



John Stokes, of ACHPER, Pierre Comis of Sport Australia, David Geldart of the Bambisanani Partnership, and Dr Shane Pill of ACHPER

Pioneering work is 'an inspiration'

By Claire Lomax

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THE founder and chairman of the award-winning Wharfedale-based Bambisanani Partnership has spoken at an international conference about its pioneering work.

David Geldart was invited to speak at the Australian Council for Health and Physical Education and Recreation (ACHPER) International Conference at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

The conference, one the biggest of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, attracted delegates from over 40 nations.

Mr Geldart explained the foundation, development and impact of the charity's work in South Africa, using sport as a catalyst to promote education, health, global citizenship and leadership in one of the countries most deprived rural areas.

The presentation highlighted the pioneering work of St Mary's School, Menston, the University of Leeds and Leeds Trinity University in the partnership and encouraged other schools, colleges and universities from around the world to also become involved in similar projects, stressing the mutual benefits for all concerned.

ACHPER Chief Executive Officer John Stokes said: "The 2019 ACHPER International Conference was a showcase where contemporary and innovative physical education, health and sport practices were presented to over 300 professionals from Australia and overseas.

"The conference provided an excellent opportunity for international presenters to highlight their work in many different settings.



The Australian Institute of Sport

"One of the outstanding international presentations was made by David Geldart from the Bambisanani Partnership.

"David's unique insights on a project that uses sport to change the lives of children in one of South Africa's poorest regions struck a chord with all attendees. "It demonstrated the vision, commitment and dedication of the partnership in truly making a difference to the lives of children in another country.

"Attendees had many take-aways from the presentation, including the power of working together, the importance of the teaching profession to inspire, motivate and lead and the impact of global leadership and citizenship in influencing young lives in a positive long-term way.

"The Bambisanani Partnership is an inspirational story with an inspirational message."

Dr Shane Pill, President of ACHPER said: "The Bambisanani Partnership demonstrates how sport for development has the potential to change and enrich lives beyond the playing field.

"The project represents a powerful demonstration of what education in, through and about sport can be."

Dr Helen Butler, Australian Education Adviser, said: "I was touched and inspired by the presentation made by David Geldart.

"The proactive values of community development and building capacity for action and learning of the young people and their adult supporters, both in the UK and South Africa, were admirable.

"Powerful stories were told of the real differences this made in the lives of the participants and in their communities."

Mr Geldart said: "The ACHPER International Conference has a worldwide reputation for its influence and it was a tremendous honour and privilege to be invited to speak at the iconic Australian Institute of Sport about the Bambisanani Partnership.

"It is great to be able to celebrate the tremendous work of the Bambisanani team members and my hope is always that someone in the audience will see the potential in themselves or in their own institution and 'pick up the baton'.

"The potential for genuine 'two way' learning through such programmes is limitless.

"Some great connections have been made in Australia and I cannot thank the ACHPER organising committee enough for the opportunity."

Copies of the highly acclaimed Bambisanani book 'Bambisanani: Ten Years of Working Together and Learning Together' were presented at the Conference to ACHPER President Dr Pill and to Pierre Comis from Sport Australia.