



**South African Red Cross Society (SARCS):
58 th Annual General Meeting.
11 October 2017**

The Hermanus Red Cross 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 of the SARCS.

Disaster Management SARCS is an official auxiliary to the government. Hermanus Local committee is less involved with the immediacy of disasters, however is responsive if a need arises. There are many approaches to Red Cross for items to assist needy people. In certain situations as recently occurred – an individual’s home burnt down, to which we responded however we work within financial guidelines and request completion of a motivation.

Home Based Care (HBC): 50 students undertook a HBC level 1 course this past year. Whilst this course is a useful preparation for people considering nursing as a career and relevant to coping with sickness at home, it has certain limitations as this course level is not accredited as yet and will limit job opportunities. The Old Age Act requires an I year HBC course in order for people to be employed in care settings.

First Aid (FA)

41 people trained in First Aid and applicants come from the tourism, construction and private sectors. 59 Early Childhood Development applicants involving 15 crèches in the Overstrand have passed the FA course. We plan to evaluate the crèches and learn how this course has benefited them. This course is awaiting accreditation.

The Medical Depot acts as a shop front two hours a day, has an average 80 drop-ins monthly which includes enquiries/advice, soup kitchens collections. Equipment loans and returns average 40- 60 per month. We distribute food (dried products) to about 10-15 outlets.

Website: We have had a website for over 5 years and it receives approximately 50 % bounce rate i.e. people who leave the site without using it and 50% spend time on the site. Many enquiries arise from the website. www.hermanusredcross.co.za

Infrastructure and the future. Our main efforts in the past 3 years have been moving premises, adjusting to a shared facility with SANTA and the costs involved. It has also required extensive work with the municipality on issues such as paperwork, completion of building features, signage and the immediate surrounding area

Time has been spent on discontinuing our responsibility of Ubuntu Bethu a facility in Zwelihle rented by another NPO which resulted in a failed sale. This building has now been handed over to Western Cape Provincial Red Cross as they are the owners.

We are currently revising all job descriptions of committee members
We continue to liaise with Greyton branch of the Red Cross in a small way.

In conclusion many people have contributed to its development and we are fortunate to have benefactors who gave us generous donations again this year.

Vision

To market ourselves in the light of less work in moving premises and undertake further projects.

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

Committee Members 2017: Christine Paine, Denver Scheepers, Estelle Koen, Kitta Nieuwland. Theo de Meyer
Chairperson: Angela Heslop

A P Heslop