



Refirement Network

don't retire. refire

february 2015  
newsletter

Globally Connected -  
Locally Relevant

## Dear Refirement Network Members

The first month of 2015 has gone by at a pace that just seems to become faster by the day. This is the first newsletter for Refirement Network members in 2015. I have been thinking about a theme and overview for this newsletter and all that I want to share spans – Globally Connected- Locally Relevant.

The trend of baby boomers not retiring like previous generations is now a much bigger conversation than it was ten years ago when this network started. I still connect globally to learn from what others are doing around the world. The South African trend is unique. Some Boomers reflect the trend of a first world and others may never see old age due to poverty and HIV and Aids. Our political change 20 years ago is also impacting the lives of many and this needs to be super-imposed on the global trend to really understand our home grown picture.

This year we will be hosting the World Congress on Healthy Ageing in South Africa at the end of July. There is still a month to go to submit an abstract for the main congress. A consumer event will be taking place parallel to the academic event and will be of interest to many locals. Keep tabs on the program via their website: <http://www.wcha2015.com/>

I am the South African representative for a Global Network called The Pass it on Network. Two weeks ago we had a conversation via Skype with 12 different country leaders on the trends and challenges for each Nation. The internet opens up all kinds of opportunities for dialogue, discussion and innovation. Take a look at some of the amazing programs shared via their website. <http://passitonnetwork.org/>

This past Friday I had an hour long Skype conversation with Betsy Werley who heads up the growth of Encore, internationally. Marc Freedman the Founder of Encore has been one of the people I have learnt the most from in trying to unlock potential locally. I am excited that Encore is now starting to

work internationally and that we can share and cross-pollinate. Here is their website with so many resources for locals. <http://encore.org/resources/encore-seekers/>

### **There are a number of local trends starting to emerge in conversations I am having.**

- More companies are requesting strategy conversations around their ageing workforce and the wisdom leaving their organisations.
- More individuals are wanting to find a second career and continue to earn and add value to society.
- Some companies are working with Partners for Possibility to match business leaders with school principals. <http://www.pfp4sa.org/>
- Companies are starting to think about offering Fellowships to senior leaders leaving the formal workplace and matching them into a partnership for social change.

I have also enjoyed watching the growth of an amazing project in South Africa that has gone global. One year ago the 67 Blankets Campaign was launched. In April this year they hope to break a world record by collecting handmade blankets and laying them collectively on the stairs of The Union Buildings. This campaign has won the hearts of many across the country who are forming groups, getting together and knitting or crocheting for a collective cause. Here is the website so that you can join the movement: <http://www.67blankets.co.za/#/home>

I would love to start a discussion with anyone interested who may be keen to start a Retirement Network in your area. If you are a Boomer, good organiser and prepared to manage events in your area I would love to hear from you.

We all need one another. We need to send out an invitation, connect, hold conversations and get involved. That is how we change our lives and the lives of those around us.

Enjoy all the articles and content on the website.

Kind Regards

Lynda

### Retirement's Social Networking



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