

## DANCINGPENCILS BOARD MEMBERS

### Previous board member and executive director, Luke Dhlamini,

now passed on on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2005, whose energy and passion and desire for a non profit company brought things to this point.



Luke Dhlamini collected his experience by working as a manager for Hopkins and Associates, a Labour Relations Law firm, for three years (1989 – 1993). In 1993 he joined the local Peace Accord (Newcastle) and he successfully created a healthy atmosphere for the youths of different political affiliation. One of his highlights with the Peace Accord was in 1994 when he was sponsored by then Iscor Pty Ltd to a tune of forty thousand rands to stage a pre-election festival that would calm all the youths in the area. That was superbly achieved, and he raised more than seventy thousand rands in that particular project. During 1996/97 he attended and successfully completed a basic level sports administration course organised and conducted by the then National Sports council. He was also instrumental in setting up the South African Football Players' Union together with Mr Julius Tivhani Sono, Marks Maponyane etc. During 1998 he was offered by Saka-Northern an opportunity to raise funds for the organisation, which he successfully accomplished with flying colours. His main task and goal within the Dancing Pencils Literacy Development Project is to have corporate partners who assist in the development of literacy in South Africa and the rest of Africa in the future. His education background from school was not a bed of roses. He then completed his schooling with Damelin Newcastle, 1998-2001 where he obtained his Diploma in Marketing. He saw the DPLPD as a healing for the country, starting at grass roots level.

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### Profile of Felicity Keats Morrison

*Board member and director*



On September 7<sup>th</sup> 2011, Felicity Keats Morrison was presented with a Living Legends Award for Academics and services rendered to the country. She has a B.Com, and UED and has been helping nationally with the improvement of literacy levels. She has been writing for fifty years as a freelance journalist, short story writer, editor of South Africa's Beekeeping journal, and in 1988, as a children's author. She also writes books dealing with the unearthing of the talents of the right brain. In 1992 she began teaching writing, using all her knowledge and further designing a powerful lateral right brain teaching course that cut out the usual academics of the left brain and got people writing publishable work almost immediately. Because of the need for her pupils to have a platform from which to be "heard", she started a publishing company, umSinsi Press

cc, in 1995. The number of published titles grew, from three in the first year, to a total of over 1 500 titles fifteen years later. In 1998 she started a rural literacy project, using a specially registered cc for the purpose. Five corporate companies assisted with five print runs of books in 2000 and 3000 print runs which went to disadvantaged rural schools without reading material.

In 2002 she started to “skills transfer” her knowledge in the form of compressed “mentor” courses which take place over three days. Two and a half years ago, the concept of writing clubs was established, with the outcome being anthologies published annually, as well as some individual work from clubs Felicity is also publishing for Education departments under their trained mentors. This has resulted in the spread of good writing in many parts of South Africa, leading to better school passes and better job opportunities.

Felicity has personally trained more than 1000 mentors physically. She also has an internet teaching site://www.dancingpencils.co.za, so that she can transfer her knowledge to distant students. She has worked in all nine provinces of South Africa, training education specialists, curriculum implementers, district officials, provincial education department officials, and educators, to use non judgmental non critical methods of helping children to read and write publishable work and so rapidly increase literacy levels, even in the deepest rural areas.

Felicity also enjoys watercolour painting and photography as a hobby.



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**Profile of Veena Gangaram**  
**Board Member**  
South African citizen

### **EXPERIENCE and CAREER**

Qualified educator with 29 years teaching experience in the intermediate and senior phase. In charge of Reading and Creative Writing Motivation Programmes since 1989 to date. Post graduate course in resource Centre Management. Trained as a Creative Writing Mentor in 2002 under Felicity Keats. Started the first club under the banner of Dancing Pencils.

Published the first learner’s book in the Kwa-Mashu District. Since 2002, published 25 stand alone books and 5 anthologies to date. Learners are workshopped on how to “Develop their creative Writing Skills” once a week after school hours.

### **WORKSHOPS**

Conducted the following workshops for ELITS (Education Library Information and Technology services) for the Department of Education – KZN.

1. “How to motivate learners to read” – 5 workshops in the Kwa Mashu, Ndwedwe, Inanda, Newlands East, Newlands West and Tongaat areas in 2002 for educators.

2. Workshopped educations on “Reading and Creative Writing “ at a Tent Reading Festival in Bergville, Estcourt in September 2003.
3. Workshopped Chief Education Specialists for Languages in the Intermediate and Senior Phase in Mpumalanga in August 2008 on “Get Addicted to Reading” and “Reading Strategies.”
4. Currently conducting workshops on “How to develop creative writing skills using the Right Brain” on Saturdays for learners from 11.00 to 13.00 at the BAT Centre, Durban.

### **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION**

- A. Board member of the Dancing Pencils Literacy Development Project
- B. Chairperson fo the Dancing pencils committee in the Durban Area
- C. Events organizer of the Dancing Pencils Book launch and book handover which is part of the Celebrate Durban Campaign.

Chairperson of the Library committee at school – assist public libraries with holiday programmes and ELITS with Reading Promotion Programmes. Networked and cascaded information on Reading and Writing to educators in neighbouring schools.



## **Profile of Patricia Devenish**

**Board Member**  
South African citizen

South African citizen  
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### Qualifications

BA    University of the Witwatersrand,  
BA    Hons Unisa  
Transvaal Teachers’ Higher Diploma JCE  
L.T.CL      Trinity College London

### Experience

Teacher:      Primary School, Secondary School (including Special Education)

Lecturer Various Teachers' Training Colleges  
Tutor in English at the University of the Western Cape  
Educator/Librarian at the Open Air School

Other information

Workshops Have presented workshops for Very Special Arts (Speech and Drama)

Dancing Pencils APEK (now Naptosa) Speech and Drama Dance and Music  
Writing dialogue for children's plays

Conferences attended International School Libraries 2003 Durban  
School Libraries

2006 Portugal where I presented a paper  
Creating a Book Culture in a Special Needs School"



**Detlev Diegel**

**Board Member**

South African citizen

Detlev Diegel speaks four languages – English, German, French and Spanish and has learnt the “greener” words of Afrikaans from his years supervising building crews. He was born to a family of globe-trotting intellectuals and excursion-loving campers. He was involved with building, ornamental carpentry and hospitality during years as a Backpackers hostel owner in Cape Town. He is very interested in people and philosophy.

He is also interested in other mysteries of the mind's functioning, ancient mythologies and mysticism, but he likes humour, sunrises and fun-loving people. Detlev loves Africa and its peoples and wishes he could speak more languages or have time for all the great books out there to read.

He is passionate about stories and their power to change beings, is a pro-feminist and ardent supporter of the improbable and believer of the impossible.