



**eNewsletter No. 8**

**June 2013**

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**1. From the Director's Desk**

Dear Readers

Greetings from PACSA. Apologies for this eNewsletter being slightly delayed.

Three events stood out for us during June 2013. We had PACSA's 34th Annual General Meeting, we celebrated national youth month and we commemorated the centenary of the infamous 1913 Natives Land Act. The news and feature articles in this newsletter reflect these events. We hope you find the news and articles informative.

**FROM MERVYN ABRAHAMS, DIRECTOR**

**2. News**

**· PACSA's 34th Annual General Meeting**

PACSA's 34th Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday, 15th June 2013 and was attended by 66 people. The 34th AGM signaled the beginning of PACSA's 34th year in existence which is not a small feat for an organisation. PACSA has gone through a number of transitions in the past 33 years and the common view expressed at the AGM was that PACSA must continue to build its practice of accompaniment and be relevant to current socio - economic struggles.

[Read the full article \(with gallery of photographs\) here](#)  
[Download the PACSA AGM Annual Report 2012 here](#)



**· Making Ashdown Community Library Accessible and Effective**

Ashdown is a township in Pietermaritzburg with a population of close to 80,000 people. The township has only one library, the Ashdown Community library, serving this community. Even though this library serves this large community it has no access for disabled people, no computers, no internet and no books for high school students to consult, even though the community has two high schools. Sakhisizwe Community Education Programme, one of PACSA's community partners, took up this struggle to make this library accessible to all residents of Ashdown.

[Read the full article here](#)



**· Mervyn Abrahams visit to Germany and Netherlands**

Mervyn has just returned from a 10 day trip at the invitation of Misereor Hilfswerk, in Aachen, that took him to various parts of Germany and a one-day engagement in The Hague, Netherlands. While in Germany Mervyn had meetings at Misereor (Aachen), with Kirchliche Arbeitsstelle Südliches Afrika (KASA) in Heidelberg, Frankfurt, and with staff at Brot für die Welt in Berlin.

[Read the full article \(with photo gallery\) here](#)



**· Bidding Farewell**



On Monday 25th June we bid farewell to two PACSA interns. Beulah Fortein had been with PACSA as a communication intern for 2 years. Kirsten Petersheim, a student from Illinois in the United States, had been with us for 6 months working on the PACSA archive collection. Both these women had made a major impact on the PACSA team and will be sorely missed. Thanks for contributing to PACSA in your wonderful ways Beulah and Kirsten.



#### · PACSA in Media

In the past month the following three newspaper articles were published that are connected to our work.

1. **The tariff Debate, 10 June 2013**
2. **Municipal Minefield, 13 June 2013**
3. **Due Process Followed as the pie is cut, 21 June 2013**

Click here for links to these and other [PACSA articles in the Media](#)

#### · PACSA on Facebook

PACSA's Facebook page is the place to go for up-to-date information on our work - Like us!! [http://www.facebook.com/PACSA\\_PMB](http://www.facebook.com/PACSA_PMB) and "like" the PACSA face book page.

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### 3. Events

#### **PACSA and the uMphiti Men's Network on a TV programme**

The photograph shows Thulani Mthlana (PACSA) and Sphamandla Makhathini (uMphithi) with Dumisile Mabaso a presenter of 1KZNTV Lifestyle Show, after their interview on the role men play in advancing gender justice at a societal level. The interview will be screened on the 11th July 2013 on 1KZNTV Lifestyle Show.



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### 4. Features/ Debate

The 1913 Land Act restricted land ownership to Black South Africans to 13% of the country. This Act provided the legal basis to a system of land tenure that deprived the majority of South Africa's inhabitants of the right to own land which had major socio-economic repercussions. In this article, **A Hundred Years after the 1913 Land Act**, Richard Pithouse writes that "although there are genuinely complicated questions to be addressed in a country where arable land is in short supply, and in a world where agriculture is being rapidly corporatized, it is also true that overly technical and statist approaches to the land question miss an essential point which is that real change, in the countryside as anywhere else, is fundamentally a question of political will."

[Read the full article here](#)

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### 5. Meet a PACSA Community Partner Group

The **KwaDindi Youth Development Forum** was formed in 2010 to work for youth leadership development in the KwaDindi township of Pietermaritzburg. Since then the group has increased its membership to the current 26 members and its operation to include areas such as KwaDeda and Taylors Halt. The activities of the group include raising awareness on HIV and AIDS and encouraging young people to test for their HIV status and break the stigma around the disease.

[Read the full article here.](#)



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### 6. Meet PACSA Staff Members!

#### **Thulani Khanyile**

I am a Process Facilitator and Resource Centre Coordinator. I have been with PACSA since 2005. I started as an intern working in the Resource Centre, assisting the admin department and working for the Youth Conflict Transformation Programme.

I am interested in youth issues as well as matters relating to community health. I am a



Board member of Imbalenhle Community Health Centre. I completed my studies in Community Development at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2008. I am a very social and sociable person so if you drop in at PACSA feel free to look for me!

### **Melissa Josiah**

I am the Bookkeeper for PACSA. I studied Bookkeeping at Damelin College in Pietermaritzburg.

I started working for PACSA in February 2009 as part time bookkeeper and was eventually given a full time post in 2011. I came into PACSA with no previous knowledge of how the NGO sector operated, but soon learnt and fell in love with it. I have now been in the NGO Sector for the past 4 years.



### **7. Support PACSA financially through the Woolworths My School Card**

PACSA is now registered as a beneficiary of My School/My Village/My Planet card programme. This means that the My School card users can list PACSA as a beneficiary and we will receive a small contribution each time you swipe your card at participating outlets. If you are a card user and would like to list PACSA as a beneficiary then please follow the steps below:

1. If you already have a MySchool card, but would like to change your beneficiary, simply call our Client Service Centre (0860 100 445) - there is no need to get a new card!
2. If you don't have a MySchool card yet, simply apply for your card online or fill out an application in store at any participating Woolworths Store.



Online:

Go to <http://www.myschool.co.za/>

Get your free card today.

### **8. Please write to us!**

*Tell us your story to inspire or challenge us to action!*

*We look forward to hearing from you!*