

Newsletter for Nangu Thina e. V.

Dear friends of Nangu Thina,

After a long winter time in Europe with lots of snow and cold days in the festive season, we have experienced some spring-like temperatures lately. Just like nature is waking up our year is starting slowly as well. In the last year we have seen a tremendous growth in projects and numbers of participants which caused sometimes delays as still all the work is done by volunteers. I trust that we will see further improvements on the operation side and again new areas involved in the network. The interest to our grass root approach is growing and specially the internship programme is widely popular. Please keep checking the homepage as we will bring out more information about the new projects within the next couple of weeks.

Uwe

Nangu Thina annual general meeting

We are happy to invite you to this year's annual general meeting of Nangu Thina e.V. which takes place in the youth hostel of Duisburg from April 5th to 7th 2002. Like last year, we welcome guests from South Africa and the Netherlands as well as everybody who is interested in South Africa. There will be opportunities to exchange experiences about the various trips to and the engagement with South Africa, meet and chat with old friends and develop new ideas. We will also have the elections for the chair committee. Uwe Bothurs and Joerg Hagmaiers terms are expiring after three years. Both candidates are willing to continue for one more term. If you have any suggestions for more candidates then please contact info@nangu-thina.de Please check the internet (www.nangu-thina.de/download) for the invitation and the schedule. Please book well in advance as we do not have unlimited space.

"Fact-finding-mission"

In order to check out new areas of interest, six leaders from five groups of the DPSG and BDKJ (umbrella organisation of the catholic youth organisation) will be going to South Africa in February. They will visit BP-camp, make new contacts and find out where they will be able to picture their engagement in S.A. Scouts, Guides and other organisations in the cities of Johannesburg, Middelburg, Durban, Capetown and Nelspruit will be met.

Without the help of SAA and DSAR the realisation of this tour would not have been possible. Many thanks for assisting us in our organisation!

Flight and car rental situation

Airlines

Since the last communication, the airline industry has tried to adopt to the high demand of passenger seats on the routes to South Africa. KLM and Lufthansa have increased their number of flights, but we still face a shortage which leads to ever rising prices of air-tickets. Students still have the option to use SAA for 560,- € through our Bonn based travel agent DSAR. Others will see prices between 650,- and 850,- € (plus taxes). Please inform us if you have found good rates so that can make them available to the whole network.

Rental cars

The price increase for car rentals that was announced in autumn last year became reality and we face up to 70,- € for a VW kombi. In addition to that, the insurance conditions were changed so that a own contribution of 200,- to 400,- € per car is included in every insurance. For a slightly increased fee you can obtain a 100% cover through Holiday Travels. For more details, please contact the Nangu Thina office.

Goodbye to Dudley

During BP-camp, Dudley James will be said good bye after five years of service as area commissioner. Without Dudley James and his team there would be no Area today and thousands of scouts and scouters would have never received the opportunity to join and experience the movement. It was also for him that Mpumalanga became one of the internationally most active areas in the whole of southern Africa. He was and still is the cornerstone of the partnership approach of our network. We understand that Dudley wants to focus more on his family and pass on the duty to Elvis, but we will miss his leadership. THANK YOU. But good news is that he will not be completely gone, as he will continue to serve Mpumalanga scouting as area chairman taking responsibility fro the financial side of the operation.

New area commissioner

Please welcome the new area commissioner Elvis Mdaka. He is involved in scouting Mpumalanga for long time and was the leader of his home troop in 1st Mataffin for many years, which he helped to found. For some time now, Elvis has taken on a leading role in the organisation and has been the supervisor of various projects. He was able to fundraise money out of the farming project which he realised together with his troop. From this money he was able to lead his troop on two trips and purchase materials for the building of an own Community Scout Hall.

In spite of his busy schedule as a service manager of one of the oldest Farming Companies in the Lowveld, he completed his Woodbadge in 2000 and has since been involved with some leader trainings. Elvis was one of the contingent scouters in the "Mpumalanga Goes Euro" tour of U.K.,Holland and Germany in 1998 and represented Mpumalanga scouting at the 2000 Nangu Thina Meetings in Germany. Together with Area Commissioner Dudley James (whom he has been understudying for some time) Elvis has attended two National Scout Council Meetings, which have added to his knowledge and experience. We wish him all the best, strength and endurance for his new challenge as area commissioner of Mpumalanga scouting.

Joerg Hagmeier emigrated

Our 28-year-old-vice chairman of Nangu Thina, Joerg Hagmeier, has moved down to White River at the end of January this year. He is based on the farm of Dudley James and so he has the unique opportunity to bring together his love for the country, his friendship to the James' family with his business ideas and the support of the Nangu Thina network from South Africa. Joerg will represent our organisation on various levels. We believe he will be able to strengthen together with our interns the partnership with the local scouts and guides as well as with the community. We wish him all the best in his new endeavours.

From the Bonn office

After eight weeks in the Bonn head office of Nangu Thina, our new staff Kirstin has been introduced to the organisation, procedures and various projects. Soon, she will be working independently with the coordination of the network, handling public relations and daily work. This will hopefully speed up some procedures and will enable us to answer the many e-mails faster. Please bear with us.

Welcome new intern

Many thanks to our present intern, Stephan Klatt who has made fantastic work from September 2001 to February 2002. He managed local work and pressed ahead with the development of the community centre which would have been different pace without him.

We are proud to present to you our new intern, Guido Schweizok. The 27-year-old student of sports management in Braunschweig is a scouter from Blankenburg. For many years he served the local DPSG group in various capacities. He gained extensive experience in social work and in the organisation of sports events. We believe that he will be a great asset to the area and will continue the great work of Stephan for the scouts and guides of Mpumalanga.

Inquiries about internships through Nangu Thina are increasing and we face an average of two requests a week. It is not seldom that these people are not involved in scouting, but still show a keen interest in the projects. Ludger (LUBU) has designed procedures which help us to coordinate these requests. Despite of his busy schedule as teacher in training he tries to help everybody the best he can and is doing a great job.

White River Community Center

We are fortunate to announce that the White River Community Centre has been completed. Nikolaus Harig was able to work on the building with the help of local scouts and supporters during his stay in November last year. The roof was repaired, the sanitary facilities were installed for both sexes and they added more toilets. The kitchen was enlarged, the storage facilities were improved and a new security system was integrated. At present, it is almost secured that in a second phase the surrounding buildings on the site will be given to the scouts as well. It is planned that various offices will be opened there as well as a day clinic and a place for a care-taker.

In a third phase, the youth centre shall be built on the large site next to the current development. We have thought of various projects to fill the centre with life: a day care medical centre, a kindergarten, a bike workshop and a travel agency to give you just a few ideas of what is possible.

President Rau in South Africa

During his visit to South Africa at the end of January this year, president of Germany, Mr. Johannes Rau, was able to make himself aware of various projects in the Kabokweni area. In various speeches, he urged politicians, clergy and other members of society must not stop to fight against poverty and crime so that the rainbow of the South African people can be seen shining.