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## PSP NEWS 4<sup>th</sup> Term 2002

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**o, dear Colleagues!**

The PSP is nearing the end of two very significant eras:

### 1. *The Charlotte era*

Can you imagine a PSP without Charlotte? The sad news is that Charlotte is retiring from the PSP at the end of 2002, as she will be in London for most of next year. Charlotte has been with us for many years - we feel we are losing our Makhulu with her wonderful sense of humour and fresh ideas and especially her deep insight into language development. I personally will miss her input, encouragement and support very much. We all wish her a happy and exciting time in London - and further in her retirement.

### 2. *The Uluntu era*

After 10 years at Uluntu, the PSP is finally moving away from the Uluntu Centre, Guguletu in January 2003. We are moving to the Edith Stephens Wetland Park in Landsdowne Rd, near Philippi and the Nyanga Junction and opposite Manenberg. This has been a very difficult decision for the PSP - we love the office space and enjoy being in Gugs, so conveniently close to schools - but, the armed robbery of teachers was the last straw that pushed us to moving to a safer place for all concerned. We acknowledge the Uluntu Centre as having played a major role in the development of the PSP up to this point.

As these two eras come to their end, we enter new times, with new possibilities. We will keep you informed of our new address and contact numbers from January 2003. Enjoy this last term of 2002!

Mascha for the PSP team: Rose, Nontsikelelo, Vagriuah, Charlotte, Gcobisa & Zowi

### INVITATION TO THE PSP CERTIFICATION DAY

The PSP invites all teachers who qualify for certificates of participation in PSP courses (i.e. those who attended all the sessions of a course this year) to the PSP Certification Day celebration on **Tuesday 12 November at the Uluntu Centre, from 2:30 - 4:30 pm**. The teachers who participated in the Cluster work will also receive certificates.

The PSP will fax the lists of qualifying teachers to each school with an indication of how this occasion will be run. It might be different this year!

We congratulate all these teachers who have shown great commitment and dedication to improving the education of their learners. We look forward to seeing you there!

### THE PSP REQUIRES NEW STAFF

The PSP needs the services of a full-time science-qualified (with a degree in science) staff member from next year. This person should have:

- experience of teaching
- able to speak either Afrikaans and / or Xhosa
- able to identify with the communities that we work with.

If you think you'd like to work with a dedicated team in the PSP, please make a written application with your CV & references to the PSP, P.O. Box 529, Howard Place, 7450. Or e-mail to: [info@psp.org.za](mailto:info@psp.org.za)

Closing date: Monday 25 November 2002

### THE PSP IS MOVING TO NEW OFFICES IN JANUARY 2003

After many meetings and much deliberation, the PSP has finally decided to move its offices away from Uluntu. We are very sorry to leave this lovely office! But fortunately we have found a wonderful place for the PSP, which is:

- still very close to the schools that we work with
- a beautiful and safe environment
- it belongs to City Council

It is the Edith Stephens Wetland Park (ESWP), in Landsdowne Rd, near Philippi and the Nyanga Junction and opposite Manenberg.

The space available is smaller than at Uluntu, but we hope to spread out again, when they build more office space in the foreseeable future.

We will move in January 2003 and we will keep you informed about the new contact numbers.



**Edith Stevens Wetland Park**

### THE EDITH STEPHENS WETLAND PARK (ESWP)



The ESWP is a Wetland Park, which the City Council of Cape Town have transformed and developed from a previously unusable dumping site into a beautiful indigenous Wetland Park over the last 2 years.

A rare and ancient fern called the Isoetes Capensis was found to be growing there. So the site was declared a Core Conservation site of Cape Town - an environmentally significant location.

The ESWP is strategically situated in close proximity to many communities in the Cape Flats. It is surrounded by areas such as Guguletu, Philippi, Hanover Park, Manenberg, Athlone and Bonteheuvel as well as Mitchell's Plain. Khayelitsha is also only a few kms away.

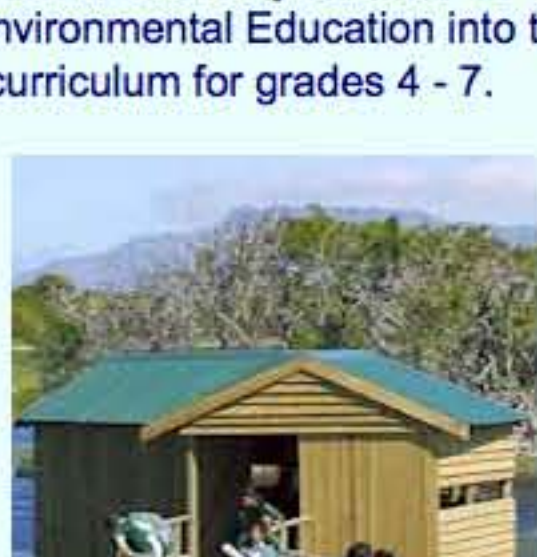
The park has the potential to become an exciting meeting place of different communities and many organizations that subscribe to its long term vision of promoting conservation, education and recreation.

Visit the website: [www.capeflatsnature.org](http://www.capeflatsnature.org)

### A NEW PROJECT FOR THE PSP: HANDS-ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT (HOEP)

The PSP is in the process of raising funds for a new project called "Hands-on Environment Project" (HOEP). If successful, this project will allow the PSP to invite teachers to bring their classes of learners for hands-on activities at the Edith Stephens Wetland Park (ESWP).

Together with teachers, we hope to plan some exciting activities, which will use the natural resources offered by the park. This will be a wonderful way for the PSP to help bring Environmental Education into the formal curriculum for grades 4 - 7.



### CELEBRATE OUR BIRDS WITH THE PSP AT THE EDITH STEPHENS WETLAND PARK

On Tuesday the 5th November, the PSP with a group of teachers will run bird watching activities in celebration of our birds as a pre activity to the Birding Big Day, marked on the Enviro Calendar.



Activities for that day will include bird watching as well as developing a bird identification chart for the Edith Stephens Wetland Park.

This bird watching field trip has been designed in response to teacher's requests for an outdoor 'nature watch' resource to be included in the PSP / Share-Net BIRD RESOURCE PACK.

In the near future, the PSP hopes to bring busloads of children from the surrounding Cape Flats and primary schools to the park for practical activities to promote and to foster interest in and care for our environment on a variety of environmental education topics.

### ARE YOU A MEMBER OF SAASTE?

The South African Association of Science and Technology Educators (SAASTE) was established at the national conference in June 2002 in Polokwane, Northern Province. Since 1996 no such recognized association existed in SA, and earlier, in 2000 it had been agreed by all interested parties to go ahead with establishing such a body. SAASTE was thus officially launched, its constitution accepted and also approved by the National Education Department. Each province has been mandated to establish a provincial branch of SAASTE.

The immediate role for SAASTE Western Cape can be to provide an opportunity for teachers to comment on the grade 9 CASS, CTA process, the matric examination question papers and the grade 12 CASS procedure. This information will be forwarded to the National Education Department.

All science & technology educators (pre-primary to tertiary) are welcome to join SAASTE-Western Cape.

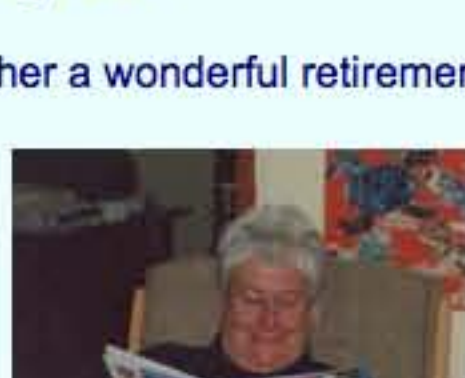
Find out more and send your e-mail address to: [trevberndaniels@hotmail.com](mailto:trevberndaniels@hotmail.com)

Trevor Daniels, Vice Chairman, SAASTE - Western Cape

### FOND FAREWELL TO CHARLOTTE

Charlotte du Toit is planning an extended stay in London next year and will thus be leaving the PSP at the end of this year. Charlotte came to Cape Town from the PSP in KZN in 1990 and has helped the PSP to achieve many significant milestones. Her original thoughts, creative ideas and especially her deep understanding of the theory and practice of how language development can be infused into science and the whole primary curriculum in a practical way are some of her major contributions to the growth and shape of the PSP today. Over the years we have all gained immensely from her insight and many, many skills.

We wish her a wonderful retirement!



**Charlotte du Toit leaving PSP**



Our thoughts go out to our colleagues in education and their families who are either living with or have died from AIDS related diseases.