



# PSP NEWS 2<sup>nd</sup> TERM 2007

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Hullo, dear Colleagues

We have some lovely news: - within the next month we will welcome Nombulelo Baba to the PSP team as a Language Facilitator! Everyone will know her from READ, where she worked for 9 years. Nombulelo is a highly skilled resource person in Literacy, with excellent experience through her years at READ.

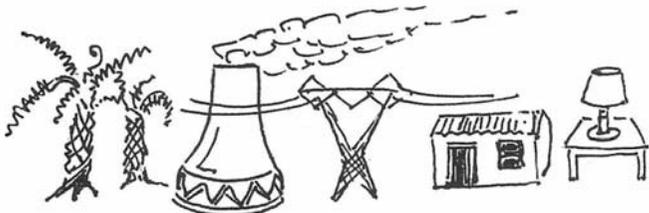
Of course the PSP has also recently lost a highly skilled team member, Vagriuah Kariem, who, also needed to spread her wings and fly further afield, as most ambitious, young resource people do.

As the schedule of exciting PSP activities that are planned in the different projects moves into action in the 2<sup>nd</sup> term, we hope teachers will continue to benefit from the PSP courses and school support. Please see the programme for TERM TWO included with this PSP Newsletter.

May you have a rewarding term!

With kind regards from the PSP team:

Mascha, Gcobisa, Nadiema, Ntsiki, Rose, Sandra, Viv and Nthabi (and from May, Nombulelo Baba)



The PSP's Cluster Project also looks at learner knowledge in Natural Sciences



This group of grade 7 learners from Delta Primary School (EMDC South) explained what they knew about Energy transformations from the sun to our homes.

## THE ZENEX / SPARK PROJECT GETS UNDERWAY

The PSP work in the three-year Zenex / Spark Project will start this term. Eight primary schools from the EMDC South have been selected to participate. The PSP will co-ordinate the primary school programme with Literacy and Numeracy support in the Foundation Phase as well as Maths and English support in the Intermediate Phase.

We have an excellent team of facilitators and resource people, who will work with teachers in a coherent way, which should make it very interesting and unusual. Our team consists of: Gabeba Agherdien and Agatha Lebethe from the Maths Education Primary Programme (MEPP) and Marlene Rousseau (well-known language practitioner) together with the PSP language resource people, Viv Kenyon and newly appointed Nombulelo Baba.

The Zenex / Spark Project also includes focused intensive support for FET English, Mathematics and Physical Science in five selected high schools as well as a variety of other aspects for teacher development and growth.

We are looking forward to exciting work with many teachers.



## EMDC NORTH JOINS THE PSP CLUSTER PROJECT

At least 50 teachers from 8 primary schools in and around Delft participated enthusiastically in the first PSP Cluster course for the EMDC North during the first term. The teachers chose to do this course on two Saturday mornings during the term. It is very pleasing to note that the EMDC is showing its interest and support for this work through active encouragement from the highest level and also CAs attending the courses! We were very pleased to have Mr Allen Stevens (Curriculum Advisor for the EMDC North) participating in the course.

Many teachers from the North EMDC are also attending the PSP's programme of ongoing courses in other curriculum areas such as Language, Mathematics, Social Sciences and Natural Sciences at the PSP.

The Cluster Project now works in five EMDCs and focuses on planning and assessment of the Natural Sciences curriculum, (Intermediate and Foundation Phase) and over the three-year period it will also provide support with implementation in the classroom.

This project is being externally evaluated and five outcomes are being carefully focused on and assessed. These are:

1. Teachers improve curriculum knowledge
2. Teachers improve their concept knowledge
3. Teachers collaborate to draw up good teaching and assessment plans
4. NS is taught as required by the NCS (through learner workbooks)
5. Learner NS concept knowledge at grade 6 level is checked.

We would like to thank the principal and teachers from Leiden Avenue Primary (Delft) for their warm welcome and co-operation with Nadiema Gamielien, the Science Facilitator for that Cluster. We hope the teachers will

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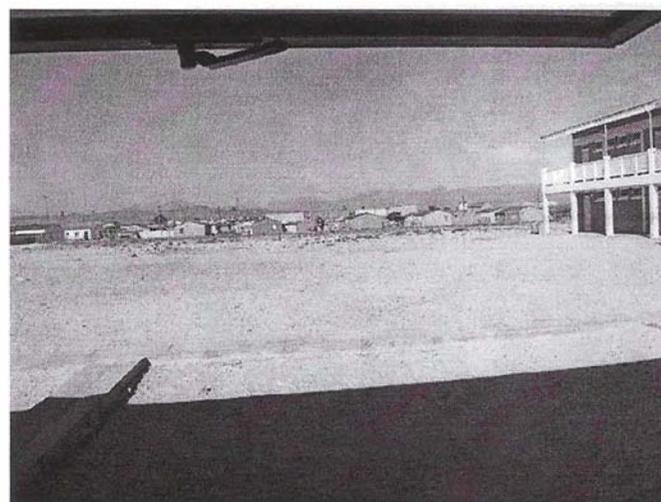
continue to benefit from this engagement as the project intensifies its support throughout the next 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  years.



Foundation Phase teachers planning the NS curriculum in the PSP North Cluster at Leiden Avenue Primary School, Delft.



Teachers engaged in active planning of the NS curriculum across the Intermediate Phase and into grade 7.



Leiden Avenue Primary School, Delft. This school hosted the PSP North Cluster course last term. Our thanks go to the principal, Mr Malgarte.

## PSP PRODUCES A DVD WITH EDUMEDIA

In one of its last statements last year, the National Learning Area Committee for Natural Sciences identified two areas of biggest need for *primary school teachers* in South Africa:

1. How to plan the curriculum
2. Understanding of the knowledge strand: Planet Earth and Beyond

The PSP therefore accepted the invitation from the WCED (through EDUMEDIA) to develop a DVD that addresses both issues highlighted above. Rose Thomas is leading this project.

Filming has started and will continue this term. The DVD hopes to provide a training resource on how to plan the curriculum and follow the process on to planning the assessment and also showing the lessons being implemented in class.

The support booklet has been developed and will accompany the DVD.

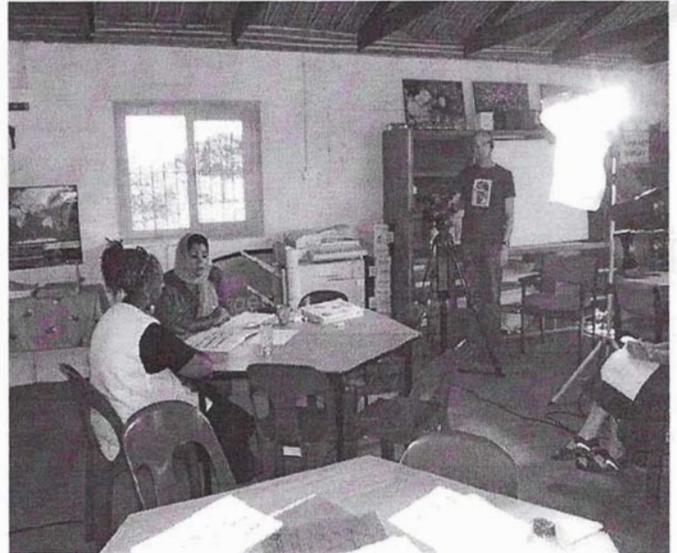
The full training package will consist of:

- The DVD on 'How to plan your NS curriculum', with the support booklet
- The example learning experience booklets for grades 4 - 7 on the strand Planet Earth and Beyond
- A set of African Skies Astronomy Cards grades 4 - 9.

It is our hope that this training package will be used in other education departments nationally, as this addresses an expressed national need.



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Filming has started on the DVD that the PSP is developing as a joint venture with the WCED through EDUMEDIA. Here the camera crew are Dirk and Evelyn from EDUMEDIA, and the spotlight falls on Ntsiki Mahote and Nadiema Gamielien!

Western Cape Primary Science Programme (PSP)

# Tools

*for planning your*  
Natural Sciences Curriculum



We welcome the wide use of these materials. Please acknowledge Western Cape Primary Science Programme © PSP (2007)

**This is the new booklet on How to plan your Natural Sciences curriculum. It will also be used as a support guide to the DVD.**

## AUTUMN IN THE SEASONAL WETLAND AT ESWP

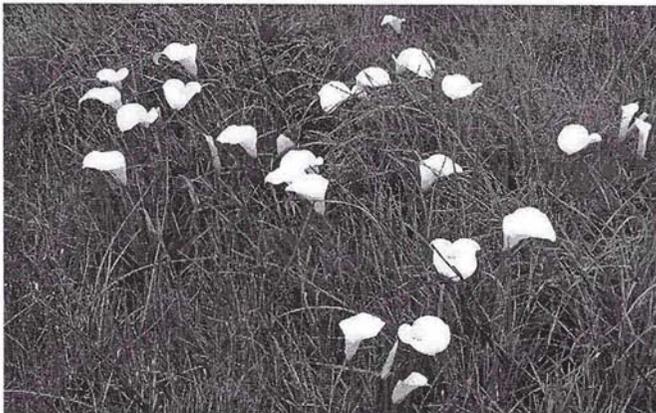
In the last PSP Newsletter we looked at the seasonal wetland during the dry season and we described how the 'wet-land' actually becomes a 'dry-land' during the hot, dry summer months. The lack of water in summer in the wetland results in grasses becoming more common. As the grasses produce seed, seed-eating birds like weavers, bishop birds and canaries are attracted to the area and they become the dominant birds in the 'wetland'.

With autumn upon us now and the winter rains approaching, the area will soon begin to change back to a true wetland. Some of the early rains we have had have sparked some new growth of sedge plants and some wetland plants. The Arum Lilies (inyibiba) will soon begin to flower and become a prominent feature of the wetland.

At this stage, waterbirds are still not seen because not enough rain has fallen to fill the wetland enough to attract the waterbirds like spoonbills, egrets, cormorants and ibises. These waterbirds like ankle-deep water in which to feed. Ducks and coots will also only start moving in once the water is deep enough.

Hopefully we will be able to report on this in the next newsletter when the winter rains would have fallen and filled the seasonal wetland.

Thanks to Doug Harebottle  
Avian Demography Unit, UCT



These arum lilies (Inyibiba) will become a feature of the seasonal wetland after the first winter rains have fallen. They have started growing already waiting for the rains to start.

## PROF PETER HEWSON WRITES A CASE STUDY OF THE PSP AT THE CTI

We were very fortunate to have Peter Hewson, a Professor of Science Education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the USA, spend some time with us. Here are a couple of extracts from his article which we will publish in full in our Annual Report.

"It was an intense and thoroughly worthwhile experience in which I came to know the members of the team. I saw the caring, professional way in which they worked with the participating educators and with each other."

"There are several reasons why I was very happy to use the occasion to showcase the work of the PSP. The first is that ... the PSP plays a vital role in meeting the needs of primary educators of science in the Western Cape. "The other reasons ... flow from the excellence of their work.

The full case study is available on the PSP website: [www.psp.org.za](http://www.psp.org.za)

### PSP LATEST MATERIALS

## FOOD AND FARMING



A classroom map • Starting with photographs  
Predicts from farms • Pictures and places  
Mapwork - a farm from above • Processing Grade  
Down a farm • Evaluation and assessment activities

### Grade 4 SOCIAL SCIENCES (Geography)

These materials were developed for a Primary Science Programme (PSP) course aimed at providing ideas for teaching the Social Sciences National Curriculum Statement - knowledge focus area: Food production in South Africa 2007.

Please acknowledge PSP. © K. Verheul



The latest Social Sciences booklet developed from a course with grade 4 teachers on **FOOD and FARMING**. It is available at the PSP and through Edumedia.