



My name is Christian Hagmaier and I am a 26 old geography student at the University of Bonn. At the moment I work as a volunteer for the South African Scout office in White River. A couple of years ago I had the opportunity to travel with my Scout group to South Africa and get to know this amazing country and its people. Nangu Thina enabled me to come back, support the Scouts of Mpumalanga and meet some old Scout friends of mine. Already been out of Scouting the last years, I realized here what a tremendous enrichment Scouting is for the youth in this area.

I arrived about three weeks ago. During the first days I accompanied a German Scout group from Solingen, which visited the Area, to two projects in Ka Nymazane, a township next to Nelspruit. One of them is the tree planting project, which tries to equip families of the district with two trees. The other project is the development of the districts camp ground, by building a kitchen and toilet area.

At the moment I try to help two Rovers Godness and Lucky with their little businesses. They produce zebra woggles and wooden name badges and sell them. Half of their proceeds are used to support Scout projects in their districts and the other half is for their personal living. Most of the young people from these districts hardly find a job and if they would not be able to support others too.



But most of the time is claimed by the preparations for the annual Mpumalanga Summer camp from 25<sup>th</sup> until 30<sup>th</sup> of September. This camp is a highlight for the local Scouts, because most of them can't afford to leave their districts to take part in events like this and meet the Scouts of other districts. Additionally it is kind of a test for next year's camp. In 2007 Scouts all over the world will celebrate the centenary of the Scout movement founded by Sir Baden-Powell. Therefore the Area Scouts invited international Scouts to join them at their Join-in-Jamboree in August 2007 to celebrate together. That is why the whole planning concerns next years camp as well. I am looking forward seeing the Scouts have a great time at the Summer camp, because this is probably the best reward you can get for your work.

In the end I just can advise everybody to visit this beautiful area and meet the incredible nice people.

Greetings from **sunny** South Africa!