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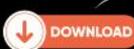
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Birth of My WaKI e-paper

MyFORESTS works incessantly, thinks, invents, develops and tests. It has produced many models ranging from the FoldPod, a the folding house to the first GeoGreenBags, inspired by the observation of fruit bats. We have also crafted CookWell, a robust cooking stove that conserves energy and opens up new possibilities for people. At My FORESTS, it is always the same rhythm: ideas emerge, they get tested, discarded, reassembled, until they exist - and work for a lifetime.

On September 13, 2025, Berner Zeitung, while lying on the table, next to a cup of coffee, a single word struck: e-paper. The coffee gets cold, while the thinker is captivated. The PC opens, the first sketches are made, texts are written. Again and again: write, copy, replace, regroup, research, confirm. Then it's off to the thinking chair: read, examine, doubt, check, add. "Have I forgotten something? Does the model fit?"

The thought is so strong that even shopping is almost forgotten because time flies. Back to the PC, back to the thinking chair - until the new model is ready, clear, checked and resilient.





This is how My WaKI e-paper was born that morning. Not by chance, not out of planning, but from the work of the think tank, which transforms observations into thoughts, thoughts into models and models into reality. She thinks ahead without borders and across generations: to pass on the knowledge that we need many new forests to stabilize the water balance in the regions of the world, to secure food, to maintain integral life and to multiply again so that rivers do not dry up, so that life remains and the future is possible.

The think tank has already shown how a crazy idea can become reality. For 24 children, for example, In 1983, two "bicycles" were built within eight weeks from the idea to completion – each six metres long, officially recognised, roadworthy with a license plate. And one of them was still in use 30 years later.



The never-ending story

Hands-on series in the WaKI e-paper. A new section is published every month, featuring new experiences and observations from school classes worldwide.

Chapter 1 : The Explorer's Vessel and the Mice

It was a cool, quiet morning in the small village of Niaqornat. Between colorful wooden houses and the dark blue of the Arctic sea lay the old research ship, which creaked and hung on the ropes.

Children scurried busily across the quay, helping to load heavy barrels of drinking water, sacks of flour, boxes of dried fish, bread and some fruit that had been brought from far away.

Thick woolen blankets were carefully stowed away, and an adventure sparkled in the children's eyes. The captain, a weather-beaten man with a gray beard, was more than a sailor. Some called him a magician. "Remember," he said, "the sea tests us. But if we are just, we will never be lacking." The journey began. A storm was brewing; the waves whipped against the hull. Anna hummed a song, and the sea calmed down.

Erik drew a constellation in the air, and the clouds released the North Star. Dolphins appeared and accompanied the ship. But down in the hold, the children discovered a problem: mice! They had nibbled on supplies. "They're stealing our food!" Someone shouted. Anna paused: "Maybe they're just hungry. If we share, it's enough for everyone."

The Old Linden Tree – Keeper of Time



In Switzerland, this Old Linden tree stands as one of the oldest in Europe. Its age is estimated to be between 800 and 1000 years. With its massive trunk and wide crown, it has become a symbol of endurance and peace.

In earlier times, people gathered beneath such trees to hold meetings, celebrate, or simply rest in the shade. Today, it reminds us how deeply life is connected to nature and that true strength takes time to grow.



From that day on, the children put aside some bread and fruit for the mice every day. The mice stopped stealing and even helped the children when they discovered a leak in the ship. Their loud squeaking warned in time so that the hole could be plugged. The captain laughed: "Those who share fairly win friends even among the mice."

Chapter 2: The Iceberg and the White Giant

After days at sea, the research vessel glided further north. The air became colder, the water darker and clearer. On the horizon, a huge iceberg suddenly rose, shining in the sunlight like a shimmering cathedral of glass and crystal. "Only a seventh protrudes over the water," explained the captain. "The rest is hidden underneath." The children were amazed, drew the shapes in their notebooks while the ice crackled and crackled. Seagulls circled loudly screaming above the ship.

Then Erik discovered a large white animal in the water: a polar bear. "Polar bears are great swimmers," said the captain. "They can swim for miles in the icy sea."

The bear glided calmly through the waves, looked up at the ship for a moment and then swam on as if to say: "You are guests in my kingdom." The children held their breath. The mice beeped approvingly, as if to say, "Don't forget us – we're researchers too." But the next test was already on the horizon: dark clouds.

And somewhere out there in Iceland, children were waiting who had sent an invitation: "Come to us. We will show you how we live with volcanoes and seek the light."

**To be
continued...**

NEXT **»»**

My WaKI Spotlight

In each issue, the e-paper presents two regional companies: what they produce, what training they offer, and which skills count. Short, concrete, connectable for students.

Keller Digital, Gümligen – works in the background of MyWaKI and the WaKI e-paper: operation, security, updates, support and further development. For school classes, there are insights into the heart of hosting, data protection, roles in IT (support, operation, development) and small practical tasks.



Apex-AI, Bern – brings intelligence into dialogue: translating, summarizing, moderating, researching. Teaches responsible use of AI (source checking, data protection, traceability) and shows new job profiles from prompt design to data preparation.



MyWaKI is an AI-powered chatbot that instantly answers your questions about nature. It connects real-world projects, science, and your curiosity—all via WhatsApp.

- No app needed, just chat via WhatsApp
- Available in over **100 languages**
- For children, schools and curious minds everywhere.
- Spotlight: WaKI has users in Cameroon!



Important Date or Events

- **What:** WaKI School Challenge 2025
- **When:** October 2025
- **Where:** Schools in India

Feature requests

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The Enigma

On the edge of the village is a garden that is not a garden – at least not in the classic sense. There are no ornamental beds in rows here, but endless rows of young shoots. It smells of damp earth, quiet sprinklers and resin. The nursery simply calls this place its kindergarten: a landscape of seedbeds, pots and protective nets in which hundreds of thousands of young trees and shrubs spend their first years of life.

If you come early in the morning, you will see the work begin, long before the sun rises over the first rows of poles. In the seed chamber, cool and dark, jars and sacks of seeds are waiting: acorns, rose hips, wild pears, ash trees, sweet chestnuts. Each seed carries an origin, a microclimate, a story. Nothing is left to chance: Where does the mother tree come from? What altitude, what soil, what drought did it withstand?



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The answer decides which young plants will later move into hedges, schoolyards and forests. Outside between the rows, the areas look like a green school class. The tiny ones, barely two fingers high, are still ducking under shading nets.

The two-year-olds are already standing upright, forming bark, getting to know wind and weather. An employee kneels between young oaks, checks the soil moisture with his fingers, brushes away loose soil, and checks fine traces of feeding. What thrives here will later provide shade, hold soil, slow down rain, feed insects but first of all, it's the inconspicuous that counts: a healthy root neck, strong sprouting, the right mix of water and rest. The nursery works according to a simple, patient principle: from grain to crown layer by layer. Some seeds need frost, others moisture for weeks, and still others need light pulses. What sounds like magic is craftsmanship. The gardeners call it stratification: the art of reminding nature with the help of cold, time and humidity that rest becomes growth. In this way, the robust, native plants that exist outside are created over months.

WaKI Quiz!!



How many annual rings does a tree have that was planted in 2001 and is harvested today?

Tip: Count the years and describe what annual rings reveal about dry and rainy years. Please post your answer in the WaKI dialog or send it in as a note with QR.

It is also a workshop for the future, because the years are getting drier, the summers hotter. That's why, in addition to familiar species, trees grow here that cope better with drought, form deeper roots, and sprout leaves later. At the same time, the native wild woody plants remain the backbone: blackthorn, hazel, hawthorn, and dog rose.

They feed pollinators, give shelter to birds and structure landscapes with living fences that hold fields, villages and cities together. The tree nursery sees itself as a partner of municipalities, schools and forestry companies.

When a class comes to visit, the tour does not begin with large machines, but with a handful of earth.

Children learn how easily a root ball dries out, how heavy a soil becomes after rain, how a tree breathes. In the end, they plant themselves a row of wild hedges on the school fence, three field maples on the playground, five willows by the stream. What they hold in their hands literally grows over their heads, in the coming years into coolness, sound and shadow.

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In the last hall of the site, labels, planting spades, hemp ropes are piled up; it is the intermediate realm before a plant leaves the nursery. Each delivery receives its passport: type, origin, age, recommendation for location and care.

Most of the orders are not major projects, but many small projects a village outskirts here, an inner courtyard there, a stream that is getting banks again. The sum makes the difference.

What looks like a line on the plan is a line of flower, berry and leaf outside a corridor for moths, blackbirds, wild bees. The Kindergarten of Trees is therefore more than just a business. It is a promise: that the future does not arise from monuments, but from the persistent care of the small. From a glassy seed. From a row in the bed. From the hand that pours. Anyone who walks across the grounds feels how much time is involved in every step and how much presence lies in patience. When the spray mist hangs over the rows in the evening and the young shoots shine in silver, it seems as if the surface is breathing at its own rhythm. Goods don't just grow here. A landscape is growing here – calm, polyphonic, resilient.

Almost all of it is in glaciers or deep in the ground. In the end, all that remains for us humans is a tiny remnant like half a glass of water that we have to share with the whole world. But even this half glass is getting smaller. Glaciers are melting, rivers are drying up, and groundwater is being pumped out faster than it can be renewed. On many coasts, wells are used so heavily that seawater penetrates into the subsoil. The wells have thus become unusable, and the salt water remains in the ground because humans have changed the natural groundwater flows.

At the same time, waste, fertilizers, and chemicals pollute many sources, while demand continues to increase due to the growth of the world's population. When forests disappear, the rain disappears, soils dry out, springs dry up, and suddenly what we need most is missing: clean water. Water is life – and every drop counts so that rivers do not dry up, wells do not become salty and future generations have a future.



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WAKI SCHOOL CHALLENGE 2025



After the successful Forest Marshals' Competition in Kenya in 2021, MyFORESTS is now launching the **WaKI School Challenge 2025** in India. The goal is to involve students, schools, and families directly, to spread awareness of WaKI and strengthen knowledge about forests, water, and climate.

Who is eligible to participate?

The WaKI School Challenge 2025 is open to all learners, divided into three categories:

- **Grades 1–5 (Primary):** Drawing or Poster, Short text (essay, poem, or story, max. 1 page), Short video (1–3 minutes)

Theme: “Our Nature – Our Treasure”

- **Grades 6–9 (Middle):** Drawing or Poster, Short text (essay, poem, or story, max. 1 page), Short video (1–3 minutes)

Theme: “Forests, Water, and Our Future”

- **Grades 10–12 (Secondary/High):**

Drawing or Poster, Short text (essay, poem, or story, max. 1 page), Short video (1–3 minutes)

Theme: “Forests, Water, Climate, and Technology.”

For more information on eligibility, what it takes to win and prizes, contact:

E-Mail: competition@mywaki.org

Websites: www.mywaki.org | www.myforests.ch | www.geogreenbag.org

WaKI is developed by MyFORESTS and connected with the GeoGreenBag (GGB)