

# September 2005

## THE STORY SO FAR ...

### **Pebbles Launch**

The Pebbles Project is going from strength to strength. 18 months of planning and research culminated in a fabulous launch at Villiera wine estate in August 2005. Some 80 guests listened to Dr Colleen Adnams' presentation on FAS in the crèche and were then played up to the wine cellar by a troupe of colourful Cape Minstrels where the evening function took place to the rhythmic CD sounds of Miriam Makeba. An auction of wines, rugby balls, tours, restaurant meals and health & beauty experiences went under the hammer to raise over R14,000 adding to the wonderful success of an evening of fun and friendship.

### **Pebbles Abseil Challenge**

The Pebbles Project Team is a dynamic group of people and their next fundraising event is nothing less than an abseil from Table Mountain!

Some 40 people will be abseiling down the world's highest commercial abseil of 112 mts. Pledges are being made on line on the Pebbles website where business colleagues, friends, family and supporters are sponsoring their abseiler. This is truly an industry effort led by Sophia Warner the founder of Pebbles supported by the likes of winemakers: Ben Jordaan from Kumala, Clive Torr from Topaz, Mzo Mvemve from Cape Classics (also a Pebbles Trustee), Carno du Toit from Cape Grace, Bruwer Raats from Zorgvliet and Raats Family Wines and even Mr Ken Forrester are being sponsored to go down! Not to be out done wine industry marketers are also 'up for it'. Sean Griffiths from Kanu & Mulderbosh, Ansgar Flaatten (also a Pebbles Trustee) from Zorgvliet & Dornier and Naas Erasmus from African Pride Wine have taken the challenge to abseil.

Once the winemakers and marketers were in, it wasn't long before WOSA, wine.co.za and the SAWB were challenged to abseil too. So Andre Morgenthal, Dalene Steyn, Michelle Ladewig and Johan van Rooyen (CEO of SAWB) will all be descending this magnificent mountain on Oct 29th to raise funds for the Pebbles projects. The companies have also stepped up to the mark with Lucy Warner from Thierry's, Gary Shearer from Cape Classics and two staff from JF Hillebrand all abseiling for Pebbles.

With any luck Dominique Vrigneau from Thierry's who will be in South Africa at the time will also 'go down'!

Pledges can still be made on [www.pebblesproject.co.za](http://www.pebblesproject.co.za)



### **Pebbles 'Hand's on Days'**

However the efforts of the Pebbles Team does not stop there. They are planning "Hands on Days" where teams of personnel from various companies spend a day a month in the crèches on the wine farms either renovating the buildings, painting the walls, building bathroom blocks, teaching the kids soccer, reading to them or planting gardens etc. This practical help and support is invaluable and makes an immediate difference to the lives of the children in these crèches and results can easily be seen where the children are in an environment conducive to learning.



Pebbles have many more events up their sleeve. Watch out for details of the 'Brunch auction' in November and the industry 'last night party' at Cape Wine 2006.

## **Pebbles 'Sponsor a child' programme**

Pebbles will also be launching their Sponsor a Child Programme in November. As a sponsor, you give a monthly donation of £10 or R120. This money funds the Pebbles project at the crèche that your child is attending. Your money will go towards ensuring the following:

**TRAINING:** The nominated crèche or school has at least one trained teacher / carer that can recognize and support children with special needs. Initial training and on-going support is given by Pebbles staff and trained members of the community.

Parents will also receive training in how to support their children with special needs.

**RESOURCES:** A special resource pack is supplied to the crèche or primary school - this pack includes:

- *Assessment tools*
- *Training manuals*
- *Basic toys and equipment*

**FEES:** Where a special needs child cannot afford to attend a crèche or school, Pebbles will provide the fee.

**SHARING:** Parents and members of the community can attend support groups and information meetings facilitated by Pebbles. The sponsor can expect a photograph of their sponsored child every six months, and an update on their progress at the crèche or school. Sponsorships are initially for one year, and can be renewed year after year as you watch your child grow and develop. It may also be possible to visit the child you sponsor.

The school term starts in January in South Africa and what better Christmas present to give to a family than sending their child to crèche or primary school.

If you would like to Sponsor a Child, please make contact with Pebbles for more details via email on

## **Pebbles 'Giving Exchange Expo'**

Pebbles was voted in by it's wonderful supporters to be one of the charities given the opportunity to showcase their work at The Giving Exchange Event at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town on the 23rd and 24th September 2005. Mark Shuttleworth, the first African in space, will address the visitors at the closing ceremony.

Pebbles will have this extraordinary opportunity to engage with South Africans to come up with more effective ways to access the skills, energy and resources that will make our work more effective. The purpose of the Giving Exchange is to engage with people to explore new and better ways for Pebbles to access the resources needed to do our work more effectively. These resources are not necessarily money - expertise, skills, time and goods are all areas of support that will make a difference to the Pebbles projects.



It is also an opportunity for the visitors to learn more about our work with children with special educational needs, particularly those affected by alcohol (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder - FASD).

## **Pebbles at FASD Conference : 6 - 7 October 2005**

Pebbles, in partnership with The Provincial Department of Health, the Departments of Education, Social Services and Poverty Alleviation and other relevant organisations, has been involved in the organisation of a FASD conference on 6 - 7 October 2005 at the Sports Science Institute of South Africa (SSISA), Cape Town

This conference has attracted some 200 delegates from not only South Africa but also the USA.

Very successful research has equipped service providers with evidence of the incidence and prevalence of FAS and the effect it is having on our communities. Faced with this challenge, health care workers and other service providers have developed and implemented original and innovative projects. Researchers and service providers, of which Pebbles is one, will share the platform to present their research findings, plans, needs and details of some of the prevention and intervention projects. This conference will give the unique opportunity to review the work that has been done over the past 10 years and will facilitate future planning and liaison.

### **Pebbles Training has begun**

In addition to all this, the training of Creche workers has begun on the 5 farms involved in the pilot project. The children have been assessed and their needs identified. A programme of training in how to support the needs of the children is now underway. The same programme will be rolled out into the Lwandle township in November. This training and provision of educational resources has been made possible by donations from local and international supporters.

MANY MANY THANKS TO ALL OUR SPONSORS, DONORS AND SUPPORTERS WHO ARE MAKING ALL THIS POSSIBLE.

### **Pebbles summary**

The need for Pebbles and the support it will provide is great and the aim is therefore high. With the continued support and enthusiasm Pebbles will make real, lasting differences to these children and their communities.