

# fourways Review

**\$ DON'T PAY STORAGE \$  
AUCTION IT!**

Cedar Ave, Chartwell, Fourways • GPS : S25 58.670 E027 57.577

**Auction Every Saturday 10am**

Vehicles • Boats • Furniture • Tools  
• Bikes • Antiques and more!

AUCTION  
PRO

Cell: 072 539 0084  
Email: info@auctionpro.co.za | www.auctionpro.co.za

Week ending 14 September, 2012

www.looklocal.co.za

BBM Pin: 29CA2D88

2011 Caxton's Best Free Newspaper (pagination 24 and more)

**CELL MAST  
DEBATE RIFE**

PAGE 4

**BE OUR BRAAI  
LEGEND**

PAGE 10

**BEAUTIFUL RACE  
LAUNCHED**

PAGE 12

**CYCLING FOR A  
DREAM**

PAGE 31

## CUTTING EDGE

### Witkoppen centre first to test new video-otoscopy

**DANIELLA POTTER**

daniellap@caxton.co.za

WITKOPPEN Health and Welfare Centre has the potential to diagnose and treat hearing disorders, ear infections and diseases more effectively with the new video-otoscopy equipment.

The centre is the first medical facility in the country to be selected to take part in an international video-otoscopy project which is funded by the University of Pretoria and the University of Umea in northern Sweden.

A video recording is taken during an ear examination and transmitted to experts in Pretoria and Sweden to analyse. They examine the footage and can send feedback on the condition and recommend treatment in a few minutes or hours.

While video-otoscopy is not new, it is an expensive investment and requires a high degree of training to use. The equipment undergoing testing at the centre is potentially affordable for smaller medical facilities and can be used by a facilitator with basic training.

Audiologist Leigh Biagio is coordinating the project with the University of Pretoria. "The video-otoscopy requires in-service training and a period during which the clinic

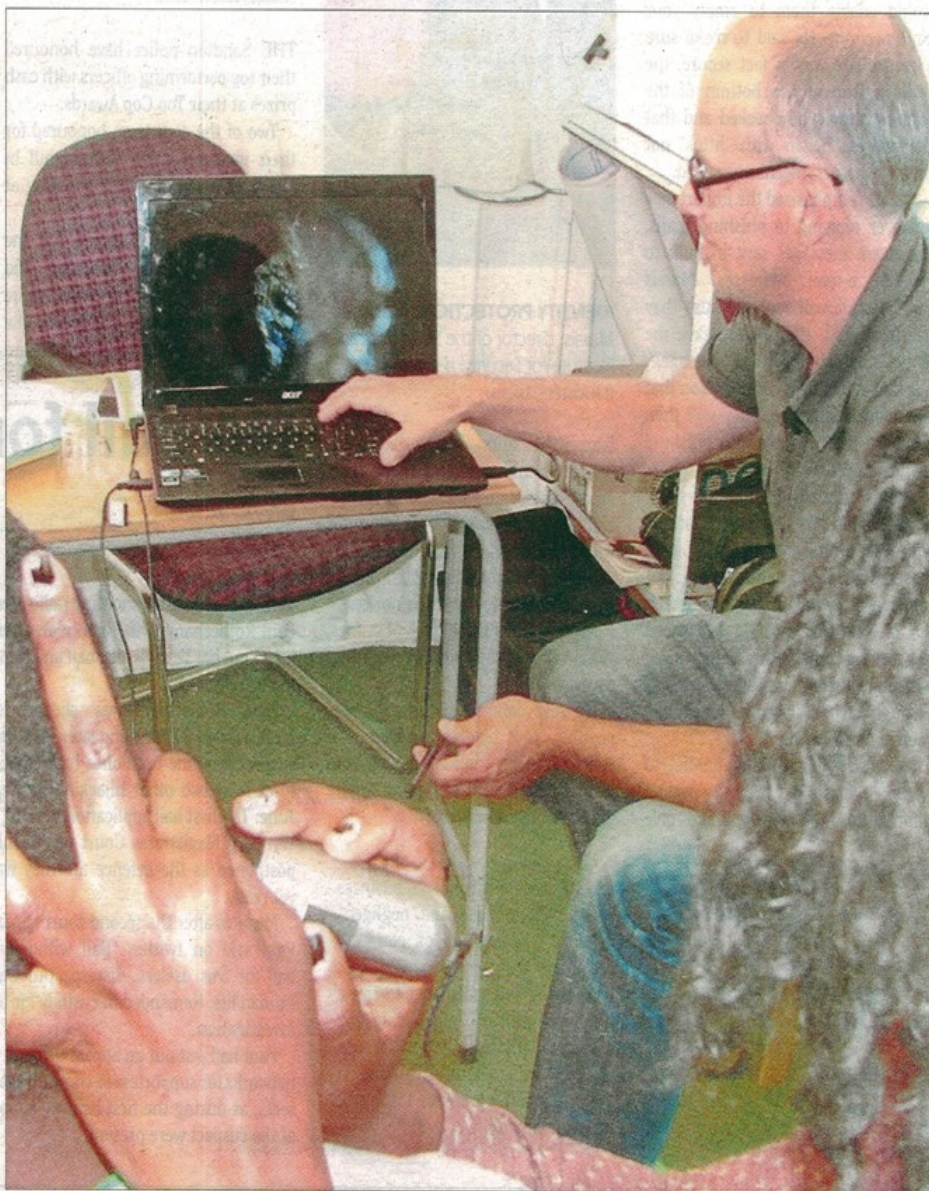
facilitator can build up experience. The video-otoscope has the potential to allow for the provision of specialist services in rural and remote areas," Biagio said. The only negative is that there is a lack of personal contact with patients.

Biagio said, "The project far exceeded our expectations in terms of the number of children assessed and the feedback we received from parents. Centre facilitator Violet Mugodo's skill at making the video recordings of the ear drum was also impressive."

Executive director of the centre Dr Jean Bassett said ear problems were common among the centre's patients aged one to 16 years. "The patients who have hearing problems are some of Joburg's poorest and most vulnerable people. Many are immigrants, almost half are unemployed and the average monthly household income is R1 700. They experience great difficulty in accessing medical or social services."

The equipment will remain at the centre but specialist support will be given by researchers in Sweden.

"Being able to add cutting-edge technology for the diagnosis of ear and hearing disorders adds yet another service we can offer our patients," Bassett said.



**NEW TECHNOLOGY:** Witkoppen Health and Welfare Centre is the first clinic in South Africa to be part of a cutting edge technology project to assess ear infections and hearing disorders.