

Ms. Gillian Beverly Louw
Groot-Aub Junior Secondary School

Groot Aub is a very unique community, about 50 km south of the capital city Windhoek. Its proximity to the capital do not preclude the donkey cart being a essential means of transportation. It is a place where most people live in shanty houses with no electricity or running water. This is not the place where you would expect a haven of technology. And yet Groot Aub Junior Secondary School has become just that. Not only is it one of 13 pilot schools in the NETA project, but it one of the few Namibian partners in the Discovery Channel's project.



At the beginning of 2004, six teachers were selected from Groot-Aub Junior Secondary School to participate in the NETA training program, two female and four male teachers.

Ms. Gillian Beverly Louw, one of the female teachers from Groot-Aub. Although she had never used a computer before in her life, she accepted the challenge of adult learning with full-enthusiasm. She listened attentively as the facilitator discussed with them some of the basic recommendations a teachers can consider when using the computers for the first time. The facilitator encouraged them and reminded them that all participants are using the computers for the first time therefore there is no need to feel threatened. He also shared with them his own experience using the computers for the first time, which is very similar to theirs. A computer, they were told that day is just a tool like a chalk or an overhead project that they use every day.

Now a year later, ICT integration is almost second nature to Beverly. She has attended numerous workshops and trainings, ranging from basic computer skills to educational software training to even a technical training workshop. From PowerPoint to curriculum software, Ms. Louw is capable of deciding when it is appropriate to utilize computers to enrich and enhance her Math and Science lessons. Her skills have earned her the role of computer lab facilitator at the school and she enthusiastically coordinates the activities with other teachers as well as learners. She also offers basic computer skills assistance and supports other teachers in matters related to ICT integration in their lesson preparation and presentation

In March this year, NETA and NIED coordinated a lesson plan competition funded by Microsoft. The purpose of the competition was to encourage and motivate teachers who are just beginning to integrate ICT into their lesson planning. Ms. Louw the most lesson plans of any teacher, two in Math and two in Science. Her strategy and commitment proved fruitful as one of her Science lessons received the highest score of the competition for primary and secondary school teachers, winning her Best Secondary Grade Lesson Plan. She received a refurbished computer, Office 2003 software package and Encarta Platinum DVD from Microsoft.

With support from the school management, parents and the Ministry of Education, Beverly can help Groot-Aub J. Secondary School succeed in integrating Information and Communication Technology (ICT) into teaching, learning and overall administration of the school.

Ms. Louw and learners

