



■ From left, in front, are Annalisa Contrafatto, Catherine Collingwood, Andrea Couvert from Friends of Thandolwethu and chef Lapo Magni. At the back are restaurant waiters Benson Kambarami and Collins Mudzuzu.

## Funds raised to build township preschool

STAFF REPORTER

More than 40 people – including Italian Consul Emanuele Pollio, members of the local Italian community and overseas visitors, – attended a fund-raiser at a Newlands restaurant in aid of a project to build a township preschool.

Friends of Thandolwethu, a non-profit organisation, was established to support the preschool project in Samora Machel, and the organisation celebrated its fifth anniversary at the fund-raiser on Sunday September 8.

According to Annalisa Contrafatto, the organisation's chairwoman, two Samora Machel community leaders, Mzi Ndzuzo and Sbosh Mepeni, decided to establish a preschool inspired by the Reggio Emilia teaching method after visiting Italy on an exchange programme in 2017.

The teaching method, which promotes student-centred, experiential learning, was developed after World War II by Loris Malaguzzi and parents in



■ Pictured are Simonetta de Paoli, from Italian language school Societa Dante Alighieri; Nokubonga Mepeni, from Friends of Thandolwethu; and Alessandra Estrada Belli, from Societa Dante Alighieri.

the villages around the northern Italian city of Reggio Emilia.

The proceeds from the fund-raiser will be used to get the preschool project off the ground.

For more information about Friends of Thandolwethu, email [annalisa@friendsofthandolwethu.org](mailto:annalisa@friendsofthandolwethu.org) or visit <http://friendsofthandolwethu.org>