



*November 2008*

## **Dear Valued Subscriber to the Epilepsy South Africa Newsletter**

As always, the end of the year has crept up on us silently and we are now only six weeks away from Christmas and seven weeks away from the New Year. After a year that was packed with activities, deadlines and achievements many of us are tired and in urgent need of a break. But before we can start thinking of a summer holiday break there are some end of year activities that must still be completed.

October and November months are being used to clean up, finalize outstanding matters and plan for the new year ahead. Within the National Office we physically started cleaning up, by archiving old files, revision of our central filing register and throwing away any unnecessary material. We also focussed on the preparation, completion and submission of many funding proposals, including our proposal to the National Lottery Distribution Trust Fund. We truly hope that our submissions will lead to positive financial support so critically needed for our 2009/2010 financial year programmes and activities of our worthy cause.

The National Office personnel have also started with Branch visits in October 2008, which will only be completed in February 2009. We want to thank those visited so far for the wonderful and lucrative time spent with them. These Branch visits highlighted the positive growth and achievement in our organisation. Not only have our programmes grown, but the developmental principal on which we base all our work is clearly visible and show results.

As part of good governance within Epilepsy South Africa the National Board is in the process finalizing changes to the organisational constitution and regulations. We hope to complete this process by March 2009, by when we will adopt our new constitution. This will lead to even better governance practices within Epilepsy South Africa and more cohesion in service delivery by all entities within Epilepsy South Africa.

I therefore want to encourage all personnel of Epilepsy South Africa to push hard and stay steadfast until it is time to take our break, it is really just around the corner. Thank you guys for also realising that epilepsy does not take a break.

Noëline de Goede

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## Mick Leary Educational Trust, for people with epilepsy



(by Noëline de Goede, picture includes some Trustees and previous bursars)

30 September 2008 was the closing date for applications towards the Mick Leary Educational Trust that provides bursaries to individuals with epilepsy for study at a tertiary educational institution. The Trust is named after Professor Mick Leary, a former Epilepsy South Africa Chairperson, Paediatric Neurologist, and epilepsy expert. Any individual with epilepsy, who has been accepted for study at a tertiary educational institution, may apply.

Epilepsy South Africa and the Mick Leary Educational Trust hope to create a lasting relationship with the recipients of bursaries. Although recipients will not be required to pay back the bursary, the Trustees expect that on completion of their studies, anyone receiving grants from the Trust will involve themselves in the activities of Epilepsy South Africa. Mick Leary Educational Trust Bursars are expected to do voluntary work for a minimum of one week per year at their closest Epilepsy South Africa branch. The Mick Leary Bursar should also attend a nearby Branch Annual General Meeting and, if possible, the National Annual General Meeting. Furthermore, in an attempt to help facilitate the Trust's aim of creating role models the Trust may request that Bursars have their stories published in Epinews (Epilepsy South Africa's national publication) and that they visit and advise more people with disability at Epilepsy South Africa residential homes or employment projects.

This year, like all the previous years, we have received many applications and the Trustees will thoroughly peruse each application and then decide on awarding bursaries for the 2009/2010 financial year. Any person who missed the deadline of 30 September 2008 may send their application for a bursary in before 30 September 2009 for the 2010 / 2011 financial year.

We are also very excited to announce that the Mick Leary Educational Trust will celebrate its 10 year anniversary in 2009 and we request that all previous bursars of the Mick Leary

Trust contact Ruth Gabier at tel: 021 – 4473014 in order to update their contact information to ensure that we can invite you for this big celebration.

As the students finish their end of year exams we hope that they studied hard and achieve their full potential and we look forward to include new students in our bursary programme in 2009.

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### **Huguenot College Students, does it again for Epilepsy South Africa Western Cape Branch**

Klapmuts community event:(by Ruth Nugent –Social Worker)

An awareness raising event was hosted in Klapmuts by the 3rd year community development students. The event was well supported by the community and key role-players in the event included the ward councilors, community development worker, Foundation for Community Work family in focus program, the local community police forum as well as SAPS Klapmuts. The event was well attended with a total of 300 children and adults having attended the event. All present were able to take part in fun activities which included talent shows and games. There was awareness talks on epilepsy, a drama on seizure management and quiz all centered on raising awareness of epilepsy in Klapmuts.

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### **Disability workshop: Friday, 3rd October 2008**

The 3rd year Social Work students organised and facilitated a workshop in Wellington that was aimed at raising awareness about people with disabilities' potential and abilities as a viable workforce both in protective workshops and the open labour market. As part of the programme for the day Protective workshops were able to showcase their facilities and production abilities. The two guest speakers spoke on disability in the workplace and protective workshops. The workshop was attended by 30 people in and around the area and great networking took place.

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## Handmade Christmas Products!



We are heading toward the Festive Season and want you to consider purchasing one of these extraordinary handmade products. Buy it and share our cause with your colleagues and friends!

Our residents and workers at Epilepsy South Africa Gauteng spent valuable time and talent to make these and we proudly present it to you. It will not only support our great cause but also remind you of us, and motivate you to reach your own potential!

Contact Drikie Snyman at 021 447 3014 or [funddev.no@epilepsy.org.za](mailto:funddev.no@epilepsy.org.za) to order. (view more products at <http://www.epilepsy.org.za/home/view.php?page=24>)

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## A jewel of a volunteer, Epilepsy South Africa Free State & North West



Charlene van Heerden is a small town girl with a big heart that is a good match for her talent. She finished school last year, but does not hesitate to learn from what life has to offer her. She will even put herself out there to learn, as seen from her wonderful offer of time and self when the Epilepsy South Africa Free State and North West Branch , arranged a party for the residents. She sang the night away and the residents showed us that pure enjoyment still exists. What a wonderful gesture toward a beautiful event that happens not once, but twice a year!

A local farmer, Kerneels Steyn, Henmar Slaghuis, Koepel Vleismark en JC Stores also contributed toward the event by donated some meat to fill those tummies that gave everything on the dance floor. A group effort to create a lasting memory for people that appreciates a smile coming their way! Thank you very much!

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### **News to come in November:**



5 November : Cheff's Cookout in Dulstroom with Elsabie Zietsman as the judge

6 November : Jonty Rhodes talking to Delta Park, as another ambassador for Epilepsy South Africa. A definate example of someone that is turning obstacles into true potential!

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### **Diaries these events:**



"Tune in to listen to our rocking ambassadors for the organisation, doing an interview on our national radio station RSG. They will even do an acoustic version of some of their songs"

Date: 17th November 2008, Time: 22h00 on RSG

"Celebrating Disability with dignity": Epilepsy South Africa in collaboration with Rehoboth Age exchange and the Department of Social Development Athlone cordially invites you to attend a Disability Awareness Day!

Date: 18th November 2008, Time: 9am-1pm (lunch will be served)

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Visit our website or to contact any of our Branches or National Office.  
Website: [www.epilepsy.org.za](http://www.epilepsy.org.za)

**EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA – National Office, Cape Town**

PO Box 73  
OBSERVATORY  
7935  
Tel: (021) 447-3014  
[info@epilepsy.org.za](mailto:info@epilepsy.org.za)

**EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA**  
South Cape/Karoo  
PO Box 107  
KNYSNA  
6570  
**Tel: (044) 382-2155**  
[southcape@epilepsy.org.za](mailto:southcape@epilepsy.org.za)

**EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA**  
Western Cape  
PO Box 24573,  
LANDSDOWNE,  
7779  
**Tel: (021) 703-9420**  
[wcape@epilepsy.org.za](mailto:wcape@epilepsy.org.za)

**EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA**  
Mpumalanga / Limpopo  
PO Box 55,  
DULLSTROOM,  
1110  
**Tel: (013) 254-0161/2/3**  
[mpumalanga@epilepsy.org.za](mailto:mpumalanga@epilepsy.org.za)

**EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA**  
Gauteng Branch  
Regional office  
PO Box 1070

**EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA Free**  
State & North West  
Branch  
PO Box 167

**EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA**  
Kwa Zulu Natal Midlands  
Branch  
PO Box 2165

SPRINGS  
1560

**Tel: (011) 816-2040/57**  
[gauteng@epilepsy.org.za](mailto:gauteng@epilepsy.org.za)

PARYS  
9585

**Tel: (056) 811-5959**  
[freestate@epilepsy.org.za](mailto:freestate@epilepsy.org.za)

PIETERMARITZBURG  
3200

**Tel: (033) 394-1041/8**  
[kzn@epilepsy.org.za](mailto:kzn@epilepsy.org.za)

PLEASE CONTACT 0860 EPILEPSY (0860 374537)  
TO GET IN CONTACT WITH YOUR CLOSEST BRANCH OF EPILEPSY SOUTH AFRICA

This is the electronic newsletter of Epilepsy South Africa, compiled by the National Office.