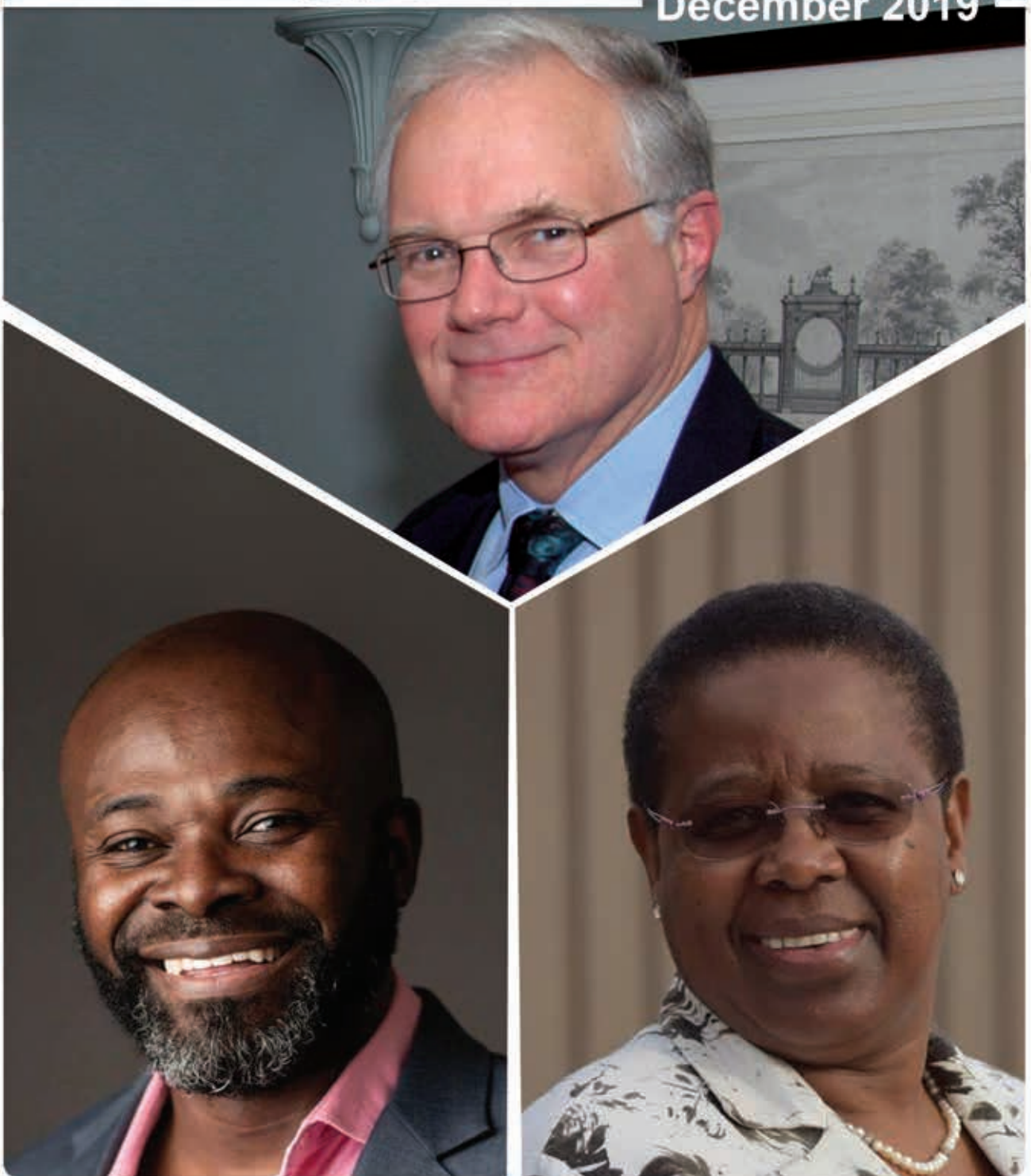


ST. DUNSTAN'S *Review*

December 2019



Message from the Chairperson



Dear colleagues and friends

Year end, the summer season and the end of an era (or two) have come all too quickly.

We wish our long serving chairman Brian Figaji all the best in his retirement. Brian, we shall miss your sage counsel and your quiet, experienced leadership.

Joining us on the board, we welcome Veliswa Baduza and Yaw Peprah who bring their own special talents, perspectives and insights.

We particularly miss dedicated board member, Reinette Popplestone, who guided and inspired the board with her bubbly enthusiasm and zest for life for just as long as she was able. She has left us with a lasting memory of her empathy, love and compassion, and her good humour. Our thanks go to Jeremy Opperman for his touching tribute to Reinette included in this issue.

Among our members we congratulate Hennie Hechter on his 60th birthday. We look forward to hearing more about how Peet Botha is turning his talents and creativity to pottery. George De Nobrega and Zuko Mtwana represented St Dunstan's at Remembrance Day gatherings in Pretoria and Cape Town. Jose Barnardo and family have relocated to Pretoria.

Sadly our annual Long Cane Rally was cancelled although we rejoiced in the pleasant and most welcome October rains coming to the Western Cape. The drought appears to be spreading into surrounding regions which makes us especially mindful of the blessings that fresh water brings.

Our office team, under the guidance of our CEO Gareth Morgan, together with Andrea, Linda, Noretta and Suritha, keeps us functioning smoothly in all our endeavours. Thank you for your continued support and for all the emails, telephone calls and enquiries that you handle with such ease, patience and kindness.

Key to our mission and purpose at St. Dunstan's are our relationships. We value the strong bonds forged between us based on empathy and understanding and especially mutual respect and trust. We shall continue to look very carefully at what types and levels of support we can offer our beneficiaries and families. We would like to be available to do so long into the future, whatever the future may hold for all of us.

As we relish a Rugby World Cup victory achieved by an all-South African team. We recognise that with skilful and determined players coupled with a dedicated coaching team, we are indeed stronger together. Our boys in green and gold are capable of producing mind-blowing moves and team work against the opposition.

On behalf of St Dunstan's I wish you a truly blessed festive season with your friends and families, and good health and happiness for the New Year.

Dave Mitchell

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Tribute to Reinette Popplestone

BY JEREMY OPPERMAN

Never pompous, her input was often augmented with deadpan wit, which frequently found its way to the heart of the matter and always with more than a touch of empathy.

Her expertise drawn from a lifetime of Braille proficiency and more than a dozen years as head of the Disability unit at UCT, allowed Reinette to be an undisputed leader in blind education which we were only too happy to tap into for our Ian Fraser Bursary Fund activities.

She adored the reunions and was always a keen participant - whether socialising with the beneficiaries or getting stuck into activities - her unmistakable laugh would often infect others around her.

Never a stranger to cancer, which cost Reinette her sight and her own infant son, she never complained, opting rather for a wry commentary, as the disease began to plague her in ever more serious episodes. It finally caught up with her on 25 July 2019, she was 67 years old.

Reinette leaves behind her husband Tony and her daughter Kirsty. Those of us in the St Dunstan's family who called her a friend will miss her dearly.

In a recent board meeting and at a particularly difficult and challenging point of the meeting, I found myself looking at the seat opposite mine. I well knew what Reinette would have thought and said on the subject at hand, only to remember, that she would not be sitting across the table from me any longer and providing her unique take on it and the hundreds of other issues that make up a typical St Dunstan's board meeting.

Although she never made an issue of the fact that she was the only female voice on the board, or that her blindness from birth meant that she was one of two blind directors; she was quietly assertive, lending her opinions an unassailable gravity.



Remembrance Day 2019

11 November 2019



Remembrance Day (also known as Poppy Day) is a memorial day observed in Commonwealth member states since the end of the First World War to remember the members of their armed forces who have died in the line of duty. Following a tradition inaugurated by King George V in 1919, the day is also marked by war remembrances in many non-Commonwealth countries.

Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November in most countries to recall the end of hostilities of the First World War on that date in 1918. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month is when the treaty came into effect and signals the point when guns fell silent and World War I ended.



While the day began after World War I, all the celebrations serve to remember all those (and animals) who have died in wars including World War II, the Falklands War, the Gulf War and conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. On Remembrance Day, ceremonies are held at war memorials, cenotaphs and churches throughout South Africa and abroad.



Above Middle: Zuko Mtwana

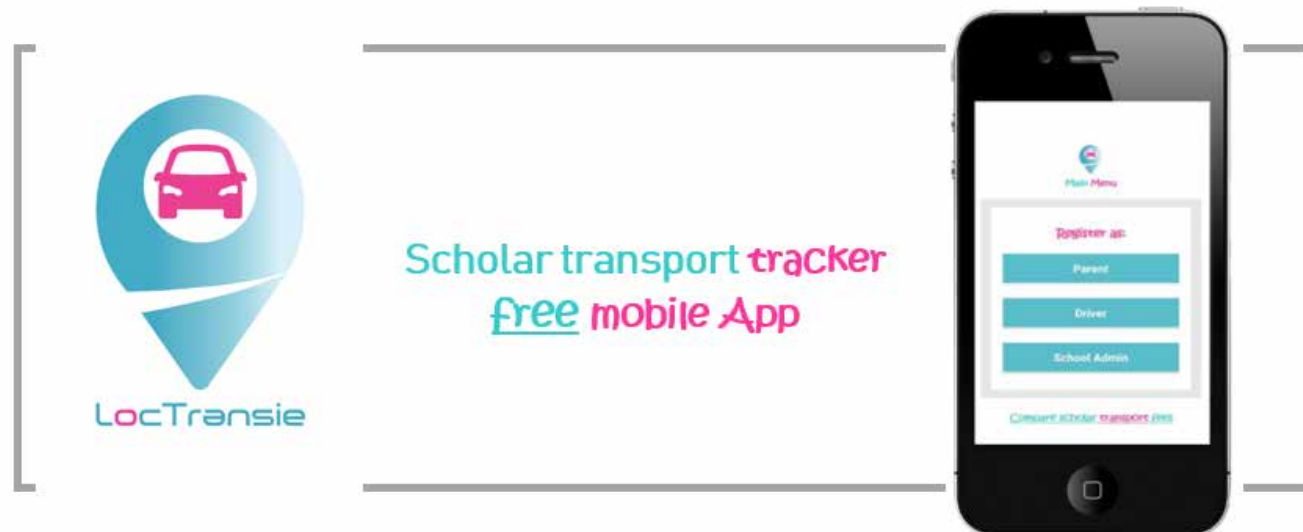


Above: George De Nobegra.

This year George De Nobegra and Zuko Mtwana represented St Dunstan's in Cape Town and Pretoria respectively.

HALALA: SA BUSINESSWOMAN DEVELOPS APP THAT LETS YOU TRACK YOUR CHILD

by: Claudio Leng, Briefly.co.za



- Tshidi Morabi created an innovative app to help parents and schools track scholar transport vehicles
- LocTransie provides parents with live updates of their children's whereabouts to and from school
- The Tembisa-born businesswoman is a serial entrepreneur and launched a series of small business prior to the launch of her IT company, Ginini Consulting

One of the biggest fears a parent has is the thought of their child going missing.

Parents who aren't able to pick up and drop their children off at school are generally at the mercy of scholar transport companies.

However, Tshidi Morabi has developed an app to alleviate some of the concerns that parents and schools may have.

The Tembisa-born businesswoman created LocTransie, which tracks the transport vehicle and provides updates in real time.

Parents and schools are now able to pinpoint the whereabouts of the scholars at all times, from the moment the vehicle collects them.

Morabi explained, "I identified a niche in the market that needed immediate action."

IOL reported that it hasn't always been plain sailing for Morabi.

The serial entrepreneur started numerous failed ventures since the age of 16, when she started a hair salon.

Her previous businesses include a laundromat, video hire shop and juice manufacturing company.

However, she learnt from those experiences and utilised her 20 years of experience in the IT sector to start Ginini Consulting - her own IT company.

Briefly.co.za learnt that LocTransie is a proudly South African app as well.

Morabi said, "Many local entrepreneurs have been burnt by creating an app very cheaply overseas in India or Bangladesh, only to find it impossible to refine or update the product once it has been launched."



Tshidi Morabi with Dion Chung

Beneficiary News



Peet making clay pot plant holder.



The clay pot plant made by Peet

Peet Botha has been spending time with an Occupational Therapist. He is enjoying a new creative outlet making clay pot plant holders and plates.



Jose in front of his house in Pretoria

Jose Barnardo and family moved from Vryburg to Pretoria in October 2019. The whole family is very excited about their new home and is slowly settling into the new surroundings. Jose is looking forward to experiencing the fresh and different opportunities that the change in location will bring.

They are incredibly grateful to St Dunstan's for assisting with their relocation and keeping the family together.



Kobus Strydom

St Dunstan's joined in celebrating the wedding of Chantelle; Kobus and Magriet Strydom's daughter, who tied the knot in October in a spectacular ceremony which saw Magriet conducting part of the wedding ceremony.

Congratulations to the beautiful couple.

2019 GAUTENG BRAILLE CHESS OPEN

By George De Nobrega



The 2019 Gauteng Braille Chess Open was held on Saturday 26 October 2019 and was hosted in the judo hall at 4 Sport Street, Roodepoort. Twelve visually impaired players took part in an over the board four round Swiss tournament with a time control of 60 minutes a side.



2019 Gauteng Braille Open

Last update 26.10.2019 17:45:03, Creator/Last Upload: south african chess fed. (licence 19)

Starting rank

No.	Name	FideID	FED	Rtg
1	Grove Izak		RSA	1395
2	Grib Johannes		RSA	1286
3	Brown Sam		RSA	1256
4	De Nobrega Florindo		RSA	1177
5	Roberts Mario		RSA	1064
6	Joubert Willem		RSA	1061
7	Strydom Brett		RSA	1016
8	Joubert Jacques		RSA	872
9	Swanepoel Karel		RSA	852
10	Grib Jessica		RSA	791
11	Smal Reginald		RSA	715
12	Steenkamp Brandt		RSA	548
13	Swanepoel Erens G F		RSA	0

On arrival the players were treated to coffee and snacks before international arbiter, Fransie Grobbelaar, announced the pairing for the first round. A lunch break after round 2 had the players make short work of a buffet of delicious pizzas.

Everyone agreed that it was a very successful tournament with ideal playing conditions and a good show of sportsmanship between competitors. St. Dunstaner George De Nobrega achieved third place in the tournament.

After prize giving players and helpers socialised around a braai with drinks sponsored by Backup Spares.

Long Cane Rally 2019

It was with a heavy heart that St Dunstan's was forced to cancel the Long Cane Rally 2019. Sadly, the weather didn't play ball and due to concerns about the health and safety of participants the 2019 event was cancelled.

The various sponsors who stepped up to support this year's event were incredibly understanding and pledged their support for the 2020 event. A big thank you goes out to the following sponsors for their continued support:



The winners each won tickets to the Two Oceans Aquarium



A lucky draw of a few of the sponsored items was held at the office and goods distributed to the respective winners.



Goodie bags were given to participants



Melri Nel receiving her Two Oceans Aquarium tickets as a prize.



Moeniera Hendricks, receiving her prize from Madrassa principal, Sheikh Shaheed August.



20 year old Johanna Pretorius has been described as a talented athlete in the long jump and sprints. Johanna is classified as a T13 athlete; which is a class of athletes who are visually impaired. She started competing in athletics in primary school and lost her vision in grade 7 due to Stargardt disease. After losing her vision, she continued with sports and had to make peace with the impact on her performance.



Johanna and Chane at the World Para Athletics held in Dubai, Nov 2019



Johanna and Chane Hendricks



Johanna was also named Maties Parasport Woman of the Year 2019

In 2012, Johanna moved to Stellenbosch to begin her studies in Sports Science. Her passion for sport is the reason for choosing this particular course. She also started a Paralympic Training Group at Stellenbosch University to further develop her athletics career. Her ability to pay it forward in sport and coach young athletes means the world to Johanna.

Most recently Johanna won a bronze medal at the 2019 World Para Athletics Championships held in Dubai in November. One of her students, 17 year old Chane Hendricks, also completed in the Games and achieved fifth place in the T13 100m. He did exceptionally well competing against world record holders. Chane's achievement is a suitable addition to Johanna's own medal. With all of her experience and growth throughout her journey she will certainly continue to achieve victory in more ways than one.



The team who represented South Africa during the World Para Athletic Games held in Dubai in November 2019

St Dunstan's would like to welcome both Veliswa Baduza and Yaw Peprah onto the board. Both Veliswa and Yaw have been appointed directors of St Dunstan's and trustees of the Ian Fraser Memorial Bursary Fund and the John & Esther Ellerman Memorial Trust.



Veliswa Baduza brings many years of experience gained from holding senior leadership positions in the public and private sectors as well as in non-profit organisations. She has served in the public sector as Executive Director: Operations for Iziko Museums, in Government as the (first-ever) Director-General for the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities and as COO for the Department of Arts and Culture.

Veliswa is currently providing an organisational turnaround leadership service to TEKANO, a non-profit organisation set up to create a more equitable society with improved health

statuses across all population groups. She is also involved as a non-executive director and trustee in organisations such as the West Coast Fossil Park Trust, Africa for African Women and the Cape Town Diocese of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa to name but a few.

Veliswa is seasoned in corporate governance and holds a wealth of experience in business management as well as organisational leadership. This has provided her with the ability and expertise to work with people from all walks of life and across diverse cultures.



Yaw Peprah is a chartered accountant and currently heads the Business Office of WESGRO. Yaw is passionate about education and providing opportunities for students who are unable to enter tertiary education due to lack of funding.

Through the Silibona Educational Trust, Yaw has been able to assist with funding and mentorship for numerous disadvantaged students at several tertiary institutions across South Africa.

He is currently involved in various capacities with organisations such as the Aurum Institute (a health impact organisation, where he serves on the audit committee), the Soweto Marimba Youth League and UCT's Postgraduate Enterprise Management course.

We look forward to working with both Veliswa and Yaw at St Dunstan's and wish them all the best.

Happy Holidays

Braille Writer Your Braille Writer

I'll write from right to left
while you read me from left to right
our hearts meet and we'll never say goodbye
you are my precious gem in this world of change
remember, I am your hope and strength whatever happens
I'll show you the light
a great assurance
that you'll be alright,
like a bright lamp
just carry me
I'll show you the path
giving you lovingly
the desire of your heart
just touch the dots
like switching me on
then I'll show you that life is good and the world is so beautiful.

Date Written: September 18, 2012 by Leonora Galinta

Note: I lovingly composed this poem dedicated to exceptional kids especially the V.I. or visually impaired ones. I tried to make a lamp shade shaped poem as I was inspired by the manual braille writer I have here. I used this when I learned braille writing for V.I.

Copyright ©: https://www.poetrysoup.com/poems_poets/poems_by_poet.aspx?ID=28495 Galeo DS | Year Posted 2012



Annual General Meeting - TBC
Long Cane Rally – TBC
Reunion – TBC



The St Dunstan's office will be closing for the holidays on Thursday, 19 December 2019 and will re-open on Wednesday, 8 January 2020.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and a New Year filled with peace and happiness.

The St Dunstan's team.

ST DUNSTAN'S

Association for South African War-Blinded Veterans

INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION NOT FOR GAIN

(Co. Reg. 1944/17587/08)

Vereniging vir Suid-Afrikaanse Oorlogs-Verblinde Veterane

Board Of Directors:

D. Mitchell (Chairman)

J. Langford

L. Masterson

J. Opperman

Y. Peprah

V. Baduza

Chief Executive:

G. Morgan

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Have you thought of leaving a lasting gift?

St. Dunstan's, like many other associations, rely heavily on bequests/legacies to carry out its work. A simple gift can transform the lives of those who we support. You could help St Dunstan's, The Ian Fraser Memorial Bursary Fund or The John and Esther Ellerman Memorial Trust, continue in its tradition of helping people come to terms with their blindness and achieve a level of independence in their daily lives. In this way you can literally leave the world a better place. Should you require confidential assistance in adding St. Dunstan's to your Last Will and Testament, please feel free to contact our chief executive officer, Gareth Morgan, who will be glad to be of assistance to you.



Caring for War-Blinded Veterans



Assisting Blind and V.I. Students

Trust No.: 144/7



Providing
Orientation & Mobility Training

Trust No.: 92/4