



IN MEMORY OF CRAIG HASKINS

**Former manager: Strategic Information
Strategic Development Information & GIS Department**

Craig Haskins, our former manager of strategic information, was killed in an accident on 3 February 2009, while cycling on Ou Kaapse Weg in Cape Town.

Craig, our colleague

Craig was much more than the manager of strategic information. He was a colleague and friend – an individualistic, precious person. In the words and memories of fellow colleagues:

- an energetic and challenging personality, full of life and hope
- intelligent, calm, good humoured, down to earth, committed
- entirely without angst or malice
- had brains and personality
- an inspiration from whom we learnt so much
- an all-rounder
- interested in the well-being and development of the whole person
- instilled confidence in others
- a good mobiliser and motivator, very action-orientated
- a loyal Sharkies supporter

Craig's sayings are still echoing around the office. Sometimes they drove us crazy, but most of the time they were encouraging, caused laughter and contributed to team spirit. Things like 'What's hot and happening?'; 'Middag dametjies – my Afrikaans is nie te goed nie'; 'When do I get invited to the WSP meetings????!!!'; 'Change starts with you, the individual'; 'Use the best available, even if it's not the most accurate'.

He was respected and admired for so many things – his intelligence, sensitivity and high energy levels. The high energy led many of his colleagues wanting to know what he was on.



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Craig as manager

He was appointed as the first manager of strategic information in the Strategic Development Information & GIS Department in July 2005. Prior to this he worked as a key projects researcher in the Environmental Department of the former Cape Metropolitan Council (CMC). Craig worked for the City for almost ten years.

As a 'plant', 'resource investigator' and 'shaper' (described in Belbin terminology), Craig did not only play an important role in stabilising and developing his strategic information branch, but continuously contributed to the shaping and development of the entire department.

He was involved in various projects which required progressive thinking, mobilisation and delivery. Craig was the initiator of the first State of Cape Town Report (2006) that was published in South Africa at a city level. The Cape Times referred to this report as 'the most progressive report to come out of the City in 2006'. His branch's Population Projection Report made headlines in the Cape Argus in June 2006. He was also responsible for the community satisfaction survey done in the 2007/08 financial year and the present one nearing completion. The outcomes of these surveys play an important role in the improvement of residents and businesses' satisfaction levels in terms of the City's service delivery. Other projects and initiatives with a city-wide impact in which he played a key role, include the development of the City Development Strategy (CDS) and contributions towards the development of the City's Integrated Development Plan (IDP). Craig also initiated research surveys in various departments to improve service delivery.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Grant Haskin, summarised his contribution so well when he said '... we will always remember his contributions to our success, growth and development as a City, for the benefit of all Capetonians'.

Craig, our friend

There was always his helping hand, his socialising skills and initiatives - the heart and soul at staff social functions, the ability to connect to what is important to others. Craig, the young boy at heart.

Inspirations

The following sayings were on the white board of his office, reminding us of some of his life philosophies – linking so well with his role as the manager of strategic information.

'It's better to be roughly right than precisely wrong' - Lord Keynes

'There must be a happy medium between being totally informed and blissfully unaware' - Doug Carson

'If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed; if you do read the newspaper, you are misinformed' - Mark Twain

'It's not what you look at what matters, it's what you see' - Henry Thoreau

Craig left us with so many happy memories – we are indeed privileged to have been his colleagues.

