

News from The Nangu Thina Network

Dear friends,

For quite a while you have not heard from us and we would like to apologize for that, but lots of projects and many changes have been seen lately so that we only now find time to put the most important news together.

Special attention should be drawn to the starting planning of the upcoming years and the 5th anniversary of Nangu Thina e.V. in Cologne on the second November weekend 2003. We hopefully will see you there

Planning 2004/New SA

The new year will bring the 10th anniversary of the first free and democratic elections in South Africa and so the country should see many celebrations. The new South Africa can be proud of the peaceful transition process and the achievements despite of the fact that more time is needed to achieve everything on the agenda. So we as scouts should contribute to these celebrations and be aware of the needs of our friends in South Africa.

Many visits are planned again and the support of many projects is continued. But of course new projects will find their place as well and we hope to see meaningful initiatives again.

Please use all your creativity and energy to fill in the open space of the given form by the end of September

Anniversary of Nangu Thina

In October 1998 youngsters from Bonn and other cities in North-Rhine Westphalia came together in Cologne to found the legal body of our network. The multitude of projects and increasing budgets made it necessary to formalize the initiative that started with the visit of the 130 scouts of the SA Jamboree contingent to Holland in 1995.

We take this opportunity to remember this event during the autumn meeting of Nangu Thina and we are proud to have prominent support the embassy of South Africa and the One-World Commissioner of our province. But most importantly we will be able to welcome our friends from South Africa. Dudley James – the co-founder of the network – Elvis Mdaka, Charley and Lorna Baty are invited and have agreed to come over. Also the friends from Holland and England will be joining and so it should be one of the largest meeting we ever had. Please make sure that you book well in advance since we only have 65 beds available in the DPSG headquarters in Cologne where we will be meeting – but surely we will find a place for all participants.

Fair Trade

During the past six month various activities in this field have been taken place and we would just like to mention that next to the few selling opportunities on different occasions, we are trying to connecting wholesaler as well as retailers with our producers in South Africa. Individuals and Co-operatives get an opportunity to market their products in Europe so that their income base is getting wider. Also the creativeness has been used to bring African and European traditions together. We hope to proceed on this way and get many other involved. All scouting groups are invited to join these activities on Christmas bazaars and parish festivals. Most successfully the Bocholt Rovers have done so and are surely willing to share their knowledge.

Office Mpumalanga

In February this year Nikki Clark started as the new area manager in the Mpumalanga office. She is an active volunteer Girl Guider from Nelspruit and has qualifications in bookkeeping and accounting. In the past six months she accomplished a lot with a great learning curve. She took over from Dee Chandler who retired in October 2002. With the help of all area volunteers she managed to get many projects off the ground and handled also the visiting groups very well. A few things still need attention, but we are all optimistic that we will be able to see the area improved with her help, getting the support the volunteers need. There are just too many things to be done in too little time. You are more than welcome to contact her directly if you have any suggestions or questions regarding the area.

Tours

Once again we saw an increasing number of participants in various exchange programmes. Groups from all over Germany including many individuals have travelled to South Africa, Swaziland, Germany and Holland in the past eight months.

Many of them have included work camps in their tours and especially our friends from Passau have left amazement with their many projects that they supported so willingly.

Other groups strengthened the bond between German and African groups and individuals, which is just as important as the projects. We would like to mention here the rovers from Hagen, scouts from all over Baden, friends from Düsseldorf and Cologne as well as Joerg and the workshop crew.

In Germany we could welcome the KwaZulu-Natal scouting choir again who has participated in the ecumenical church day in Berlin as well as on the national meeting in Westerlo. We are expecting in September this year a group of girl guides from Gauteng and North/West province. We would love to have more guiding groups over here but funding your youth groups remains a key issue since they are not able to contribute as much as adult groups. We hope to see some planning in this direction for 2004.

Volunteers/Coordinator Markus

Our most successful volunteer programme is coordinated since the beginning of this year by Markus Koppe who has been a volunteer twice himself in Cape Town and White River. Together with him we have developed procedures to streamline the process of selection and make it easier to choose the right candidate for our friends in South Africa. We still would love to send more of these volunteers to other places than Mpumalanga but logistical difficulties have kept us away from doing so. A couple of volunteers could be helped to get internships in hospitals and other places than scouting offices. Currently Marcel Cordes is down in Mpumalanga with Tanja Marton and Ines Pleier coming soon. All three will stay there up to the end of the year and support Scouting Mpumalanga in different ways.

Homepage

Webmaster Ralf Feldhaus has continuously improved the website and updated the content as much as he could, but he relies on information from all the involved parties. So we urge you to let him know about all the projects that are happening so that we can improve the network.

Patrol boxes and Starter kits

A very successful project of the Dutch scouts has been adopted by the German scouts and the first starter kits are delivered to new groups so that they can improve the standard of scouting in the area. With the materials and books, new input is coming to the groups and meetings are much more interesting than before. We hope to be able to offer many more groups these kits at a largely subsidised rate – but not for free.

We would appreciate the support of scouting groups from Germany. In the same way patrol boxes are arranged, but they are given to districts so that they can be used by many troops according to their need.

Sleeping bags

Still sleeping bags and rucksacks are a limiting factor for outdoor scouting in many troops. So we continue to collect used sleeping bags with a decent quality and arrange transport for them to Africa. Please contact Uwe in case you can support this project.

Nangu Thina office

Nina Homann has finished her term as the bookkeeper of the network and we would like to thank her for her willingness to support us over the first five years of the Verein. We were able to set up structures that are helping us now to be more efficient and lead to a renewal of our NGO status with the fiscal authorities this August. THANK YOU!

By the way: Nina Homann got married in July with Martin Bussmann - CONGRATULATIONS

In the process of restructuring the operations and finding department heads we are happy and proud that Heike Theisen (our first intern in White River) has accepted to support us as the director of operations. She will slowly start in autumn this year with bookkeeping and will bit by bit take over the whole administration side of the office work as a managing director. It will include certain fundraising activities and representation on official functions. This will help to decentralize the operations and give chairman more time to focus on the long-term development of the network.

New vice-chairman wanted. Christian Mackels will not extend his term for another three years and we are looking for candidates who are willing to serve for a three years term starting in April 2004 when the next annual general meeting of Nangu Thina e.V. is held. Please make your interest know or suggest appropriate candidates to the chair committee (contact through office). We are looking for a individual who is willing to bring his/her expertise of South Africa, Partnership programmes and international youth work in the chair committee and give direction for the e.V.

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