

By Sisonke Labase

Eastern Cape Today spoke to Mr Andrew Schaefer, Managing Director of Trafalgar Property one of the leading specialists in property management and property financial services in the country about what it takes to be a property manager.

How did you become involved in property management?

Trafalgar is a family business and the family link started me off. I also enjoy the property sector and combination of accounting, maintenance, building inspections and automated systems which are important components of property management.

Property is tangible and core to most people as a home or place of work.

What subjects should one study in high school?

Accounting, maths, economics and english are important and beneficial subjects.

Where does one study and how long is the course?

I would think any credible and accredited university would be fine. A three year Bachelor degree would be appropriate.

What special skills does one need?

Project management, good communication and accounting.

a property manager



What career and promotion opportunities are there?

There are fairly diverse and flexible options covering roles from portfolio managers, centre and building managers, accountants, debt collectors, maintenance administrators, brokers and letting agents.

What do you love about your job?

I love improving a property's condition and the financial performance.

What is the money and benefits like?

Its market related.

What is your typical day like?

Its busy, there is a high volume of client service demands and urgency due to managing people's homes and places of work.

Intensive high touch service scope entails high priority for productivity, accuracy, pro-activeness and good communication skills.

Typically combination of reviewing building reports, responding to service requests, site visits to buildings.