

Bursary opens doors for Nkwentsha

LUVOYO Nkwentsha, 30, was a wild boy at Queen's College but getting a bursary to study engineering saved and changed his life.

Today, at 30, Nkwentsha, who is from a humble home in Whittlesea, has risen to become a manager in the public works department, and has been seconded to Joe Gqabi Municipality as the head of buildings.

"I did everything I needed to do as a young boy. I was such a party

animal I even failed Grade 11. I did not have much self-belief and did not see myself as an academic. But my father spotted the bursary advert, and I applied to study for a B Tech in Quantity Surveying at Nelson Mandela Metro University.

"When I got there, I knew this was what I wanted to do and I did an about-turn. I knew what I wanted to achieve."

After qualifying, he continued to

study part-time while working as an intern in the department and obtained his honours in quantity surveying from the University of the Free State. "I am more of an intellectual than I ever thought I was," he said.

By 2015 he was a permanent employed in the department heading up the ranks in management.

"If you believe in yourself the sky is the limit. But it won't happen overnight. You just have to work at it."