

Newsletter

Nangu Thina e. V.

Dear friends and supporters,

A very busy and exciting year came to an end and it is time to look back. I trust that we can be proud and happy with the achievements of the much awaited and feared year 2000. I would like to use the opportunity to thank all the people that were involved in our network: starting with the individuals and scouting groups for their involvement, the project coordinators of Nangu Thina working hard to pull things off, the scouters and guiders in Africa who perform sometimes miracles (one of them is portrayed in this edition), the friends in other countries for their assistance and encouragement and all the donors and funders from private and governmental backgrounds. Only the combination of all of them makes this network so unique and I am proud to serve as the coordinator of all that.

Ahead of us lies a year full of challenges as we have to see if we can professionalise the network to handle the enormous growth that we experienced so far. But I believe that like in the past we will cope with these challenges with the help of the Lord. May he bless you, your families and friends.

A happy new year

Uwe



Michael Shiba dies

I have the sad duty to inform you that Michael Shiba, a dear friend and fellow scouter from Kanyamazane/Mpumalanga was attacked by robbers last Friday night on the way to church. The injuries were so severe that he passed away on Sunday morning.

Michael was a young and able teacher in the Kanyamazane area and joined scouting only a couple of years ago. He represented South Africa on the world youth conference of scouting in Durban last year. He participated in summer- and BP camps and came over to Europe in March this year on the delegation from SASA and GGASA where he participated in the annual Nangu Thina conference. His outgoing way and good sense of humour made him very popular in his community and within scouting. His leadership abilities were recognised and he would have played an important role in the new Mpumalanga scouting area.

We are shocked and sad to experience another example of the violence in South Africa. After Manni Schurman, the former chairman of scouting in Mpumalanga, was killed in a car hijacking this summer, this is the second death we have to report this year and we cannot see that there is light at the end of the tunnel. We urge the government to finally stand up against violence and crime. Yet we cannot give up on the way to a better future for the people of Mpumalanga and South Africa.

Nkosi sikelel iAfrika - let the lord be with Africa and our friend Michael.

Behind the scenes....

The network of Nangu Thina sometimes looks like a huge operation, but it is the individuals behind the scenes that make the difference. From this issue on we would like to introduce you to some of our members who made special contribution to make the partnership happen - day by day.

We start today with Dudley James a dear friend and inspiring scouter with a vision for a better future. The report was written by Charley Baty.

Dudley came to us in 1979 when he moved with his family to White River and since then has been a real encouragement, example, and a pleasure to have had as a fellow Scouter in our District, and now as our Area Commissioner. Nothing has ever been too much trouble to Dudley as far as scouting goes. His parents and brothers were all very active in Scouting - Queenstown in the early 1960s, moving to Benoni in 1962 where Dudley was Cub/Scout/Troop Leader/Rover Scout.

He took over the White River Troop in 1979 and ran it very successfully, producing a number of Springbok Scouts. Through his initiative, White River twinned up as support group for 1st Ngodini and over the years, through combined meetings and camps, Ngodini became an established and most proficient Troop. (unfortunately, during the unrest conditions were created that made it impossible for Ngodini to continue). It must be mentioned here that Mackson Mkhathshwa, the Troop Scouter of 1st Ngodini, is currently a Town Councillor in the White River Municipal Area.

Dudley took his Troop, with 1st Nelspruit and 1st Ngodini, to the Mafeking Jamborally in 1985,

servicing on their Camp Staff there, and at various other Area events, including Ascent. He played a major role in enthusing the parents and local community to send 2 Scouts and a Scouter to the World Jamboree in 1983, and again made the excellent effort with his Committee in sending 7 of his Scouts plus the Ngodini Troop Scouter to the World Jamboree in Australia in 1987. His highlight was when chosen as Troop Scouter of the Umgeni



Troop to the World Jamboree in Holland in 1995, which he did with his usual thorough Scouting spirit and example. He did all he could to help his own ATS and Troop Leader (once selected) to get to the Jamboree to share in the experience as well. On their return Dudley made sure that everyone heard and knew of their adventure through the video he personally had taken, distributing

copies to his Jamboree Troop and to all the supporters.

Whether to camps, to Cedarberg, to ACCSA, Ascent or a Jamboree, Dudley has always made sure that the Scouts he chose to go "worked their passage". He played a very supportive role in the District assisting in arranging Camps and Competitions, and did so much in helping visiting Scouts and Scouters from other Areas in their Camps and Hikes - he and his Scouts camped alongside a visiting Troop and looked after the safety of their camp while they toured around.

Came 1997 and the decision to form our New Mpumalanga Area, so Dudley moved out and took over as Area Commissioner with the encouragement of Scouters at home and Abroad - "Those Abroad" being

DPSG Germany, Scouting Nederland, and Scouting U.K. - Kent Area in Particular. In other words "The Partnership! Through the strength, guidance and support in every way, of these Scout Associations, Dudley and his Area and District Staffs, and his Training Team, have been able to make Scouting and Guiding Grow in Mpumalanga. On the International Scouting

side, Dudley has helped so often with overseas Scouts' and Scouters' trips through the Lowveld, showing them not only the beauty of the Countryside, but the exciting development of Scouting Mpumalanga in the Real South African situation.

The 1996 Barberton Jamborally where we met the German Scouters and Rovers for the first time. 1997 the establishment of the New Area, and at the end of that year the South African National Jamboree, SANJAMB, at which Mpumalanga ran one of the Sub-Camps with Dudley as Subcamp Chief. And at that Camp Dudley Chaired the first Partnership meeting in South Africa with all members present! 1998 saw Mpumalanga Goes Euro Tour with 25 Scouts Guides and Scouters under Dudley's leadership. They visited all the Areas and Groups involved in the Partnership and

saw "glimpses" of the Countries concerned. 1999 saw several of our Scouters travel over to spread the Mpumalanga story and give up-dates on Dudley's behalf and on his arrangement again through the wonderful Partnership.

Brenda, Dudley's wife, has always been such a help and encouragement to him. Together they have successfully raised their eight children, four of their own, three fostered and one adopted, each and all are credits to their parents. – and STILL Dudley and Brenda had time for Scouting and Guiding!! They still have. Brenda as well as running the local Guide Company has to arrange and co-ordinate Training Courses and day training sessions for all the new Guiders coming forward in the Area. And she is still the real support to Dudley. So it was wonderful that she was able to

accompany Dudley and the party of Scouters and Guiders who went over in March of this year 2000, to Germany and Holland to once again report on our progress. Over and above that. Dudley took on the Leadership of the South African Scout & Guide Contingent to the Netherlands National Jamboree in July/August of this year, a very successful exercise in every way. When you meet Dudley, he's a Big man in size; but he's also got a big heart, and so has his wife! They're full to overflowing with the Spirit of Scouting and Guiding; full of that God Given Spirit that infects us all here in Mpumalanga and spurs us on to do all we can for the Youth of South Africa, to make it a better place. – That's Dudley and Brenda James!



Sanjamb 2001

This event will be taking place from 10-19 December at the Vaal Dam. The web page for this event is now available at <http://sanjamb.scouting.org.za>. As soon as more information is available we will send a note through the e-mail list.

Campfire Songbook

There is a new campfire songbook available via the internet at <http://homepages.enterprise.net/zaba/goodbook/contents.htm>. Don't forget that there is also one as part of the SA Scouting Collection at <http://www.scouting.org.za>

Scouting eCards

Well, it's very American, but a nice thought. Send an electronic Scouting Card to a Scout. <http://www.bluemountain.com/eng/bscouts/>

Electronic Knotting

This is a great site to visit especially the animated knot section. <http://www.melborponsti.com/scouts>

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International Summer Camp 2001 in Swaziland

The Swaziland Boy Scouts Association will on December 12-17, 2001 host an international summer camp at U-Tech in Swaziland.

Activities for the camp will include: hiking, water activities, archery, Global Development Village activities, IT/Internet Program, Official opening/closing ceremonies, International cultural night, Partnership afternoon, cultural tour, and many others. We therefore would like to share these moments with our German friends.

The camp fee will include food, accomodation on tents, inland transportation, entry fees to places of interest, and will cater for both opening and closing ceremonies. Each participant will be allowed to receive and send e-mail while on camp.

The Swaziland Boy Scouts would very much love to establish a life-long relationship with their German Scout friends and therefore would really appreciate if they will come. When in Swaziland, it is very easy or rather recommendable especially to international contingents to visit our neighbours, who are Mozambique, South Africa, Botswana and Lesotho by road. The Camp Secretariat can arrange that on request.

First group from the US to participate

Only a couple of days ago the first interested group from the United States of America wrote an e-mail to the Nangu Thina headquarters in Bonn. A girl scout troop from New York State is interested to get information about south Africa and get in contact with troops from the southern tip of Africa. We provided them with information and we hope that they will be the first of many groups to join our network from the northern American continent. In this way we can surely benefit from each others experience and expand our possibilities worldwide. This was only possible through the internet where the scout leader Lydia found the Nangu Thina homepage. So our webmaster Ralf will have to work hard in order to use all the possibilities of the world wide web. Further on we would like to give more scouts and guides in south Africa the opportunity to have access to the net and so we applied for computers to bring down to our friends. So keep your fingers crossed that we will receive the computers and that the scouting computer school will open shortly.

SA Government fights smoking

Every year some 25.000 South Africans are killed by the consumption of tobacco products. In order to fight this high number the SA government took action and stops zigarette advertising form the 23.4. 2001. Already from January on in public buildings it will be no longer allowed to smoke, unless some designated areas of less then 25% of the whole building are offered. Sales to children and the youth is fined highly. We will see if this will have an effect on the death-rate related to tobacco consumption.



New Vice-chairmen/women wanted

Due to his work commitment our present Vice- chairman Klaus-Peter Ott resigned and we will have to replace him by the next meeting at the end of march. We are looking for an interested person that is motivated to help with the management of the association and is able to commit his time and energy for a three year term. The potential candidate should live in the province of Northrhine-Westfalia as we experience that next to telephone and electronic communication it is vital to meet in person on a regular basis. The person will be elected on the next annual meeting of Nangu Thina e.V.. We dearly thank Klaus-Peter for all his support and hard work. He was always encouraging us on the way and giving us a non-scouting view on tings. For further information or suggestions please contact Uwe at the headoffice in Bonn.

Update on Projects.

Towards the end of the year we were quite successful in finding the funds for some valuable projects in Mpumalanga. The departments of youth and social affairs in our home province granted money for camping equipment for the girl guides association. We will be able to purchase tents, poles, ropes and other equipment for the Middleburg and Kanyamazane area.

Secondly we will be able to support the Mhluzi stimulation centre where handicapped kids are taken care of. Thirdly the Mpumalanga handicapped people will benefit from some grants that will enable them to start wheelchair basketball in the disadvantaged communities. All projects are co-funded by scouting groups and individuals from Germany. On top of that some farming projects in Mpumalanga and KwaZulu/Natal will be supported by DPSG Groups.

We will focus for the year 2001 again on training as we believe that this is the best investment in the future of the scouts and guides. Please always inform us about potential projects you might have or available funding to co-ordinate our efforts and work effectively together.

Conference in Bonn

During the conference “NRW - global responsibility” Uwe could meet many representatives from other NGO’s in Germany and we hope that this will lead to a even stronger network here in Europe. One of the potential partners is the association “Houses for people” a NPO which is based at the university in Fulda. The students are very keen to benefit from the Nangu Thina exoereince and on the other hand bring in their contacts. We will work hard to intensify this contact in the upcoming year.

Also the contacts with the south African embassy were renewed.

Shortly before the conference we had the opportunity to meet the HoD of the Department of Arts, Recreation and Culture from Mpumalnag Mr Nkwenyane. The interest in the work of the scouts and guides in MP was very high and we hope to see the government officials next year during the BP camp to introduce them properly to the scout movement. We trust that with the help of the department the planned seminar and scouting centre in white river will materialize in the not too distant future.

Projects for 2001:

For now we would like to give all of you a brief overview for the possible projects in 2001.

We see scouters from MP coming in May/June and the Zulu Scouting choir in September. Groups of scouts and guides are scheduled for july and August. Groups going to SA are planned for February with scouters, SANJAMB in December and SWAZCAMP in December as well. Some more scouters might be able to go on training sessions with the training teams in KZN and MP – again Girl Guides and Scouters. We are not yet clear if another summercamp will be attended by Germans this year.



Financial assistance is possible for training, farming and marketing projects, Computerschools and hopefully for PLTU.

We also want to intensify the fair trade scenario and would like to import badges, curios, zulu and ndebele bead work as well as leather hats. The best would actually be the beginning of the production of Christmas and greeting cards by scouts.

Internships will be available in Europe and South Africa at various scouting projects. More detailed information are available at the Bonn HQ.