

MEDIA RELEASE

Born to Fly

22nd Cape Town International Kite Festival – 29 & 30 Oct 2016

Kiters from six countries showed Cape Town that almost anything can fly at the 22nd Cape Town International Kite Festival (29 & 30 October) in Muizenberg.

An estimated 15,000 people attended. "We are extremely thankful to the communities of Cape Town who came out to fly with us over the past two days, to show their support and help break down the stigma associated with mental disability," said Ingrid Daniels, director of Cape Mental Health, the non-profit organisation that hosts the annual kiting extravaganza.

"Our theme this year was 'Born to Fly', because, although we each have different abilities, we are all born with the potential to fly, given the opportunity. That is our role at Cape Mental Health - to provide opportunities to those with mental health needs."

Even though the winds varied throughout the weekend in true Cape Town style, the invited guest kiters managed to put on a spectacular display - with dragons, fish and even pigs taking to the sky.

The Cape Town International Kite Festival, Africa's biggest kite festival attracts kiters from around the world. This year the South African contingent were joined by kiters from Canada (Fred & Donna Taylor), Germany (Ralf & Lucas Maserki), England (Peter Hulcoop), New Zealand (Craig Hansen) and Singapore (Gadis Widiyati). "What's special and different about this event is that we're flying for a cause," said Peter Hulcoop from the UK, who attended for the second time this year. It is South Africa's biggest mental health awareness event, with 100% of the profit going to Cape Mental Health, to help provide vitally-needed mental health services to children and adults in Cape Town and beyond.

Over 30 primary and schools for learners with special educational needs took part in the Edukite competition on Saturday 29 October. The winners are:

Schools for Learners with Special Educational Needs category:

- 1st - Dorothea Special School (Stellenbosch) – R3,000 prize
- 2nd - St Joseph's RC Primary (Montana) – R2,000 prize
- 3rd - Mary Harding School (Athlone) – R1,000 prize

Primary School category:

- 1st - Overberg Primary School (Caledon) – R3,000 prize
- 2nd - Muizenberg Junior School (Muizenberg) – R2,000 prize
- 3rd Christel House (Ottery) – R1,000 prize

Fifteen local kite-makers entered the *Heritage Kite Competition* on Sunday 30 October, displaying kites they had made in the traditional 'Swaeltjie' style with bamboo and paper. The 2016 Heritage Kite Competition winners are:

1st - Bobby Gathoo (Steenberg) – R1,000 and the *Heritage Kite Award* trophy

2nd - Hein Lourens (Kuils River) – R500

3rd (joint winners) – Abdul Isaacs (Grassy Park) and Julian and Miranda Faul (Panorama) – R150 each

"My dad and I drove out from Durbanville to see the kites - really lovely and so many, totally worth it. People brought their kids and it was just a lovely day out in the sun under the kites," said Donna Bernhardt of Durbanville who attended for the first time.

For info go to www.capementalhealth.co.za, contact Cape Mental Health on 021 447 9040 / info@cmh.org.za or follow them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @CTKiteFest.