

eNewsletter No. 05

May 2014

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1. From the Director's Desk

Dear Reader

Greetings from PACSA

This eNewsletter provides a snapshot of the numerous activities and reflection spaces that PACSA has been engaged in during May 2014. Over the next few weeks we host two important events: our 35th AGM as well as a round table to explore the significance of the May 2014 national elections. Those who live in the PMB/Durban area are invited to join us for these events.

We will also be involved in our 3 yearly external evaluations, conducted by Rubert Van Blerk and Sue Soal, from CDRA in Cape Town, during June 2014. We therefore have an extremely busy month ahead of us but it promises to be an exciting and fulfilling one.

We hope that the news we share with you in this eNewsletter is useful and interesting to you. Please feel free to communicate with us on any of the information provided.

Kind regards

MERVYN ABRAHAMS
PACSA Director

2. PACSA News

· PACSA's exchange visit with the Southern Cape Land Committee (SCLC)

Four PACSA staff members, Julie Smith, Mada Mtine, Thulani Mthlale and Mervyn Abrahams, participated in a three-day exchange visit with the Southern Cape Land Committee (SCLC) from 19 to 21 May 2014. The objective of the exchange visit was to facilitate critical reflection on practice, share ideas around the context of our work and spark new insights from exploring how each organisation accompanies grass roots formations.

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



· PACSA Staff Retreat at the Botanical Gardens

PACSA staff spent a morning of reflection at the PMB Botanical gardens on Friday, 30 May. Dr Friederike Voigt, a PACSA Council member, facilitated the reflection which focused on the need to withdraw from the busy work lives we lead to the silence of nature to be refreshed and connect



to our inner-selves.

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



· **PACSA's organisational week: Constructing our theory of social change and the principles which underpin our practice**

PACSA held its 2nd organisational week from the 26th to the 30th May 2014. The focus of this organisational week was to construct, on the basis of our actual practise, our theory of social change and the principles which underpin our practice in the world.

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



· **Youth, Gender, Culture and Power**

A discussion on 'ukungena' (the practise of taking your brother's wife after he has died) took place during the gender and HIV/AIDS training workshop for Peer Educators held on the 23-25 May 2014. This discussion was woven into a larger discussion on culture, gender and power relations. Ukungena is still practised in some rural communities as a way of maintaining the family name and wealth.

[Read the full article here](#)



· **Community Partners network forum discuss Gender Mainstreaming**

The Community Partners Network Forum, a forum which brings together the 18 community groups that PACSA accompanies, met on Thursday 8th May 2014. This forum, facilitated by the UMphithi Men's Network and the Peer Educators, focused on mainstreaming a gender consciousness across all their work.

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



· **PACSA and Community Partners together explore the 'Right to Food'**

Two of PACSA's community partner groups, Sizonqoba and Hlakaniphani Widows Forum, were represented at an inter-provincial dialogue on the Right to Food hosted by ERCAP in Grahamstown in May 2014. Ntombifikile Khanyile and Ntombifuthi Nyoka used the three days they spent in the Eastern Cape to strengthen the networks with other livelihoods groups in other parts of the country and to share their learnings.

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



· **YPO Facebook Writeshop**

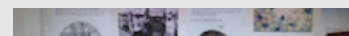
Youth Pregnant with Opportunities, a youth advocacy platform, had a write shop and OD session at Caribe Caribe from 9th to 11th May 2014. One session was devoted to a creative free writing exercise where each person pulled out three words from a hat and had 9 minutes to write something and share it with the group.

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



· **Dr. Allison Goebel visits PACSA**

Dr. Allison Goebel, associate Professor in the School of



Environmental Studies at Queen's University, Canada, visited PACSA recently as part of her ongoing study of rural to city migration in South Africa. During her visit she interviewed Mervyn Abrahams for her next book that will explore "The Right to the City in South Africa: Housing and Protest".

[Read the full article here](#)



3. Upcoming Events

· PACSA 35th AGM, SATURDAY, 14 JUNE 2014

You are invited to PACSA's 35th AGM to be held on **Saturday, 14 June 2014**

Venue: Methodist Church Hall, Peter Kerchhoff Street, Pietermaritzburg

Time: 10h00 - 14h00

Programme:

10h00 - Business meeting

11h00 - Tea

11h30 - Public meeting

13h00 - A light lunch will be served

Guest Speaker: Time Smith, Director of Breadline Africa

Tim Smith was born in KZN. In 1976 he went overseas to train for the ministry. He studied in London and Rome before returning to South Africa in 1983 and was posted to Elandskop outside Pietermaritzburg. He work for 7 years in a Zulu community, before increasing civil conflict saw him move to Johannesburg and then to Soweto, where he exercised ministry in the area of Orlando West during the democratic transition. Tim was an active participant in many PACSA campaigns against apartheid in the late 1980s. He studied international law and human rights, which remain strong interests. Tim is married to Shona and they have one son, Patrick.

RSVP: Belinda Henderson on +27 33 342 0052 or belinda@pacsa.org.za by 11 June 2014

· ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION, WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE 2014

The elections on the 7th May 2014 not only determined 5 more years of ANC government but also the direction the country might take over this period. Will it be a time of change or continuity? Do the 2014 elections open the possibilities for a re-alignment of political forces? Join us for this round table discussion.

Date: Wednesday, 18 June 2014

Time: 10h30 to 13h00 (followed by a light lunch)

Venue: Protea Hotel, Jabu Ndlovu Street, Pietermaritzburg

Panelists:

Prof Steven Friedman: Director of the centre for the Study of Democracy at both Rhodes University and University of Johannesburg

Mr Leonard Gentle: Director of the International Labour Research and Information Group, based in Cape Town

Please RSVP Sonia Nunthoolall at sonian@pacsa.org.za or 033 3420052

Parking is available from the Burger Street entrance (Feel free to circulate this invitation to your networks)

4. Feature Articles

On 7 May 2014 South Africans voted in the 5th democratic national elections. The election campaign and party manifesto's was rather uninspiring and the outcome of the election was never in doubt. What is interesting about the 2014 national elections though is that it created the possibility for a re-alignment of political forces. Read the article by Leonard Gentle from ILRIG, 'In the Run-up to South Africa's 2014 Election, the Battle for the Future Commences'.

[Read more on the article here](#)
