

**JEWISH NATIONAL FUND**  
**WALTER SISULU ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE**

# *Annual Report 2007*

**Jewish National Fund Walter Sisulu Environmental Centre**

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**Contents**

**1. Staff and Staff Development**

**Introduction to Staff members**

**Staff training and development**

**School Environmental Policy**

**2. Environmental Education Programmes**

**2.1 Programmes for learners**

**Development of new programmes:**

**School visits**

**2.2 Programmes for educators**

**SEED**

**Eco Schools**

**Drama Training**

**3. Special Events**

**4. Partnerships**

**5. A last word on 2007**



**Nick**



**Christa**



**Valle**



**Abe**



**Naome**



**Maria**

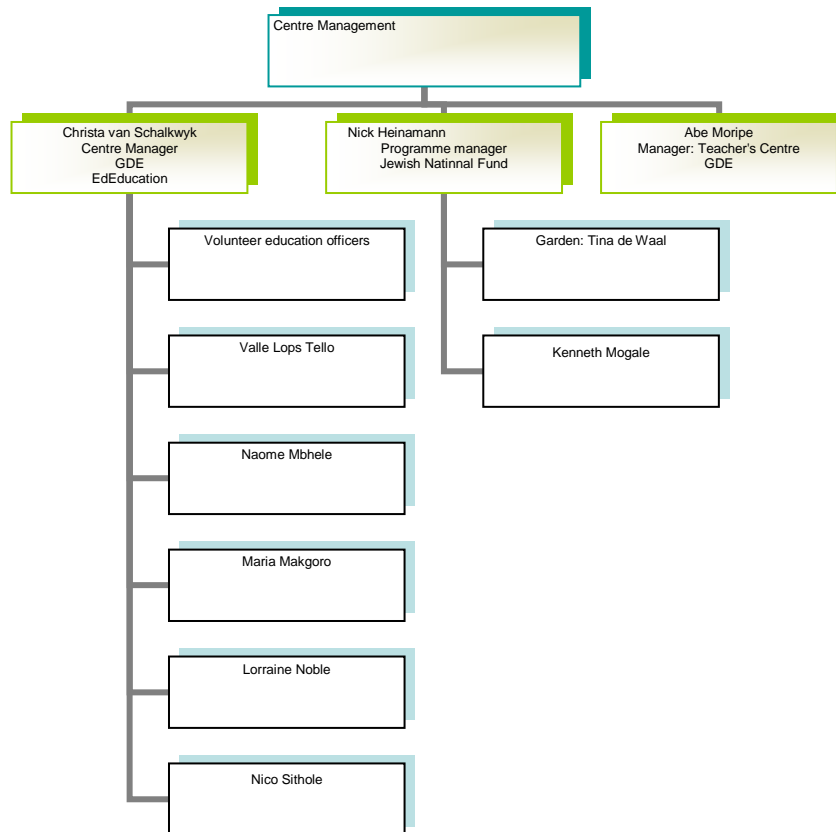


**Nico**



**Tina**

## 1.1 Introduction to staff members



*We say goodbye to Tina de Waal and thank her for keeping our garden in such a committed way and wish her good luck for where she will establish herself next year.*

## 1.2 Staff training and development

Christa	Eco Schools Workshop at Howick 21 to 24 January 2007 Completed an Assessors Course that was accredited by the SAQA Attended World Environmental Education Conference in Durban from 2 to 6 July
Volunteers	We started training six new volunteers of which only three completed the training. Five volunteers worked at the centre during the year.  <b>Further training</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Questioning and facilitation skills</li><li>• Training by Rand Water on the Water Wise song</li><li>• Participated in the drama training presented to Arts and Culture educators</li><li>• Volunteers also attended the Permaculture training for gardeners</li><li>• Ongoing enrichment programmes were presented throughout the year</li></ul>

## 1.3 School Environmental Policy

We completed and submitted an Eco Schools Portfolio for 2007 and kept our green flag status.

We made a big improvement by purchasing new colour coded rubbish bins. We also did a full day training with our staff and teacher's centre staff on the use of these bins. Learners, who come for school visits, each bring a bag of waste to centre and deposit it in our bins.



## 2. Environmental Education Programmes

Our programmes have two main focus areas, namely programmes for learners and programmes for educators.

### 2.1 Programmes for learners:

#### 2.1.1 Development of new programmes

##### **Waste:**

Three new programme developed by Buyiswa-e Bag and Delta Environmental Centre were introduced for Grade 4, 5 and 6.

One new programme was developed for Grade 7 but is not yet introduced.

The display in the waste room was completed and depicts the story line of paper, plastic, metal and glass from the raw material to where it gets recycled.

##### **Energy**

The programme for Grade 8 that was developed by Rachel Adatia was put to the test and the learning materials were developed. The programme was trialed on three schools.

Recommendations were made and the programme was adapted accordingly. Next year the programme will be introduced to the educators. We are also working with the Natural Science facilitator of the education department in this regard so that learners can utilize the energy room as part of their curriculum work.

We want to make special mention of Bonita Edwards and Nico Sithole for their wonderful artwork to beautify the energy and waste room.

**Biodiversity and Water Room** activities were run as usual.



## 1.2 School visits.

After the schools were introduced to the programmes, they could make a booking to visit the centre. We did receive some bookings, but mostly we contacted educators who attended the introduction sessions. The programmes are designed in such a way that learners complete a work sheet, which can be used in their portfolios.

Month	Water		Biodiversity		Waste		Energy		Other
	Group	Learners	Groups	Learners	Groups	Learners	Groups	Learners	
January									
February	2	208	2	166	2	144			100
March	6	314	1	68	2	144			
April	5	265	1	50	3	145			
May	5	278	9	387	4	212			
June									
July	3	161	2	111	2	106			
August	6	336	4	295	3	208		40	290
September	9	429	9	540			1	102	
October	3	193	4	281	2	114	2	180	357
November									120
December									
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>2184</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>1898</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1073</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>867</b>

**Total Groups: 88 Total Learners: 6244**



## **2.2 Programmes for Educators**

What is of importance about the programmes presented to educators is that it should 'bring out' the environment which is already reflected in the learning outcomes. In this way we support the curriculum development unit of our district.

### **2.2.1 Schools Environmental Education Development (SEED)**

The SEED programme was not presented this year, but in its place we presented a permaculture course to gardeners. We find that the gardeners really appreciated the knowledge gained from this course and are eager to implement the newly learned skills.

Balebogeng Primary School was identified to be on a SEED programme for the next three years.

### **2.2.2 Eco-Schools programme**

The Eco-schools programme is an international programme and assists schools with whole school development and action for a healthy environment. Four schools in Mamelodi entered for this programme. We want to congratulate Koos Matli Primary School who became the first school in Mamelodi to receive a Green Flag award. Balebogeng was very close, but we hope with their involvement in the SEED programme they will receive their green flag next year.

We believe that this programme is important to our centre as it assists schools in whole school development and in this way encourages educators and learners to make use of our centre by attending our programmes or using our resources.

### **2.2.3 Drama training for Foundation Phase Life Skills educators**

The centre appointed a service provider, **Black Door Studio**, to train educators of the Life Skills Learning Programme, Foundation Phase using an environmental theme. This programme was developed in co-operation with the Life Skills Learning Area facilitator of the district.

Educators from Mamelodi could attend a series of five workshops. After completion of the workshops the educators had to implement what they learned by presenting plays. A play festival was held here at our centre on 18 and 19 October 2006 with the theme of Good Food, Good Health to fall in line with **World Food Day**. The plays were a wonderful exhibition of learning taking place in the class room. The theme encouraged learners to take a look at what is healthy food, where the food comes from, how we can grow food and what we do with the waste after we have eaten.

### 2.2.4 Bontle ke Botho (BKB) Clean Schools Campaign

The BKB campaign is spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture and the Environment and presented in collaboration with local government and the Gauteng Department of Education. Schools have to submit a management plan of sustainable environmental activities taking place at their schools and there are several prizes to be won.

The centre assisted in the short listing and site visiting of the schools to determine the prize winners.

### 2.2.5 Climate Change

On 15 March we invited educators to come and see the video: The inconvenient truth. This was done in anticipation of World Meteorological day so that educators could prepare learning activities for their learners.

### 2.2.6 Birding week 1-5 May 2007

On 19 April we presented a workshop for educators on birds in anticipation of Big Birding Week. We helped educators with lesson plans and also how they could involve their learners in the competition.

<b>Programmes for educators</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Permaculture	14 February	40
Video: Inconvenient truth	15 March	30
Birdlife Workshop	19 April	25
BKB Meeting	11 May	3
Educators that completed the drama workshops	19 October	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>138</b>

## 3. Special Events:

### World Environment Week 5-8 June 2006

Unfortunately World Environment Week had to be cancelled due to the strike

### Arbor Week: 4-8 September.

Five hundred and forty hundred learners from ten different schools in Mamelodi could attend a special programme on trees during Arbor Week. Two hundred trees were donated by Tshwane Metro. Trees were also planted at our centre.

### National Clean up week: 10 -14 September 2007

The Moretele River was divided among about nine schools in Mamelodi and everyday two schools were busy cleaning a part of the river. The schools that participated were: J Mahlangu, J Kekana, Morakoma, Moretele, Mveledzo, Tlakukani, Lehlabile and Somafo. The learners did not only do a clean up. Together with volunteers from the Walter Sisulu Environmental centre, they also did investigations at the river to see the effect of pollution on rivers. Learners had some interesting findings: sewage, dead carcasses, waste dumping sites, dumping of building rubble, erosion and invader plants. The clean up week was closed with a poster presentation where learners envisaged a cleaner river for Mamelodi. They also had to explain how they can make this happen.

The whole project was developed together with community role players such as the Ward Councilor, Officials in Tshwane Metro responsible for waste and resource management as well as nature conservation. Part of the programme was also to do a community questionnaire which was done by volunteers of our centre. The findings were presented to Tshwane Metro



### **World Food Day: 16 October**

Three hundred learners participated in the World Food Day Play Festival and presented plays with the theme Good Food, Good health.



### **4. Partnerships**

This year we had partnerships with several organisations. We would like to thank the following organisations for their support:

1. The University of Pretoria for paying for the website and work from students who come and do their practical work
2. Delta Environmental Centre for assisting with the development of our Waste and Energy Room
3. The South African National Botanical institute for their ongoing support and School Indigenous Greening in schools of Mamelodi
4. Rand Water for ongoing support during the year
5. Tshwane Metro Resource Management for donating 200 trees and supporting various other projects.

### **5. A last word on 2007**

If 2006 was the year we got going, then 2007 was the year we started to reach out to the community. We reached out to our community in several ways, one of which was doing a community research on Waste in Mamelodi. The learners also participated in a river clean up where the health of the rivers was investigated. With this information available to us we realised that our rivers are very unhealthy and that our community is in real need of education on waste, as may well be the case all over the country.

Our involvement in this way opened new avenues for us. Next year we would like to embark on a programme together with the community and relevant stake holders to clean and green our community. This is mainly because a stadium is being developed in Mamelodi for 2010 and the Tshwane Metro is anxious that Mamelodi should be a clean place to visit. We hope to get funding for an educational programme on waste to be implemented in schools and a recycling infrastructure that will support recycling.

After the Clean up Week we realised our learners are really keen to learn. Their eagerness to participate was evident in their reports with the suggestions they came up with. Such kind of efforts needs to be acknowledged and strengthened. This is the reason for another of our projects for the New Year which we call: **The WSEC award system**. More information will follow later.

This year we expanded our volunteer staff to five. We feel proud of the team we have built, and believe that with this team we can make many more things possible.

For making another year possible, our thanks go to the Jewish National Fund for ongoing support and funding and to the Gauteng Department of Education for their support in curriculum development and the maintenance of buildings. We are determined that you should see the fruit of your investments in our centre and also in the community we serve.

With new possibilities opening to us, we look forward to 2008. We are looking forward in working together with the community, towards a more healthy and clean environment that will improve the socio-economic well being of our community. That is why we want to close by introducing you to the prototype of the bicycle, **Green Wheels**, (see below) that will be rented out to informal collectors to collect waste and taken to recycling centres in Silverton. This will be piloted at our centre, and we believe it can make a difference in the lives of many informal waste collectors.

So we are ready for 2008: *laat die wiele rol ( let the wheels roll)*



*Nico, Lorraine, Maria and Naome on our bicycle that will take our rubbish to the recycling centres*