

SACEE

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We're celebrating our Diamond Jubilee!!



The South African Council for English Education is celebrating its 60th year in 2015.

It was in 1955 that SACEE was officially registered and its constitution adopted by a meeting of concerned citizens fearful of the decline in standards and the future of the English language in South Africa.

Records show that preliminary meetings to form an association began in Pretoria in 1954. The initiative was strongly supported by the 'Sons of England' who felt, since they were mainly occupied with bursaries, that a new and autonomous body should be formed to promote the development of the language, especially at school level. Today 60 years later, it is fascinating to reflect on the first draft policy of the new 'National Council for English Education'.

"It is emphasised", the document stressed, "that the proposed organisation is to be on strictly non-political lines and it is not intended that there should be liaison of any sort with any of the political parties. It is, therefore, sincerely hoped that this principle will be accepted by all who are prepared to serve and make an endeavour to rectify the many deficiencies from which English Medium Education is suffering at the present moment.

The Authorities have repeatedly expressed their concern at the deteriorating position of English Medium Education and it must be appreciated that without the co-operation of all who value the English language and what that language means to our South African community as a whole, any attempt to attach political significance to the proposed endeavour can only redound to its discredit and hamper the achievement of something that will be of great benefit to all, irrespective of race, creed or colour.

It is hoped that your co-operation will help to dispel any attempt to view the situation from any but a sincere desire to improve the teaching of English in our schools and so assist in the building up of our South African nation in a spirit of co-operation and understanding".

In *SACEE News* in 1995 - when celebrating our 40th year - Peter Mundell, then National Chairperson of SACEE said, "There are many teachers and tens of thousands of pupils who have benefited from the financial support and encouragement of this organisation. South Africa is the richer for its existence and the campaigns it has fought to make the English language a truly valuable resource for all citizens to use and enjoy." Twenty years on, SACEE continues to work to improve and support the English language.



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Our Mission Statement
To support the teaching, learning and
appreciation of English



From my Chair

Celebration and Jubilation!

The South African Council for English Education (SACEE) was founded just seven years after the Nationalist Party took office. With this came a threat to English in South Africa, as the NP was hell-bent on promoting Afrikaans and Afrikanerdom.

Sixty years later, as we celebrate our Diamond Jubilee, that is no longer an issue. English is – despite denials and misgivings from some quarters – the undeclared *lingua franca* of the country and the choice of language medium in schools of the majority.

So, then, does SACEE still serve a purpose today? We believe so, but with a changed brief. We have moved over the years from an organisation which aims to ADVOCATE English to an organisation which sets out to CELEBRATE it. SACEE strives to celebrate the English Language and to celebrate the young users of this language in our part of the world.

This we do through the projects which are run by our branches which are featured elsewhere in this newsletter. Each brings opportunities for young people to create, to respond, to study – and for them and their parents and teachers to celebrate their achievements. And SACEE celebrates with them!

All of this happens because of the enthusiasm and dedication on the part of teachers and others who are responsible for the various projects. Let us celebrate them too!

Footnote:

Malcolm has had the privilege of being involved with SACEE for 50 of its 60 years: He was awarded a teaching bursary of R50 a year in 1965 – and believe it or not, that covered more than a quarter of his annual tuition and res fees! Since then, he has served as the originator and co-ordinator of the English Olympiad, as Vice-Chairperson of the Eastern Cape Branch and as National Chairperson of SACEE. For his service to English in South Africa, he was awarded the English Academy Gold Medal – their highest award – in 2001.



(From the Archives) *Pictured right. An extremely young 'Mr' Malcolm Venter who was at that time the 'Director of the Rank Xerox English Olympiad'. This was prior to De Beers taking over as the main sponsor of the SACEE English Olympiad.*

The Beginnings of the South African Council for English Education

In August 1954, the Grand Lodge Education Committee of the 'Sons of England' proposed that a special meeting be held on 6th September 1954 with a view to forming a National Council for English Education – "We need a strong body of people prepared to work to save the English language and British traditions".

Meeting of the 'Sons of England', Grand Lodge Education Committee, in Pretoria on 6th September 1954.

The meeting was convened to discuss English Education – "The language and teacher problem is deteriorating." It was proposed that an organisation be formed, to be called *The National Council for English Education* whereby interested parties would be able to set up branches throughout the country. At that meeting, 14 members of the audience, from all different parts of the country (Kimberley, Bloemfontein, Durban, East London, Ladysmith, Port Elizabeth, Port Shepstone, Pietermaritzburg, Florida, Johannesburg, Somerset West and Louis Trichardt) offered to serve on the NCEE.

Meeting of the Inaugural meeting of the National Council for English Education in Pretoria on 28th September 1954

The agenda included a preliminary discussion about the new organisation and the need to draw up a suitable Constitution. In addition, various officials were elected. It was agreed that a further meeting was needed so that the proposed draft Constitution could be looked over and amendments etc put forward.

Meeting of the Steering Committee of the National Council for English Education in Pretoria on 12th October 1954

It was agreed that the proposed Constitution would operate "throughout the Union". It was moved that the name of the Council be amended to *The South African National Council for English Education*.

1st meeting of the Central Executive Committee (South African National Council for English Education) at the Wesley Youth Centre, Andries Street, Pretoria on 15th March 1955

It was passed at this meeting that the organisation be known as *The South African Council for English Education (SACEE)*. Persons at that meeting included Messrs L Field, H F Heyman, H A Johnson, J W B Searle, M G Nicolson, E de V Stegman, H Cooper, C M Cox and Mrs D Cuthill. At that meeting Dr Eric Halliday who was proposed as a member by Mr H A Johnson was accepted as a further member and he remained a staunch supporter of the Council's ideals until his death in July 1996. Dr Halliday was awarded the Gold Medal by the English Academy in 1990 for his services to English.

Meeting of the South African Council for English Education in Pretoria on 28th March 1955.

Final amendments were made to the Constitution and the main aims were listed as follows –

3(a) To maintain, promote and encourage English Education in the Union of South Africa and neighbouring Territories.

3(b) To maintain, promote and encourage the knowledge and teaching of British culture and traditions.

JOHANNESBURG



Pictured: Ms Elizabeth Leaver (far left) and Mr Renos Spanoudes (far right) - organisers of Jo'burg's 2014 Senior Creative Writing Competition. The prize-giving ceremony was held at King David Victory Park School.

Johannesburg branch's main project throughout the year is their High Schools' Debating League. Four regions (North and West Rand, East Rand, Central and Pretoria) are run by co-ordinators and come together for the championships, each year.

In early May 2015, a National Debating Competition will be held to celebrate SACEE's Diamond Jubilee year. Debaters from each province will participate as individuals in mixed teams which it is hoped will be useful socially and allow skills to be transferred to debaters from provinces where debating is less established.

The Johannesburg branch also runs its annual Creative Writing Competition for senior pupils. This competition always attracts a lot of interest and is extremely popular with local schools.

WESTERN CAPE:

The 'Rambling readers' continue their good work in the Cape Town area. This branch project was introduced over five years ago. Groups of volunteers read to primary school pupils once a week from age appropriate books in English. When a literacy test was recently conducted at primary schools benefiting from the reading project, it was found that the literacy levels had dramatically increased. Another success for the voluntary readers was to see so many of the children now rushing to libraries and wanting to start reading on their own.

Pictured right: Grade 1 Facreton Primary School pupils in the school library (which the 'Rambling Readers' helped to set up). With them are Merilyn Dewer, Facreton headmaster Saul Issacs, June Fourie and Bromyn Norman.



In addition to the 'Rambling Readers' project, the branch organises many other competitions and projects including their Forum Discussions and Spellcheck Competition.

The Western Cape branch is extremely proud of its main National project which is the compilation and publication of its annual anthology of writings from High School and College pupils throughout South Africa. First published in 1967, *English Alive 2014* was the 48th edition of this anthology. *English Alive* is featured separately on page 86 of this issue of SACEE News.

EASTERN CAPE: The branch's main activity is the *English Olympiad* a SACEE National project run in conjunction with De Beers - see our feature on pages 10 and 11 of this Newsletter. In addition however, the branch continues with other projects such as the *Phakamani Creative Writing Project*, the *Public Speaking Festival* and its workshops for university tutors.

MID-VAAL:

One of our smaller branches, Mid-Vaal branch is very proud to organise its own Junior Original Writing Competition for Primary Schools. Led by their Chairperson Miss Anastella Papageorgiou and ably assisted by Mrs Robin Nell, Mrs Gill Callan, Mrs Heather Tutton, Mrs Paula De Oliveira, Mrs Loots and Mrs Gaylin Bowles, this annual competition continues to create much interest from the local schools.

In 2014, 239 individual pieces of writing were submitted by 15 local schools and all entrants received a certificate of: participation, merit, runner-up or winner.

The winner of the floating trophy (presented in memory of Mrs Beverly Liebenberg) was Auckland Park Preparatory School, which had the most winning pieces and the runner-up trophy was presented to St Mary's School, Waverley.



Pictured above right: Miss Steffani Alexander (Miss Earth South Africa 2014) who presented some of the awards with the Grade 7 winners.



Pictured left: Some of the teachers whose schools participated in the Mid-Vaal Junior Original Creative Writing Competition 2014.

From the left - Natalie Meerholz (Roedean School); Chantel van Wyk (Assumption Convent School); an educator from Sagewood School; Dr Richard Hayward (Co-founder of the Junior Creative Writing Competition) and Miss Anastella Papageorgiou (Chairperson of the Mid-Vaal branch of SACEE and teacher at Mondeor Primary).

The top schools in the competition were -

1. Auckland Park Preparatory School
2. St Mary's School, Waverley
3. Mondeor Primary School
4. Assumption Convent School for Girls
5. Roedean School
6. King David Primary School, Linksfield
7. Sagewood School

POLOKWANE: This branch was 'resurrected' in September 2013. It currently has 7 member schools from in and around Polokwane. The furthest school is in Haenertsburg. In late 2013, the branch co-ordinated the Limpopo provincial delegation that took part in the National Schools' Debating Championships. In 2014 the branch hosted the 7th SACEE PDL tournament. This tournament drew 40 Grade 8-9 debaters and 56 Grade 10 – 12 debaters.

Led by Mr Tlou Mashitsho an enthusiastic and motivated Chairperson, the small group of people on the branch committee work hard to spread the name of SACEE throughout Limpopo province.

PRETORIA: The main project of the Pretoria branch is their Creative Writing Competitions for both Primary Schools and High Schools/Colleges. These competitions are always very well supported by all the local schools. In her address to the audience at the grand prize-giving on 24 October 2014, Mrs Sheila Naidoo (Chairperson of the Pretoria branch) said, "This year we had received even more entries to our Creative Writing Exposium for Primary Schools and to our High School Writing Competition than ever before. What was really gratifying was the extraordinary calibre of the entries, the wide spectrum of genre that young people adapted to topical issues and the art of recreating familiar and foreign experiences and emotions".



Some of the prize-winners with their certificates at the Pretoria branch's 2014 'Creative Writing' prize-giving event held on 24 Oct'14.

A selection of the winning pieces of poetry

The War Horse

Hooves pounding the bloody ground
 Fear in my heart
 Oh the sound!
 Heart throbbing, blood surging,
 Airplanes drone on the grey horizon.

Bullets exploding as friends fall,
 Whinnying muffled by it all.
 I've seen it all and more.
 Blood, death and gore.

A blurred veil of sadness
 A feeling of deep betrayal.
 We were friends - you and I
 I listened to you; now I wonder why.

You dragged me into this nightmare.
 You glorified me in stone.
 Now on the battle field
 Lay my skeletal bones.

Winner – Meké Congdon, Grade 6, Southdowns Preparatory

'Twas the day before Christmas

"Twas the day before Christmas
 And all through the town
 There was not a word –
 Not a peep, not a sound.
 Students were reading
 And learning, and writing.
 The hallways of buildings
 Were barren and frightening.
 There stood a teacher
 In every classroom
 And children listened in dullness and gloom.
 Until
 The last ring of hope -
 When the shrill hit the air -
 And once again there was life everywhere.
 Bodies rushed out of classes
 To their lockers, to the gates –
 To meet friends, to meet peers, to meet mates.
 There was sorrow in the building,
 As the school watched them go.
 They cared not, for what they left behind
 After all, it only taught them
 Everything they know.

Holly-Anne Thompson, 2nd Place, Senior Poetry, Pretoria High School for Girls



PRETORIA:

A winning piece of prose from a Grade 4 pupil!

My Adventure in Htrae

Have you ever been to a world where everything is backwards? Well, I have. I have been to Htrae (which is backwards for Earth). Let me tell you all about it....

One day I was playing with my friend in the park. "I have to go to the toilet," my friend said. When she left, a big door appeared. I entered. I was in another world. "Olleh," said an old lady to me. I didn't understand what she said to me. "lh," said a tall man. I wondered what language they spoke here. I carried on walking until I saw a large building.

On the building it was written Tnaruatser. I went in and saw many people eating with smiles on their faces. I thought that this place was a restaurant. I was very hungry so I found a place to sit. The waiter came to me and said "Order to like you would, hello?" "Sorry, I don't know how to speak this language," I said. The waiter looked at me like he couldn't understand what I had just said. He thought that I spoke a different language and so he said to me, "Backwards everything say we, here over."

When I heard him say the word "backwards", I understood. I tried to order in the language, but I couldn't. I took the paper and pen from the waiter and I wrote that I would like corn soup, vegetable salad, sushi, chips and cream soda to drink. I then said "Please drink to soda cream and chips, sushi, salad vegetable, soup corn like would I. The waiter said to me "You thank."

The waiter went into the kitchen and said to the chef, "Meal best our her serve to have we. Language different a in speaks she. World another from girl a is there."

"It on right get will I, OK." said the chef.

The restaurant was very busy. The waiter came out with my food and put it on my table. "Enjoy," said the waiter. I ate the food and it was delicious. The waiter came out and said to me, "Meal you enjoy you did." I wrote on the paper: yes, it was very delicious and then I said, "Delicious very was it, yes."

I then remembered my friend and wrote on the paper: I came into this world through a large door. Could you please help me to go back to my world, I then said "World my to back go to me help please you could. Door large a through world this into came I."

"Door the is where. You help definitely will I," said the waiter. I took the waiter to the door and when we got there, the door was closed. "Forever here stuck be will you like looks it."

"No!" I shouted. Then I heard someone say, "Wake up, wake up!" I then realized that it was my mom waking me up to go to school. My adventure in Htrae was a dream.

Winner – Zinnicah Boodoo, Gr 4, Lynnwood Ridge Primary School



English Alive was first published in 1967 and has appeared every single year since its inception. This annual anthology of writing from high schools and colleges in South Africa is administered entirely by the Western Cape branch of SACEE. The co-ordinator of the project is Mrs Anne Schlebusch and she is ably assisted by the branch's hard-working and dedicated chairperson Mrs Terrill Nicolay together with the business manager for *English Alive*, Mr Robert van der Valk. Mr Robin Malan was once again the editor for the 2014 edition. Since his return as editor in 1995, this was his 21st year of editorship of *English Alive*. The front cover of the 2014 edition (see left) was designed by Christian Botha of Michaelhouse.

The 48th edition of *English Alive* was launched in the elegant Voorkamer of St Cyprian's School, Cape Town on 20th August 2014, where Mrs Nicolay welcomed an 80 strong audience of students, parents, friends and teachers.

The guest speaker at the event was Amy Jephta who had a piece published in the 2006 edition of *English Alive* when she was a student at Muizenberg High School. In the intervening 8 years Amy has become an accomplished playwright and theatre director with plays performed in South Africa, the United States, the United Kingdom and Sweden. She was most recently part of a residency run by the Royal Court Theatre in London and she was named as one of the *Mail & Guardian's* '200 young South Africans to keep an eye on' in 2013. What Ms Jephta said to her audience at the beginning of her address, 'All the contributors please stand up. Now turn to the person closest to you and introduce yourself to them and say, "Hello, my name is So-and-So, and

I am a writer," ' certainly served to break the ice; there was much happy interaction and chattiness among the contributors from the different schools. They were very happy to stay around and get to know one another, while enjoying the great catering supplied by the host school.

Six students represented all the contributors by reading their pieces:

- Ben Albertyn (Parel Vallei High School): *No chicken's apology*
- Ty Bennett (St Cyprian's School): *If I die tomorrow*
- Luke Folb (CBC St John's Parklands): *Consume me, old friend*
- Aneeb Hendricks (Cedar House School): *Be yourself*
- Siseko Maweyl (Bishops Diocesan College): *Beast*
- Tanielle van der Schyff (Westerford High School): *The slayer and the vermin*



Tanielle van der Schyff

Luke Fold

Ben Albertyn



Ty Bennett

Copies of the 2014 edition of 'English Alive' can be obtained from the Western Cape branch of SACEE. The cost is R50 per copy (excluding postage). Back copies (R35 per copy) and class sets can also be supplied on request. Please note that all 2010 and 2011 editions are sold out. Please write to 'English Alive' P O Box 23912, Claremont, 7735 or e-mail 'englishalive @iafrica.com' for further details.

The National English Language Challenge

The Border branch of SACEE launched its first 'English Language Olympiad' in 1991. It was introduced to provide an English language benchmarking service to local schools. Initially this pilot project only covered the area served by the Border branch and in that year, approximately 100 pupils participated. In 1992, 878 high schools and 648 primary schools had entries in the Language Challenge and in 1993, 1601 high school students and 1047 primary school students took part. The local competition had grown in popularity and in early 1994 after noting that in 3 years, the number of entrants had increased from that first 100 to a total of 2648 participants, SACEE's management committee requested that the 'Language Olympiad' be extended to cover "the whole of the Cape Province, the Orange Free State and some areas of the Transvaal". To avoid confusion with the National 'English Olympiad', it was agreed that the project be known as the 'SACEE National English Language Challenge' where the focus would be on English language usage. It was suggested at that time that the entry fee would be R2.00 per pupil. Over the past 24 years the competition has expanded and now covers all 9 provinces of South Africa.

In 2014, 34,345 learners from 89 schools participated in the Language Challenge/Puzzle Parades.



Congratulations to Caitlin Laing from Clarendon Girls' High, who has been in the top 3 in the country in her grade for the third year running! She came top in Grade 8 with a score of 96% and received a R250 book voucher. .

The following is a breakdown of the 2014 Language Challenge results-

GRADE	NUMBER OF LEARNERS	NATIONAL AVERAGE	HIGHEST SCORE
1	3505	63.8%	51 learners scored 100%
2	3595	71.1%	46 learners scored 100%
3	3655	72.0%	1 learner scored 100%
4	3443	58.1%	3 learners scored 97%
5	3634	66.3%	1 learner scored 100%
6	3437	53.2%	1 learner scored 99%
7	3509	60.1%	2 learners scored 97%
8	2510	51.4%	1 learner scored 96%
9	2508	55.0%	1 learner scored 95%
10	2318	56.2%	1 learner scored 100%
11	2231	60.4%	2 learners scored 95%
TOTAL	34, 345		

BORDER BRANCH:

Apart from being responsible for running one of SACEE's National projects - the Language Challenge - the branch and its talented and hard-working committee members manage to organise many other activities and projects for local learners throughout the year. These include Poetry Festival, General Knowledge Quiz, 'Fun with Words', Public Speaking competition, Forum discussions, Short Story Competition, 'Read out Loud' and a Debating League!

The top 20 winners in rank order

Samuel Musker	Redhill School
Nicholas Cullinan	Bishops Diocesan College
Rahul Naidoo	Bishops Diocesan College
Mikhail Kolabhai	St John's College
Pierre Durandt	Victoria Park High School
Mia McCarthy	Maris Stella
Gianluca Truda	Michaelhouse
Taryn Benade	Victoria Park High School
Lauren Southwick	Maris Stella
Karina de Kock	Pretoria High School for Girls
Julia Jellema-Butler	Reddam House, Constantia
Thalia Rogers	St Mary's School, Waverley
Izana Zaaiman	Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool, Pretoria
Tasneem Kathrada	St John's College
Heinrich Cox	Woodridge College
Sana Salduker	Durban Girls' College
Uvile Binase	Kingsridge High School for Girls
Nicola McEwan	Riebeeck College
Suzanne Loots	Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool, Pretoria
Samuel Sapire	St David's Marist, Inanda



Samuel Musker of Redhill School - winner of the 2014 English Olympiad with representatives from De Beers

The SACEE English Olympiad has been running since 1976. Founded by Dr Malcolm Venter (then a member of the Eastern Cape branch of SACEE) the first competition, which covered the Eastern Cape area, attracted 119 entries and the winner received a prize of R50. In 1977 the Grahamstown Foundation agreed to take over the general administration of the project and the competition was opened up to learners from all over South Africa. The number of entries continued to rise over the years and a major development was when De Beers came on board as the main sponsor of the competition in 1985. The SACEE/De Beers English Olympiad now covers all of South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Mozambique. In 1995, SACEE discarded the existing 'set test' system and introduced a new 'open book' format, which has proved to be very popular with learners.

In 2014 this annual writing competition, open to learners from Grades 10 to 12, drew more than 8,000 entries from high schools throughout South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Mozambique.

On 4th March 2014, the entrants wrote the three-hour examination. The theme was "Language, Literature and Laughter". The anthology, compiled by the South African Council for English Education and entitled *Life's a Laugh?* included humorous extracts from Shakespeare's plays *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Mid-Summer Night's Dream* as well as the scripts of Craig Freimond's *The King of Laughter* and André Lemmer's *Playing in the Park*.

The Grahamstown Foundation and the South African Council for English Education (SACEE) announced the rank order of the top

100 English Olympiad winners at an official prize-giving ceremony held in Grahamstown on Thursday 17 July 2014.

The top 3 candidates each received R25, 000 and the top 50 candidates will receive free-tuition scholarships for their first year of study at Rhodes University immediately upon successful completion of the matriculation examinations and subject to meeting the university's entry requirements.

Speaking at the prize-giving event, De Beers Consolidated Mines representative Mr Tsepo Monaledi head of the De Beers Zimele - an entrepreneur supporting initiative in the rural mining areas of Limpopo, Free State and Northern Cape, commented that:

"The theme this year; 'Language, Literature and Laughter' prompts us to examine the paradoxes between tragedy and comedy, and to explore the human condition to better understand ourselves and others, and what influences us in the choices we make on a daily basis.

De Beers congratulates all participants in the English Olympiad. We are particularly proud of the 351 English Development Initiative (EDI) candidates who entered from the De Beers mining operation areas including two who are featured in the Top 100 candidates; they are Mr Obakeng Kock and Ms Bonolo Phillips who entered with the Kimberley Maths and Science Leadership Academy. What is cause for even greater pride is that nearly 90% of this year's EDI candidates passed with merit or higher.

The EDI is a vital component of the Olympiad, and aims to ensure that schools in communities associated with De Beers mining operations enjoy the benefits of the Olympiad experience, contributing we believe to an increased level of confidence in English usage in more communities and providing an opportunity for learners to compete at a national level".

The 2014 DE BEERS ENGLISH OLYMPIAD



Pictured left (from Left to Right)

Back Row: Pierre Durandt 5th (Victoria Park High School); Gianluca Truda 7th (Michaelhouse); Izana Zaaiman 13th (Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool, Pretoria); Mia McCarthy 6th (Maris Stella).

Middle Row: Heinrich Cox 15th (Woodridge College); Karina de Kock 10th (Pretoria Girls' High School); Tasneem Kathrada 14th (St John's College); Thalia Rogers 12th (St Mary's School, Waverley); Taryn Benade 8th (Victoria Park High School).

Front Row: Nicholas Cullinan 2nd (Bishops Diocesan College); Tsepo Monaledi (De Beers); Samuel Musker 1st (Redhill School); Caleb Diamini (Tshikululu - De Beers)

Not in picture - Rahul Naidoo 3rd (Bishops Diocesan College); Mikhwil Kolabhai 4th (St John's College); Lauren Southwick 9th (Maris Stella) and Julia Jellema-Butler 11th (Reddam House, Constantia).

The following is a transcript of a speech given by Dr Malcolm Venter (Chairperson of SACEE) at the English Olympiad prize-giving ceremony in Grahamstown on 17 July 2014 -

"The South African Council for English Education is responsible for the academic side of the English Olympiad as opposed to the general administration of the project.

This involves, firstly, selecting the theme and the text for each year. For 2014, the choice was something on the lighter side – entitled *Life's a laugh?*

But the Olympiad *itself* was no laughing matter. In the first place, there were some changes in 2014 which paradoxically made the project more serious than in recent years. In particular, the examination saw a return to the more academic-style essay question that demands rigorous critical thinking and insight, as well as sound substantiation by reference to the text – all presented with a creative flair. Now that's quite a tall order - critical thinking, substantiation and a creative flair! At the same time, we re-introduced a language section this year. Although this dealt with the language of *humour*, it required candidates to show an understanding of the *mechanics* of humour – how humour works.

In the light of this, SACEE would like to congratulate *all* who faced up to the exacting demands of the 2014 examination, and in particular those who managed to handle it with sufficient aplomb to be placed in one of the top categories.

Then, organising and financing the project is also no laughing matter. And here thanks must go to the team of markers who had to assess each of the 7 000 or so scripts, and then re-mark the top 200 scripts; and finally agonise over the short list to arrive at the final rank order – and agonise they did. It's a tribute to those responsible for the marking that they take the process so seriously. Even though they have no idea as to who the candidates are or from which school they come, they see them as real people who deserve to be taken seriously.

SACEE is also extremely grateful to the Grahamstown Foundation for the general administration of the Olympiad. What always strikes me is the fact that this is undertaken with *such* enthusiasm and dedication, along with a highly professional level of efficiency. It's clear that they see the Olympiad as more than just another project for which they are responsible.

We would also like to thank our sponsors – de Beers. I must say, without de Beers' longstanding generosity, we would quite frankly have to laugh the Olympiad off.

So– well done and thanks to all for making the 2014 Olympiad more than just a laughing matter"



The 2015 English Olympiad: The exam will be written on Tuesday 3 March 2015 and the theme is 'Stories and Language of Mzansi'. The anthology compiled by SACEE entitled *Revelations and Transformations* Includes 12 South African short stories.

Further information about the De Beers English Olympiad can be obtained from: -

The Olympiad Officer, Grahamstown Foundation,
P O Box 304, Grahamstown, 6140

Telephone: 046 603 1145/07 Fax: 046 622 7462 or 086 262 6048
E-mail: olympiad@foundation.org.za

Our SACEE Logo

In 2003 SACEE launched its special competition to find a new logo for the association. The project was open to all South African primary and high school learners and a first prize of R1,000 was offered.

After much deliberation, the Central selection board decided that the entry submitted by **Kirsten Bürisch** of Pinelands High School in the Western Cape was the winning logo. The board indicated that her "her striking and simple design" was the most appropriate for SACEE's purposes.

The original drawing of the logo submitted by Kirsten, was adapted slightly and the final version was launched in 2005, SACEE's 50th year. Since then the logo has been professionally re-designed and has recently been adapted to acknowledge our 60th Jubilee year - see above.

Pictured below is a photograph which appeared in the 2005 edition of *SACEE News* together with a copy of Kirsten's original logo design.



Pictured with Kirsten on the right is Dr Malcolm G Venter National Chairperson of SACEE) and Mr Tony Reeler (Principal of Pinelands High School). Mr Reeler graciously allowed SACEE to hold the prize-giving ceremony at Pinelands school during a morning assembly.

The above article and photograph was first featured in our January 2005 edition of SACEE News. Where are you now Kirsten?



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