



## Western Cape Department of Health NURSES UPDATE



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### FROM THE DESK OF PROFESSOR HOUSEHAM – HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Nurses are a high priority for the Western Cape Provincial Department of Health. The Western Cape Department of Health established a Directorate of Nursing. This Directorate will promote the profession, further it must strengthen the professional role of nursing, and advise top management on nursing issues. The National Department of Health is currently evaluating the salary structure of nurses with the aim of effecting salary improvements for the profession. For the 2005/06 budget year the department has 258 nurses graduating from the University of Stellenbosch, University of Western Cape and the Western Cape College of Nursing. The graduates will be obtaining the 4 year diploma for nursing.

### EBEN DONGES HAT TEA

Eben Donges Nursing, in conjunction with Johnson and Johnson Gynae Care (Ethicon Medical) played host to a wonderful fun morning, in the form of a Hat Tea. The nurses were asked to sell tickets and the costs of the morning were carried by Johnson and Johnson. The prizes included Pick'n Pay vouchers to the value of R200.00 each. Johnson & Johnson did a product presentation, which was well received. Dr Steyn Smit a local Gynaecologist acted as MC, his cheerful disposition and well timed anecdotes lent an air of fun to the morning. The other invited speakers were, Mr. Ian Oliver, curator of the Botanical Gardens who brought samples and discussed planting indigenously in our gardens. Mrs Anita de Klerk of Anita's Skin Care Clinic, discussed and showed photographs of Laser Technology, a new form of blemish removal. The total sum raised was R7500.00 which will be used for Nurses Day 2007.

**Fun with hats.** The nursing staff at Eben Donges Hospital hosted a hat tea at the Congregational Church to raise funds for the nurses. Over and above the speeches prizes for the best hats were given.

**From Left are the winners for best hats** – Susan Pietersen Head Nurse – Maternity Unit (Autumn Hat), Sandra Ieuwoudt – Head Nurse, Infection Control (Funny Hat), Retha Eloff (Smartest Garden Hat) and Annie April (Sunday Hat).



### LAUNCH OF RETIRED NURSES FORUM

The Western Cape Provincial Department of Health recently hosted a launch of a 'Retired Nurses Forum' at the Johnson and Johnson Hall, Red Cross Children's Hospital. The was done to create a formal on-going structure to engage with retired nurses. The goal being to retain the support and involvement of nurses who retire from the nursing profession. The purpose of the launch included promoting the caring ethos of nursing through the involvement of retired nurses in formal mentorship programmes, identifying opportunities for employment of retired nurses to support health care delivery, identifying opportunities for involvement of retired nurses in health care other than formal employment, promoting nursing as a profession and liaising with nursing managers on issues pertaining to the nurse and the profession.



Nurses Day was celebrated recently to honour nurses for the hard work and selfless efforts they put into assisting members of the community on a daily basis. Nurses Day is an international event and is celebrated worldwide. The celebrations were held at Zevenwacht in Brackenfell, where nurses were entertained and honoured for their selfless contributions. Among the honoured guests were Pierre Uys, the Western Cape Provincial Minister of Health and Dr Beth Engelbrecht, Deputy Director General of the Department. The theme this year was "Safe Staffing Saves Lives". Chief Professional Nurse M Petersen was the guest speaker.

