

The windmill crafters of Cradock and Middelburg

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Characteristics of crafters

1. Full-time job making windmills
 2. Average income: R800/month in high season, R300/month in normal time
 3. Unreliable clients when orders are placed.
 4. No income when it rains – lack of shelter is a major problem
 5. Lack of lock-up storage is a major problem – transport of goods
 6. Unreliable assistants – alcohol problems
 7. Problem of abusive sales agents in town
 8. Not organised, but work together well
 9. See themselves as an asset to Cradock and Middelburg
 10. Resentful of the Vocacom TV advertisement
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Materials used

- Wire (usually purchased from a formal dealer or informal sellers, or collected from the local dumping site)
- Steel (purchased from formal dealers)
- Iron
- Mirrors
- Paint (purchased from formal dealers)
- Thinner (purchased from formal dealers)
- Aerosol cans for replica motor car exhausts (collected from dumping sites)
- Aluminum drinks cans
- Plastic kid's motor car tyres

Problems:

High cost

Barely break even

Rain is a problem – wipes off the paint

Problems and policies

- Misguided assistance by governments – festivals
 - Need infrastructure and marketing assistance
 - Some assistance by private agencies, local guest houses and info centres – internet has helped a lot for one crafter
 - No municipal strategy or support
 - The trading centre in Cradock is too small
 - Problems of police harrassment
 - Government agencies and private sector are ambivalent – no coherent programme of support.
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