



NPO 00312

# INSTITUTE FOR THE PROMOTION OF DISABLED MANPOWER NEWSLETTER

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## *Editorial...March 2018*

*Welcome to our March issue of iPDM NEWS for 2018.*

*We trust that by now you have settled into the new year and that the first quarter of 2018 has been good.*

*In this issue: a look at the WC Network on Disability and their road show to the Eden/Karoo District. We get to learn more about Ocean View APD and their activities. We are also proud to congratulate Marlene Le Roux who tirelessly champions disability in the Western Cape. Then Epilepsy WC shares with us their latest awareness activity and, lastly, we share a wonderful story about a charity organisation striving to serve those in need.*

*We have some notices of upcoming events on the last page, please be sure to check these out and diarise dates. As always, please keep sending us information you would like to share. Your contributions make this newsletter a success!*

## *Greetings from the Chairperson!*

It brings me great pleasure to invite you, Members of IPDM, to join me at the first Capacity Building Meeting for 2018.

From what I've seen so far in response to the planned meeting, I have no doubt that we all could benefit from the networking, intellectual discussion, and collaboration that is due to take place. I sincerely hope that we can come together for events like these and not only share our challenges but to celebrate our individual and collective achievements.

Recently, you all should have received a formal invitation to the March 2018 Capacity Building Meeting. As much as these kinds of events bring me great joy, it is with a heavy heart that I take this opportunity to say a public and heart-felt farewell to Fierosa van Rooi, a member of the Executive Committee, who has decided to step down due to other commitments. I know that I can speak on behalf of the whole Executive when I wish Fierosa well with her future endeavours and hope that she can, in some way, remain part of the IPDM community.

While I accept that we may not all be able to attend this upcoming meeting on March 15th, as is the nature of a busy, twenty-first-century life, that will not stop me from hoping to see you there.

Shanaaz Abdol,

IPDM Chairperson



## WESTERN CAPE NETWORK ON DISABILITY ROADSHOW



The Western Cape Network on Disability (WCND) embarked on a Roadshow to the Eden/Karoo District during the month of February 2018 to share with various organisations in the disability sector the changes made to the Constitution and the way forward for 2018 and beyond.



The message shared was that the Network is essentially moving away from being sectoral based to being more representative of all the districts in the Western Cape. Initially, the focus was on Cape Town because of being Cape Town based but the name indicates that it is a Network within the Western Cape so the need to branch out to reach other areas of the Western Cape was paramount.

The first stop was Swellendam. There is a group called Community Action Partnership (CAP) comprising a group of people with a broad spectrum of disabilities who produce and package chocolate truffles in four variants in partnership with *Montague Dried Fruit and Nuts*.

After Swellendam, there was a presentation to representatives from various organisations in the Oudtshoorn and George areas. The last presentation was to a group of Social Workers at their monthly Training session in George.



Membership is open to similarly-constituted forums in the Cape Metro, Boland, Karoo, Southern Cape, Swartland, and West Coast regions whose members are comprised of CBOs, NGOs, NPOs, and their affiliates who are active in advocating for the rights of, or providing services to, disabled individuals. Membership of the Network is R200 per organisation per year.

Two representatives from the Board of each member forum represent their region on the Network's Board. An Executive Committee, elected by the Board, manages the day-to-day affairs of the Network, meeting eight times per year. Work groups are appointed around specific issues.

For more information, contact us via e-mail: [info@wcdisability.org.za](mailto:info@wcdisability.org.za) or cellular phone: 061-602-7256.

## OCEAN VIEW APD

The Ocean View Work Group (now known as the OVAPD), was registered and began operating as a Protective Workshop in 1981. Starting with just six members they now have 58 physically and intellectually-challenged workers. They have a range of disabilities but they are all given work suited to their abilities. Transport is provided daily from their homes in Ocean View, Grassy Park, Retreat, Skaapkraal, and Steenberg.

### *Main business activity*

The OVAPD centre provides an environment with protected employment opportunities, vocational rehabilitation, occupational assessments, craft-making, second-hand shop, and a vast recycling operation (for various items). The centre assists in reducing the negative impact and damage that human beings have on the environment while providing activities which uplift and empower the individual members that work on the various projects.

### *Objectives*

The aim of the OVAPD centre is to:

- Provide training and occupation for adults with disabilities who are unable to enter the open labour market because of the nature of their disabilities or being unable to access public transport.
- Generate work opportunities which can be integrated with organised labour and the broader economy, while working to conserve our environment.
- Impact the lives of people with disabilities by generating motivation, increasing self-esteem, and economic independence.
- Provide a safe space to work while earning a small income to supplement their disability grants.

### *Main activities*

- 1) SAVING SEABIRDS FROM EXTICTION – SUPPORTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE FISHING PRACTICES



A project the team has been involved in since 2006 is the construction of devices to save endangered seabirds from unnecessary deaths during fishing practices. The devices, known as bird scaring lines (BSLs), are used to prevent the birds from accidentally entangling with baited fishing lines and cables which hold fishing nets in the water. BSLs are regulation in three major fisheries in South Africa and figures recently released by BirdLife South Africa show that in the hake trawl fishery these devices have reduced seabird mortalities by 95% and albatrosses (the most threatened group of birds) by a staggering 99%.

One member of the team, who had to give up fishing when he moved to Ocean View, is honoured to be able to make a difference to ensure there are albatrosses in the future. He says “I am so proud of myself [for making these lines], but I can’t feel that alone – we’re a team here!”

## 2) RECYCLING PROJECTS

One of the centre's largest projects is the preparation of clothing hangers for recycling. Another two recycling programmes that the OVAPD also takes part in are 1) a can recycling programme where they crush metal cans. 2) Twice a week they collect cardboard, newspaper, white paper, magazines, and common mix from the broader community which is not serviced by Waste Mart.



## 3) LIFE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The development of the members at OVAPD is not forgotten – they are given weekly dance and movement classes, even those in wheelchairs have a class tailored for them. Ladies from the community come to the centre to learn how to knit, producing blankets, knitted toys and woven wall rugs to name a few items.

For more information please contact Deborah Gonsalves [oceanviewapd@telkomsa.net](mailto:oceanviewapd@telkomsa.net)

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ONE OF OUR OWN

Marlene Le Roux is the current CEO of the Artscape Theatre Centre and was awarded the Commonwealth Point of Light for her ongoing voluntary work to promote the rights of individuals with disabilities. The ceremony took place in Cape Town and Marlene was presented the award on behalf of Queen Elizabeth, who is the current head of the Commonwealth.



Marlene grew up in Wellington and as a child contracted polio (a virus that may cause paralysis). Marlene has frequently been outspoken about the plight of disabled people in South Africa and has dedicated her life to community empowerment and disability rights. She worked closely with Archbishop Desmond Tutu to develop the *Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation*.

In 2015, Marlene was appointed to the position of Chief Executive Officer of the Artscape where she was the first woman and person of colour to fill the role since the inception of the theatre complex in 1971.

Touching on her own experiences of living with polio, she mentors company executives and government institutions on how to improve the working conditions of disabled employees.

## *CREATING AWARENESS AROUND EPILEPSY*



Epilepsy South Africa's Western Cape Branch ended its National Epilepsy Week initiative which involved public education and awareness programmes, with a Fun Day at its premises in Lansdowne last week. National Epilepsy Week was commemorated from Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February. The Fun Day on Friday 16th involved participation from businesses, exhibitions by various protective workshops and organisations, as well as entertainment and a 'potjiekos' competition.

Epilepsy South Africa is a human rights based organisation that renders developmental services to promote equal opportunities for people with epilepsy and other disabilities. The services include psycho-therapeutic interventions, economic empowerment programmes, advocacy programmes with a focus on human and health rights, social justice, and public education and awareness programmes.

As part of the National Epilepsy Week events, Epilepsy SA visited Ligstraal LSEN School in Paarl. A sports day was also held in Delft, and awareness talks were held at Lenteguur Hospital, and Khayelitsha Special School. Social worker Charlene Cloete said awareness about epilepsy is vital, as there are still myths and a stigma attached to people who have this condition. "If people don't have the proper information, they still judge. This awareness week was all about making epilepsy known to the community and which services we are rendering." "Today is just a wrap-up of the week's activities and the potjiekos competition is a nice thing to get people together," Ms Cloete said. She added that the City of Cape Town, the Western Cape Education Department, other organisations, as well as businesses, joined them during this time to help spread the awareness message even further.

Hazel Allies-Husselman

Athlone News

21 February 2018

## *THINGS ON WHEELS STRIVING TO SERVE THOSE IN NEED*

The Kamile Abbas charity organisation was started when my nephew was born paralysed from the waist down. I used to go to EROS school to see all the cerebral palsy people battling their way to be happy. As time went by I decided to put a smile on their faces by fixing their goods for them, installing TVs for them.

When my nephew was moved to Rosedon House with more elderly cerebral palsy I once again got involved in fixing items for them like fixing their swimming pool, right through to their computers. Around that time I started to feel a great need in assisting people and their needs, so we started feeding the poor. First our goal was 50 people then 100 and so it grew.

I received a letter from a school stating that if you give your child two slices of bread to school per day, to please add an additional slice for pupils that haven't eaten in three days. This letter touched my heart and so we decided

to go feed the schools -Grade R up to Grade 4. Currently we are feeding 600 pupils daily. In 2014 we fed pupils at 490 schools and our total feeding per month is 20 000 people including informal settlements.

Things On Wheels currently has 3 vehicles in their fleet

1. Relieve Vehicle
2. Mobile Kitchen
3. Mobile Clinic

I cannot do this on my own so I am thankful for all the donations and assistance I receive from kind and generous people/companies all over the country.

Kamile Abbas

## Notice Board

### **Invitation: IPDM Capacity Building Meeting**

"IPDM is having the first capacity building meeting for 2018 on 15 March simply titled 'Hello!' The idea is to encourage collaboration by having a 'Meet & Greet' where DPOs, NGOs, businesses, and government agencies could get to know 'who's who' in the disability sector. This would allow IPDM an opportunity to better gauge how we can be of service and assist our members. Furthermore, it would provide a platform for our members to engage and network with other organisations and businesses."

**Date: 15 March**

**Venue: Epilepsy WC, Cnr Motte and Govan Mbeki Roads, Wetton**

**Time: 13h00 - 15h00 (Registration 12h00)**

Cost: R15 members / R30 non-members

For more information please contact Cleone Jordan

[cleone.ipdm@gmail.com](mailto:cleone.ipdm@gmail.com) / 021-554 1344 or 084 554 0777

ELLIES ANNUAL WHEELWALK

WEDNESDAY 21 MARCH 2018

GREENPOINT PROMENADE

08:30 AM

For more information contact Kamile Abbas at [kamile.abbas@ellies.co.za](mailto:kamile.abbas@ellies.co.za)



**Save the Date**  
**International Tekkie Tax Day**  
**Friday 25 May 2018**

♥ Animals    ♥ Bring Hope    ♥ Children    ♥ Disability    ♥ Education

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