



# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

Website: [www.transplantsports.org.za](http://www.transplantsports.org.za) ~ Photosite: <http://satsa.myalbum.net>  
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## Editorial

Well, here we are in the second month of the year 2010. Last year was a wonderful year and we are committed to making this year even better. There are so many things that have happened and are on the go that it is difficult to find a place to start with the news.

After our SA Transplant Team returned from the World Transplant games in Australia we have only received congratulations on their achievements.

We are also receiving more and more support for our bid to host the 2013 World Transplant Games in Durban. Everything is still on track and although we are awaiting the result of our application to Lotto for funding, we are in the meantime continuing to plan as if everything is going to be OK and we will receive the required funding. More about this later in the Newsletter.

SATSA also made history when our first athlete participated in the Winter World Transplant Games in France from 17 to 22 January. Merwen Mellet did not only compete but won three Bronze Medals and that against people who were practically born on skis. Congratulations Merwen. You have set high standards!

Two of our athletes, Tracey Jegels & Koenie Pretorius, were nominated for the Sports Awards of the Western Cape. Koenie Pretorius made it through the preliminary rounds and was one of three finalists for the 2009 Sportsman of the Year Award. The Awards Ceremony took place on Saturday 13 February.

We are also busy putting together a project with our Western Cape athletes and the Department of Sport & Recreation of the Western Cape and if that works, we will extend it to the other Provinces as well.

*Enjoy the Newsletter and please contact us if there is anything you need to know or if there is something happening in your area which we can publish in the Newsletter.*

*Willie Uys*

## COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

**Willie Uys** – Chairman  
**Gunston Padayachee** – vice-Chairman (KZN)  
**Heilie Uys** – Secretary  
**Bill Rosenberg** – Treasurer  
**Dr. Jan De Kock** – Member (KZN)  
**Koos Du Toit** – Member (Western Cape)  
**Margie Rosenberg** – Member (Western Cape)

There hasn't been a lot of activity but the Committee kept in touch and things will now start happening as we get closer to the National Transplant Games.

*Please note that SATSA's Constitution is available on the Website. Those who do not have access to the internet may request a copy from the Secretary (042 298-0014) or (082 465-0935)*

Our Website: [www.transplantsports.org.za](http://www.transplantsports.org.za)

Email: [info@transplantsports.org.za](mailto:info@transplantsports.org.za)

Our Photosite: <http://satsa.myalbum.net>

## IN MEMORIAM

**Hillary Fincham** passed away late in December 2009. She was awarded Honorary Life Membership at the Awards Ceremony following the National Transplant Games in 2004. She will be fondly remembered by many of our older members as the person who was the driving force behind the



establishment of the Transplant Games Association of SA (TGASA). For many years she kept the Association going with very limited means and her tenacity during this time is the reason why we have a well structured and recognized Association.

She was an excellent sportswoman and competed fiercely in many of the National and World Transplant Games, winning a number of medals. Over the past years her health did not allow her to participate but it never stopped her from being interested in the activities of the Association.



In all this she always had John along with her and we extend to him our sincere sympathy and thank him for sharing Hillary with us for so many years.



**Adrian Leaner** also passed away at about the same time. Adrian qualified for selection to the SA Transplant Team a number of times but due to health issues, he was never able to participate in the World Transplant games. He and his brother - who also had a kidney transplant some years back – and their mother Emelda were regular faces at the events of

SATSA when we were in Cape Town. We extend our sincere sympathy to the family.

## National Games Pretoria – 7 to 9 October 2010



The various Regions were asked to look at the possibility of hosting the Nationals in their region. We received no bids from any of the regions and there were suggestions that we hold the

Nationals in Pretoria again. We have asked for quotes from the High Performance Centre and will also be looking at putting together a Local Organising Committee who will take on all the local arrangements for the Games.

At this stage the only dates available, and **these are the proposed dates for the Nationals, are Friday and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> October 2010.**

We will have our Annual General Meeting on Thursday evening 7<sup>th</sup> October and the Gala Dinner will take place on Saturday night at

which time we will announce the names of the athletes who have qualified for selection to the SA Transplant Team to participate in the World Transplant Games in Göteborg, Sweden in June 2011.

**Please make every effort to join us in Pretoria.**

**Registration Forms and Qualifying Standards will be sent out in May.**

## NEWS

### FROM THE REGIONS & AROUND THE WORLD

#### News from Eastern Cape

Early in December at a glitzy function held in the Culture Centre in Humansdorp, **Heilie Uys** was awarded the **Kouga Mayoral Award for Sport**. Heilie won this award ahead of some fourteen nominees for her four Gold medals and a World Record at the World Transplant games in Australia.



On the 28<sup>th</sup> December SATSA held its annual **Golf Day at St Francis Bay Golf Club** for which 118 golfers entered. SA Breweries gave each player a nice cold beer after their round and with Distell, MediClinic, Designbomania sponsored a large number of prizes.



Our Transplant Coordinator from Port Elizabeth, **Marcia Fourie**, was there to ensure that everyone was informed about Organ Donation and a

number of the players also signed up as organ donors. The income from the Golf Day is much needed to keep the Association's administration going.



#### Western Cape

After our return from Australia, it was decided to nominate

**Tracey Jegels** and **Koenie Pretorius** respectively for the Sportswoman and Sportsman of the Year in the Western Cape. Tracey unfortunately didn't make it through the preliminary rounds but she still is our Golden Girl from the Western Cape. Koenie was however one of the three finalists. At a glamorous event on Saturday evening 13<sup>th</sup> February, the Western Province Sportsman of the Year was announced. Although he didn't win the coveted award, we are extremely proud of Koenie. After passing his Matric Exams at the end of last year he started his studies at the University of Stellenbosch this year and we wish him everything of the best.



**Gerhard van Dyk** has decided to concentrate on the triathlon so we are going to see him enter the cycling as well as the road races and even swimming in future.

Then there is of course **Merwen Mellet** who participated in the Winter World Transplant Games in January - *Read separate article elsewhere.*

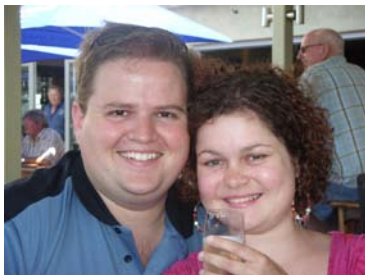
## North West Province

Things have been quiet in this region. We would however like to congratulate **Trevor Gird** on passing his Matric Exams and for being selected to join the "Thirteenth Floor" group of young people from their church who offer up one year of their lives to travel the country and share his faith with others.

## Gauteng

Our lively group of athletes from this region has been busy keeping themselves in shape for the various events that are taking place during the year. Our congratulations also to **Nomakosi Mbele** who has taken on the position of being the "un-official" Sports Coordinator of the Baragwanath athletes. She is seeing that the "Bara" group of athletes get well organized; is coached and keep fit all the time.

**Daniel Matsoso & Nkanyesi Biyela** are training for the various Road Races that are coming up and we wish them well in their efforts.



**Alice Vosloo** has taken the leap of love by getting engaged during the holidays. She and Chris are planning to get married in August of this year so she will be a married lady when she competes in the National Games in October. She also passed her Stock Exchange exams at the end of last year. Congrats Alice!

## KWAZULU-NATAL

The KZN members have been very quiet over the last few months. With the holiday season and then jumping into the New year we expect to start hearing about their activities soon.

## 2010 - WINTER WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES

This event took place in the Sainte-Foy-Tarentaise, France from 17 to 22 January.

There were some 250 participants from 19 countries and South Africa was there for the first time

represented by Merwen Mellet an. He was accompanied by his wife Seta who did the nail-biting while Merwen did the skiing.



They arrived in SFT on Sunday afternoon and took part in the Opening Ceremony which took place with SFT covered in heavy mist. It was none the less a very impressive ceremony at the start of a great week of skiing.

On Monday Merwen took part in the Giant Slalom Race which comprises two runs down the slope dodging the flags. His first run was not very good but he made up in the second run. The times are combined and he missed the Bronze Medal by about 5 seconds.

He however made up for this on the rest of his events by winning Bronze on the Slalom, Super Giant and Parallel Slalom ending up with three medals. This placed South Africa 14<sup>th</sup> in the Medal Standings.





Merwen was also honored by being chosen as the male competitor to ski the last slope at the Closing Ceremony. They made many new friends and are set to participate in the next WWTG which will take place in Switzerland in 2012.

**CALENDER OF EVENTS FOR 2010**

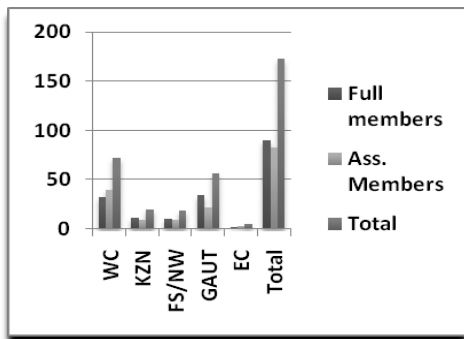
These dates and events can be used by each one of our members to increase awareness or for fundraising purposes. Please let us know about things that are happening in your area.

March	11 <sup>th</sup>	World Kidney Day
June	25 <sup>th</sup>	Western Cape Golf Day - Parow
August		Organ Donor Month
September	1-8	Kidney awareness week
October	7 <sup>th</sup>	SATSA - AGM, HPC Pretoria
	8-9	National Games HPC Pretoria
	30 <sup>th</sup>	World Heart Day
November	14 <sup>th</sup>	World Diabetes Day
December	27 <sup>th</sup>	SATSA Golf day St. Francis Bay

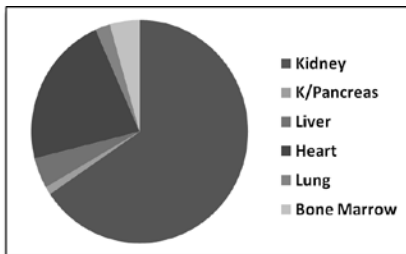
**Membership profile**

Have you ever wondered if you are the oldest transplantee, or how your transplant in years, compare with other members of SATSA?

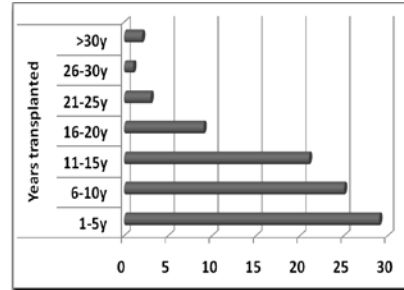
According to our database, We have 173 members of which 90 are Full members (transplantees) and 83 are Associate members (family, friends, professional persons), with Western Cape and Gauteng regions (the latter also include Mphumalanga and Limpopo) having the most members.



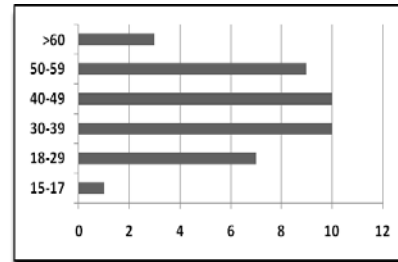
Most of our members received kidney transplants with hearts in a close second place.



We are fortunate to mostly attract newly transplanted athletes having received their transplants within the past 5 years (29) or within the past 6-10 years (25). Fortunately we also have the role models in Abdul Kathrada and Paul Thesen who have been transplanted more than 30 years ago!



The age group distribution of athletes who participated in the 2008 National and 2009 World Games, indicate that most of our athletes fall within the 30 to 50 age group. There is however a tendency over the last 3 years, that more athletes in the 18-29 year old group are becoming members of SATSA.



What do all of these statistics tell us? Firstly, we need to recruit more athletes in all of our regions, and secondly that we need to encourage young transplantees to join us.

**This is where we need your help!!!**

Become part of the “one-to-one” membership drive. If each current member could encourage one other transplantee to become a member, we can double our membership and become one of the leading “special” sports groups in South Africa.

Included in this Newsletter are two membership forms. The one is for you to complete, if you still want to be a member of SATSA, and the other to be completed by a prospective new member.

Please also use the poster advertising the upcoming National Games (8-9 October 2010), to encourage current and new members to participate.

**MEMBERSHIP DRIVE:  
OPERATION ONE-TO-ONE  
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**