



eNewsletter No. 08

August 2014

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1. From the Director's Desk

Dear Readers

Greetings from PACSA

This August edition of the Newsletter should reach you as we transition from winter into spring in the Southern Hemisphere. Already the days are getting hotter.

During the month of August we concluded the 3 year PACSA external evaluation, undertaken by the Community Development Resource Association (CDRA) a Cape-Town-based NGO that specializes in developmental practice. The main recommendation of the evaluation was that going into our next 3 year phase we should consolidate our gains, integrate the lessons identified and get on with the process of deepening our strategy and practice. The overall finding of the evaluation is that "PACSA is on the right path, has structured itself accordingly and has been actively engaging in translating intention into action in such a way that impacts are being felt on a number of levels." The external evaluation was followed by our strategic planning for the next 3 years and writing our 2015-2017 operational plans. In the next edition we will share some of our thoughts about the next three years.

September is the month when we host the PACSA Film and Arts Festival. This year it will take place from the 26-28th on the main campus of the University of KwaZulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg and includes discussion spaces, films, workshops, poetry, photography and jazz. Please see some of the information in the *Upcoming Events* section below and for more information go to our website at www.pacsa.org.za, [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PACSA_PMB) or see the local press for further details. Those in the Pietermaritzburg or Durban area, we hope you can join us for these exciting activities.

Regards

MERVYN ABRAHAMS
PACSA Director

2. PACSA News

- **Anna Puntman - new PACSA intern**

Hello everyone! My name is Anna and I am the new intern at PACSA. I am a third year human geography student from the University of Amsterdam. I wanted to spend time with PACSA in South Africa to gain some experience and to do something else besides all the studying. I will be staying in Pietermaritzburg until the end of November. I look forward to getting to know the area and its people and take beautiful stories home.



[Read the full article here](#)

• **PACSA and Partners attend the Southern Cape Land Committee's Agro-ecological producers platform**

Mada Mtine and Julie Smith, from PACSA, and Ntombifikile Khanyile and MamNyoka, two members of PACSA's community partners, attended the Southern Cape Agro-Ecological Producers platform organised by the



Southern Cape Land Committee in Steytleville, Baviaans Municipality. The summit brought activists and small producers together from a number of centres to share and exchange experiences, knowledge, seeds, produce, recipes, and to connect people in struggle for justice relating to land and livelihoods.

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

• **An emerging movement on food sovereignty**

Over the past six months a number of groups have been collaborating and mentoring each other in agro-ecological gardening and this is leading to an emerging movement in the District. Sizonqoba and Trust Feed groups have been



connecting with 6 other community-based groups to mentor these groups on agro-ecological farming as a means to improve their access to nutritious vegetables and household food security.

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

• **Thembalihle Youth Development Group on Umgungundlovu Radio**

In August three members of the Thembalihle Youth Development Group from Pietermaritzburg took part on the Ingelosi engenaMaphiko show on the Umgungundlovu Radio station.



Their input focused on their teen-mother campaign and support groups which focus on creating peer support for young mothers in their community and encouraging the young fathers to play a role in bringing up their children.

[Read the full article here](#)

- **PACSA Food Price Barometer for August 2014**

Statistics in South Africa's report on poverty trends in South Africa indicates that poor households spend approximately a third (33%) of their income on food. Total food expenditure for poor households is given at R8 485 per annum or R707 per month. This figure is typically misconstrued as representing the preferred food expenditure allocation. Instead; it must be seen as the proportion that households are able to spend on food given high food prices and the priority of other expenditures which are often more difficult to forgo or defer e.g. burial insurance, debt repayments and electricity. Given extremely low levels of the Rand value of income, 33% is too low a proportion allocated to food and is not enough to secure a sufficient and nutritious basket of food

[Read the full statement and barometer report here](#)

3. Upcoming Events

- **2014 PACSA Film and Arts Festival**

Please join us at the 2014 edition of the PACSA Film and Arts Festival on the theme '*People live here . . . 20 years into*

Democracy' from Friday the 26th to Sunday the 28th September 2014, taking place at the

University of KwaZulu Natal, Pietermaritzburg main campus.

The festival includes films, photography, workshops, discussion spaces, poetry and jazz.



Admission is FREE!

- **Launch of the Festival**

The 2014 PACSA Film and Arts Festival and photography exhibition launch takes place on:

DATE: Friday, 26th September 2014

VENUE: Colin Webb Hall, University of KwaZulu Natal, PMB main campus (Parking is available below the library on the King Edward Avenue entrance to the University)

TIME: 6:00 pm

SPEAKERS: Photographer Cedric Nunn will speak to the exhibition and it's meaning. Guest speaker, Stephen Grootes will speak on the theme of the festival and exhibition *People live here. . .20 years into democracy*

RSVP: Sonia Nunthoolall at 033 342 0052 or [View the invitation to the launch here](#)

All other festival events do not require a RSVP. It is open to all and free. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE FESTIVAL PROGRAMME go to the PACSA website at www.pacsa.org.za, [Facebook](#) or watch the local media space.

- **A Month-long Photograph Exhibition**

The photograph exhibition by Cedric Nunn on '*People live here . . . 20 Years into Democracy*' will be open to the public at the Msunduzi Museum, Langalibalele Street (next to the taxi rank),

Pietermaritzburg, from the 3rd October to the 31st October 2014. Please feel free to come and view the exhibition.

4. PACSA in the Media

Feeding four means clever shopping, City press, 24 August 2014

[Read the full article here](#)

PACSA also featured on Radio 786, which broadcasts in the Western Cape, on food prices and affordability.

5. Feature article

• **Constitutional Crisis: Of what and for whom?**

Dale T. Kinley- If the publicly expressed opinions of many opposition politicians, lawyers, academics, journalists and political commentators are to be believed then South Africa has already had several 'constitutional



crises' and there are more hovering on the horizon. Most of these supposed 'constitutional crises' have certainly involved a range of attitudes, behaviour and activities that are of genuine concern in any democracy.

[Read the full article here](#)
