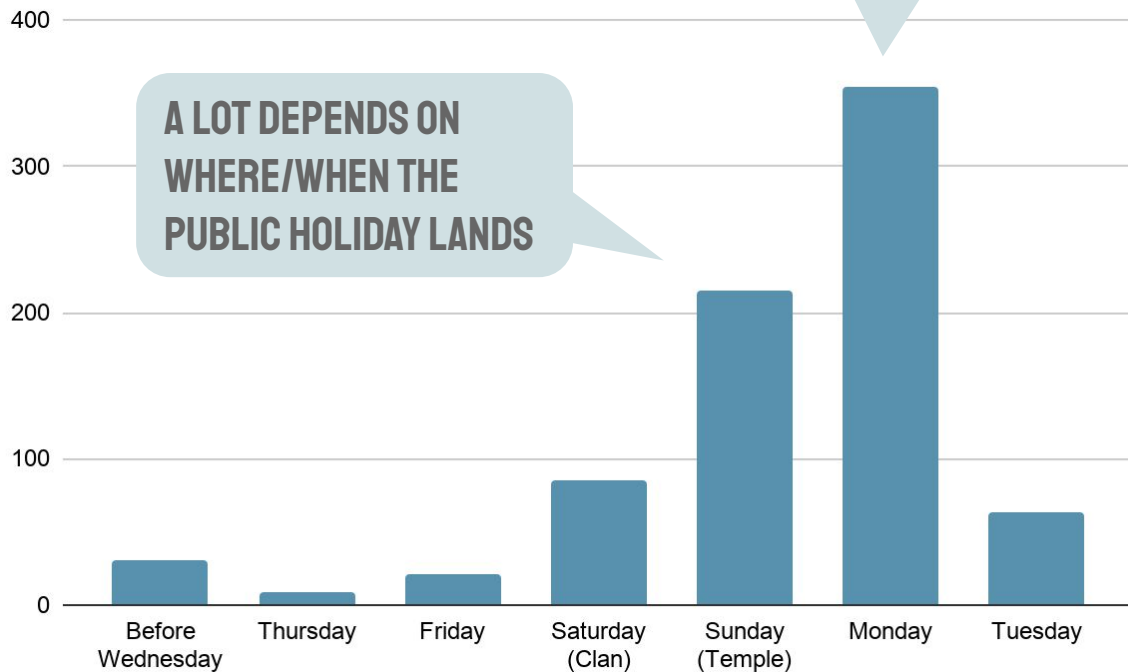
3241 ON SITE
BEFORE THE GATE
OPENS

ONLY 234
WEEKEND
WARRIORS

VERY SIMILAR
PATTERN
YEAR ON
YEAR



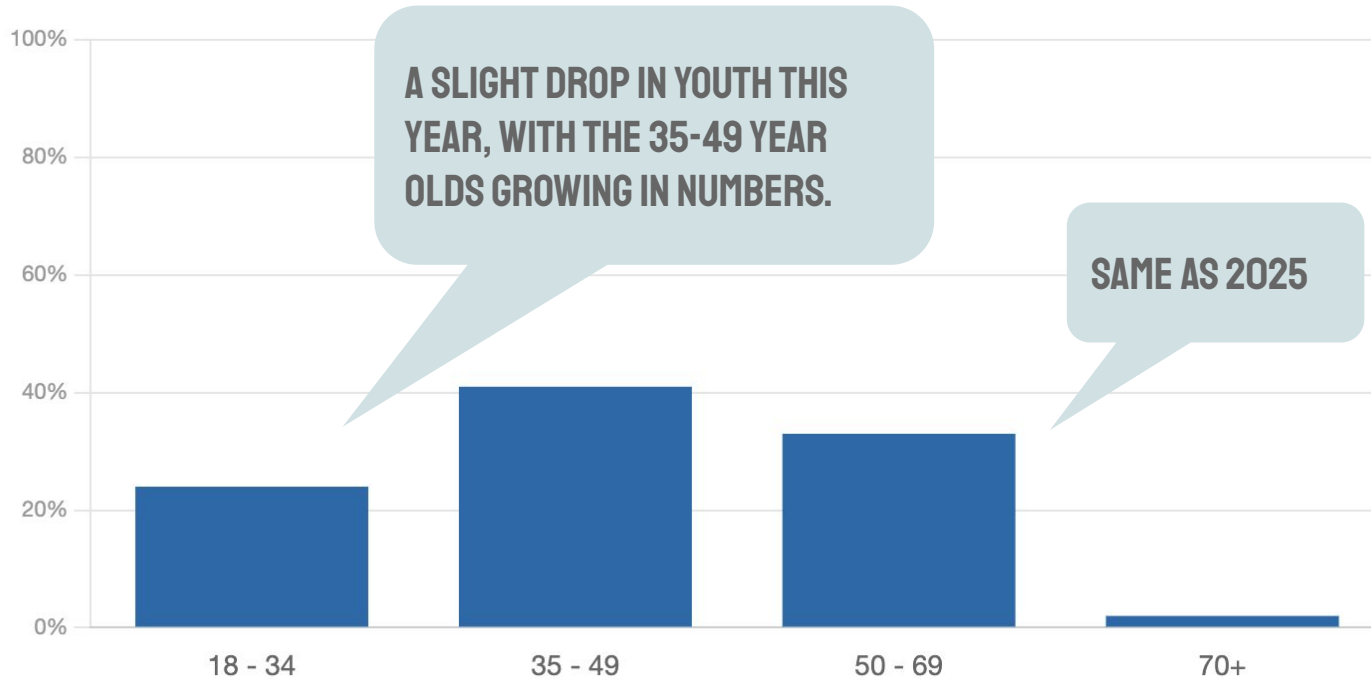
WHEN DID YOU LEAVE?



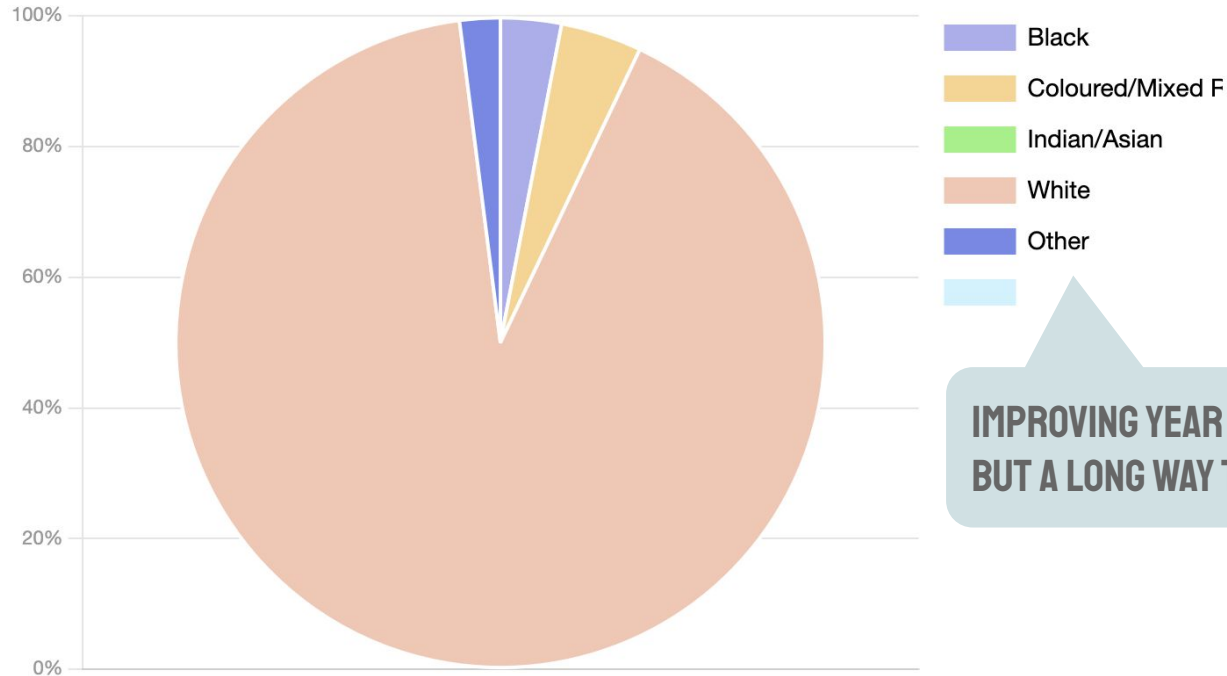


Performance: The Herald by Kyla Davis. Photo: Hloni Khoza

WHAT AGE GROUP ARE YOU IN?



WHAT RACE/ETHNICITY BEST DESCRIBES YOU?



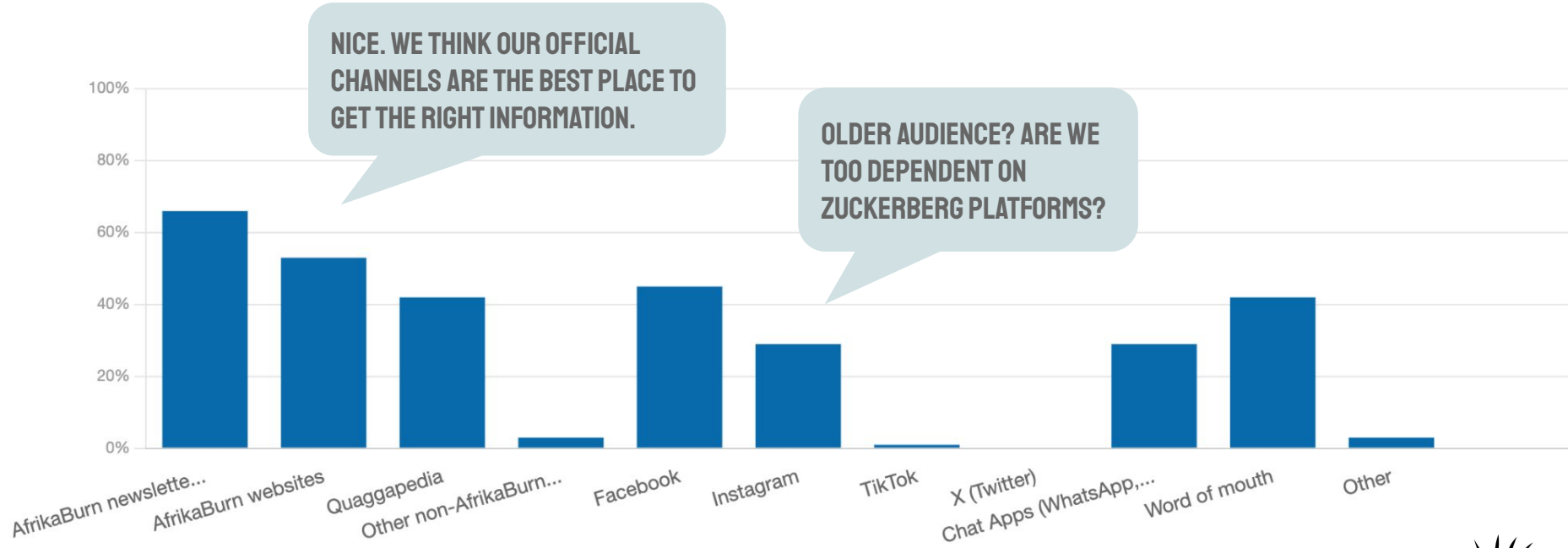
**IMPROVING YEAR ON YEAR,
BUT A LONG WAY TO GO.**



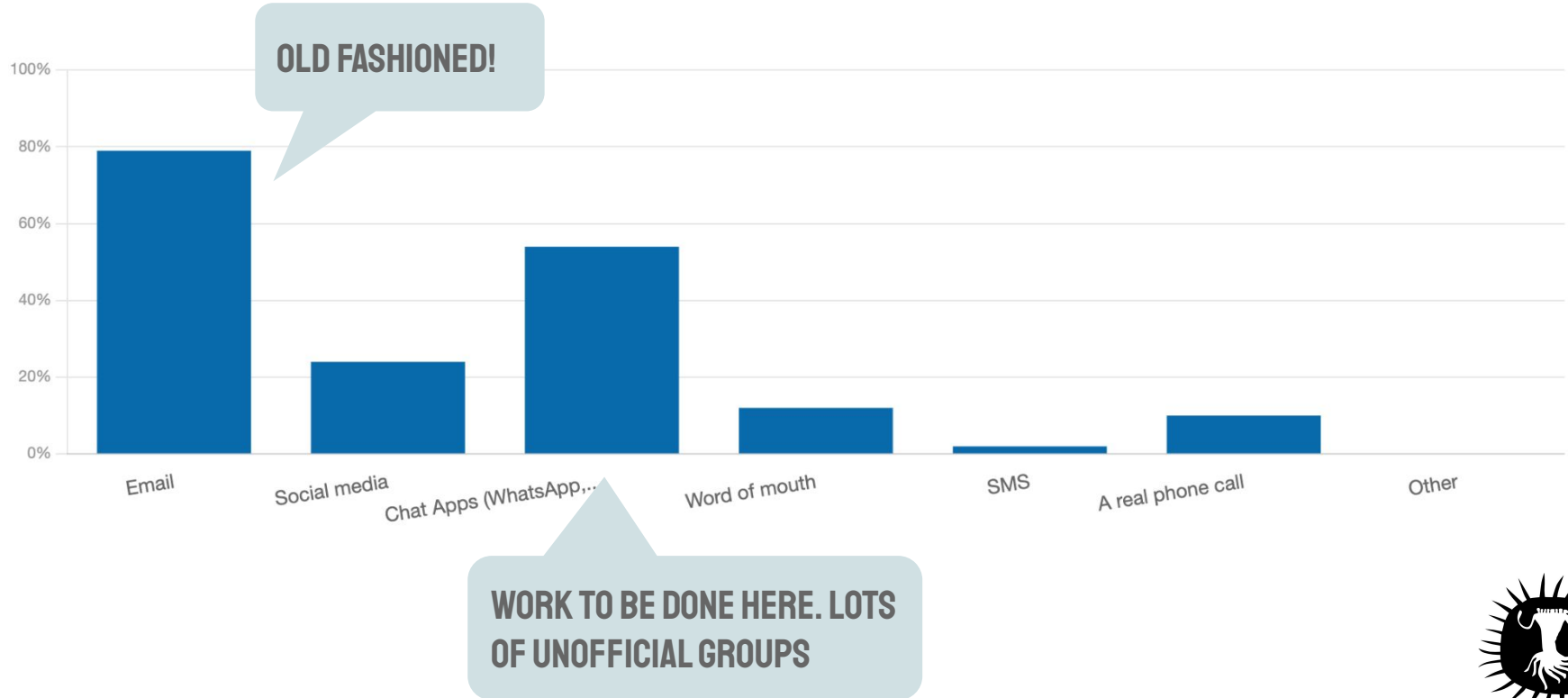


Photo: Shaun Phillips

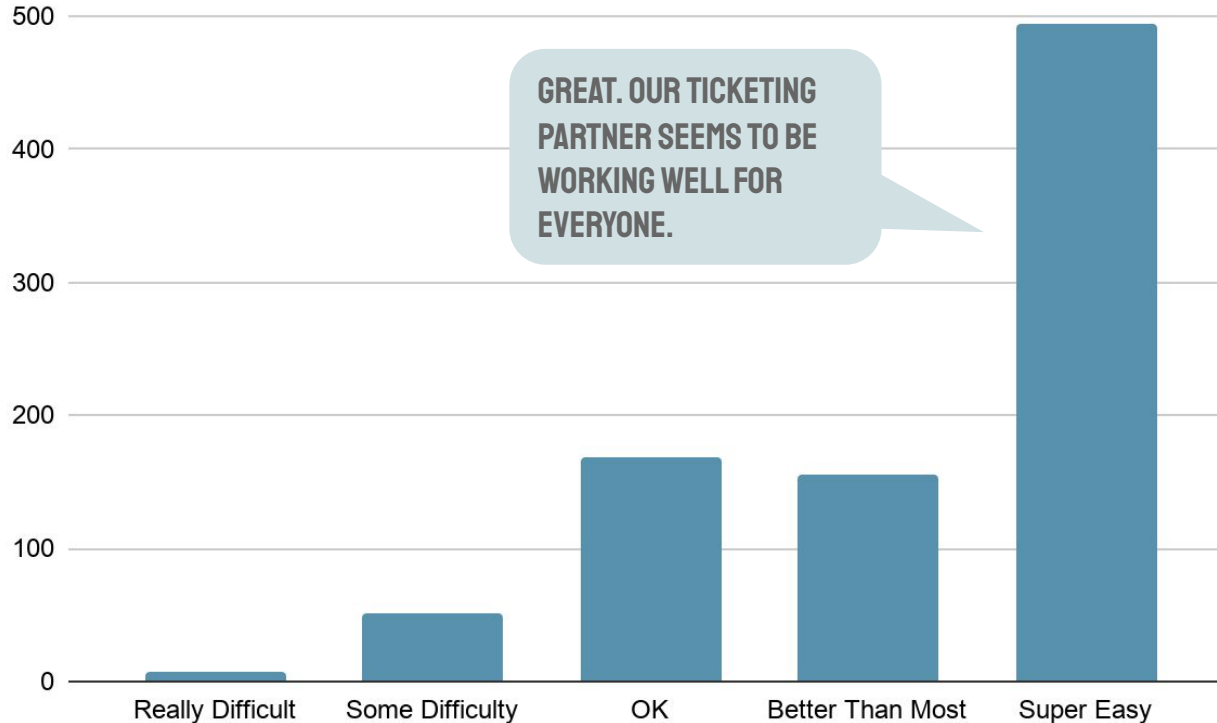
WHICH IS YOUR PREFERRED WAY TO GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT AFRIKABURN (THE EVENT)?



WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED COMMUNICATION CHANNEL IN THE DEFAULT WORLD?



TELL US ABOUT YOUR TICKET PURCHASE EXPERIENCE?



THE PRICE OF A TICKET TO AFRIKABURN WAS ...



HOW MUCH DID YOU SPEND GETTING TO AFRIKABURN?

Location	Avg. Spend per Attendee (R)	Projected Total Spend for Event (R)
Tankwa Padstal	R279.13	R3,027,750
Ceres	R860.75	R9,336,593
Calvinia	R125.12	R1,357,212
Worcester	R159.55	R1,730,659
Touwsrivier	R133.35	R1,446,412
Cape Town	R6,637.65	R71,998,625
Other Western Cape	R746.68	R8,099,222
Johannesburg / Gauteng	R594.70	R6,450,678
Other expenditure	R3,847.92	R41,738,419
TOTAL	R13,384.86	R145,185,570



BREAKDOWN OF SPEND IN SOUTH AFRICA

TOTAL: R145 MILLION

CAPE TOWN - R72 MILLION

This projection assumes the survey respondents are a representative random sample of all 10,847 attendees.

In practice, survey respondents often skew toward more engaged participants (e.g., people more likely to fill in feedback forms), so actual event-wide spending could differ from this extrapolation — treat it as a reasonable estimate rather than a precise figure.

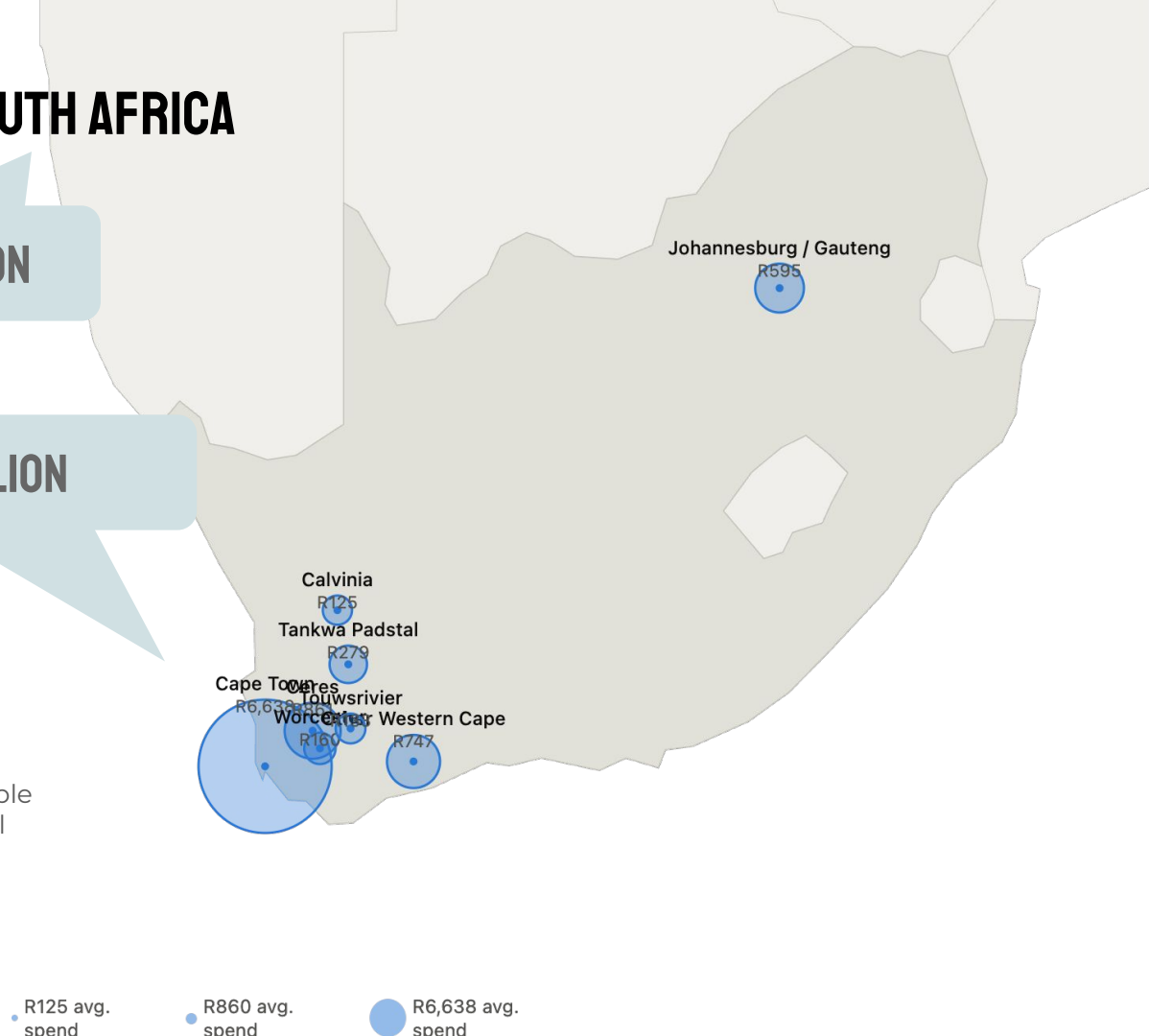


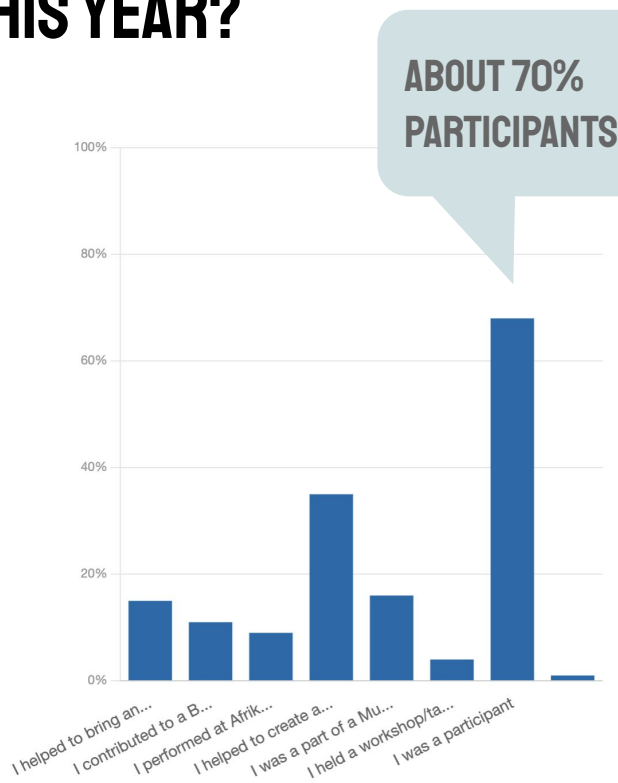


Photo: Fazel Ockhuys

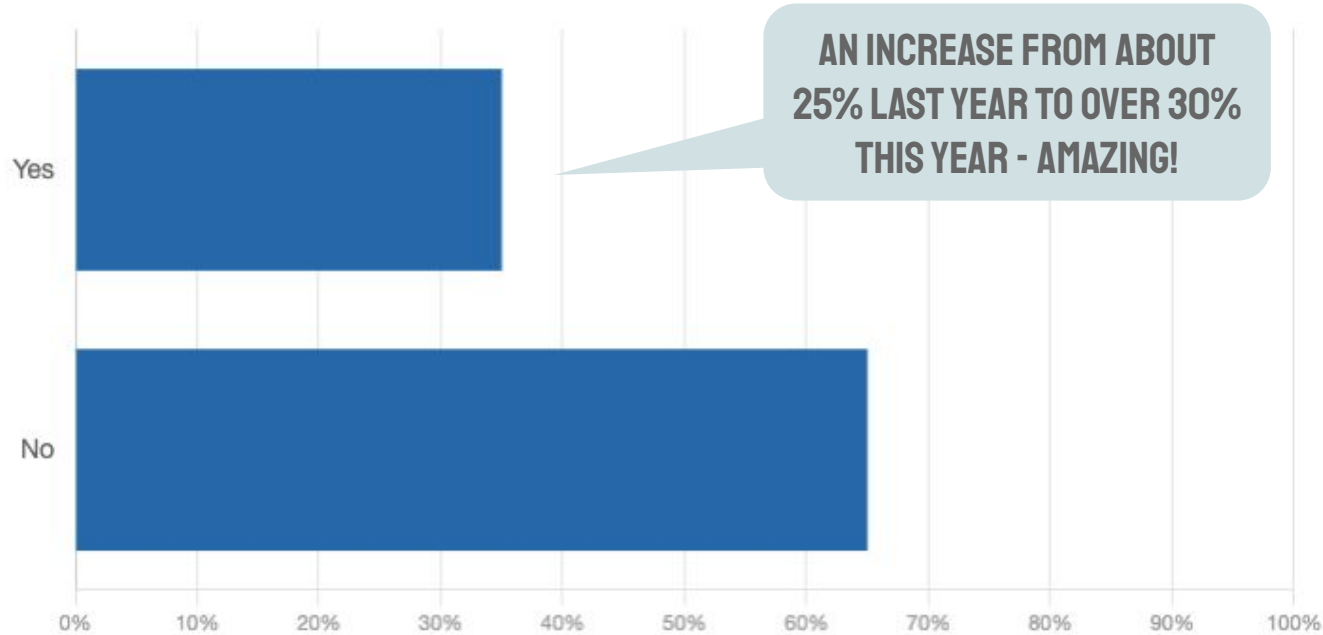
HOW DID YOU SHOW UP AT AFRIKABURN THIS YEAR?

ANSWERS	RESPONSES
I was a participant	68% 604
I helped to create a Theme Camp	35% 314
I was a part of a Mutant Vehicle Crew	16% 141
I helped to bring an artwork to AfrikaBurn	15% 131
I contributed to a Binnekring Event	11% 97
I performed at AfrikaBurn	9% 76
I held a workshop/talk	4% 37
	1% 10

OUTSIDE OF
PARTICIPANTS, MOST
OTHERS IN A THEME
CAMP



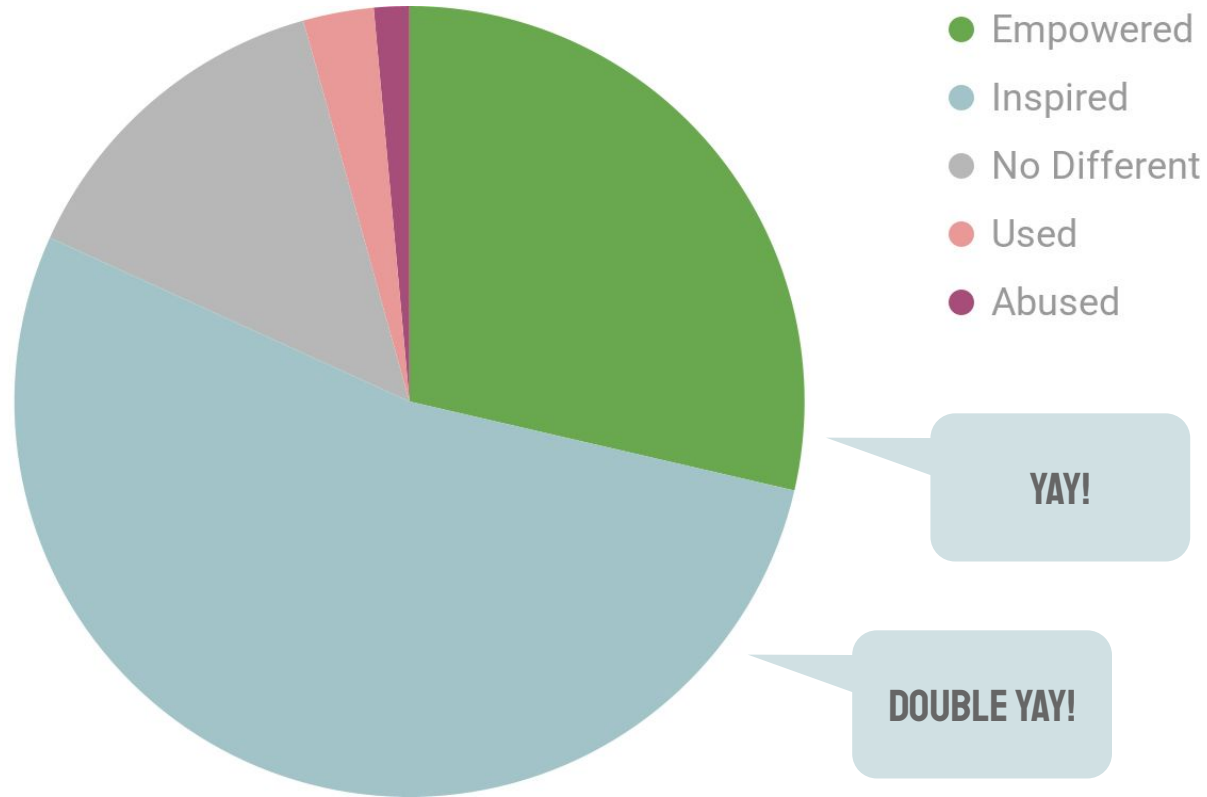
DID YOU VOLUNTEER?



NICE TO SEE THIS DATA CORRELATE WITH THE PREVIOUS SLIDE!



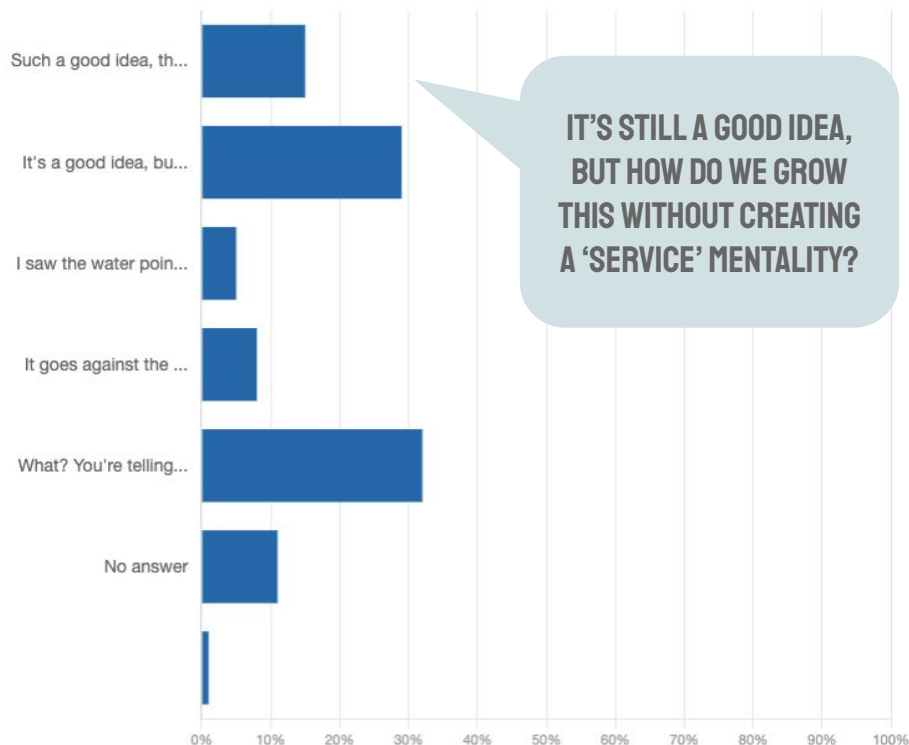
MY EXPERIENCE OF VOLUNTEERING LEFT ME FEELING:





Art: 2026 Temple Embo by Ceduma Qamata. Photo: Steven Morrow

WE AGAIN RAN A LITTLE EXPERIMENT WITH WATER POINTS IN TANKWA TOWN THIS YEAR, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS?



ANSWERS

RESPONSES

Such a good idea, they were really useful and I made use of them

15% 133

It's a good idea, but I didn't use the water points. I think this could be done...

29% 253

I saw the water points, but the water was not really drinkable, so I don't think it...

5% 48

It goes against the principle of Radical Self Reliance, I'm glad you tried it, but I...

8% 68

What? You're telling me you had water points?

32% 286

No answer

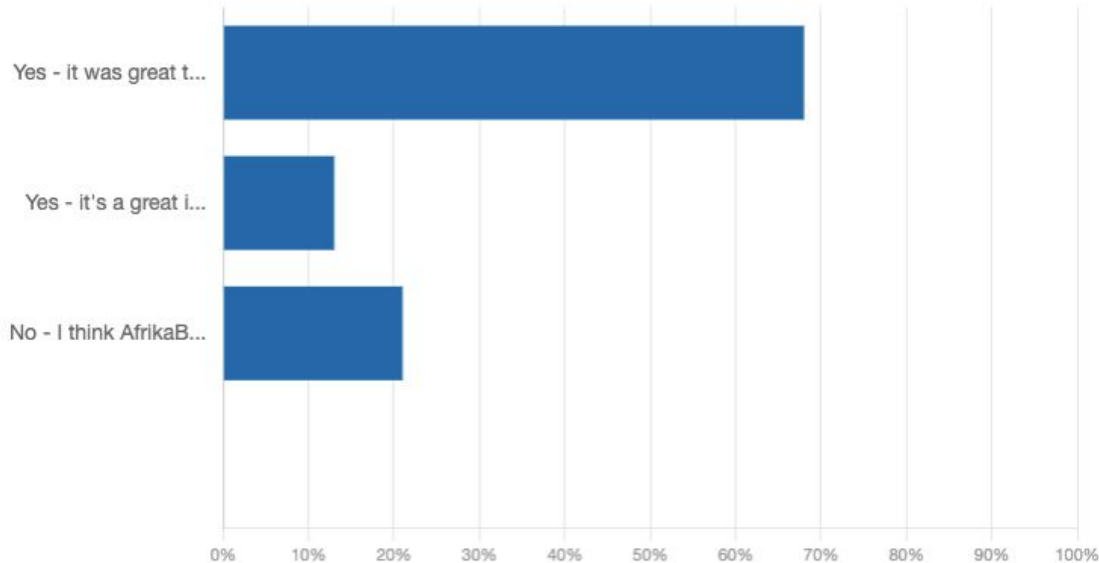
11% 94

1% 5

887 Answered 3 Skipped



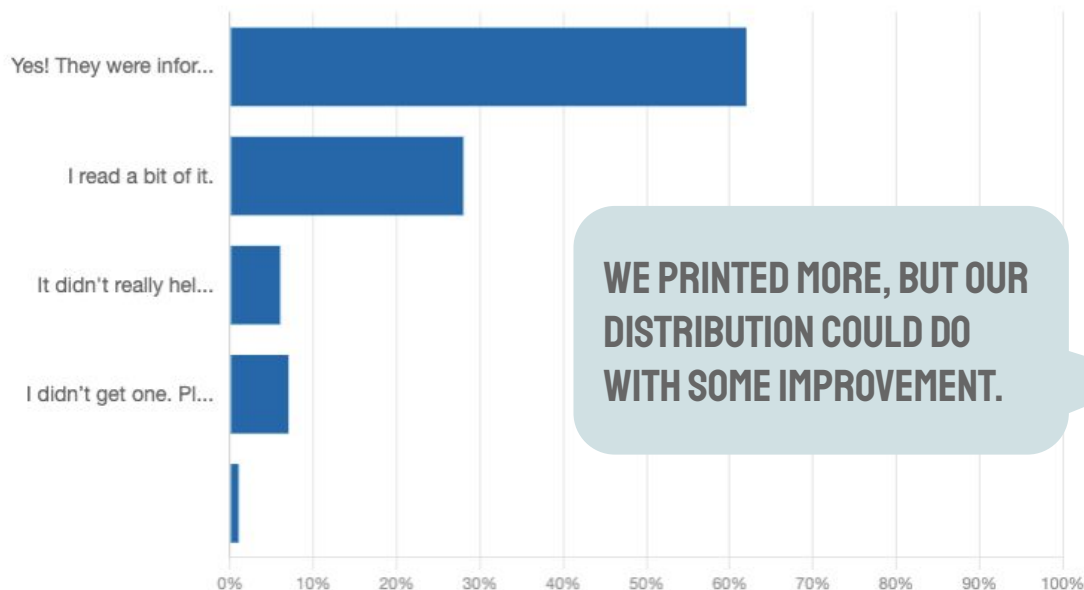
AS BEFORE, AFRIKABURN TRIED TO ENCOURAGE MORE FAMILIES, CHILDREN AND PENSIONERS TO ATTEND. HAVING EXPERIENCED THROUGH THE PRISM, DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS?



ANSWERS	RESPONSES	
Yes - it was great to see so many different ages participating at AfrikaBurn	68%	600
Yes - it's a great idea, but I didn't see any evidence of it in Tankwa Town	13%	113
No - I think AfrikaBurn should only be for adults	21%	184
	0%	3
887 Answered 3 Skipped		



DID YOU RECEIVE A WTF? BOOKLET THIS YEAR?



ANSWERS

RESPONSES

Yes! They were informative and useful 62% 553

I read a bit of it. 28% 246

It didn't really help. 6% 50

I didn't get one. Please print more next year. 7% 64

1% 9

887 Answered 3 Skipped





DID YOU EXPERIENCE OR INTERACT WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY SERVICES THIS YEAR, AND WHAT WERE YOUR OVERALL IMPRESSIONS?

	REALLY CRAP	COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER	AVERAGE	PRETTY GOOD	AMAZING	DID NOT INTERACT WITH THEM
Arteria	1 0%	9 1%	15 2%	110 15%	108 15%	477 66%
Artifactory	1 0%	2 0%	9 1%	71 10%	73 10%	550 78%
Box Office and Gate	50 6%	64 8%	48 6%	224 28%	338 43%	70 9%
Chillaz	3 0%	7 1%	23 3%	126 18%	112 16%	446 62%
Department of Mutant Vehicles (DMV)	9 1%	10 1%	23 3%	97 13%	177 24%	426 57%
Event Safety Team	6 1%	5 1%	9 1%	87 12%	245 33%	393 53%
Ice Sales	4 1%	5 1%	13 2%	75 10%	195 26%	455 61%

TOP RATED

OVERWHELMINGLY 'AMAZING' RESULTS
ACROSS MOST COMMUNITY SERVICES



DID YOU EXPERIENCE OR INTERACT WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING COMMUNITY SERVICES THIS YEAR, AND WHAT WERE YOUR OVERALL IMPRESSIONS?

	REALLY CRAP	COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER	AVERAGE	PRETTY GOOD	AMAZING	DID NOT INTERACT WITH THEM
Leave No Trace	5 1%	16 2%	13 2%	125 17%	249 33%	344 46%
Lost & Found	4 1%	5 1%	14 2%	131 17%	288 37%	335 43%
Radio Free Tankwa	3 0%	14 2%	25 3%	113 15%	181 24%	410 55%
Rangers	5 1%	12 2%	29 4%	124 16%	365 47%	244 31%
Sanctuary	1 0%	7 1%	7 1%	50 7%	175 24%	495 67%
Skollie Patrollie	6 1%	4 1%	14 2%	54 7%	119 16%	531 73%
Throne Crew (Toilets)	11 1%	20 2%	30 4%	113 14%	494 61%	137 17%
Volunteer Booth	2 0%	8 1%	15 2%	81 11%	158 22%	470 64%

**GO
RANGERS
AND TOILET
CREWS!**



DID YOU USE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING EVENT SERVICE PROVIDERS?

	REALLY CRAP	COULD HAVE BEEN BETTER	PRETTY GOOD	AMAZING	NO ANSWER
Event Guardians	4 1%	9 1%	28 4%	104 14%	579 80%
Fire Safety	1 0%	10 1%	60 8%	226 31%	433 59%
Medics	2 0%	12 2%	32 4%	163 22%	518 71%
SAPS (South African Police Service)	4 1%	3 0%	44 6%	84 12%	581 81%
Supplier Depot	9 1%	22 3%	48 7%	72 10%	566 79%
Venue Operations Centre (VOC)	2 0%	3 0%	31 4%	89 13%	584 82%

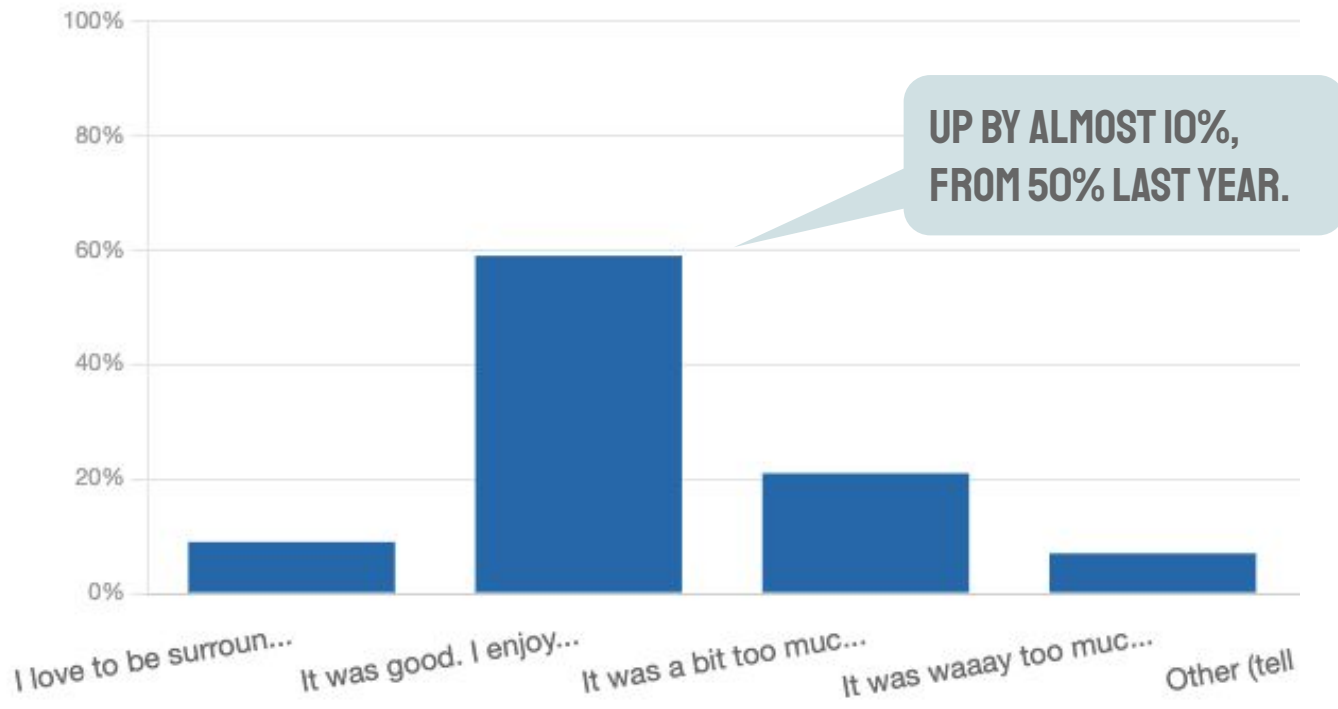
GREAT THAT THE BULK OF PEOPLE DID NOT NEED TO INTERACT WITH THESE SERVICES.

WHEN YOU DID, THE EXPERIENCE WAS POSITIVE.



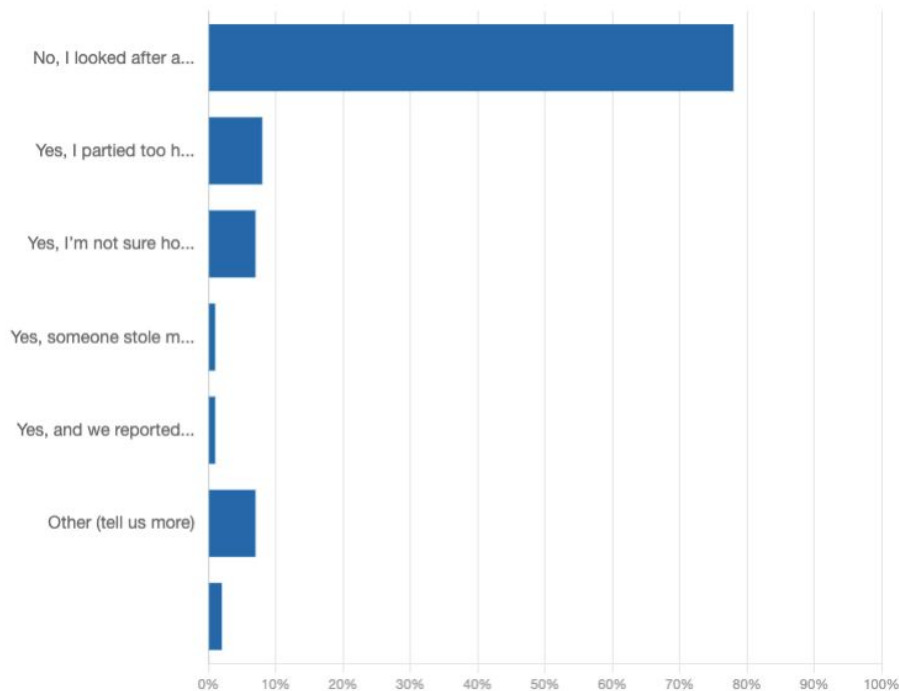


HOW WERE THE NOISE LEVELS FOR YOU?



DID YOU LOSE ANY OF YOUR PROPERTY THIS YEAR?

VERY SIMILAR TO
LAST YEAR (82%)

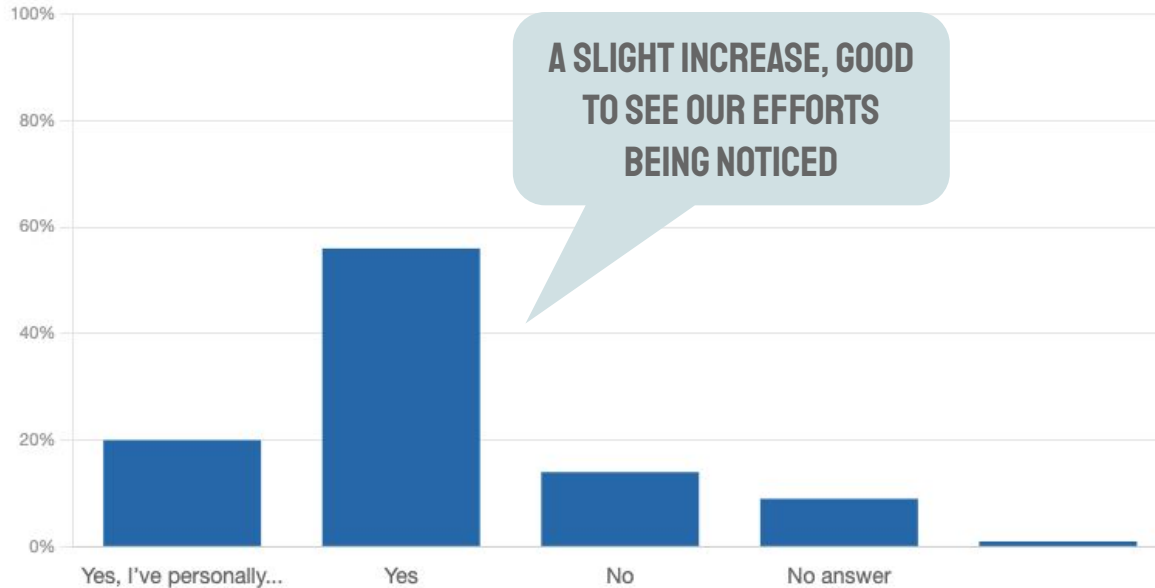


ANSWERS	RESPONSES	
No, I looked after all my stuff	78%	688
Yes, I partied too hard and it was my own fault, but I got it back through Lost and...	8%	67
Yes, I'm not sure how or why - but I think some items in our camp went missing	7%	59
Yes, someone stole my bike, but I got it back	1%	5
Yes, and we reported it to a ranger	1%	10
Other (tell us more)	7%	63
	2%	16

887 Answered 3 Skipped



HAVE YOU NOTICED THE IMPACT OF AFRIKABURN'S MECHANISMS TO FOSTER DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION?



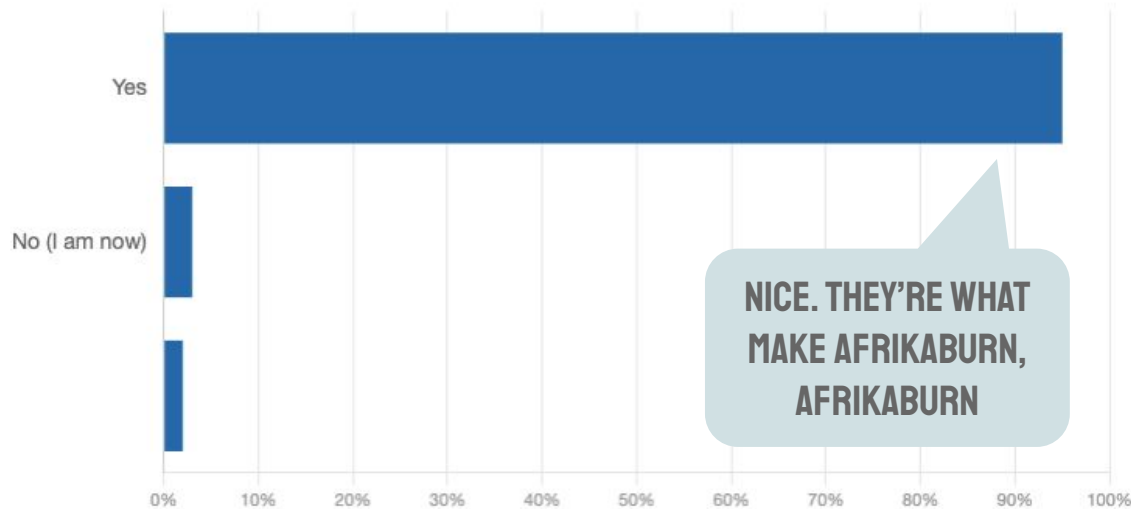
ANSWERS	RESPONSES	
Yes, I've personally benefited from them	20%	177
Yes	56%	501
No	14%	124
No answer	9%	77
	1%	8

887 Answered

3 Skipped



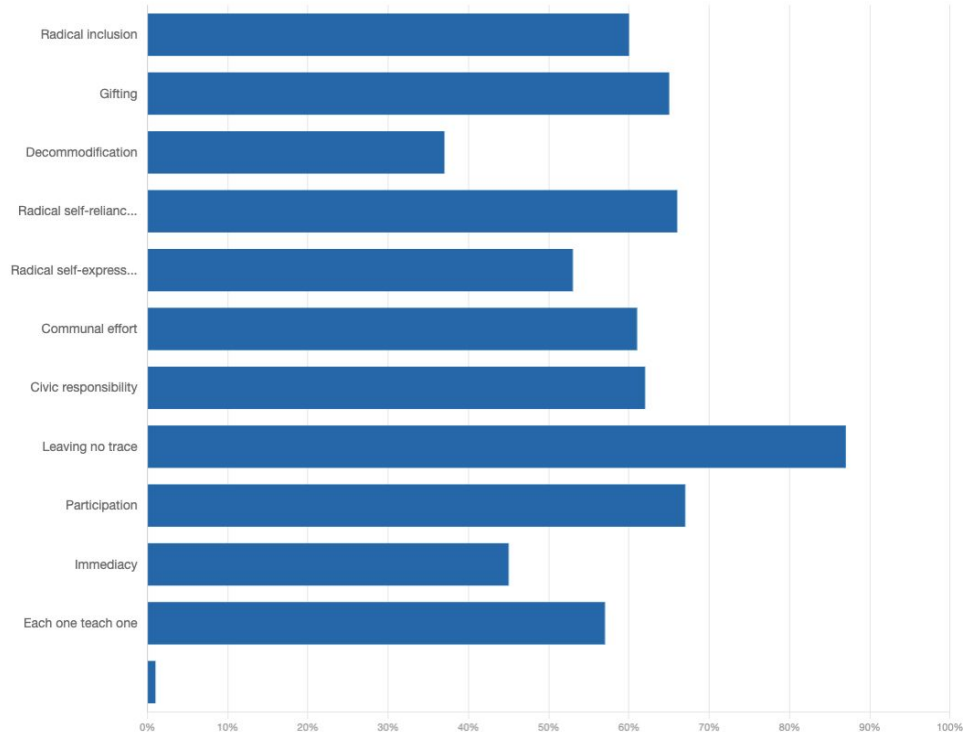
ARE YOU AWARE THAT THERE ARE ELEVEN PRINCIPLES THAT UNDERPIN THE AFRIKABURN EVENT AND MOVEMENT?



ANSWERS	RESPONSES	
Yes	95%	841
No (I am now)	3%	25
Skipped	2%	21
887 Answered 3 Skipped		



WHICH OF THE PRINCIPLES DO YOU TRY TO PRACTICE WHEN YOU'RE **NOT** AT AFRIKABURN?



ANSWERS	RESPONSES	
Radical inclusion	60%	533
Gifting	65%	576
Decommodification	37%	332
Radical self-reliance	66%	589
Radical self-expression	53%	466
Communal effort	61%	543
Civic responsibility	62%	552
Leaving no trace	87%	772
Participation	67%	590
Immediacy	45%	400
Each one teach one	57%	508
	1%	13

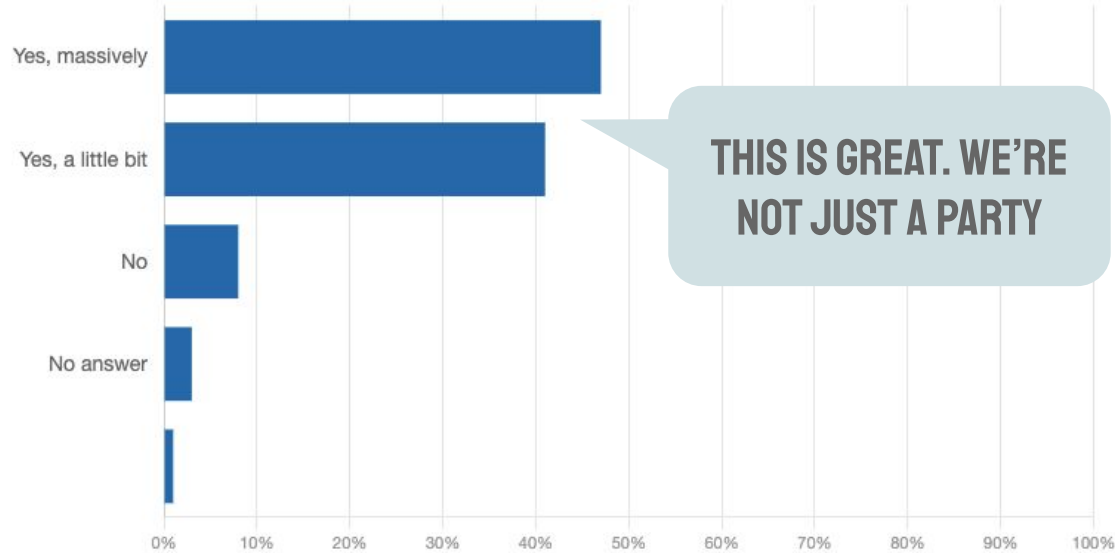
887 Answered 3 Skipped

LOWEST

HIGHEST



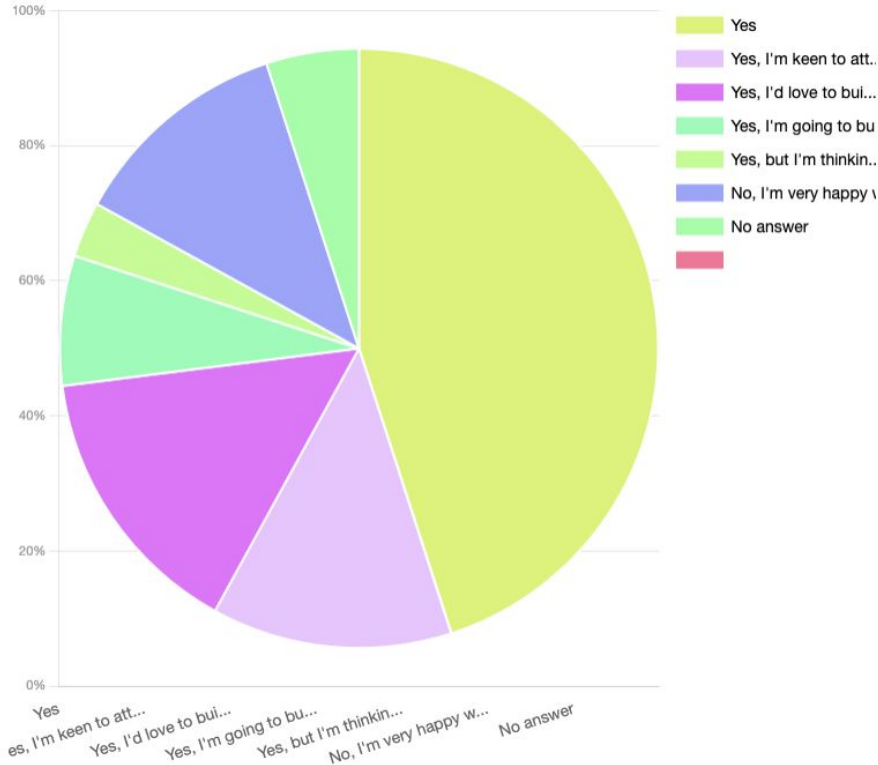
HAS TIME AT AFRIKABURN LIVING IN THE DESERT IMPACTED YOUR ABILITY TO LEAVE NO TRACE BACK IN THE DEFAULT WORLD?



ANSWERS	RESPONSES	
Yes, massively	47%	420
Yes, a little bit	41%	368
No	8%	69
No answer	3%	25
	1%	5
887 Answered 3 Skipped		



HAS YOUR PARTICIPATION AT AFRIKABURN INSPIRED YOU TO DO MORE, CREATE MORE, OR PARTICIPATE MORE WITH AFRIKABURN?



LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING THE RESULTS OF THIS INSPIRATION!

ALSO GOOD!



887 Answered 3 Skipped

HOW DO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS REFLECT YOUR POINT OF VIEW?

	NO ANSWER	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
Everyone who attends AfrikaBurn should be familiar with the 11 principles.	2 0%	4 0%	7 1%	44 5%	281 32%	543 62%
Ticket sales should be limited and participants vetted.	15 2%	51 6%	120 14%	224 25%	263 30%	208 24%
It is fine that there are people who attend the event that do not volunteer.	8 1%	74 8%	127 14%	269 31%	327 37%	75 9%
For me AfrikaBurn is a year round activity.	29 3%	19 2%	136 16%	273 31%	297 34%	122 14%
AfrikaBurn positively profiles South Africa.	22 2%	18 2%	55 6%	136 15%	352 40%	298 34%
I experienced empowering moments.	11 1%	6 1%	19 2%	71 8%	360 41%	408 47%

OVER
50%

WOW -
88%



HOW DO THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS REFLECT YOUR POINT OF VIEW?

	NO ANSWER	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
I was personally impacted positively by the behaviour of individuals at AfrikaBurn.	3 0%	11 1%	20 2%	67 8%	352 40%	429 49%
The event challenged me.	7 1%	29 3%	85 10%	162 19%	359 41%	233 27%
I had a lot of fun at AfrikaBurn		2 0%	4 0%	24 3%	238 27%	607 69%
AfrikaBurn inspired me to make changes in my life outside of the event.	10 1%	15 2%	35 4%	180 20%	331 38%	309 35%
My life has been changed/ transformed by my experiences at these events.	10 1%	16 2%	33 4%	163 19%	313 36%	344 39%
I define myself as a Burner.	9 1%	10 1%	34 4%	139 16%	308 35%	379 43%
The community and organisation is united in something worthwhile.	6 1%	7 1%	18 2%	66 8%	329 38%	450 51%

NOT
JUST A
PARTY



PLEASE LET US KNOW HOW MUCH THE FOLLOWING **NEGATIVE** STATEMENTS REFLECT YOUR POINT OF VIEW:

14% AGREE? WAS CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY
AGAIN LACKING IN 2026?

	NO ANSWER	STRONGLY DISAGREE	DISAGREE	NEUTRAL	AGREE	STRONGLY AGREE
I was personally impacted negatively by the behaviour of individuals at AfrikaBurn.	42 5%	355 40%	218 25%	102 12%	124 14%	37 4%
I experienced harassment from people around me.	37 4%	526 60%	192 22%	52 6%	57 6%	13 1%
I felt uncomfortable or unwelcome around other participants	33 4%	510 58%	197 23%	66 8%	59 7%	10 1%
I felt unsafe at AfrikaBurn	36 4%	624 71%	164 19%	32 4%	14 2%	5 1%

887 Answered 3 Skipped

GREAT, IT SEEMS LIKE MOST PEOPLE HAD A
POSITIVE EXPERIENCE AT AFRIKABURN



HOW DO YOU THINK AFRIKABURN IS DOING AS A ...

	NOT GREAT	MEH	AVERAGE	PRETTY GOOD	REALLY GOOD
Annual Event	3 0%	8 1%	31 4%	242 28%	596 68%
Organisation	19 2%	22 3%	89 10%	305 35%	435 50%
Community of people	8 1%	15 2%	79 9%	300 34%	470 54%
Movement	14 2%	32 4%	107 12%	310 36%	396 46%
Arts Organisation	14 2%	18 2%	97 11%	308 36%	426 49%

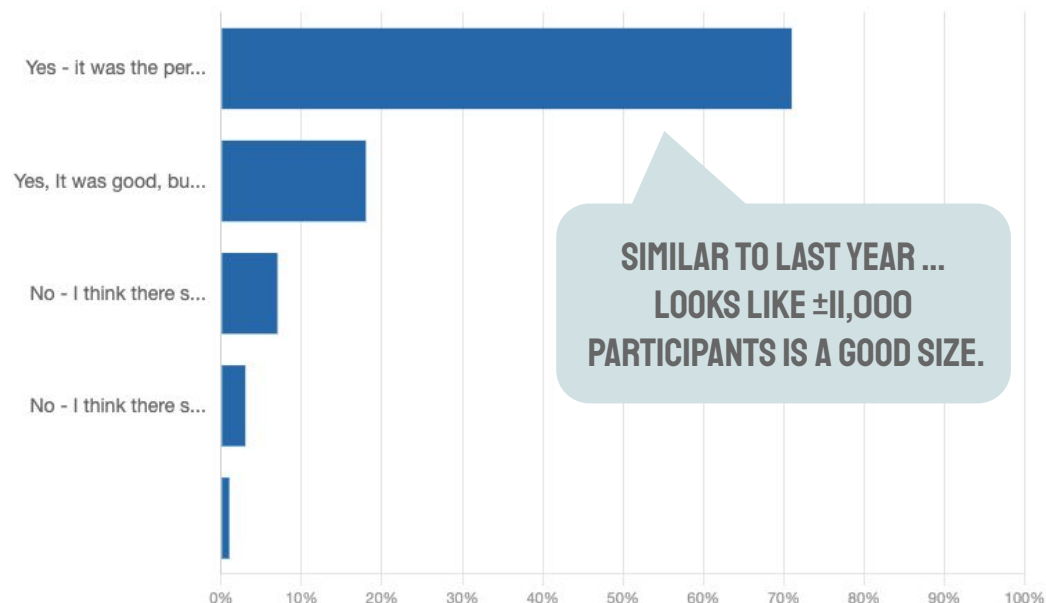
887 Answered 3 Skipped

THIS IS ONLY THE SECOND YEAR WE'VE ASKED THESE QUESTIONS

ALL REALLY POSITIVE,
BUT THERE IS ALWAYS
ROOM TO IMPROVE!



THERE WAS AROUND 10 000 PEOPLE STAYING IN TANKWA TOWN THIS YEAR. WAS TANKWA TOWN BIG ENOUGH FOR YOU?



ANSWERS

RESPONSES

Yes - it was the perfect amount of people 71% 633

Yes, it was good, but I would like there to be a few more participants next year 18% 158

No - I think there should be fewer people next year 7% 64

No - I think there should be double the amount of people next year. 3% 27

1% 5

887 Answered

3 Skipped

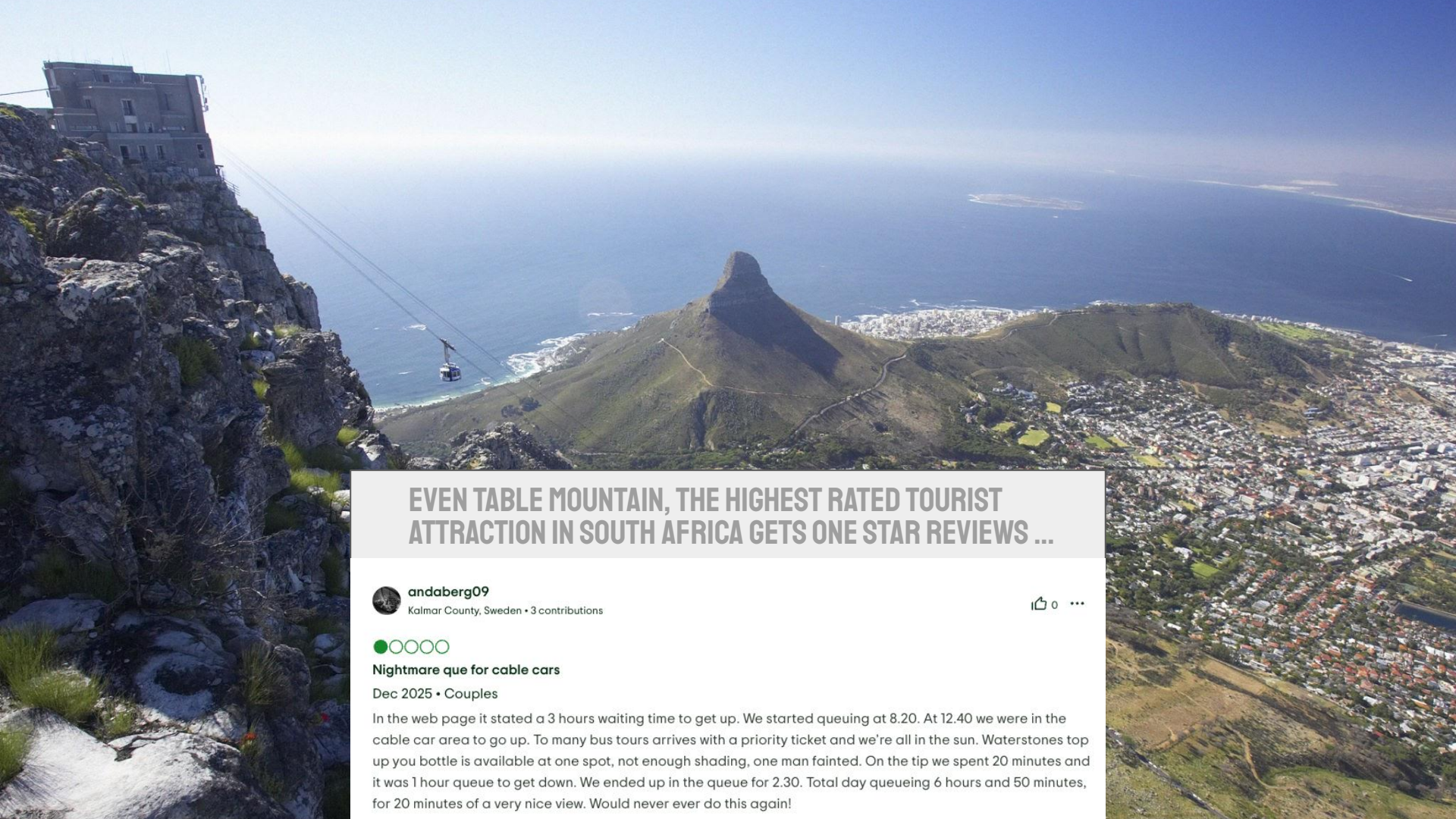


WHAT THREE WORDS WOULD YOU USE TO DESCRIBE YOURSELF?



WHAT 3 WORDS COME TO MIND WHEN YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF AS A BURNER?





EVEN TABLE MOUNTAIN, THE HIGHEST RATED TOURIST ATTRACTION IN SOUTH AFRICA GETS ONE STAR REVIEWS ...



andaberg09

Kalmar County, Sweden • 3 contributions



Nightmare que for cable cars

Dec 2025 • Couples

In the web page it stated a 3 hours waiting time to get up. We started queuing at 8.20. At 12.40 we were in the cable car area to go up. To many bus tours arrives with a priority ticket and we're all in the sun. Waterstones top up you bottle is available at one spot, not enough shading, one man fainted. On the tip we spent 20 minutes and it was 1 hour queue to get down. We ended up in the queue for 2.30. Total day queueing 6 hours and 50 minutes, for 20 minutes of a very nice view. Would never ever do this again!

OPEN FEEDBACK

- 691 comments ... 59,033 words
- All cleaned of any personal data and shared with the entire ops team
- Also filtered by Claude for summarisation



WHAT DID WE DO WELL?

1. Volunteer & Ranger dedication

Respondents repeatedly singled out rangers, toilet crews, DPW, gate staff and other volunteers for praise, noting how much invisible, essential work goes into keeping the event safe and running.

"RFT rocks, DPW rocks harder, Ice rocks the hardest; but the best of ALL of them is the gate." — Response #8

2. Sense of community & belonging

The feeling of being welcomed into a genuine community, rather than a generic festival crowd, came through as the event's core strength for many long-time and first-time burners alike.

"It's still the most magical community and place I've ever experienced and I am a burner for life." — Response #92

3. Transformative experience, especially for first-timers

A large number of comments described the week as personally life-changing, healing, or perspective-shifting, often unprompted and unrelated to any specific question about impact.

"This experience genuinely changed my life for the better in so many ways, it's been weeks and I still shed a tear thinking about it and missing it. I am now a lifelong burner." — Response #161

"AfrikaBurn is truly transformative. It changed my life in many positive ways and gave me the push to step into the unknown and follow my dreams." — Response #438



WHAT DID WE DO WELL?

4. Art installations & mutant vehicles

Several respondents noted a clear step up in the scale, variety and quality of artworks and mutant vehicles compared with previous years.

"The Clan was incredible this year!!! Overall art installations, themed camps and mutants vehicles were more varied and impressive." — Response #416

5. Gifting culture

The tradition of unconditional gifting, food, drinks, water, small treasures, was repeatedly called out as one of the event's defining highlights.

"I was truly amazed by the event, I was part of Burning Mail — this group of humans were amazing. The act of gifting and the generosity of the rest of the community was astounding." — Response #89

6. Sanctuary & harm-reduction support

Sanctuary crew were praised for their compassion in handling people in distress, and the survey noted a record number of volunteer sign-ups for Sanctuary shifts this year.

"I also heard of the highest signup for Sanctuary shifts ever and most people showing up to their shifts, which was great." — Response #92



7. Feeling of personal safety

Despite specific safety and theft complaints (see below), many respondents specifically praised the overall atmosphere of trust and respect at the event.

"One of my favourite things about afrikaburn is how safe i feel there and respectful of others and others things everyone around me seems to be." — Response #46

8. Overall event organisation

A number of experienced attendees explicitly rated this as one of the better-run years from a logistics standpoint.

"As always this was the highlight of my year. The event was great, run extremely well, the people were amazing." — Response #484

9. Toilet crew's personal effort

Even amid heavy complaints about the toilet facilities themselves, the crew servicing them were personally thanked and gifted by name.

"The Toilet crew were amazing and I love gifting them goodies when they come by our camp. Really appreciate them." — Response #70

10. Theme camp generosity & inclusion

Specific theme camps were called out for going out of their way to host, curate and welcome newcomers.

"I was part of Disko Dolce and it was the most amazing camp I could have not even imagined. So well organised and so well curated... The kindest most beautiful people I've ever met." — Response #172



WHERE CAN WE IMPROVE?

1. Gate / entrance queues

By far the most emotionally charged complaint. Multiple respondents reported waits of three to five-plus hours in the cold on arrival, describing it as a poor first impression of the event.

"I had a very bad experience at the entrance gate on Monday when we arrive (17:00). We stood in line for exactly 5 hours in the freezing cold and I think that it is unacceptable for such an event." — Response #4

2. Toilets

Nearly 80 of the 691 responses mentioned toilets ... broken doors, no lighting, no sanitiser by midweek, and general disrepair made this the single most-mentioned facilities complaint.

"The Binnekring toilets are oversubscribed, falling apart and, in many cases, unsafe (no doors, no stairs, no lights)." — Response #31

3. Too much electronic/EDM music, not enough variety

Widespread fatigue with electronic music dominating every stage, alongside repeated requests for more live music and greater representation of South African and African artists.

"Too much electronic music... Its the same in every tent after 10. Surely more live music or different genres of music should be encouraged when camps register." — Response #1





Monday Morning ... and eerily quiet.

Photo: Jonx Pillemer

WHERE CAN WE IMPROVE?

4. Theft and safety incidents

A number of respondents reported stolen belongings, sound equipment, and valuables from camps and dance floors, with several calling for stronger security measures. It should be noted that comments mentioning theft often referred to incidents outside of the event, broken trailers on the R355 etc.

"Theft seems to becoming a larger & larger problem. Our camp lost clothing this year & last. Very Sad!!!" — Response #85

5. "Weekend warriors" diluting the culture

Concern that people arriving only for the weekend show little regard for the 11 Principles, contributing to more MOOP and a shift away from participatory burn culture.

"The weekend warriors arrive late and take over... There seemed to be "more money" to turn radical self reliance into desert glamping." — Response #239

6. Commercialisation & pricing inequity

Concern that well-resourced international theme camps with lavish gifting, combined with rising ticket costs, are pricing out South Africans and shifting the event toward a festival vibe.

"I wish there had been more Afrika in AfrikaBurn. Too many overseas people and not enough locals... The overseas people with their TEMU outfits and Coachella vibes were a bit tiring." — Response #324



7. Increased MOOP / inconsistent Leave No Trace enforcement

Complaints ran in both directions: some felt MOOP was noticeably worse this year, while others felt LNT officers were inconsistent or heavy-handed during camp inspections.

"There was a lot more MOOP though and in general I think people could do a better job of taking care of the toilets." — Response #172

8. Non-consensual photography and filming

Frustration that people ignored no-photo wristbands and filmed others, including during sensitive or vulnerable moments, without asking.

"It bothered me A LOT how very, very few people respected my wristband requesting no video or photography, especially when I was hosting a workshop." — Response (photo consent)

9. Water point supply and signage

Several respondents reported water tanks near their camps standing empty for the entire event, alongside general requests for clearer signage.

"You mention your water points here but they were all empty the whole time. We were right next to one from the beginning, it never got filled, neither other ones that we looked at." — Response #271

10. Overcrowding, "Instagram culture" and gatekeeping

A cluster of related concerns: the event feeling bigger and more impersonal, an increase in influencer-style behaviour and phone use, and separately, complaints of people being turned away from spaces for reasons unrelated to safety.

"I witnessed gatekeeping, people being turned away, access being restricted in ways that had nothing to do with safety and everything to do with exclusivity." — Response #59



"THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU! I was a virgin, and wow, that was one magical experience. I am so grateful I got to experience this week in the desert with friends and strangers who have common values and a vision for a kinder more beautiful world. I have so many memories that I want to share with friends and family but it's hard to describe everything back in the default world. Maybe this is also what makes it special. I am very grateful for my friends who invited me and for the organization making this possible. Keep it small, keep it authentic, it was perfect. I hope to be back! ❤️"



THANKS

- ALL THE AFRIKABURN 2026 PARTICIPANTS.
- EVERYONE WHO TOOK THE TIME TO FILL IN THE SURVEY.
- ALL THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO SHARED THE IMAGES WE'VE USED IN THIS DOCUMENT (AND THE ARTISTS AND CREATIVES WHO MADE THE AWESOME THINGS TO PHOTOGRAPH).
- THE ENTIRE OPERATIONS TEAM FOR CREATING THE BEST AFRIKABURN EVER (SO FAR).
- THE MEMBERS AND DIRECTORS OF AFRIKABURN FOR THEIR CONTINUED TIME AND SUPPORT GIVEN TO THE ORGANISATION.
- WITZENBERG MUNICIPALITY, SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SERVICE.
- SAND MANDALA FOUNDATION, ART FOUNDATION ANIMAS, MAPULA TRUST.



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR ...



Art: Incy Wincy Spinnekop by John Innes. Photo: Eric Squires





STREETOPIA

28th November 2026

