



□ Proudly posing with their winning idea for the Soccer World Cup in 2010 are (from left): Tjaart Nicolaus Benadé, (second-year veterinary science student, Tuks), Lucas Mabena (lecturer, TUT), Victor Masete (student, TUT), Hendrik van Zyl (senior lecturer, TUT), Prof Cheryl McCrindle (head of the veterinary public health section at the faculty of veterinary science, Tuks), Fani Mmolowa (entrepreneur), Junior Monyai (student, TUT), Jannie Oosthuizen (entrepreneur), Dr Ademola Iberonke (post-graduate student in veterinary public health, Tuks) and Dr Erika van Zyl (veterinary public health, Tuks). In front, testing the seat for comfort is Segomotso Lebogoe (secretary at the veterinary public health section, faculty of veterinary science) with Mncedici Nakin (student, TUT). **PICTURE: CHRIS VAN BLERK**

Donkeys may compete with taxis in 2010

HANTI OTTO

Tourists who hope to experience the real Africa during the World Cup in 2010 may be in for the ride of their life – on a donkey cart.

This fun, cheap and practical solution came from Professor Cheryl McCrindle of the veterinary public health section of the faculty of veterinary science at the University of Pretoria.

As the chairman of the faculty's outreach committee, she initiated the donkey cart project in conjunction with Tuks veterinary students, engineering students of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT) and a

small business.

McCrindle said that the first cart prototype appeared to meet the needs of both the passenger and the donkey.

Absa sponsored the research into the cart designs.

"The designs have to take the welfare of the donkey and road safety legislation into account," McCrindle said.

She said Tuks and its partners hoped that the cart would be commercially available by the end of September.

"This cart is intended for use by tourists for 2010.

"As alternative transport in rural areas, it will also be used to convey pensioners and disabled

people to pension points," she said. It would therefore be affordable.

To ensure this "vehicle" was safer than a luxury sedan and more fun than a taxi, the students are still looking at ways to refine some aspects of the cart, for example ensuring the best distribution of weight.

Entrepreneur Fani Mmolowa is also involved in the project and is aiming to use the cart to promote job creation for the unemployed.

"This is also part of a general community outreach project," said McCrindle, who is positive that the cart will be a runaway success.

