



South African Red Cross Society (SARCS): Annual General Meeting. 26th August 2014 in the United Church Hall

The Hermanus is a local committee of the South African Red Cross Society (SARCS) a voluntary organisation in existence since 1957. It oversees core functions of disaster management, responsive to humanitarian needs when they arise, First Aid and Home Based Care training and managing a medical loans depot. The committee works within the ambit of the Western Cape regional office.

Disaster Management SARCS is an official auxiliary to the government. Hermanus Local committee is less involved with the immediacy of disasters, however are responsive if a need arises.

Home Based Care (HBC): 31 people trained. Undertaking a HBC course is useful to people applying for nursing. More recently applicants have had a Grade 12 qualification Red Cross HBC course is affordable and is a tertiary certificate, potentially helpful with study opportunities. Often an employer who becomes sick or disabled values an employee who has HBC skills. Some applicants just want a job as unemployment is rife. Many students say “I like to work with old people” Some have a family member who needs care at home too.

First Aid (FA) - 29 people trained

The tourism sector is the largest applicant for FA training with at least one tour operator in every class. The abalone and construction industries also continue to use this training in line with the health and safety act which requires companies to have trained first aiders. In the last year a number of prospective paramedics enrolled with the Red Cross to undertake training.

Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) is the quality assurance body for overseeing skills development and course accreditation. This is now a potential problem to Red Cross as the courses are not accredited

The **Medical Depot** has approximately 10 customers daily to loan or return equipment. Some are making enquiries about courses or collecting food ingredients. The depot receives material donations and sells first aid bags Food ingredients are donated to 15 soup kitchens costing Hermanus Red Cross about R7.000.00 per month. Food and blankets are supplied on request for

those in need. An evaluation of food distribution is underway; all organizations requiring food submit a written motivation, become Red Cross members, market Red Cross with a flyer supplied. It is difficult to establish what overlap in food distribution between agencies exists in the Overstrand. Records of NPO vary and may be incomplete

Website: We have had a website for over 2 years and it receives approximately 1200 hits per month www.hermanusredcross.co.za

Knitting Initiative

Blankets are made by many people in Hermanus and the project is based in Anya's Mum Café in Hermanus. Colourful blankets have been distributed to the elderly and babies in the wider community of Overstrand since early 2013. More recently Red Cross Committee of Hermanus has undertaken delivery recently to Stanford and Zwelihle clinic and a foster home in Hawston.

We have responded to Women's Action Group and Ubuntu Bethu requiring some funding

Infrastructure

Lastly a little about our infrastructure, as yet no final decision has been made about when and where the Red Cross and SANTA facility will be built, both facilities remain on the land owned by the United Church. Thus we have repainted the total exterior of our existing facility and improved signage. We continue to work with the Greyton branch of the Red Cross. Sadly the National Red Cross has undergone a major review as there are many staff and functional issues that are yet to be fully resolved. In conclusion many people have contributed to its development and we are fortunate to have benefactors including generous donations again this year.

We welcome new members to our committee and encourage organizations that have a perceived health and social need to request a proposal form from the committee.

Committee Members 2011: Christine Paine, Margaret Barron, Denver Scheepers, Estelle Koen, Kitta Nieuwland. Theo de Meyer John Taylor (Assist with projects)

Chairperson: Angela Heslop 0726098655

A P Heslop