

# Newsletter

## Nangu Thina e. V.

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### **I. Nangu Thina Network meeting in Duisburg**

Nearly 40 members of our network met in Duisburg from the April 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2002 in order to discuss the relevant issues of our activities and to meet old and new friends. We were able to welcome Dee and Lionel Chandler from Area HQ in Mpumalanga as well as some Dutch friends.

Many issues were discussed and you will soon see the results on the web-page. The core meeting was the AGM of the Nangu Thina e.V. where reports of the past year are handed in and the financial situation is reviewed. Additionally, some re-election of the share committee were due this year. Uwe Bothur and Jörg Hagmeier were the two candidates for the available posts. Jörg Hagmeier could not be present due to the fact that he is living in White River/South Africa now but he declared his willingness to continue his work. Both were re-elected unanimously.

### **II. Upcoming projects in 2002**

#### **a. Tour of scouters to Germany**

Once more we have the privilege to host 13 scouters from Mpumalanga who will discover Germany and its scouting during the month of May. They have visited groups in Bavaria and took their home base then in Cologne. From there they met various DPSG groups, learned about structures of German Youth Associations and got a better idea of the church involvements in the youth work. They also will had the opportunity to participate in the jamborees BDKJ Gelsenkirchen, the DPSG area of Münster and visited Westernohe. One

of the highlights was definitely the joint rehearsal between the area choir of Cologne and Mpumalanga.

b. KwaZulu Natal choir tour

We have planned together with our Dutch friends another tour for scouters from KZN in September 2002. Unfortunately, we were not granted the sponsorship we have applied for. Additionally, we faced massive increases in the air fares and the final withdrawal of the reserve tickets plus challenges for the individual scouters in KZN. The combination of these facts led to the sad decision that we have to postpone the tour to June 2003 where hopefully better circumstances will support us.

c) New car for the area

SASA Mpumalanga experiences set-backs in his operation as the VW chiko was stolen lately. For an area with vast distances between scout troops, such a vehicle is essential for the operation. With the support of the NRW government we were able to replace the car and search a second vehicle for Nangu Thina purposes.

During the past few months with all the volunteers and interns we had a shortage of vehicles and hope not to experience such a situation again in the near future.

d) Scout room in Kamshlushwa

16 rovers of DPSG St. Josef in Bocholt have travelled through South Africa over the Easter period. For a week they worked together with the local scouts from Kamshlushwa area to erect a "building" for the scouts. The small room (5x5 mtrs) will give scouting a home in this poor area and the storage facility for the local groups. Ammon Mawusu was the thriving power behind this project in cooperation sister Heidi and father Jack from the mission station and Stephan Klatt and Guido Schweizok from Scouting.

e) HIV/Aids

Though the help of Harald Herzig of BDKJ Gelsenkirchen a contact was established to a provincial committee of the local agenda offices. They would like to support various projects in South Africa that care for Aids sufferers and are active in the prevention of the disease. We linked up with the adequate NGOs and will hopefully have enough funds available to support all the relevant projects. Aids continues to be one of the biggest threats in society of SA with its socio-economic and cultural impact.

Scouting has to play an active role in preparing the youth for the risks in certain lifestyles.

f) Tents

Through the help of DELVAG (Lufthansa), Human Help Network and the Salesians of Don Bosco we were able to arrange some tents for scouting and guiding in SA and the Southern Zone. The 500 tents will be delivered to the areas and regions and we hope that especially formerly disadvantaged scouts and guides will benefit from this generous donation. These tents are new but need a bit of attention and it proved to be a logistical challenge for everyone involved but thanks for the hard work from Luke van der Laan and Marcelle Bosch we finally received clearance from the government and hope to finish this project soon.

g) Jamborees in Germany

During the summer holiday in Germany the DPSG scouts of Freiburg and the VCP scouts nationally hold big jamborees with more than 4000 participants to be expected. We are currently in the process to arrange a tour of scouters from SA to these jamborees. With a bit of luck we will be able to pull this project together.

### **III. New volunteers**

Currently, Guido Schweizok is working in the SASA Mpumalanga office to support the day to day operations. He has worked with a DPSG group from Bocholt and the set up of new vegetable garden projects as well as with the preparation of the scouters tour to Germany. From mid July to mid December we will have the support of Markus Koppe in Mpumalanga and believe that with his leadership and management skills the whole area will gain for all its plans in 2003.

In addition to that, Alex Hahne will be based in Mpumalanga for eight weeks from end of July. He will focus on public relations and support Thomas Höfler in his workshop tour. More details can be found on the homepage. There are new openings from the beginning of next year available at the SASA HQ in Mpumalanga. Other areas as well as the Girl Guides offer similar positions. Discussions during our last Network meeting and from experience, we want to avoid the term "intern" and replace it with "volunteer".

Markus Klapdor has worked for six weeks in the Mafikeng Scene Centre (Scout Centre for Excellence and Nature) and supported Theo Modlabane in the management of the centre. We hope through the personal relation to have the Northwest province linked up tighter to the activities of Nangu Thina.

In July/August we expect two guiders and two scouters from South Africa over the Westernohe/Germany and Buitenzork/The Netherlands. Over four weeks, they will be working on these national camp sites of scouting to gain experience for themselves and to intensify experiences of intercultural learning for European scouts.

### **IV. News from SASA, GGASA, SNL**

Uwe Bothur and Harald Herzig had a meeting with SASA CEO Luke van der Laan during their February visit to Cape town. Luke gave an outline of the situation of SASA and stressed the relevance of the accelerated transformation process that SASA undergoes. One very visible account is the appointment of Howard Dlamini in KZN and Elvis Mdaka in Mpumalanga as area commissioners. The needs and challenges of the 450.000 members are huge and the infrastructure not always adequate. He urges Nangu Thina to support SASA as a whole and not only individual areas. We suggest that this is considered by our network members in their activities.

GGASA: The Girl Guides have elected on their National Council a new chief commissioner, Eugenia Mbekeni, and Kenia Plaskid as the deputy commissioner. The well known Jan Davidson is appointed as the liaison person for all partnership projects. We congratulate them and wish them all the best in their new positions.

Girl Guides in Mpumalanga have their own web page now. You can visit them under: <http://mysite.mweb.co.za/residents/celened/guides.html>

SNL: The North-South team of SNL has presented various materials for partnership activities in Holland. They also continue their tours to South Africa and have recently updated their homepage with an English version. Their leader Bas Mulder and three others will visit South Africa at the end of this month on a working visit.

### **V. BP camp in Mpumalanga**

Oh, what a day! – Many scouts and scouters summed up the experiences in this line. From the February 23<sup>rd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> more than 700 scouts and guides met at the Nelspruit Show Grounds to have a jolly good time. All the way from Nelspruit, Sekunda and Swaziland busses were arriving from the early morning hours and even St. Peter was on their side as it did not rain the whole weekend (for the first time in ten years). During the Saturday, various tasks had to be solved in mixed patrols. Many kids were challenged the first time in their life to ride a bicycle to walk blindly and to climb high. In the evening a big camp fire saw the displace of the many scouting groups. The next morning was started with a scouts-own and followed by the presentation of many awards and

woodbadges. Dennis Brookman was presented with the Silver Protea at today of his resignation of area chairman. Dudley James resigned as area commissioner to become the new area chairman. Finally, Elvis Mdaka was appointed as the new area commissioner under the cheers of the many scouts and guides. We believe that Dudley and Elvis will continue to lead the area to a new stage in their growth of quality and quantity.

#### **VI. Update homepage**

Thanks to our web master, Ralf Feldhaus (Felde). We were able to maintain and expand our web page, which is one of our most important tools of our communication. Due to the enormous growth and changes in our network we need to redesign the structure and would like to use this opportunity to change the layout as well. Within the next six to eight weeks we hope to be online with this new service. It will include a much larger service section with more links and downloads. We are also planning to have a section for members only so that individuals involved in certain projects have access to the full information. We will be supported by Sascha Gaul and Florian Müller as well as Stephan Motz and Frank Unland in this project.

#### **VII. 2<sup>nd</sup> Swaziland National Jamboree (SWANJAMB)**

Our friend Bheki Metfola sends us an invitation from the Swaziland Boy Scout Association to participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> SWANJAMB. The event will be held at Rider's Ranch close to Manzini from December 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> 2002. They expect 2-3000 scouts and their leaders from the whole country and friends from abroad. The fee per person is 150 \$ and covers food, jamboree scarf, badge and jamboree tours. An exciting range of activities will be offered to all participants. Home hospitality will be offered four days before or after the jamboree upon request. We could see that it would be beneficial for European scouters as staff members. For further information you can contact Bheki directly under [swanjamb2002@mailfly.com](mailto:swanjamb2002@mailfly.com).

#### **VIII. Fax machines wanted!**

Jane Sulter from the Mpumalanga West District contacted us a couple of weeks ago and would urge you to help them to improve their communication lines. Since mail services in SA are not very reliable and slow, the district would need used fax machines in order to improve quality of their communications. That is the best answer to challenges they face since many scouters in the rural areas do not have computers. So please advise if you can offer a fax machine and contact Uwe in the Bonn HQ. We do have various groups travelling to SA this summer so that transport will not be a problem.

#### **XI. Invitation next Network meeting**

During our past network meeting we have decided to shift our next meeting from the traditional first weekend of November to the second. On the first weekend there is a national holiday and we believe that many of our members would like to use it for a short trip. We have booked Haus Maurinus in Leverkusen as a self-catering facility. So please allow time on that weekend to be able to participate in our meeting.

#### **X. Upcoming events and links**

- a) Afrika Festival in Würzburg: [www.afro.wuerzburg.de](http://www.afro.wuerzburg.de)
- b) Afrikanische Lebensart: [www.kalahari-afrika.de](http://www.kalahari-afrika.de)
- c) Rio + 10 (Folgegipfel in J'burg): [www.joburgsummit2002.org](http://www.joburgsummit2002.org)
- d) Infos zu Weinen aus SA: [www.wosa.co.za](http://www.wosa.co.za)