



**Old friends:** Shobashobane massacre survivor Baba Phansi Cele (101) greets his friend, American photographer Terri Cappucci.

# American photographer focuses on Southern KwaZulu-Natal

*For ten turbulent years, Terri Cappucci has recorded life in KwaZulu-Natal. JUDI DAVIS REPORTS.*

**A**WARD-WINNING American photographer Terri Cappucci is back in Southern KwaZulu-Natal, focusing her lenses on everyday life.

A frequent visitor to this area, Terri first came here in 1993. The following year, she returned to record on film, South Africa's first democratic elections. She had just completed her two-year associate degree in photography and was working for a community newspaper at the time.

The visit was a moving experience for Terri and she formed a close bond with the area and its people. She hooked up with Practical Ministries and has worked

closely with the organisation since then.

During the elections, she found herself an unofficial member of the South Coast Herald editorial team and the newsroom became a 'home from home'.

## Used

Many of her moving photographs were used as part of the newspaper's election coverage.

Her subsequent visits weren't always so happy. Many of the images collected over the years tell the story of the political violence that ravaged this area.

Soon after the horrific 1995 Shobashobane Christmas Day massacre,

which took nearly 20 people's lives and traumatised the whole community, Terri visited the settlement.

Subsequent visits to Shobashobane record the gradual return of normality for the violence-stricken community. Last week, when she visited Shobashobane, she was welcomed as an old friend. She met up with children she'd photographed before and she noticed that flowers were growing over the burnt-out huts.

An old friend, massacre victim Baba Phansi Cele rushed over to greet her. After her previous visit he made her a small gift and tucked it safely away to

present to her when she returned this year.

Terri has moved away from photo journalism. She has obtained her bachelor's degree and is presently studying for her Masters in fine arts, at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is specialising in photography and computer design.

## First

After her first semester of teaching, she has decided to look for a university teaching post once she has obtained her Masters.

She is leaving for home this weekend but is planning to return to the South Coast later in the year.