NET VIR PRET

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Registered as a Non Profit Organisation and a Public Benefit Organisation

NPO 055 086

PBO 930049465

8 Renonkel Avenue Barrydale 6750

Tel: 028 572 1131

Email: <u>netvirpret@mweb.co.za</u> Website: <u>www.netvirpret.org</u>

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Cherie Dirksen – Art & Craft Andries Truter – Project Hope

Interns

2017

Natasha Christoffels – Charl Jonas - Catherine Kortje Chriselda le Roux – Selanvor Platjies - Anwill Speelman

2018

Jolee Anne Bronn – Gabriel Buis – Heriette Ferguson – Joshua Louw Daylon Pienaar - Selanvor Platjies – Anwill Speelman

ACTIVITIES

Net vir Pret continued its work with children and youth in Barrydale and on the surrounding farms and ran 20 different programmes during the year under review; these are described below.

The **Girls Only** and the **Save the Redfin** programmes were new ventures.

The **PETS** workshops were run by **Dr. Michael Rice** of the **PETS Foundation**; Net vir Pret was the facilitating partner.

THE 2017/18 PROGRAMME

Programme	Activities	Time frame No. participant		
After-School	Story-telling, reading, art & crafts,	Mon – Fri	35-50 children daily	
Care	puppet-making, play-building			
Programme		14h00-17h00	(age group 5-11)	
Sports	Summer: cricket, handball, bowling,	Mon – Fri :	Barrydale: 30	
Programme	tug-of-war, tennis	Farm schools 10h00-	(ages 5-15)	
	Winter: rugby, soccer, netball, bowling,	12h00	Farm schools: 200	
	table tennis	Barrydale: 14h00-	(ages 5-12)	
	Matches on Saturdays	17h00		
Holiday	Arts & crafts, play-building, games,	During all four school	130 (ages 5-17)	
Schools	sports	vacations		
Day of	Activities pursued throughout the year	3 weeks of the	150 participants	
Reconciliation	lead to a Giant Puppet performance in	December Holiday		
Puppet	December	School		
Parade				
Farm school	Story-telling, reading, art & crafts, play-	12h00- 13h30 Mon-	200 children over the	
outreach	building; 4 farm schools visited weekly	Thursday	4 days (ages 5-12)	

Young Leaders	Structured 2-year course in weekly	Friday	24 participants		
	workshops. Occasional residential	16h00-17h30			
	weekends & educational excursions				
Matric	Final year high school students are	Group motivating	26 participants		
Outreach	offered individual counselling in career	sessions; individual			
	pathing and are assisted with	counselling			
	applications to tertiary institutions & for	throughout the year.			
	bursary support.				
Bursary	Financial assistance for tertiary students	As needed	15 beneficiaries		
Programme	for registration deposits, transport and				
	food.				
Internship	Interns are on a one year placement at	1 Mar-31 Dec	7 interns		
Programme	Net vir Pret where they learn new skills.				
Jazz	Individual and ensemble instrumental	Tuesdays to Fridays	15 participants		
Programme	tuition provided in 4 sessions a week.	14h30-16h30.			
Drama	Weekly rehearsals in which plays are	Wednesdays	10 participants		
Programme	improvised. Public performances and	15h00-17h00			
	entry in the Overberg Drama Festival.				
Pottery	Studio work twice a week leading to an	Mon & Wed	15 participants		
Programme	end-of-year exhibition and market.	15h00-18h00			
Craft	Studio work thrice a week leading to an	Tues, Thurs & Fri	18 participants		
Programme	end-of-ear exhibition and market.	14h30-17h30			
Blikkies Band	Training in drumming and riel dance	Mondays to	144 participants in 18		
& Riel Dance	three times a week with participation in	Thursdays 15h00-	groups based at NvP		
Programme	competitions and festivals	17h00	and 12 farm locations		
Bike Club	Cycling and training in road safety and	Monday – Friday	18 participants		
	bike maintenance three times a week;	15h00-17h00;			
	participation in Renosterbos Marathon.	Sat 10h00-13h00.			
Project Hope	Full-time creative and healing activities	Monday-Friday	14 participants		
	for young school drop-outs in conflict	10h00-13h00			
	with the law.				
Homework	Access to a supervised space for	Mon-Thurs	30 participants		
Club	homework with internet access and	16h00-18h00			
	printing facilities.				
Programme	In partnership with the PETS	A two-hour	12 participants		
for Educating	Foundation providing workshops for	workshop every			
Teachers -	teachers from in schools in Barrydale	second month			
PETS	and on surrounding farms				
Save the	A new activist programme designed to	River clean-up on	30 participants		
Redfin	save the endangered redfin minnow	Wednesday			
	_	afternoons			
Girls Only	A programme designed to assist girls	Wednesdays	15 participants		
	face the challenges as they enter	15h30-17h00			
	puberty.				
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Renosterbos – the Day of Reconciliation Parade

The December giant puppet Parade is the highlight of the Net vir Pret year and is many months in the making. In 2017 the theme dealt with the plight of the endangered rhino who are being poached to



extinction for their horn. After months of research and a visit to spend time with the rhino at the **Sanbona Wildlife Reserve**, a story for the performance which follows the parade emerged, involving rhino parents and their youngster, a poaching syndicate led by the ruthless Lady Boss, corrupt officials, a rhino sanctuary and a young offender who sees the light and saves the baby rhino from certain death when a fire tears through the reserve.



The event was again directed by **Aja Marneweck** and run in partnership with the **Centre for Humanities Research** at the **University of the Western Cape.** The giant rhino puppets were designed



and built by the **Ukwanda Puppetry Collective** from **Masipumelele**. We were also joined by 3 members from the **Mothertongue Project**

based in McGregor.

The show was dedicated to the memory of one of their members, **Ncedile Daki**, who worked with us on the December show for many years and whose young life was tragically taken in a car hi-jacking last year.

Our own Net vir Pret team designed and built

the smaller puppets, including a Fire Dragon which tore through the action setting everything ablaze.

The full cast numbered over 150, including 130 youngsters from the village and the

surrounding farms. **Gari Crawford** and our jazz workshop contributed original music for the show and **Elton Esau** and his choir provided vocal backing.

Groups of young leaders were trained in the making of the medium and small puppets over many Saturdays so that they could lead the children later in making their own.

The event took place on 17 December and was attended by a huge crowd who had come from





far and wide to see it, including visitors from the University of Toronto. This was the first parade mounted on our own without the Handspring Trust and all agreed that it exceeded expectations. That it did so is a tribute to the Handspring team and their nurturing over a 7-year partnership. The parade now provides a focus each year for work across our different programmes, sparking creativity on every side, from storytelling, scripting and acting, to music, song and dance, as well as

the design, construction and manipulation of puppets, involving a wide range of participants of all ages from across the Barrydale community. It has become a precious instrument for the development of our youth and the healing of our fractured community and we look forward to many more over the years.

HOLIDAY SCHOOLS

Easter

Attended by 98 youngsters, the theme for 5-day Easter Holiday School was **Pets and How to Care for Them.**



The programme opened with a visit from the **Karoo Animal Protection Society** (KAPS) who addressed youngsters on aspects of pet care. They also brought dogs with them to meet the children.

After a morning of drawing your favourite animal, the rest of the week was spent in groups devising stories about pets which were then scripted and rehearsed for performance on the final day, complete with props and costumes.



Winter



Rhinos were the focus of the July Holiday School, attended by 130 youngsters who drew rhino, made rhino puppets and came up with stories about rhino which were performed on the final day. In the second week, the Holiday School moved to the **Vlakte** farm where a similar programme attracted 55 youngsters.



In the third week 21 teenagers from the farms were invited to a residential 5-days at the farmhouse where they also learned about the rhino and their plight.

Spring



The 5-day October
Holiday School was
devoted as usual to
cleaning up the hill which
separates township from
village. Over 50 black
bags of rubbish were
collected and then
sorted into what could
be recycled.
The youngsters then



fashioned objects of interest and beauty from the recycled material under the guidance of the Craft Studio.

Summer

The Summer Holiday School opened with 3 weeks intensive preparations for the Renosterbos Puppet Show described above. After a recess over the festive season, the new year opened with a residential week of fun and learning at the farmhouse for 30 youngsters from surrounding farms.



The youngsters broke into 6 groups and the focus of activities was the development of a play around a chosen theme which was presented for all to enjoy on the final day.

We provide both breakfast and lunch to all participants in the Holiday Schools and in 2017 we were privileged to be supported by the **Lunchbox Fund** which provides nutritious foodstuff which forms the basis of the meals.

After-Care Programme

The Aftecare Programme, led by Youth Development Coordinator, **Sudonia Kouter** with help from **Clarisa Jonas** and the Interns, runs from 14h00 to 16h00 every weekday afternoon with up to 50 youngsters attending. The first hour is spent on the computers in the Homework Room where, under supervision of the Interns, the youngsters are able to access the Eduplay software which provides training in mathematics and languages for all grades. The second hour is spent in the Playroom where they engage in structured developmental activities, including art and craft and the Nal'ibali reading programme.



Pottery and Craft Studios







The Pottery Studio, led by Jean Bittkau, and the Craft Studio, led by Cherie Dirksen, both continue to produce work of high quality. The young potters mounted an exhibition of their work at the Barrydale Blooms Festival in October and the crafters exhibited their year's work at the Barrydale Library in December. The crafters created a range of decorative fridge magnets which Judy Brown, director of the British charity EDSA, took home with where they will be used for fundraising. Michele Berry continued to help with occasional fabric design and printing workshops.

Jazz Programme

Led by veteran teach **Gari Crawford**, our Jazz Programme continues to flourish and it's reach was expanded during the year with the acquisition of a trumpet and an alto sax through **Marion Barton**.



The young musicians play at the Karoo Art Hotel and at local restaurants.
They also performed at the Swellendam Mall in September.



Drama

Following the

success of plays we have presented in recent years, drama has now become one of our core activities with groups running not only at the Net vir Pret base but also at three farm schools.

Directed by **Peter Takelo**, the Net vir Pret group developed **Die Rooi Doppie** - which refers to the red cap on a five litre plastic can of poisonously cheap red wine. The play deals with the ravaging effects of alcohol on our community. The play came first in **Overberg Drama Festival** and went on to the

The Rooi Doppie cast off to perform

the

provincial finals in February 2018 where it received special commendation.





Drumming and Riel Dance

The Drumming and Riel Dance groups continued developing throughout the year, performing regularly at the **Karoo Art Hotel** and elsewhere. Invited to an Open Day at the **Drostdy Museum** in Swellendam, they performed to great acclaim.

Riel dancers and drummers also travelled to **Oudtshoorn** over Easter for the **KKnK Festival** where they gave street performances.

Bike Programme

The Bike Programme continues to be an important attraction for youngsters in the village and often

provides their first entry to the centre from where they go on to participate in other activities.



The 50 bikes donated from the UK several years ago through the kind agency of **Noelle** and **Kevin Ablitt** are being maintained under the supervision of Intern **Anwill Speelman**. Nine of the youngsters cycled the 85 km to the sea-side resort at Witsand over rough dirt roads in February. The expedition was led by two of the Project Hope boys who maintained the lead to the end.

Girls Only

The new Girls Only programme was launched on Women's Day in August last year when Net vir Pret

girls and their mothers were invited to a day of fun and self-discovery for both for daughters and mothers. The programme now meets regularly on Tuesdays under the guidance of **ACVV** social worker **Annaline Zilch**. The programme aims to address the issues girls face in



their formative teenage years and

at developing self-esteem and leadership skills. An essential element is the involvement not only of the girls but also of their mothers.

The year ended with a High Tea at a local coffee shop.

Save the Red Fin

Early in the year, local conservationists, **Prof. Les Minter** and **Flora Cameron** addressed Young
Leaders on the plight of the red fin minnow in the **Huis River** which flows through the village.
Unique to Barrydale, this species is under threat of extinction due to pollution which not only poisons the fish but also clogs up the flow the river.

In response, Net vir Pret youngsters signed up to create the **Save the Red Fin Club** which cleans the river on Wednesday afternoons. Under Flora's



guidance, the youngsters have a gone a long way in removing the trash from the river and attention is now being given to the invasive alien growth. An appeal has been made to the **Dept. Of Water Affairs** for help with training in the identification and eradication of alien vegetation and for funding for the purchase of chain saws and other equipment which will enable us to make a much more effective impact.

We have also agreed that the river and the red fin will provide the inspiration for the 2018 December Parade.

Homework Club



Interns and is proving a great attraction.

Thanks to support from **Detlef Klapthor** and the **Claude Leon Foundation**, we were able to extend the reach of our Homework Club by adding 8 new pc's to the computer lab, thus doubling the 8 we had from **Barrydale High School** last year. We were also able to load all with the **Eduplay** software which teaches Mathematics and Languages from Grades R to 12. The facility is in use every afternoon under supervision of staff and

Young Leaders

The 24 Young Leaders attended a structured weekly workshop on the principles of leadership during the year and played an essential part in the delivery of our programmes, working alongside staff.

Their role was crucial especially in holiday schools which were attended by up to 130 children and youth.

They participated fully in the lead up to the December Parade, learning how to construct the handheld puppets which they would later guide the youngsters in making

and several of them took lead roles in the performance.



Freedom Day - April 27 Interns presented a short play to youngsters in celebration of the freedom which we enjoy in present-day South Africa in which the franchise is crucial.

Youngsters learned how the franchise works and they were invited to vote for their favourite Net vir Pret programme. Cousellors were on





hand to help, together with voting booths and ballot boxes.

Youth Day - June 16 A day of games was held at the local sports field for youngsters. The day began



with a programme of traditional games, with a chess tournament available for those who preferred it, and ended with a rugby match. We were honoured by the presence of Carol Beerwinkel, member of the Western Cape



Provincial Parliament, who addressed the gathering.



Heritage Day - September 24. Net vir Pret mounted an all-day Riel Dance Festival with 20 groups participating. Two of the groups were based at Net vir Pret itself, and the remaining 18 came from other centres, including 3 farm schools. All groups had been set up by Net vir Pret durring the year.

A substantial crowd turned up to watch and our thanks go to **Swanns Busdiens** for sponsoring the event.

The Net vir Pret Senior Group of dancers are the agents who train the novice groups and the success of the event was a tribute to their work.



Internships

Four new Interns joined us in March; Natasha Christoffels, Catherine Kortje, Chriselda le Roux and

Selanvor Platjies. **Charl Jonas**, a 2016 Intern, was appointed for a second term.

The Interns worked with children and youngsters alongside staff in all programmes. They were required to take charge of the 50 children who attended the daily aftercare programme on Wednesdays when staff were away on training at **Boland College** in Caledon and they also supervised the Homework Club



They conduced research



into the rhino and constructed Wat is jou Choice..... a wall-newspaper on the theme which was on display at the Barrydale Library, the local schools and other central points in the village. They have also carried responsibility for groups at the Holiday Schools.

As a special project they were called upon to

.....plays to an appreciative audience

improvise a play which could tour schools on a theme of social

concern. This resulted in *Wat is jou Choice?* (What is your choice?), a 40 min. play which tackled problems of discipline in the classroom and which played at schools in the Overberg, giving 16 performances in total.

Farm School Outreach

The Farm School Outreach Programme ran on four mornings a week with the Lemoenshoek, Vleiplaas, Weltevrede and Akkerboom Farm Schools being visited in turn.

All sessions were broken into two parts, story-telling and arts and crafts run by **Peter Takelo**, while **Angelo Endley** worked alonside with a sports programme.

In 2017 riel dance groups formed at all these schools and a new development was the formation of drama groups, all nurtured by Net vir Pret, which performed for one another at a mini-festival at the end of the year.



Project Hope

Project Hope began in mid-2016 as an initiative to minister to a group of 16 boys who had dropped out of school and come into conflict with the law. Initally attracted to our Bike Club, the boys gradually became integrated into the wider Net vir Pret community and astounded everyone by announcing after the Christmas recess that they all wanted to go back to school.

In the end 14 of the boys were admitted to school in January 2017 but the complication was that it was decided to place them according to their age and not their scholastic level. This resulted in all finding themselves completely out of their depth and in a situation where in effect they had been set up to fail. Boys who had been in Grade 2 when they dropped out, noe found themselves in Grade 4.



and included negotiating the cruel 5 km steep incline of the Op de Tradauw Pass. All completed the ride and a celebratory dinner was held for them and their mothers in the following week. Although by year's end most were no longer attending school,

Although by year's end most were no longer attending school, amazingly 5 of the youngsters did make it and returned to school in



The remaining 9 boys have stayed with us

and with the help of retired special needs teacher, **Andries Truter**, they were given daily classes in basic literacy and numeracy. Staff member, **Herman Witbooi**, was given overall responsibility for the programme. He has

We organised after-school support for them but as the months passed it became clear that the obstacles placed before them were insurmountable and we feared that none would survive the year. In August in a test of strength and will-power, 6 of the Project Hope boys accompanied by 2 Young Leaders cycled the gruelling 65 km to Montagu. The ride took 4 hours



established a carpentry workshop with them and they have also begun to establish a food garden at the Net vir Pret farmhouse. With this in mind, they visited the **van Wyksdorp** branch of the **Gouritz Cluster Biosphere Reserve** in early March to learn about preparing beds for planting and raising seedlings. A few newcomers have joined and there are now 14 in the group.

Matric Outreach and Bursary Programmes

The Matric Outreach Programme counselled youngsters in their final school year on options for

further study and provided assistance with applications to institutions, for financial support, and finally with procedures on registration day, including transport to and from Cape Town in the Net vir Pret bus. The Bursary Programme aimed to provide emergency assistance when NSFAS, the state financial aid system, fell short.

13 new students entered tertiary insitutions in 2018 with our help and another youngster took up an



apprenticeship at **TMS International**, thanks to the support of **Detlef Klapthor**. Off to study in Cape Town The following table shows the growing number of young people from

Barrydale who are progressing to further study with Net vir Pret's help and presents details of the new students as well as of continuing students and graduates. It would be true to say that before we initiated this intervention 6 years ago, virtually no youngsters from our village were going on to tertiary study.

TERTIARY ENROLMENTS

New tertiary enrolments 2018		Institution	Course
1. Afrikaner, Chandre		Northlink College	Nat. Dipl. Management N4
2. Britz	, Darren	Northlink College	Nat. Dipl. Business Management N4
3. Davi	ds, Roberts	Cape Peninsula Univ of Technology	Nat. Dipl. Sport Management N4
4. Euro	pa, Micaela	Boland College	Nat. Dipl. Educare N4
5. Ever	tson, Jerome	Univ. of the Western Cape	BA 1
6. Jona	s, Charne	Northlink College	Nat. Dipl. Human Resource Management N4
7. Jowe	el, Elvinna	Cape Peninsula Univ of Technology	Nat. Cert. Dental Assisting
8. Kees	, Ashwin	Univ. of the Western Cape	BA 1
9. Le Ro	oux, Chriselda	Northlink College	Nat. Dipl. Management N4
10. Mart	thinus, Devona	South Cape College	Nat. Cert. Hairdressing
11. Mich	naels, Rensche	Univ. of the Western Cape	BEd 1
12. Neet	thling, Chilton	College of Cape Town	Nat. Dipl. Graphic Design N4
13. Snyn	nan, Ethan	Northlink College	Nat. Dipl. Office Administration N4
Continuing stu	udents		
14. du Toit, Christiaan		Northlink College	Nat. Dipl.Marketing N6
15. du T	oit, Davina	West Coast College	Nat. Dipl. Management N6
16. Esau	ı, William	Univ. Western Cape	BA 2
17. Filto	n, Imran	Univ. Western Cape	B Ed 2
18. Hess	s, Dylan	Univ. Western Cape	BA 2
19. Kopp	oies, Nuroshaan	West Coast College	Nat. Dipl. Management N6
20. Peke	eur, Deslin	West Coast College	Nat. Dipl. Office Technology 2
21. Ruite	ers, Ethan	Boland College	Nat. Dipl. Sport Management 2
22. Sche	epers, Elroy	Northlink College	Nat. Dipl. Civil Engineering N5
23. Skipp	pers, Gerald	Northlink College	Nat Dipl. Mechanical Engineering N5

24. Swart, Peden	West Coast College	Nat. Dipl. Elec Engineering N6
25. van Rooi, Henrico	Northlink College	Nat. Dipl. Human Resources N6
26. van Wyk, Ellestine	Northlink College	Nat. Dipl. Early Childhood Dev. N6
27. Windvogel, Tay-Lea	Univ. Western Cape	BA 3
Graduates		
28. Afrika, Franco	Univ. of the Western Cape	BA (Hons), STD
29. Braaf, Sonja	South Cape College	Nat. Dipl. Educare
30. Britz, Charleen	Cape Peninsula Univ of Technology	B Ed
31. Dyanti, Brandon	Northlink College	Nat. Dipl. Financial Management
32. Ernest, Simonia	Cape Peninsula Univ of Technology	B Ed
33. Hendricks, Romano	Northlink College	Nat. Dipl.Marketing
34. Jooste, Mickhyle	Univ. of the Western Cape	B Com
35. Joubert, Fiogen	Cape Peninsula Univ of Technology	B Tech (Tourism)
36. Levendal, Cecil	Univ. of the Western Cape	B Com
37. Michaels, Shayne	Univ. of the Western Cape	B Ed
38. Moses, Clarence	Univ of the Free State	B Admin
39. Nel, Grace	South Cape College	Nat. Dipl. Safety & Security
40. Nel, Patrick	Northlink College	Nat. Dipl.Management
41. Pieterse, Sheryldine	Northlink College	Nat. Dipl.Tourism
42. Snyman, Rowann	Cape Peninsula Univ of Technology	Nat. Dipl. Management
43. Swart, Herschelle	Univ. of the Free State	B Admin
New Apprenticeships 2018		
44. Earl Bronn	TMS International	Diesel Mechanics
Continuing Apprenticeships		
45. Botman, Gurshim	TMS International	Diesel Mechanics
46. Davids, Macwin	TMS International	Boilermaking

The PETS Programme

Our partnership with PETS entered its fifth year. In 2017 the focus was on emergent reading and emergent mathematics. With assistance of educators from Net vir Pret, the Vleiplaas and Akkerboom Farm Schools, and the local BF Oosthuizen Primary School, Dr. Michael Rice worled on developing an interactive 8-module internet



course entitled **It Begins At Birth** for practising teachers, ECD practitioners, caregivers and Home Schooling parents which would be hosted on the E-classroom website www.e-classroom.co.za. The course covers how children start becoming literate at birth and continue the process throughout life through a combination of cognitive development and interaction with their environment. It includes speaking, story-telling, reading and writing, as well as emergent mathematics, with which it shares many similar concepts.

PETS also sponsored a visit by **Linda Bruce** who ran a marathon 4-hour workshop for teachers on **Social and Emotional Learning**.

In a record for Barrydale, 43 educators attended, drawn from both the high and primary schools, four farm schools and Net vir Pret.

The workshop generated much interest.



Other News

 Staff members Donna Kouter, Angelo Endley and Intern Charl Jonas were invited by by UNIMA to participate in a week-long workshop in May with the Mexican puppetry group La Liga which culminated in a performance in the Company Gardens featuring startling wolf puppets.



• Dawn Garisch ran a sponsored 5-day Life Writing Workshop for staff and Interns in late March



which was also attended by **Ulla Mussgnug**, longtime supporter of our work who has recently published an account of her childhood in Namibia. Several participants said that they hadn't realised before that they could

write and that the process had been exciting and therapeutic. The scripting of both the **Renosterbos** play and the Interns' **Wat is jou choice?** also benefited from the workshop.

Thanks to sponsorship from the Max Kohler Trust and Gordon Browning, , we were able to replace our aging bakkie (pick-up truck) after many years of service with a new model.





Funding

Nothing would be possible without the support of our many donors to whom we express our deep gratitude.

DONOR SUPPORT 01.04.2017-31.03.2018

Government		
Dept. Social Development		
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Karen van Heerden		
Bob Wolf		
Richard & Heather Glasstone		
Friends of the Drostdy Museum		
Fish Hoek High School		
Gordon Browning		

We entered into a new partnership with the **Lunchbox Fund** which provided the nutritious ingredients to form the basis of the breakfast and lunch for youngsters attending the Holiday Schools.

Funding from the Department of **Arts and Culture** through the agency of **CACCFWC** began support of the Pottery and Craft workshops in February. This support will run until June and the Department has contracted directly with the tutors.

Lawrie Mabin kindly continued to donate the printing of our brochures.

Support from the **King Baudouin Foundation** in terms of a 5-year commitment continued, although their contribution for the year under review fell outside of the parameters of the financial year.

