

Newsletter

Nangu Thina e. V.

Dear friends,

Christian Mackels and Uwe Bothur are sitting on a sunny Sunday afternoon together preparing the latest edition of our newsletter. We realize that many things have happened during the summer and you haven't heard much about current projects. So we are even happier to offer you this edition.

We hope you'll enjoy reading it and give feedback especially for the planning of the upcoming year.

Once again we would like to invite all of you to meet us in Leverkusen on the 2nd weekend in November for the **NANGU THINA** meeting. The full invitation will be found on our homepage.

Yours in scouting

Christian & Uwe

Volunteers

Guido Schweizok has finished his service and returned happily after a full six months term in Mpumalanga to Blankenburg. We thank him a lot for his dedication and support in the scouting office in South Africa.

Markus Koppe has started his service at the beginning of July and will stay there up to the beginning of December. The scouter from Cologne will focus on specific projects and the planning of the following year.

We do have certain requests from individuals to go down to South Africa next year, but there are still some vacancies. We will hope that all of you could make qualified scouters aware of this unique opportunity.

For the first time four scouters and guiders from South Africa have served as volunteers and camp staff in Germany and Holland during this summer. Olga, Lina, Ammon and Sandile were prepared for a week by Christian Mackels in Westernohe before they went on a four weeks term to serve as staff members in Westernohe and Buitenzorg. There was a great feedback and learning curve on all sides and the participants urged us not only to continue the programme but to expand it. We will know after the November-meeting what the opportunities are, but we strongly hope that eight scouters and guiders will get the opportunity to experience this programme in Europe.

Jamborees in Germany

A group of eight scouters and guiders from Mpumalanga area have formed a contingent and visited the VCP national jamboree in Rehau and the DPSG area jamboree in Bruchsal. They were overwhelmed by the huge

crowds and the friendliness of all scouts. More than 5.000 scouts met in Bavaria for their camp "Jurtown" and experienced different cultures in scouting. In Bruchsal more than 2.500 scouts from all over the area came together. The South African contingent ran various activities with input from Africa but was also heavily involved in various staff activities. They have learnt about the various aspects of organizing such major events. Vusi, Herbet and Sidwel from Mpumalanga east district have been able to use the knowledge they've gained in the latest summer camps for cubs and scouts in Mpumalanga. We believe they will use their know how in many more camps to come for the area and beyond. We are also investigating the opportunities to have a similar tour arranged in July 2003.

Fair trade

Ever since 1997 we had the odd product for sale from South Africa in our network. Since 1998 the Fimo necklace with the DPSG-logo has been a top seller and we were able to create jobs for people and pay them a fair salary. From that time on we have brought in new products and specially the wire lizards and the Rouge leather hats have been proven very successful. Again we pay higher prices to local producers and make sure, that all profits are returned in projects in South Africa. We keep trying to increase our retail base and sell these products to one world shops as well as outdoor shops. Secondly we try to improve the range of products we have and we would like you to make us aware of more opportunities. We are specifically looking for goods that are made locally, that are small and light weight and where the production costs are not too high. Such an item could be a greeting card or baskets from grass. Please contact Joerg in South Africa and advice him about the opportunities and ideas.

Zip Zap Circus

Through the various contacts that we do have in our network we were approached by *transfer e. V.* to help with the preparation of a visit by the **Zip Zap circus school** in Capetown. A group of 20 artists from 11 to 32 years came under the leadership by Brent and Laurence to the circus festival "**Zirkus Der Welt**" in Cologne hosted by **Lino Luckynelli** children circus. So far the trip has been a great success and after a full week in cologne they will continue to Gelsenkirchen and join a project with two schools in the Ruhrgebiet. Surely scouting will benefit from this as well. We hope that in the near future a group from **Lino Lukynelli** will be able to come to South Africa to reciprocate the visit and finish their trip in Mpumalanga.

Summer camps

Once again Winter has gone in Mpumalanga and spring holidays have reached the schools. This is the time to go out, camp and enjoy nature. The girl guides have organized a camp for nearly a hundred participants in the west of the province (Botshabelo) and were joined by **Anja Berresheim** from **Essen** with seven other female leaders from Germany. In the east scouting and guiding joined hands and arranged a camp for a 150 cubs and brownies over a weekend. This was followed by a camp for 250 scouts and guides all at the **Mataffin** farm scout hall.

The camps were well prepared, all participants registered in advance and paid there fees. They had the great opportunity to visit the Kruger National Park under the guidance of six rangers which was surely the highlight of the whole camp if not the whole year. Other topics were centred around environmental matters and HIV/AIDS.

The participants still had to pay a minimal fee since NANGU THINA could support the camps financially but also local sponsorship was granted. This is a new step and experience for the scouting community in Mpumalanga and we will hope, to see many more of these steps... Jan Davidson and Elvis Mdaka have done great things with their teams.

Tours to South Africa

September/October 2002 seemed to be the time to travel to South Africa. **Lukas Uebachs** and his team of **BDKJ Velbert** went down to the **Themba** Project near Dirkiesdorp to support the school and youth projects run by the missionary station. **Lothar Götz** with a group from **BDKJ Erkrath** went also down and joined hands for a project

in Mpumalanga with the local scouts and revisited a couple of friends in the Gauteng area. Especially the contacts with Glen Davidson, Elvis Mdaka, Dudley James and Reuben Mkandawire were renewed.

Ralf Feldhaus (our webmaster) and three fellow scouters went down to South Africa as well to experience the beauty of the country and the people. Ralph will sure renew some of his longstanding friendships and will make a point to specifically meet scouts in KZN and Mpumalanga.

Last but not least we can report about the tour of **Vera Wille** and her fellow choristers from **Bunnen** (near Cloppenburg). As decided on the NANGU THINA meeting in Wellerslooi in 2001 NANGU THINA helped to support this unique trip. The strong friendship between the people of **Bunnen** and the **KZN choir** started in 2002 when Bunnen hosted the choir for the first time. This great experience was renewed in Muenster 2001 and kept alive through many personal friendships. Now it is the time of the Germans to visit their friends in South Africa.

Joerg Hagmaier met the group in Cape town and showed them the beauties of this part of the world. They continued the trip to Durban and joined the **scouting rally** where more than 5,000 scouts from all over KZN met in **Ulundi** for a weekend. They have been special guests of honour representing Germany for the first time. This event was followed by three days of home hospitality and another three days in the Umfolozi park. We are looking forward to have the KZN choir back in Germany next year and we are sure that Bunnen will be a highlight on their tour.

Johannesburg World Summit

Ten years after the Rio conference of sustainable development delegates from all over the world met in Johannesburg to discuss the results of the first conference and make arrangements for the future of the globe. High expectations were given to the 65,000 delegates to the world largest conference ever held. At the end of this indaba Kofi Anan the UN secretary general drew a positive picture of the results of this conference. Many NGOs though were disappointed and do not believe that it will be easier to eradicate poverty and save our resources of our planet. It seems as if the countries of the north continue to live on the expenses of billions of people in the south. No binding agreements have been agreed on and so we believe that we keep on using too many of our resources for a too small proportion of the world population. Still I believe that we as scouts can make a difference and we must try our best to make a better planet and provide equal opportunities for all people. Let's work together on this task!

Floods in Germany

At the beginning of August tremendous rain showers were seen in southern and south eastern parts of Germany and central Europe. These heavy rains caused major floods in these areas and culminated especially along the river Elbe and its side arms. Ten thousands of people lost virtually everything - many even their houses. It was the largest nature catastrophe in Germany for many decades. Surprisingly people helped each other a lot and solidarity was not only a shallow phrase but put into action. NGO's and private individuals from all over Germany helped to keep the dams up and supported the local community with shelter, food and clothing. More than six billion Euros were donated by corporate and private individuals. This is by far not enough but at least a sign of support next to the state efforts and the traumatic experience that these victims have gone through. Still many things have to be done and help is needed and so scouting is playing an active role in rebuilding our country. Various groups of scouting will serve during their autumn holidays in social institutions to help building up new structures in these devastated areas.

Materials

For many years we have been sending used rucksack, sleeping bags and other camping equipment down to South Africa to help disadvantaged scouts and guides. Especially Sabine Kraemer from Duisburg has been very active in this field. After last summer camp the container is empty again and new stock is wanted. We urge you to check if those items are available in your troops, families or with friends. Maybe you can talk to the local outdoor

shop in order to help you with collecting second hand stuff. It will help many scouts and guides to participate in all events of the troop, district or area. As usual we will send these items with the groups going down to South Africa from the beginning of next year. Please contact Uwe in the Bonn office: 0228-620 30 80.