



November & December 2008



EDITORIAL

Dear Friends of the Deaf,

I would like to take this opportunity to **thank you for supporting us in the past year**. It has been a year of many changes, for me professionally and for the school in terms of expansion. The addition of staff such as Vanessa Davidson and the move to the additional facilities in Paarden Eiland has turned our small “Saturday morning” project into a real business of goodwill. The awesome opportunity offered by the Cape Town boat show organizer to have a huge free stand at the show resulted in several orders. Meanwhile Heidi Hochstenbach our legal advisor is trying hard to set up a **Whisper Boats Pty** of which the **employees would become shareholders** and would be sufficient to finance the Khayelitsha school. Unfortunately we are not that far yet and we still depend on your support to continue with our work of deaf learners’ education. Most of the companies we are approaching for financial support have all had to cut their budget due to the global financial situation. Although we fully understand that everybody is looking twice before spending a rand, it is now more than ever, important to **ensure that the disadvantaged and disabled community get through this tough period**. If we are suffering let us not forget the less fortunate are struggling even more; so **think twice and open your hearts**, let us know that you care. You can help us with materials, financial support, by buying our Whisper Boats, or by volunteering some of your time.

Have a merry X-mas and a “Whispering” New Year !

Peter Jacops

Chairman Whisper Boat Building Academy



Whisper Boats and Two Oceans Aquarium "Saving the Seals"

Whisper Boats has supplied the Two Oceans Aquarium in the V&A Waterfront with an electric Torqeedo Base Travel motor. This quiet and efficient motor has allowed staff at the Aquarium to continue their work removing the plastic and line that entangles seals in the Harbour.



INTERVIEW WITH VINCENT CALDER (Technical Manager, Two Oceans Aquarium)

Please tell us about the programme?

The Two Oceans Aquarium assist Marine and Coastal Management (MCM) with their ongoing project to remove box packaging bands and other materials such as fishing line and rope that get tangled around the harbour seal's necks. We record information such as tag numbers and returns, number of animals present on each jetty and any injured or entangled animals. If these animals do not have the entanglement removed they will die a slow and painful death.

How do you remove the entanglement?

The seals that have entanglements and are injured are far more alert to danger than the others. This means that we have to approach them extremely quietly and carefully on the water, so as not to alert them. Using a long pole with a slanted blade on the end we attempt to hook and cut the entanglement. This is not an easy task and can be very time consuming. It can take months of waiting for an entangled seal to be in the right position for us to attempt this and then it can still take half an hour or so of careful stalking.

How has a Torqeedo motor assisted you in your work?

As mentioned above, the trickiest thing about cutting these entanglements off is, being able to get close enough to the seal without scaring it away. The Torqeedo motor is extremely quiet and therefore allows us to get very close without being detected. The Aquarium has recently received Gold Heritage accreditation. Using an electric motor instead of a smoky petrol one, has added to our Green status.

Has the electric motor changed the way you work?

The Torqeedo has allowed us to rely more on our boat and get to seals that would otherwise evade us. The seals were very quick to associate our noisy motor with danger, and now without the noise we can surprise them, thus making our cutting method more successful.

What would you change about the motor?

A downside is that we can't leave it on the boat overnight, but it is clean, light and compact for use.

And your final thoughts?

It has good power; it gets us around nicely and we can approach seals without being detected. Lastly we appeal to everyone to never leave any piece of plastic or string or line in a knot or a loop, even if it is going into the rubbish bin. They can entangle many species of animals, causing them a slow and painful death. Cut all loops!

TELKOM TRIALS

Whisper Boats first applied to Telkom in May 2007 for an ADSL line for our Khayelitsha school. It has been a long rocky and unsuccessful road to date. After 14 months and numerous phone calls and complaints, Telkom installed a landline at our school! Our explanation that a landline is of little use to a deaf person, fell on the *deaf ears of Telkom*.

After 2 months of having a line, we decided to **make the best of a bad situation** and install a fax machine. On attaching the fax unit we discovered the line had been faulty all along and we did not even have a landline!

Following the normal faults procedure we waited a week or so for a few technicians to fix the line. This lasted a few weeks and two days ago the line was faulty again and we lodged another fault report.

Telkom's reasons for not installing an ADSL have varied from: "the technicians do not go into Khayelitsha, its too dangerous", "the poles are too near wires and it is dangerous", "there is no connectivity in the area", "there are no ports available", to the old time favourite "there is no infrastructure".

To add insult to injury, Whisper Boats attempted over a period of five months to change their billing address. Apparently the system cannot accept a change in billing address while there is an outstanding ADSL order in process!

We have finally overcome the hurdle of the billing address by cancelling and reinstating our ADSL order four times on the system and paying the princely sum of R225 for a name change, but we are **still without any ADSL connection**.

One wireless provider has confirmed they can get us coverage, but the costs are prohibitive. All the other wireless providers we have approached do not cover Khayelitsha at all... their coverage maps leave a big gaping hole over the entire township.

We are desperate to get an ADSL connection at our school so we can communicate with our deaf administrator, streamline all our paperwork requirements for Merseta accreditation and provide an internet research facility for our teachers. It is **a year and a half later and we have our hands tied by the standard Telkom response "no infrastructure"** and no indication of when that infrastructure might become available.

SABA SPONSORS WBBA



In addition to our main sponsor Harveys Composites who have been supplying us with glass fibre materials for the last three years, and First African Paints who supply us with Awlgrip paint, SABA has now joined us as a sponsor supplier. SABA is an international supplier of adhesives and sealants for professional applications.

WHISPER BOATS NOW THE SOLE DISTRIBUTORS FOR ASMO IN SOUTH AFRICA

In addition to our Torqeedo outboard range. Whisper Boats has now also become agents for ASMO Marine inboard electrical motors to be used as single motor or in an hybrid configuration, whereby the electrical motor can be added to your existing diesel engine. Asmo Marine has developed a series of electric inboard motor systems. The motor systems have a total efficiency up to 93%. Hereby, the motor solutions from Asmo Marine set a new standard for the distance that can be achieved by an electric engine in sailboats. All components are adjusted and optimized to meet the need of sailors and the life at sea.



GRADUATES LOOKING FOR PERMANENT PLACEMENTS

Olwethu, Siphokazi, Teenager and Phumelele are all looking for full time work for 2009.



If you are looking to **balance your employment equity plan** with increased representation from the **designated disability sector**, please contact **Vanessa Davidson on 087 805 9570** to discuss employment opportunities for Olwethu, Siphokazi, Teenager and Phumelele.

DON'T FORGET TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO VIEW OUR LATEST PRODUCTS

<http://www.wbba.co.za/products.php>



WHISPER 600

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Designed as an affordable way to have a lot of fun with all your friends or to transport a group of people. The Whisper 600 is delivered equipped with a petrol or electrical outboard motor. Complete with 9.9 "Big foot" outboard and remote steering 99 000 rands ex-VAT.

Correction: Please note that the Dragon Boat Fundraising event covered in our last newsletter was a fundraising event organised by the Rotary Club of Good Hope. The Western Cape Dragon Boat Association did not organise, nor benefit from the event.

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