

Crossing the great divide

Once a year, a group of dedicated teachers arrives in South Africa to help lighten the load.

MIKE FISHER

VOLUNTEERS from Teachers Across Borders South Africa (TABSA), the Hawaii-based organisation of volunteer maths and science teachers, led by Port Shepstone's Yunus Peer, have returned to South Africa for the 11th year.

Yunus currently teaches at Punahou School in Hawaii, alma mater of American president, Barack Obama.

The team is working in the Eastern Cape, along with 46 subject advisers and 300 teachers, over the three week winter holiday.

The team pays it own way while in South Africa. The teachers come prepared with spe-

cific materials suitable for the South African curriculum and as requested by teachers in rural schools.

Techniques and teaching methods, using readily available and inexpensive materials, are highlighted in the absence of science laboratories in rural areas.

In the past two years, TABSA (formerly Teachers Without Borders) has worked with 1 100 Eastern Cape maths and science teachers and more than 3 000 South African teachers since 2001.

TABSA 2011 has prepared a CD for senior phase teachers of maths and science and wishes to share the information.

The CD, a library of maths and science materials, may be accessed at <http://maucustomsoftware.com/dlfolder/cd2011/>

Yunus hopes that the TABSA workshops will soon return to his hometown of Port Shepstone.

For more information on the organisation, visit the TABSA website at <http://www.tab-sa.org>



Quick visit: Meet volunteer teachers (from left) Angela Costanzo, Franklyn Lau, Ed da Silva, Jim Metz, Yunus Peer, Michelle Buck, Paul Heimerdinger and Laurie Schafer.