



Participating in the meeting were (L-R): T Ngwenya, P Magabanyane, A Molefe, T da Cruz, S Bosch, D Khosi, Dr R Antonio of the MBOD, P Camay, S Kotoloane and G Adams

Strategy Planning Session with the Asbestos Coordinating Committee of Kgalagadi

A strategy planning session was held with the ACCK over 29 and 30 January 2008 in Kimberley. Sponsored and run by the ART as part of its continued support for community based and stakeholder groups to prevent asbestos related diseases, the two day workshop developed the vision and mission of the ACCK – “to build awareness, to coordinate all formal and informal communities and all spheres of government; to advocate against and prevent environmental degradation; to protect the health and occupational health of individuals and ensure viable compensation to affected individuals in an asbestos-free country”.

Swaziland Ex-mineworkers Committee (SEC) Training Workshop

The ART Outreach team visited Maguga in Swaziland on 12 February 2008 to provide training to the SEC on the trust deeds and claims process. The SEC comprises former asbestos mineworkers who worked at both Msauli and Havelock Asbestos mines, as well as traditional leaders.

The photo alongside shows the ART’s Sr Nodu Nolokwe indicating asbestos disease on chest x-rays which were set up on an impromptu light-box.

A meeting with the Swazi Minister of Public Works and Enterprise will take place in February, to progress the claims process for the Havelock miners.



Staff news Our quick-witted driver of the ART Kuruman Condor (above) had stopped on his side of the road to avoid an out-of-control car in unusually wet conditions, to no avail, but also no injuries.

Spoor goes to court on silicosis

On 11 February Richard Spoor presented a case on behalf of an ex-miner who has developed silico-tuberculosis as a result of excessive dust inhalation while working at Vaal Reefs gold mine. It is unknown what level of silica dust is safe. Gold ore in its natural state is embedded in quartz, which becomes silica dust when drilled, blasted and removed. Silica dust has also been shown to be an independent significant risk factor for tuberculosis (*TeWaterNaude, Ehrlich et al. Tuberculosis and silica exposure in South African gold miners. OEM 2006;63:187-192*). Silicosis is a progressive incurable disease which causes significant impairment. Like asbestosis and mesothelioma, it has a long latency. Judgement in the trial was reserved, and an outcome is expected within a month, which may herald a silicosis trust.



Neil White Bursary 2008-2009

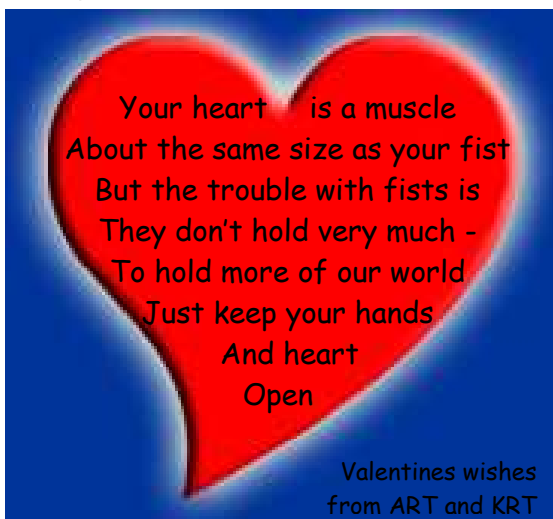
In an unusual move, the Neil White Bursary was awarded to 2 doctors this 2-year cycle, as the interview panel considered them equally excellent and deserving of the award. They are Dr Lady Jood from Kuruman (right) and Dr Nelia Le Roux from Carolina (left). The bursary is for study on the Wits Diploma in Occupational Health course, the first block of which occurred in late January 2008. Both doctors found that the course exceeded their expectations. The Trusts would like to thank Professor Tony Cantrell and Dr Spo Kgolomono of the NIOH and Wits for their facilitation of the process



Seven warning signs of Cancer: "CAUTION"

- C Change in a wart or mole
- A A sore that does not heal
- U Unusual bleeding
- T Thickening of a lump
- I Indigestion/ difficulty in swallowing
- O Ongoing cough/hoarseness.
- N Notable change in bowel or bladder movement

The Kuruman ART held their own Cancer Day to mark World Cancer Day on 4 February, in order to raise awareness of cancers and to encourage its prevention, detection and possible treatment. The day went very well. Although emotional at times the message of unity, spirituality, support and strength was carried forward very well. The seven signs above formed part of their message.



Lesotho Outreach

ART and accredited claims handlers Sunil Narian Incorporated (SNI) conducted a training programme with the MDA (**Mineworkers Development Agency**) over 4 and 5 February in Maseru, Lesotho, to provide training on the ART and KRT trust deeds and the claims process.

The ART is in the process of formalizing an agreement between it, the MDA and SNI for the latter two organizations to work together to assist claimants in Lesotho to lodge claims with the Trusts. The number of claimants that will come out of Lesotho is unknown but over 200 potential claimants have already been identified.

The next big meeting - with stakeholders and civil society - will take place on Tuesday 4 March in Maseru as part of the outreach campaign of the ART.

The picture below shows Boniface Karanja (SNI), Tina da Cruz (ART), Nkone Matlosa, Lithakong Ralenkoane, Mohau Nkofu (all of MDA) and Marks Masoetsa (NUM).

