



EASTERN CAPE

TRANSPLANT SPORTS
ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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Chairperson's Message



Dear ECTSA Family,

It is with immense pride and joy that I reflect on the incredible achievements of our Eastern Cape athletes at the **World Transplant Games held in Dresden this past August**. Representing South Africa with distinction, **eight transplant athletes and two donor athletes** from our region showcased not only their sporting excellence but also the true spirit of Africa.

Together, they brought home an outstanding **21 medals – 10 Gold, 4 Silver, and 7 Bronze** – and even set a **World Record**, a testament to their dedication, resilience, and passion. Beyond the podium finishes, what truly stood out was their exemplary behavior: supporting fellow athletes, engaging warmly with participants from across the globe, and embodying the values of unity, hope, and gratitude that define transplant sports.

A special mention must go to **Kelli Reen**, whose performance and spirit earned her the prestigious title of **Best Female Donor Athlete of the Games**. Her recognition is a proud moment not only for her but for all of us who believe in the power of giving and the strength of the human spirit. We are also proud of **Heilie Uys** who was inducted into the World Transplant Games Federation's Hall of Fame. A first for South Africa.

I would also like to extend heartfelt thanks to our **Touring Committee** for their tireless efforts in making this journey possible. Your behind-the-scenes work ensured that our athletes could focus on what they do best. In particular, a **special word of appreciation to Jan Marais**, who, despite not being able to travel with the team, played a pivotal role in coordinating travel and accommodation arrangements. Jan, your commitment did not go unnoticed, and we are deeply grateful.

As we celebrate these achievements, let us continue to support and uplift one another, fostering a community where every transplant and donor athlete feels valued and inspired.

Warm regards,
Willie Uys



www.transplantsports.org.za



COLOUR CEREMONY—THE START OF THE WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES

The Eastern Cape Transplant Sports Association (ECTSA) held a Colour Ceremony on Saturday 2 August 2025 to hand over Protea blazers to eight athletes and two donor athletes who are going to participate in the World Transplant Games, 17-24 August in Dresden Germany. These athletes are grateful to their donors for the Gift of Life who made this possible.

- Dean Arnolds: 200m & Petanque
- Susan Burri: 3km Power walk, 5km road race & 800m
- Robyn Emslie: Darts & Petanque
- Mignon Joubert (Jnr): 5km Road race & swimming
- Lynn Landman: Shotput, discus & petanque
- Lungelo Maki: 800m & 5km road race
- Carlo Prince: Darts & Petanque





WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES 2025 GERMANY

The World Transplant Games 2025 in Dresden was a great success for Team South Africa consisted of 66 athletes. Not only did Team SA ranked 8th out of 51 countries, but collected 25 gold, 20 silver and 26 bronze medals, a total of 71 medals.

EC transplanted and donor athletes (10) collected 10 gold, 4 silver and 7 Bronze medals, a total of 21 medals and some athletes reached their personal best times and distances.

We are proud of Kelli Reen, a donor athlete, who was also named the Donor Athlete of the Games.

Thanks to all our sponsors, families and supporters who carried them through this exciting experience of the Games.





The World Transplant Games Federation (WTGF) Hall of Fame induction is a prestigious honour, recognising remarkable athletes worldwide who have made a significant impact through their transplant journeys. Heilie Uys was inducted at the WTG in Germany.

Heilie participated in 10 consecutive WTG since 2005, won 32 gold, 10 silver, 2 bronze medals and set 8 world records.

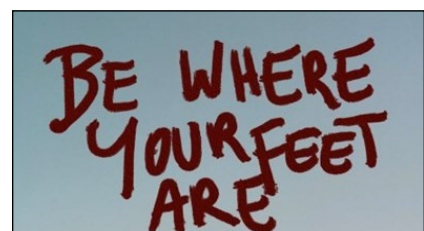
For her the glory goes to her donor and God who made all this possible.

The WTG is not only a sports event, it is also an opportunity to learn life lessons.

We can focus so much on winning, that we forget to experience the here and now!

"Be where your feet are" is a reminder to be fully present and engaged in the current moment, rather than dwelling on the past or worrying about the future. It encourages focusing on the task at hand, managing distractions, and appreciating the here and now, whether it's through focusing on a single task, enjoying simple moments, or approaching life one day at a time.

Some of our athletes reflected on what the Games meant to them and how it enriched our lives.





Susan Burri – Oliver my mascot



I met Oliver at the World Transplant Games in Perth, Australia, in 2023.

The day before the 5km road race, Markus (my husband) and I went from our hotel to try and find Kings Park and Botanical Garden in Perth where the road race was going to take place. When we arrived at the beautiful park, we met a runner from Australia with his wife and son. Together we walked around trying to figure out where the start was going to be.

Oliver, the boy, was very excited about his dad, Warren Bromfield, who was going to take part in his first World Transplant Games.

Oliver was the most enthusiastic supporter – not only cheering for his dad. The day of the race, I could just hear him shouting and cheering me on next to the road and at the finish line.

Oliver was so excited at the medal presentation when I was called up to receive a medal. I told him how I appreciated his support and that I considered him to be my personal mascot.



Great was my surprise when I saw Oliver again this year at the Games in Dresden! He jumped out from the crowd next to the road during our march to the opening ceremony. I got the warmest hug from this special boy from Australia who was there to support his dad (and me!) in Germany. We were very happy to see each other again.

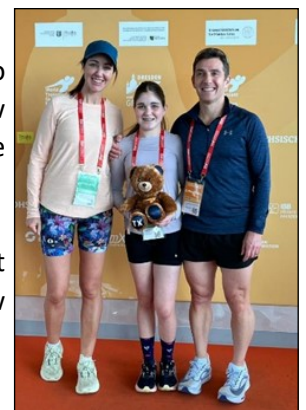
Meeting and being around exceptional people and sharing and listening to their stories, is what makes the World Transplant Games such an extraordinary experience.

I will never forget my bubbly “mascot” from Australia.

Mignon Joubert

The World Transplant Games held in Germany was a life experience I would really like to experience again. I enjoyed every single, special moment. It was so nice to meet new people who all went through the same experience and can relate to each other and share their stories.

We all just felt like a family that supported each other. This whole experience wasn't just about sports and new places and fun times, but also a time where I really realised how grateful I am to be able to take part and to celebrate the second chance I got in life.





My Story

Heilie—Janet my soul



I met Janet Dennis at the World Transplant Games 2013 in Durban. She was part of the American Team, and we participated together in field items ever since. She had a heart transplant, was a retired social worker and is a Chaplain at the Temple Hospital in Philadelphia.

For the past 12 years we not only participated against each other but also shared our love for the Lord who made this friendship possible.

Together we have grown older and the distances in our field items became shorter, but during the interim years of the World Games, we encourage each other to continue with the task ahead.

Thanks Janet, for being my inspiration through all the years.

Finding Purpose Through Transplant Sports: A Global Journey of Hope and Leadership

My involvement in Transplant Sports started with Heilie's transplant in 2004. Attending our first World Transplant Games (WTG) in 2005, I was inspired by the courage and determination of transplant recipients who celebrated their second chance through sport. Their stories moved me deeply, and I felt compelled to contribute—not just locally, but globally.

In 2007, I was honoured to be elected to the World Transplant Games Federation (WTGF) Council, and later to the Board. Today, I serve as Vice President of the Federation. This role has allowed me to engage with transplanted athletes from every corner of the world.

Through the Games and international events, I've witnessed how sport transcends boundaries. It heals, empowers, and unites. I've seen athletes overcome unimaginable odds—not just to compete, but to celebrate life itself. These moments have given me a renewed sense of purpose in my retirement years. They've filled my days with meaning, my heart with gratitude, and my spirit with hope.

Looking back, I am deeply grateful—not only for Heilie's health, but for the opportunity to serve a cause that continues to inspire me. Transplant Sports is more than competition—it's a celebration of life, a testament to human resilience, and a community that has given me purpose, passion, and profound joy.

Willie Uys





UPCOMING EVENTS



Invitation to Social Petanque Day

DATE: Saturday 15 November 2025

TIME: 12:00 – 14:30

VENUE: Old Grey Sports Club
2 Lenox Street, Mount Croix,
Gqeberha

RSVP by 10 November 2025

Heilie Uys- 082 465 0935



25th Hat & Hound Classic golf day



DATE:

Monday 29th December 2025

COURSE: St Francis Bay CG

TIME: Tee-off from 07:00-09:00

FORMAT:

Individual Stableford Competition

ENTRY FEE:

**R930/player—Includes Greenfees, Halfway and light
lunch afterwards with R100K Hole in One prize**

BOOKINGS: Contact

Willie Uys: uys@ibi.co.za or 082 442 1210





**For any
Newsletter
contributions
please contact**

Heilie Uys:

Cell: 082 465 0935

Email: huys@ibi.co.za

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Eastern Cape

Transplant Sports

Association

ECTSA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE 2024-2026



Chairperson
Willie Uys



Vice-Chairperson
Susan Burri



Secretary
Chrisna Landman



Treasurer



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