

## **Nangu Thina Newsletter February 2004**

**Dear friends and supporters,**

A greeting from not so sunny Mpumalanga sends you Uwe and Dudley. I am currently in South Africa and finally find some time to arrange this long overdue newsletter. As you might have noticed the times that we keep up with communication is scarce as we still have not found someone to assist us in this field of our network. With the new job responsibilities that Uwe has taken over in preparing the World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne ([www.wyd2005.org](http://www.wyd2005.org)) he cannot make up for all the posts that we face vacancies in the network. Uwe's main focus will be to keep communication going and coordinate some of the projects plus finding some funding.

Still our projects are going strong and many success stories need to be told in the upcoming pages. We hope that we can encourage you with the good examples that we see here to get involved in a similar way.

### **Seminar and anniversary 2003**

In **November 2003** we had the privilege to have a delegation from Mpumalanga in Germany joining us for our jubilee and seminar celebrated in the area HQ of DPSG Cologne. The delegation was including Charley Baty and his wife Lorna as they were awarded the Dudley James award in 2003. Nikki Clarke and Elvis Mdaka plus Dudley James supported them and Jan Davidson represented the Girl Guides. During the seminar we had nearly 60 of our members present celebrating 5 years of the Nangu Thina NGO which was founded in September 1998 in the very same place by some rovers and scouters from NRW. We were honoured to have a representative of the SA embassy as well as the One-World commissioner from our province NRW present. Dr. Thomas Fues could also make an early announcement that the NT activities between NRW and Mpumalanga were considered by the provincial government as a "best practice example".

We were also able to thank Dudley from the German side for his long standing and enduring efforts he made during the past years when he started with the SA friends the MP area and the friendship with German scouters that resulted in the Nangu Thina network and NGO. Without his vision, energy and friendship we would not have been able to get where we are now.

### **Seminar and Annual General Meeting (AGM)**

A cordial invitation to our next seminar and AGM on the 2. – 4. April 2004 in Haltern (near Munster). We hope to be able to welcome many interested members of the Nangu Thina network to exchange ideas and co-ordinate projects plus having the sun of South Africa with us.

Also on the Saturday morning we have to have the AGM from 10:00 – 12:00 hrs. in order to comply with the laws and legalities of our NGO.

### **Personals:**

Heike Theisen has taken over from Nina Homann the bookkeeping of our NGO and we are grateful for this support as she serves in various other capacities in scouting (amongst that she is the DPSG district commissioner in Erft District). Welcome on board Heike!

Christian Mackels will finish his term on the upcoming NT meeting in Haltern and will not be able to serve for a second term as vice-chairman and. We thank him for his support and vision that he shared for the past years and we are sure that he will stay around to have his ideas still with us. So we had to look for a new candidate and we are inviting people to come up with suggestions. But we are proud that Anja Berresheim, who has been various times in South Africa with Girl Guide projects, has agreed to be

a candidate for this post. She is the area commissioner for DPSG Essen and will resign by the end of March. Please contact Uwe in case there any suggestions for other candidates.

Joerg Hagmaier is still our eyes and ears in South Africa and sorts out many little and big projects as he goes along. His presence has been invaluable to us and we hope that he will be able to continue with his great work as his own tour company will take more and more of his time in the near future. We would call him a truly South African buddy by now. The braai expert and experienced driver Faster than the local police;-)) has kept only a couple of German virtues and has adopted the live of the Lowfeld.

DPSG national HQ in Neuss bids farewell to Baldur Hermanns, who has been the International Commissioner for DPSG for nearly 20 years. Baldur has been appointed two years ago the General Secretary of the CICS (Catholic world body of scouting) and will surely be involved in the set up of the World Youth Day in Cologne with catholic scouting. As his successor Siegfried "Sigg" Riediger from the Muenster area was appointed at the end of last year. We welcome him in his new position, but he is familiar with the national team as he has served on the Scouts team and managed a great project successfully and was the DPSG contingent leader to the Thailand Jamboree. We hope to strengthen the contact between the National HQ in Germany through him and would hopefully meet him on our next seminar in Haltern. Please keep him and the international office informed about your activities with South Africa so that Sigg can also represent us and our interests on an international level.

### **Volunteers**

Markus Koppe has been successfully supporting our volunteers in selecting them together with Nikki Clarke and advising them in the preparation. Apart of the SASA office in Mpumalanga we were able to advise other interested in preparing their stay in SA and possibly find places as interns in other institutions such as hospitals and other social projects. Ines Pleier and Tanja Marton together with Marcel Cordes have finished their term in Mpumalanga and served in the second part of the year 2003. Now Kerstin Gerenkamp is coming and Michael Heiden hopefully joining her soon for a couple of month. We thank them all for their service and high dedication since they cover all their expenses themselves. Dudley and other leaders of the area committee feel that with out the volunteers many projects would simply would have not been possible. Lastly we would like to thank Joerg Hagmaier who has run the "German Cottage" on Dudley farm. Without his support it would have been very difficult for many volunteers in the past 2 years.

### **Tours**

Recent tours saw a troop from third Pinelands visiting BDKJ Gelsenkirchen and also a tour of BDKJ Gelsenkirchen visiting SA with mostly Girl Guide contacts. Harald Herzig has arranged all these Trips and it seems as if not much more will be possible through him since he has accepted a new professional position which will not give him the liberty to stay involved as before. We wish him all the best for his new endeavours.

DPSG Eichstätt area is having a return visit to the Northwest and Gauteng regions of GGASA in March 2004. Since the last visit of Sister Mary John and Bronwyn in Bavaria many good ideas and projects were discussed. Now it is the time to have a good time again and strengthen the friendship through a personal visit. Eichstätt by the way is the first DPAG area to have a structured and official South Africa team. Well done!

In May/June a Kwaito-kombo (Kwaito is a kind of SA HIP-HOP Music) of three guys who call themselves LIQUID, will come over to Germany and have a concert on the Katholikentag in Ulm. Other venues are to be discussed. Please advise if you are interested to host them. The group consist of three young men in the age of 22 -24 years from the Empangeni Area in KZN. They are not involved in scouting but I believe it is great opportunity to have them.

In February 2004 a high profile delegation of 22 representative of different NGO's, Departments and Members of parliament in North Rhine - Westphalia come to visit Mpumalanga. Scouting and guiding try support the trip which has been arranged by the group itself with the help of a German representative of NRW in MP and Joerg Hagmaier. It is a goal of this trip to encourage other NGO's in NRW and MP to work together like the scouts and sports youth do. The delegation will be lead by Dr. Thomas Fues the one-world commissioner of NRW and will meet the premier of MP Mr. Mahlangu. Further more they will visit various projects and try to get an understanding of the situation in MP. Hopefully the innovative networking approach between Government and NGO's will be continued and can bring some fruits later on. One fine example is the "colouring-garden" which will bring schools in NRW and MP together – with the help of scouting and guiding!

The **African Jamboree in Mozambique** is scheduled for the end of the year in December situated close to the capital Maputo at the Indian Ocean. Some German scouters have expressed their interest in attending this unique event. Check out the nangu thina website for more information and let us know latest by the seminar in April if you are interested to join as well. Our friends in South Africa will most probably join in big numbers and a contingent of 40 scouts is expected to come from Mpumalanga. So join in!

Lastly the scouts from **VCP Baden** with Stefan Klatt and **DPSG Passau** with Susi Lösch have invited a contingent of GGASA and SASA Mpumalanga area to come over in our summer. Let us hope that the scouts/rovers will be ready for it and apply in time. There will be a selection committee and hopefully everything set in time – latest in April this year.

No other tour has been scheduled yet and we would like to ask you to report well in advance if you plan to arrange a tour. We would also ask you to use the forms that we provide to you to keep SASA and GGASA HQ in Cape Town and Johannesburg informed. This is international accepted rules and we should respect that. It will also give the HQ in case of emergency the necessary info to help you. Please discuss with Uwe if any questions related to this issue is open.

## Projects

The **ice-cream badge**, as it is commonly known, has been one of the success stories and it seems to continue this year. The SASA annual badge is only slowly starting to be accepted and bought by the local scout groups in MP. So we had the idea to ask scouts in Germany to ask if they would support a scout by buying this badge instead of one ice-cream and enable a scout in SA to be a member of SASA. More than 1200 scouts of German scout associations have agreed to support – an overwhelming figure that we did not expect, when Dudley gave the badges to Uwe and said: "can you do something with it?" Now we will continue with this project and it seems as if other countries might like the idea as well. So well done.

Other troops make efforts to arrange funding for **starter kits** and **patrol boxes** or collect used scouting materials like tents and sleeping bags.

The main challenge though is with the funding of the general operations of the area HQ in Mpumalanga. Let's hope that we will be able to solve this together.

Other than that we have jointly supported a project in Cape Town called **HOKISA** (Homes for Kids in South Africa) together with the friends in Bocholt of **SINOTHANDO e.V.**

We also continue our efforts in selling products of cooperatives and grass root groups in Germany at a fair price.

Last but not least NT is one of the founders of **AKTION TAGWERK NRW**. We hope to encourage German schools and their pupils to learn more about countries in the south and north of this world and understand the interdependence between the both. With this understanding they might get involved in some of our projects and possibly assist in funding. [www.aktion-tagwerk.de](http://www.aktion-tagwerk.de)