

insurance & broker news



Punkins take the AWII potjie trophy

The Association of Women in Insurance (AWII) in Cape Town hosted a potjiekos competition on Friday 13 March 2009. The eager competitors arrived at the Claremont Cricket Club at 12:30 and the judging took place at 16:30. Teams were assessed according to their spirit, presentation, theme and, of course, the taste of their potjiekos.

The winning team, sponsored by MUA, dubbed themselves the Punkins. Members from left to right are: Fiona Carling, Helen Goldenbogen, David Sochen, Lesley Boyle and Leslene Swart.

Tracker launches Men in the Making campaign

A call has gone out to high-school boys around the country who are jumping at the chance to spend a day in the real working world. Tracker, together with Metro FM and the Gauteng Department of Education are inspiring secondary school learners to do more and be more in their Men in the Making campaign. The event, on 26 March this year, encourages corporate South Africa to welcome high-school boys into their offices for a day and show them the ropes. Giving youngsters first-hand experience is the first step in getting them fired about opportunities their country has to offer.

The campaign challenges South Africa's boys to improve their school performance and to set themselves positive personal goals by exposing them to the many rewarding career opportunities available to them in South Africa's jobscape.

Corporate South Africa is encouraged to show high-school boys a 'real life' glimpse into the working world, as well as potentially offering them mentoring, career guidance and support opportunities. Designed to be more than just a career day, Men in the Making will help teenagers understand the value of their education, challenging them to overcome their obstacles and work towards becoming productive adult citizens of our country.

Koos Radebe, Tracker's CSI and communications director, said, "Young men often turn to the fantasy world of video games, Internet, movies and pop culture icons looking for role models – and often these sources promote inappropriate ideals. Men in the Making introduces these boys to role models of substance, real people and organisations that can make a positive impact in their lives. Often a small gesture, as simple as a visit to a company, can spark a burning ambition in a young person."

Companies interested in participating next year can register on the Tracker website (www.tracker.co.za) and, wherever possible, an attempt will be made to match organisations with boys who are interested in a particular industry or career path. Companies are urged to involve as many boys as they can afford. The focus is on learners from Grades 9 to 12.

FPI CEO moves to SAQA

The FPI announced in March that CEO John Arnesen would leave the company at the end of April to lead the South Africa Qualifications Authority (SAQA) National Qualifications Framework (NQF) advocacy campaign.

Gerhardt Meyer, FPI chairperson, commented, "I have had the opportunity to work closely with John during my time on the board, more specifically so during my time as vice-chairperson, and for the short time that I have been the chairperson. John has played a key leadership role in the FPI since becoming CEO in September 2006 and has, together with the other FPI staff, taken charge of the implementation of the FPI's strategic vision of being the professional body for financial planners in South Africa. John has also successfully represented the FPI at meetings and within the structures of the international Financial Planning Standards Board (FPSB)."

The FPI board has commenced a formal process to recruit a new CEO.

Bonitas earns top marks for empowerment

Bonitas Medical Fund has garnered first place in the Health, Safety and Security category of the annual Metropolitan Oliver Empowerment Awards.

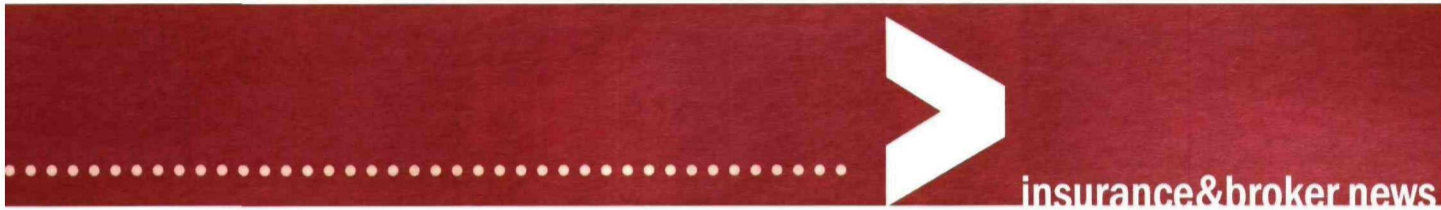
Hosted by Metropolitan and Topco Media, the 'Olivers' serve as an industry barometer in measuring, acknowledging and celebrating the strides made by local companies in developing black economic empowerment and employment equity.

Broad-based BEE is one of Metropolitan's key business drivers and is entrenched in the organisation's value system. The gala ceremony, now in its eighth year, is attended by high profile business and government leaders who both personally and professionally support the cause.

"For Bonitas, empowerment encompasses the elimination of unfair discrimination, creation of equal opportunities for all and true appreciation of the diversity this country embraces," said Katy Caldis, business development director at Bonitas.

"It is our proactive stance in tackling economic empowerment that has earned us this accolade but we believe that transformation of this kind is an ongoing process and we will continue in our drive in the BEE spectrum."

These accolades are awarded based on analysis of transparent judging criteria, which adjudicate empowerment in conjunction with corporate performance; two areas in which Bonitas has excelled.



“We feel our responsibility to the SA public does not end with medical aid alone and we pursue corporate social investments on a broad scale,” said Caldis.

This includes clinics in townships and self-employment opportunities for the rural poor through the growth of indigenous and commercial trees. Bonitas also promotes healthy lifestyles through sporting sponsorships such as the 94.7 Cycle Challenge as well as the Comrades Marathon.

“We’re proud of awards of this kind, I’ll make no bones about it,” said Caldis. “We believe we’ve filled Metropolitan’s mandate in delivering sustainable BEE while showing impressive growth over the last year and we look forward to seeing how we fare over the year to come.”

Brokers introduced to Lombard’s extended range

Lombard Insurance Group has been a provider of surety and credit insurance products since 1990, predominantly in the bond and guarantee market. Since June 2007, and following a diversification strategy, Lombard Insurance Group has expanded its product offering through both internal expansion and specific partnerships with underwriting managers.

A function held recently at the Vineyard Hotel introduced the broader Cape Town broker market to this extended product range. In the last 18 months, Lombard has partnered with Consort Technical Underwriters (Pty) Limited in providing engineering insurance; Heavy Commercial Vehicle Underwriting Manager (Pty) Limited in heavy commercial vehicles (trucking) insurance; Leppard Underwriting in professional indemnity; and Financial Management International Ltd (FMI) in income protection products.

The event created a platform for brokers to network with Lombard’s UMA partners and the other business units within the Lombard fold. It was also an ideal opportunity to introduce Deposit Advantage, a Lombard product new to the South African market. The Deposit Advantage is a substitute for a cash deposit in securing property purchases.

This is a very exciting time in Lombard’s history, as it has successfully acquired Pinnafrica Insurance Limited and Pinnafrica Life Limited from UK-based Cardif Pinnacle.



From left to right: Ronell Platte (Lombard Insurance Group), Hamish Leppan (HLC Financial Services), and James Benskin (Financial Management International).

Compass Group diversifies into fine dining

Dinner in the Sky and Compass Group SA have formed a new partnership which aims to provide one of the most exhilarating dining experiences in the world.

The partnership between Dinner in the Sky and Compass Group SA’s specialist catering subsidiary, Town and Country Cuisine, brings together culinary flair and adventurous dining.

“Guests can now not only enjoy the breathtaking views of eating 30.48 feet above the ground, but the whole experience has been enhanced with the introduction of world class chefs and caterers,” said Dinner in the Sky director, Tyl Hanneman.

“The opportunity to partner with Dinner in the Sky opens up a unique concept for corporate hospitality, particularly amongst our corporate clients, many of which are blue-chip JSE-listed companies. We are always looking for new and innovative ways to improve on our superior levels of service, efficiency and quality and this is the perfect platform for our specialist function and event catering company, Town and Country Cuisine,” commented Chris Erwee, managing director of the All Leisure Division for Compass Group SA.

Erwee continued, “In the current economic downturn, partnerships are key and an initiative like this can really add value to traditional supplier/client relationships transforming them into true partnerships.”

On Friday 13 March 2009, the Dinner in the Sky team, together with their partners from Compass Group and Town and Country, launched their new venture. Special guests were hosted for an evening of red carpet luxury at Menlyn Park Shopping Centre, where they enjoyed a theatrical lift-off and a display of spectacular fireworks and music before enjoying a meal in the sky.

The five-course menu was created by executive chef, Vincent Verrydt, sous chef Bruce Gentz and chef Marlu Gebhardt. Canapés of halloumi and fresh mint cigars and coconut tempura prawns whet the appetites before the first course of smoked salmon timbale with caviar and dill mousse. Then pepper-encrusted beef carpaccio and a chicken Caesar salad stack were served. A small taste of lychee and lime sorbet cleansed the palate before the next course of pan-fried loch Duarte salmon and grilled scallops. The desserts included berries with chocolate tuille, vanilla pod pannacotta with poached pears and Belgian chocolate mousse.

