

Newsletter

Nangu Thina e. V.

Dear Friends,

Nangu Thina meets Berlin!

The summer in Europe is nearly over and we enjoyed it a lot with great camps, exchange visits and good weather in the end of July. We also saw again many new projects taking off and we hope that with this newsletter you will be able to follow some of them.

A highlight was surely the meeting with the MEC of environment in NRW Mrs. Hoehn in Duesseldorf with the Sekunjalo tour in June. Read more about it in the report.

Furthermore we are starting the planning for 2002 (as early as never before) and hope for your input. Please also check the calendar on the homepage www.nangu-thina.org where you will be able to follow the proposed tours and projects. Please advise us, when there is something that we might have forgotten.

We are also in the process of hiring a part-time staff to support the office in Bonn and we are grateful for the volunteers from Germany in the White River office in SA.

So enjoy the current issue and stay tuned.

Yours in scouting

Uwe

We are happy to invite you to Berlin for our second meeting this year. We believe that this will be a god opportunity to see how many cultures are living in a city together and also will enable us to strengthen the link with the SA embassy and other institutions that we will be inviting to the seminar as well. The decision was made as we do have the public holiday in most states in Germany and will enable participants to arrive early and discover the new Berlin (I have done so on various occasions and think that it is fantastic to see the changes of the city in the past decade, even though I still believe that Bonn would have been a god capital as well). So please check on the internet for the invitation and schedule. Please book well in advance as we do not have unlimited space.

Time: 2. – 4. November 2001, Berlin

Contact: Christian Mackels, Christian.Mackels@gmx.de, Tel.: 0391/6228287

New Kombi

With the old kombi giving us more and more problems, we decided to make plans for a new one and we were very happy to earn that the Landesinstitut für berufliche Bildung (LIB) in Solingen has granted us Sponsorship for a new car. This will enable scouting and guiding to improve the transport situation as we are still battling with this matter when it comes to meetings, training and intercultural exchanges. We hope to se some improvements on this side and trust that the kombi will help us the next couple of years.

Faces of Scouting

Our exhibition will be once more displayed – this time in the university hospital in Muenster. You will be able to see the pictures every day up to the 25.10.2001

News from SASA and GGASA:

In the Cape town headquarters there has been a change in the CEO position. John Hunneyball was replaced by Luke van der Laan, who is simultaneously holding the position as area manager for Cape western area. We wish John all the best and a quick improvement of his health status after serving for so many years for SASA on the national level.

With Luke we hope to improve the existing communication lines as we have worked with him on a couple of occasions. We wish him all the energy he need to face the awaiting challenges – we will try to support wherever we can.

There was also the national AGM of the commissioners in Gauteng. The main focus was on the strategic review of the organization as a whole. The recommendations were discussed and a second meeting was called for November this year to finalize and comment on theses suggestions. We hope that all the suggestions can be implemented on all levels as we see this the crucial point.

Late August the Africa Conference was held in Gabon and there the proposed 10 year plan for African scouting was discussed and amended. So the strategic review in SA and this plan fit perfectly together and might give the programme, training and structures in Scouting a new lead in how to grow in quantity and quality. The main difficulty remains in the funding as this is a multi million \$ plan over the next years. We hope that mayor corporations as well as NGO's and GO's will assist in the implementation of this plan.

Girl Guide conference:

The Girl Guides of SA (GGASA) hosted in Cape town the African conference with a great response in the general public. Next to many other the issues we could hear lots of input on the AIDS/HIV+ issue. This is also one focus of the GGASA in Mpumalanga and other areas. We dearly hope that through this high profile plan awareness for the problem is brought to the community. This is urgently needs as only now people start to realize how seriously this disease affects the whole country. Sister Heidi from the Kamshlushwa mission station comments that they bury every week easily 40 – 60 people and so going to funerals is their main occupation nowadays. Plus the care for the sick, who have lost their job and so a whole family lost their income bringer. On top of that people, see the high costs for the care and medicine, even though the SA government has won the battle against the pharmaceutical companies to produce the much cheaper generics. Many still do not get the help they need. We will dedicate the next issue of the newsletter to this topic with an in-depth report. Meanwhile we negotiate with the AIDS Foundation in NRW and other NGO's to see how we can help.

SAA and other flights

As some of you might have painfully experienced there is huge lack of air-transport capacity on the way to South Africa and back. Last weeks FINANCIAL TIMES report stated that an estimated 4500 seats are missing every week. This is mainly due to the retreat of SABENA, Austrian Airlines and ALITALIA earlier this year. KLM and British Airways indicated that they will operate additional flights , but this will only start later this year or at the beginning of next year.

One of the reasons for pulling out is the high costs in US\$ and the comparatively lower income in the devalued Rand.

So we advise you strongly to think about your future travel plans and book through Nangu Thina Partner as soon as possible to avoid unnecessary price increases. We had very good experiences now with SAA for the past two years and we hope to strengthen this partnership. For more information contact Uwe.

We saw another increase in the prices for rental cars, but again we found good alternatives in South Africa. Early booking is essential. Please also consider using our VW 8-seater in MP.

EDITOR(S) WANTED!!!

For over two years now the newsletter was put together by Uwe and Christian with lots of valuable information we believe. Lately it has become more and more difficult for them to conduct these duties as the number of activities in the Nangu Thina network has increased. So we are desperately looking for an individual or a group who takes over the responsibility to produce a newsletter 3-4 times a year. They should be able to write certain articles, even though project managers are to contribute as well, but the main focus will be on editing and layout features for the letter.

CAN WE CALL ON YOU?

Are you online?

Wer den Newsletter immer noch mit der Post bekommt, aber schon längst „drin ist“, also eine eigene e-mail adresse hat, teile uns diese bitte mit. So können wir Kosten senken und stattdessen Projekte noch besser unterstützen. Those who still receive the newsletter via ordinary mail, but have connected to the internet by now, we would urge you to inform us about your new e-mail address. This will lower the costs of the newsletter significantly and will help us to be more efficient and make information run faster. Please contact us: Christian.Mackels@gmx.de

Photos articles needed!

For various publications we need good photos of projects, scouts, activities of the Nangu Thina network. Digital images are very welcome as well as photos ! For the same reasons we need articles and reports from newspapers. We can copy them, if needed. Please send them to Uwe.

Personals

Our member Sabine Schleithoff has heard the wedding bells ringing for her and her husband late July this year in Muenster/Germany. Unfortunately the heavens were crying on that Saturday afternoon, but the beautiful couple smiled all the rain away. After the celebration they sneaked away on a honeymoon to Turkey – Sabines favourite spot for holidays. We wish them all the best and hope that they will have a happy life together.

www.Nangu-Thina.org

Our homepage has become a “service-centre” for travellers to southern Africa, interns, scouts in Europe and Africa and is used more and more... Therefore we are looking for interesting links, recipe's and song texts of popular scouting-songs. Please help us to improve our library! For some months we offer the new calendar function which offers the possibility to check dates of scouting and guiding in southern Africa and all Nangu Thina dates. If you have any date to add please mail to: webmaster@nangu-thina.org

New training centre in Mpumalanga

The vision has been there for long and for many years we have been waiting for the government and municipality in Mpumalanga to decide for a suitable site for the necessary training centre for the scouts and guides.

But now a first step will happen and we hope to continue very soon. The scout hall of the White River troop right in the centre of town will be altered and upgraded to make it a suitable venue for courses and seminars. Guides and Scouts have been battling to accommodate the much need training sessions, but only now will be able to facilitate this centre. With only minor alterations we will be able to have a larger kitchen with a fridge and storage room. The sanitary area will be modified to have separate showers for male and female participants as well as an increased number of toilets.

The roof will be fixed, security upgraded and the storage facility for the equipment adapted to the needs of the troop and the training team.

We will offer the facility also to other community groups and international visitors so that the maximum use can be made. We hope that it will be the core of a centre that serves scouting, guiding and community needs, which is much needed. Funding was provided by the provincial department of youth in North Rhine Westphalia and Nangu Thina. Nikolaus Harig, one of our volunteers, will be able to assist the many local supporters, as the main work will be done by scouts and guides themselves.

Sabangani – we are friends

This was once more the motto of the visit of the scouting choir from KwaZulu/Natal – South Africa. 33 Scouters from the whole province came again to Europe for two weeks in September this year to share our cultures and experience new ways in scouting. After a difficult start during the preparation time, everything came nicely together and we could visit the cities of Bonn, Cologne, Münster, Velbert, Essen and Gelsenkirchen. Next to the performances we visited schools, social institutions and had the opportunity to stay with host families to get a close touch to life in Germany. But also the visits to Holland and Belgium, historical castles, a cruise on the Rhine river and some spare time rounded to tour up.

One of the highlights was definitely the participation in the ordination of our network member Tillmann Boehme , who will be staying at the German Lutheran parish in Johannesburg for one year. Scouting wise we can say that the interaction and performance in Gelsenkirchen with more than 4500 scouts at the one day jamboree RUHRJAMB left a everlasting impression. Pictures can be seen under www.RUHRJAMB.de and www.Nangu-Thina.de .

A new element was the visits to various schools, where we had the opportunity to interact with learners and make new friends. Once more music proofed to be an ideal bridge-builder between the cultures, as especially the kids on primary level could not express themselves in words.

With all the excitement –despite the fact that no performance could be arranged in Holland this time – we believe that we will see a group coming next year again to deepen the friendship with our scouting brothers and sisters. If you are interested to host them, then please contact Uwe at the HQ as soon as possible since planning for 2002 has started.

***Have a good time and see you in Berlin
from the 2-4. November 2001***