

## **WAPA Management Committee 2010 Biographies:**

### **David Jarvis**

David graduated from the University of Cape Town with a degree in Microbiology and Biochemistry. Since 1999, David has been involved in last-mile broadband delivery, beginning with his work in Mozambique, where he established the first Wireless ISP in Mozambique.

In July, 2002, he returned to Cape Town to establish UniNet Communications in Cape Town. Building UniNet in Cape Town provided many personal challenges, including facing criminal charges by ICASA (the telecoms regulator) for operating Telecommunications networks in 2003 in South Africa.

In 2007, David was appointed Executive Director - Technology of a restructured UniNet now headed by Papi Molotsane, ex CEO of Telkom.

David's passion for community development has led to involvement in a number of educational and rural development projects, requiring active participation in pushing the regulatory envelope.

In 2006, David was one of the founding members of WAPA, the Wireless Access Providers' Association, and he was elected chairperson. His responsibilities in this capacity include liaising with ICASA, managing press releases and promoting the benefits of the association to prospective members.

David served as joint-Chairman of WAPA until 2009. David would like to continue assisting with WAPA's PR through talks and conferences. He would also like to assist with the skills certification process for WAPA members' technicians.

### **Eugene Van der Merwe**

Eugene saw his first computer when a friend lent him a ZX-81, in 1984, with a modified keyboard. He was instantly hooked and got into assembly language, Logo, Basic and Pascal. After school, Eugene spent a year in Silicon Valley but dropped out to go and travel the world and explore the possibility of maybe becoming a rock-star. Reality struck some time later, so Eugene embraced computer networking and became a CNE. In 1991, the Netscape browser opened new worlds for him and networking evolved into project management for banks in London and a 6 month stint at Microsoft UK as an e-mail specialist. Unfortunately Microsoft did not agree with Eugene's sense of entrepreneurship and he was politely asked to leave.

Upon return to South Africa in 1998, Eugene embraced ISPs and the idea of developing and publishing WWW sites for businesses. He thought this the ideal opportunity to start his own company and solicited the help of his brother Storm, with whom he had been collaborating with for years on the idea of "The Snowball Effect". Snowball grew from a hosting and web design company to a fully fledged Internet and communications provider with their own infrastructure and data centre. A major milestone includes 2004, when Eugene realised that one can send data to and from different places using radio waves. This liberation and the fact that the then government of South Africa preferred to inhibit the practice to the only legitimate license holder made it all the more reason to exploit and embrace the technology.

Eugene describes himself as having a passion for life, technology and business with a strong sense of wishing to prove the impossible is really possible.

Eugene is currently standing as WAPA's treasurer. He hopes his continued presence at WAPA will bring some stability and innovation to the organisation, because he has been there from the start and thinks it will be in the members' interest to know that the guys who started this jol are still very much interested. He has many ideas and much energy to take WAPA forward. He feels that although it's obviously less exciting now that we have our licenses, and it is getting quite technical now that WAPA is pursuing frequency, ISM wireless is still bountiful and that he is the right person to guide our members towards a better industry.

### **Henk Kleynhans**

Henk Kleynhans is a Computer Scientist and Internet Junkie turned Social Entrepreneur.

He realised that if he could incentivize thousands of small entrepreneurs to set up Wi-Fi internet hotspots, it would soon lead to a dramatic increase in broadband penetration in South Africa. He thus founded Skyrove, which enables anyone earn an income by sharing their internet access with their neighbours.

Henk is currently standing on WAPA's committee as Chairman. He wishes to focus his efforts in 2010 on improving the online reputation of WISPs that are associated with WAPA by helping to establish & enforce standards of quality and service with the cooperation of WAPA members, as well as making sure that consumers (but also potential partners, e.g. ISPA, mobile network operators, large ISPs) understand the difference between a WAPA WISP and a "backyard" WISP that is not part of WAPA and does not adhere to the same standards of quality and service.

Henk truly believes that WISPs can make a significant impact in helping to connect more South Africans & their businesses to the internet and that once these are delivering better quality service than Telkom or Vodacom/MTN and make sure that people know of this, customers will queue up for WAPA members' services!

### **Justin Spratt**

Business Manager of VoIS Mobile and Wi-Fi HotSpot businesses at Internet Solutions

Co-founder ISLabs incubator

Early member of web start-up Vottle.com

Speaker and writer on issues where technology and economics intersect

Education: BCom (Finance; Deans List) Honours (Cum Laude); MBA (GIBS)

[www.twitter.com/justinspratt](http://www.twitter.com/justinspratt)

[www.sandboxsavant.com](http://www.sandboxsavant.com)

<http://labs.is.co.za/blogs/justinspratt>

Justin has just joined WAPA's Management Committee because he is very much in support of WAPA's efforts.

### **Leon Botes**

Leon is the CEO of Trusc Technologies, a long standing wireless access provider operating on the West Coast and specialising in high capacity backhaul used by local and provincial government.

As one of the pioneers of wireless technology networks in South Africa, his experience and resources are a valuable asset to WAPA. He has extensive experience and qualifications in Electronic engineering and communications.

Leon's intentions for the coming year are to define an effective set of regulations regarding the interoperability between members and the sharing of spectrum, in addition to providing valuable input in the areas of highsite management and construction guidelines. He also intends to actively drive the concept of interconnection between members with the view to establishing exchange points at locations favoured by WAPA members.

Leon's role at WAPA is that of enforcing compliance by WAPA members to the code of conduct and regulations as set out by ICASA.

### **Nicola Smith**

Nicola Smith studied Management and Public Relations at the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth.

She has worked in the IT industry since 2003, when she co-founded Aerosat, an ISP established to address the lack of affordable bandwidth available to the public. She is the Public Relations Director of Aerosat and is involved in many social responsibility projects. Aerosat now employs 28 full time individuals and has network coverage along the coast of the Eastern Cape. They also boast a number of Internet Cafe's.

Nicola is currently on the management committee of the Wireless Access Providers' Association and her portfolio has included signing up new members and marketing. She is currently serving as the ISPA Liaison Officer. She would like to see WAPA get involved in community projects by encouraging and guiding our members to follow through on their social responsibility. This is a task that she is very familiar with, as she is already involved with PR and community projects and has the ability to assist others with similar projects.