



Needs. Action. Impact. Effect.

# touching lives

## 2015



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# Touching Lives 2015

*Leaving a footprint that builds hope, touches lives and creates opportunities that are meaningful and sustainable.*

**Needs. Action. Impact. Effect.**

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# 2015 CSI projects

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## IN SUMMARY





# 2029 legacy projects



## Bearded Vulture Project

Project Champion:	Kevin McCann
Project Facilitator :	Wildlands Conservation Trust
Years Funded :	Three (2015 Final Year of implementation)
Provinces :	KwaZulu-Natal and Free State
Website :	<a href="http://www.wildlands.co.za">www.wildlands.co.za</a>

The Maloti-Drakensberg region of South Africa is a registered World Heritage Site, renowned for its biodiversity and cultural values; and the habitat for a critically endangered species, the Bearded Vulture.

Vultures – Bearded and Cape – are integral to the Maloti-Drakensberg environment, performing an essential ecological role as a scavenger and disposing of carcasses resulting in the limited spread of disease. Furthermore, these vultures make for spectacular sightings making them equally important as tourism assets.

To counter the numerous threats to vultures in the Maloti-Drakensberg region, vulture restaurants are being established which provide non-toxic, poison-free meat and carcasses for vultures and other scavengers. Furthermore, some of these restaurants incorporate viewing hides, which act as the perfect location for researchers and environmentalists to study the birds' movement, breeding and eating patterns, to name a few, without disturbing them in their natural environment.

In an effort to support the conservation of the Bearded Vulture for future generations, N3TC partnered with Wildlands Conservation Trust, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and SANPARKS in the development of three new vulture hides at Cathedral Peak, Giants Castle and Golden Gate Highlands National Park.



## Upper Thukela Biodiversity Stewardship Project

Project Champion:	Kevin McCann
Project Facilitator :	Wildlands Conservation Trust
Years Funded :	One (2015 – first year of funding)
Provinces :	KwaZulu-Natal and Free State
Website :	<a href="http://www.wildlands.co.za">www.wildlands.co.za</a>

This project aims to proclaim the Upper Thukela region, a globally important terrestrial 2029 habitat, as a protected area covering 45 000ha.

The need for rapid protected area expansion in this region demands a low-cost solution. This will be achieved through a shift from purchasing land to forming partnerships for protected area management with communities, using the Biodiversity Stewardship mechanism.

The long-term sustainability of the South African protected area network calls for the connectivity between protected areas and equal representation of all types of ecosystems. The Upper Thukela region will connect the northern and central parts of the Maloti Drakensberg Park, a critical conservation initiative identified in the first phase of the Maloti Drakensberg Transfrontier Project. The region is renowned for its diversity as a result of the extreme range in altitude combined with its topography and geology; and includes many local endemic and threatened species in forest, grassland, wetland, riverine and rocky habitats. Furthermore, the area includes a rich cultural heritage left by the San, regarded as one of the finest outdoor art galleries in the world.

Of equal importance, is the significant economic importance of the Drakensberg as a valuable water catchment area in South Africa.

Following the completion of the Bearded Vulture Project in 2015, it was a natural progression for N3TC to support the Stewardship Programme to ensure protection of the region and secure the ongoing monitoring and protection of the Bearded Vulture as a critically endangered species.



## Singakwenza ECD Project

Project Champion: Julie Hay  
Years Funded : Four  
Province : KwaZulu-Natal  
Website : [www.singakwenza.org](http://www.singakwenza.org)

Singakwenza aims to close the gap in early year education by implementing an Early Childhood Development (ECD) programme to meet the learning needs of children aged between one and five living in economically disadvantaged communities in South Africa.

This is done through training and mentoring caregivers at crèches to implement a programme of learning through play; the provision of Waste2Toys workshops in areas where access to resources is limited; to teach educators to make educational toys and teaching aids from recycled materials; and running parent and child workshops to build relationships between primary caregivers and children by encouraging play as a means of interaction.

Singakwenza believes strongly in empowering women who have shown initiative by helping them to improve their crèches and converting them into educational centres of excellence as opposed to merely providing a baby-sitting service.

Furthermore, Singakwenza wants to encourage these individuals to grow their crèches.

Singakwenza prides itself on being a hand-up rather than a hand-out programme.



## KwaZulu-Natal Crane Foundation Chick Nursery Facility

Project Champions: Jon Bates  
Years Funded : Four  
Province : KwaZulu-Natal  
Website : [www.kzncrane.co.za](http://www.kzncrane.co.za)

Wattled Cranes are the rarest crane on the African continent and listed as Critically Endangered in South Africa. Wattled Cranes formerly occurred throughout much of the country extending from the northern borders to the Cape Province. Today, a mere 240 individual cranes remain in South Africa, the majority of which are found in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands.

The KZN Crane Foundation forms part of the Wattled Crane Recovery Programme (WCRP), established in 2000, which is a partnership of world-recognised conservation NGO's working to prevent the extinction of the Wattled Crane in South Africa through ecosystem preservation, environmental education, research, captive breeding and the release of cranes to supplement the dwindling population. Other partners in the programme include Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), African Association of Zoos and Aquaria (PAAZAB) and Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife.

Construction of the Wattled Crane Chick Rearing Facility was completed in 2014 at the Bill Barnes Oribi and Nature Reserve in Nottingham Road. The Facility successfully completed its pilot project of rearing three chicks that were released into a protected reserve in early 2015.

Crane chicks must be reared in strict isolation from humans to ensure that they can be fully integrated into the wild; and the Foundation is currently focusing on developing facilities within the reserve to limit human interaction and the development of residential facilities for the 'chick mums' with the aim to facilitate the first chick rearing project in 2016, for release into the floater flocks resident in the crane's natural habitat



## Old Mutual joBerg2c Route Development Project

Project Champion:	Craig Wapnick
Years Funded :	Four
Provinces :	Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.Old Mutual joBerg2c.co.za">www.Old Mutual joBerg2c.co.za</a>

The Old Mutual Old Mutual joBerg2c is a nine-day mountain bike (MTB) race that starts in Heidelberg (Gauteng) and ends on Scottburgh's beachfront (KwaZulu-Natal).

The event's reputation rests on its philosophy that the 'Route is King', which means that the event's focus is to provide the race participants with an interesting and challenging route that meets their expectations. N3TC has provided the necessary funding for the construction and development of single-track MTB trails along the Old Mutual joBerg2c Route, which over the longer term will be maintained and operated by local community members to meet the vision of providing interesting and challenging trails that can be used as multi-sport facilities year-round.



## EWT Sungazer and Grasslands Conservation Project

Project Champion:	Dr Ian Little
Project Co-Ordinators:	Bradley Gibbons Samson Phakathi
Project Facilitator :	Endangered Wildlife Trust
Years Funded :	Two (elevated to Legacy Project in 2015)
Province :	Free State
Website :	<a href="http://www.ewt.org.za">www.ewt.org.za</a>

Grassland Biomes have become sensitive ecosystems due to poor land-use management and the need for farmer co-operation centred on grazing densities and burning regimes, as well as alien plant control and eradication of ploughing of natural grassland areas.

In order for EWT to achieve an ecosystems approach to grassland conservation the intention is to implement conservation action for priority areas within the grasslands and priority species inhabiting them to be identified in each region as flagships for regional conservation efforts. In the Free State grasslands the Sungazer has been identified for this purpose.

Sungazers are endemic to the central grasslands of South Africa occurring predominantly in the north-eastern Free State. This project addresses the direct and indirect conservation of Sungazers in the Free State. The conservation of this species and its habitat is critical for maintaining the long-term integrity of the ecosystem.





## Midlands Meander Education Project (MMAEP)

Project Champion:	Jessica Wigley (aka Siza)
Project Co-Ordinators:	'The Bugs':
	o Siza the Spider
	o Gogga Gogo
	o Masechaba the May-fly
	o Icimbi the Caterpillar
	o Fiona the Flying Ant
	o Annie the Waterbug
	o Zinhle the Super Bug
	o Bonni the Bookworm
	o Gugu the Babybug
Years Funded :	Ten
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.mmaep.co.za">www.mmaep.co.za</a>

The MMAEP is an educational NPO based in Howick, KwaZulu-Natal. The project has grown 'organically' in an effort to meet specific educational needs of rural and peri-urban schools in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands.

The Project's vision is "To help Midlands' schools nurture capable, confident, curious children who are sensitive to environmental issues, who have the resilience to cope with a changing world and are able to contribute positively to their communities".

The MMAEP achieves this vision of meaningful environmental education through:

- o Co-teaching and assisting educators to integrate environmental education into the school curriculum, using the WESSA Eco-Schools framework;
- o Providing well-constructed and inspirational lessons that incorporate thinking, heart and hands – head, feeling and action;
- o Encouraging reading and the joy of reading through self-expression such as writing, arts and drama;
- o Promoting useful communication and life skills as an alternative to violence;
- o Implementing sustainable action projects such as permaculture gardens; and
- o Building and maintaining strong relationships with the schools – educators and learners; community members, partners and funders.

The MMAEP Education focus areas include:

- o Environmental education;
- o Food security programmes;
- o Life skills, arts and values education;
- o Libraries;
- o Teacher workshops; and
- o Community projects.

## Vula Maths and Science Revision and Tuition Week

Project Champion:	Lloyd Smuts
Years Funded :	Five
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.vulaprogramme.com">www.vulaprogramme.com</a>

The Vula Programme ('vula' meaning 'open' in isiZulu) started in 2001 as The Hiltonian Society NPC's outreach service provider to under-resourced schools and disadvantaged township and rural communities in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands.

The programme makes use of the latest technology, innovative teaching methods and experienced educators and facilitators to improve the teaching and learning of high school Mathematics, Physical Science and Technology. The Programme is underpinned by a belief that access to and training in Information Communication Technologies (ICT) is an integral part of the skills transfer process when providing relevant and meaningful programmes to its beneficiaries.

Included in the Programme is an annual Mathematics and Physical Science Revision and Tuition Week for talented Grade 12 scholars – funded by N3TC.







## St David's Diocesan School

Project Champion: Janet Klapprott  
 Years Funded : Five  
 Province : KwaZulu-Natal

With a history dating back to 1989, St David's Diocesan School describes its evolution over the years as a 'dream to reality'. From the humble beginnings of the development of a Pre-Primary School located on the premises of The Parish of St James in Greytown to the current-day Primary School situated on the premises of the Greytown High School.

The school has a unique focus that offers affordable education of high quality in English medium with a Christian ethos. The school serves mainly the previously disadvantaged and highly impoverished communities in the Greytown area.

With a small, dedicated and highly committed staff complement, those children who are fortunate enough to attend St David's School are provided with quality education in small classrooms that enable individual attention.

Any visit to St David's School is a special one because it is quite obvious that the learning environment is a caring one where individuals are encouraged to reach their potential. St David's concentrates on providing children with the best all-round start in life, not merely an academic education, and in so doing lives up to the school's motto – *Ubuntu*.



## Drakensberg Experience Proud Schools Project

Project Champion: Dolly Warburton  
 Years Funded : Six  
 Province : KwaZulu-Natal  
 Website : [www.drakensbergexperience.com](http://www.drakensbergexperience.com)

The Proud Schools Project is aligned to the Drakensberg Experience Tourism Route that aims to teach educators and scholars the importance of tourism as a means of economic development and job security in the Central and Northern Drakensberg.

Apart from tourism education and support being offered to the 'Proud Schools' included in the programme, guidance in environmental learning (in partnership with the WESSA Eco-Schools Programme), food security programmes such as food garden development; gardening and landscaping; as well as water saving and harvesting is provided.

Through the gift of  
**education**  
 comes a life full of  
 hope and opportunity.

## Michaelhouse Community Trust: Mobile Library Bus Project

Project Champion	:	Canon Fred Pitout
Project Co-Ordinator	:	Rev Nkosi Mahlaba
Years Funded	:	Five
Province	:	KwaZulu-Natal
Website	:	<a href="http://www.michaelhouse.org">www.michaelhouse.org</a>

The Mobile Library Bus, originally an old Michaelhouse bus, was refurbished in 2010 with funding granted by N3TC. Since completion of the refurbishment, the Mobile Library has been instrumental in providing essential literary support to five primary schools in the Midlands area.

The Mobile Library Bus holds in excess of 4 000 books (donated by Michaelhouse boys) ranging from fiction to non-fiction as well as reference books that provide the beneficiaries with an array of choices and options that will develop their love for reading and assist with school work and assignments. The books are sorted according to age suitability for primary school ages, which ensures that age appropriate reading material is available in an easily marked section that the children recognise.

The driver and librarian, Nkosi Mahlaba, travels to the schools each week – one school is visited per week day. Furthermore, Nkosi runs a reading laboratory from the Bus in addition to the normal library routine, which culminates in an annual reading competition at the end of the school year.



## KwaZulu-Natal Crane Foundation Education Programme

Project Champion	:	Jenny Stipcich
Project Co-Ordinator	:	Charles Nkanyiso Ndlela
Years Funded	:	Five
Province	:	KwaZulu-Natal
Website	:	<a href="http://www.kznocrane.co.za">www.kznocrane.co.za</a>

The KwaZulu-Natal Crane Foundation (KZNCF) developed an educational programme to support its Wattled Crane Chick Rearing and Release Project (further detail under Legacy Projects). Following the successful completion of the 'Cranes in the Classroom' text book series for Grades 4 to 6, this CAPS-aligned programme has been implemented in Midlands schools. The reason for the education programme is that human settlements in the Wattled Crane chick release areas have legitimate interests in translocation, which are varied; and hence the programme needed to accommodate the communities and associated socio economic climate.

The KZNCF's vision is to use Cranes as a vehicle for increasing environmental awareness based on the species' absolute dependence on fresh water wetlands and grasslands in the schools and communities surrounding the Bill Barnes Crane and Oribi Nature Reserve and the broader Midlands area.



Stephen Pryke





### Free State Eco Schools Programme

Project Champion	:	Delana Eksteen
Years Funded	:	One (2015 – first year of funding)
Province	:	Free State
Website	:	<a href="http://www.wessa.org.za">www. wessa.org.za</a>

The WESSA Free State Eco Schools Programme, funded by N3TC, supports six schools from the Qalabotja Community in Villiers.

The WESSA Eco Schools Programme works towards educating young and old about sustainable living practices, the value of education in order to identify economic growth opportunities and contributing to society within a communal framework.



### Midlands Community College: Mobile Laboratory Project

Project Champion:	Debby Evans (Business Relations Manager)
Years Funded	: Three
Province	: KwaZulu-Natal
Website	: <a href="http://www.midlandscommunitycollege.co.za">www.midlandscommunitycollege.co.za</a>

The Mobile Laboratory Project was devised by the Midlands Community College to address the problems experienced at rural secondary schools as a result of lack of resources and suitably qualified Physical Science educators in the Midlands and Central Drakensberg.

Technicians, appointed and trained by Midlands Community College, use Mobile Laboratories to visit the schools and provide hands-on education, incorporating practical experiments and demonstrations to learners at 43 under-resourced schools. To complement the facilitation offered through the Mobile Laboratory, between 40 and 50 educators are taken through their paces at educator workshops, held at the College, to improve their skills and knowledge; and to familiarise them with the equipment and experiments for the practical components of the Grade 10 to 12 curriculum.



## Impendle Eco Schools Project

Project Champion: Samantha Rose  
Years Funded : Three  
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

The Impendle Eco-Schools programme is affiliated to the international WESSA Eco-Schools network. The programme started in May 2010 with funding from Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife. The Impendle Programme supports eight schools from Impendle and surrounds.



## Nottingham Road Primary School

Project Champion: Patrick Murray  
Years Funded : One (*2015 – first year of funding*)  
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

Nottingham Road Primary is a state-funded, rural Primary School that employs eight teachers, four of which are funded by the School Governing Body (SGB) and serves 251 children who are educated in the English medium. The school was built in 1912 and the three original brick buildings continue to act as classrooms and have been complemented by five prefab classrooms, which were erected in 1963. The scholars attending Nottingham Road Primary travel from as far as Mooi River (Bruntville) and Lidgetton as well as surrounding farms.





## Esiphethwini Sendezi (Hlanganani) Primary School

Project Champion: Ms Zuma (Acting Principal)  
 Years Funded : Two  
 Province : KwaZulu-Natal

Esiphethwini Sendezi Primary School is a state-funded, rural Primary School that serves 191 children and is a school that has been 'adopted' by the Michaelhouse Community Trust.



You can teach a student a lesson for a day;  
 but if you can teach him to learn by

**creating curiosity**

he will continue the learning process as long  
 as he lives.

Clay P Bedford



## Topsy Early Childhood Development (ECD) Project

Project Champion: Elizabeth Moshe  
 Years Funded : One (2015 – first year of funding)  
 Province : Mpumalanga

The Topsy ECD Project includes the implementation of a central educational toy library that distributes, on a rotational basis, specialised educational toys to 19 under-resourced pre-schools and one stimulation centre for mentally and physically disabled children in the impoverished Dipaleseng district of Mpumalanga.

Furthermore, Topsy provides training to 85 staff, teachers and principals at these schools on ECD and the stimulation equipment provided.

To ensure ongoing sustainability of these centres, Topsy assists these pre-schools with basic management and site development training to improve skills and job security.

## Kwazamokuhle School for the Disabled

Project Champion: Ruth Boshoff  
Years Funded : Four  
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

In 2015 N3TC funded Kwazamokuhle's classroom infrastructure development project and its Cerebral Palsy (CP) Early Intervention Project.

The CP Early Intervention Project is intended to train caregivers of children with CP in the appropriate positioning, handling and stimulation for children with CP between birth and four years of age.



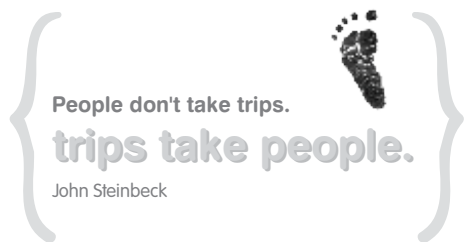
## Curry's Post Educational Trust

Project Champion: Cathy Derman  
Years Funded : One (2015 – first year of funding)  
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

At the end of 2014, the Curry's Post Primary School requested that the Curry's Post Educational Trust assist with the development of a Science Centre to improve the quality of scientific-related education at the school. An empty classroom was converted into the Centre, which will be used to facilitate experiential learning of math, science and technology for Grades R to 7. N3TC funded the purchase of the resources to equip the Centre.







## Van Reenen Swinburne Community Based Tourism Project

Project Champion:	Mbuso Ndaba
Years Funded :	Six
Provinces :	Free State and KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.n3gateway.com">www.n3gateway.com</a>

Van Reenen Swinburne Tourism Co-Operative aims to develop its region into a responsible tourist destination through community involvement as a result of community unity.

The Project encompasses an integrated approach that includes community events, environmental education and awareness campaigns, dedicated Tourism Officers to manage tourist interactions at associated tourism nodes, sports tournaments as well as educational efforts to support the education of local scholars.



## Mpophomeni Gateway Tourism

Project Champion:	Frank Mchunu
Years Funded :	One (2015 – first year of funding)
Provinces :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.zmte.co.za">www.zmte.co.za</a>

The Mpophomeni Gateway is a tourism node, and member of the N3 Gateway Tourism Association, situated on the Boston Bulwer Road and is the tourism gateway to the Mpophomeni Township.

The project is closely aligned with other tourism entities in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands such as the Midlands Meander, Mandela Capture Site and Howick Tourism. The concept behind the project is to enhance the tourism potential of the Zulu Mpophomeni community by creating employment and enterprise development opportunities.

The first phase of the project was funded by COGTA and National Lotteries Board.

The N3TC Community Tourism Development Fund awarded funding to the project to address storm water drainage concerns and to assist with landscaping costs.





## Birdlife SA Nakekela Project

Project Champion:	Bonginkosi Ndaba
Project Co-Ordinator:	Malcolm Drummond
Project Facilitator :	Birdlife South Africa
Years Funded :	Six
Provinces :	Free State and KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.birdlife.org.za">www.birdlife.org.za</a>

The Nakekela Environmental Education Programme is based in Van Reenen. It supports the efforts of the Van Reenen Swinburne Tourism Co-Operative in its environmental education and awareness initiatives. The beneficiaries, all local school children, are exposed to the environment and environmental issues through this nature-based programme. The programme includes nature outings, birding outings, excursions, litter clean up days, vegetable garden establishment, environmental drama productions and the development of a library for educational purposes.



## Midlands Conservancies Forum

Project Champion:	Rona van Niekerk
Years Funded :	Four
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.midlandsconservancies.org.za">www.midlandsconservancies.org.za</a>

Midlands Conservancies Forum (MCF) works in partnership with the Midlands Meander Association Education Project (MMAEP), KZN Crane Foundation (KZNCF), the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Duzi uMngeni Conservation Trust (DUCT) and SANBI on the following programmes:

- o Environmental learning and leadership;
- o Documenting uMngeni Tributaries; and
- o Implementation of recommendations from documenting of the uMngeni Tributaries.

The MCF's goals are to inspire, motivate and challenge people in the Midlands to value and conserve bio-resources through monitoring, education and publicity.







### Duzi uMngeni Community Trust (DUCT) uMngeni River Project

Project Champion:	Doug Burden
Years Funded :	One (2015 – first year of funding)
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.duct.org.za">www.duct.org.za</a>

DUCT has been operating since 2005 and has been active in a number of projects in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, working alongside the various organisations already active in the area such as the MMAEP, MCF and KZNCF. DUCT has been involved in the revitalisation and management of 100km of riparian corridor along the uMsunduzi and uMngeni Rivers including alien clearance, solid waste collection and monitoring of sewer leaks. DUCT is actively involved in the Eco Schools programme and works in 73 schools in the region.

Funding granted to DUCT in 2015 by N3TC was used to evaluate and monitor the health of the uMngeni River.



### Wildlands Green Heroes Programme

Project Champion:	Simone Dale
Years Funded :	Three
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.wildlands.co.za">www.wildlands.co.za</a>

In previous years, N3TC co-sponsored the Wild Series Big Day Out events, which culminated in the identification of potential 'Green Heroes' – young boys and girls who showed leadership potential and a genuine interest in the environment – who were then selected to attend an annual Green Heroes Indaba, a leadership camp with an environmental focus.

Based on the success of the Indaba in the past, Wildlands has adopted the Green Heroes Indaba into its Ambassador Programme, which aims to build long term relationships with the children and the schools they attend in their final years of Primary School.





## Community Medical Services

Project Champion:	Philip Hull
Years Funded :	Eleven
Provinces :	Free State and KwaZulu-Natal

Community Medical Services (CMS) was started 32 years ago in 1983 by a group of medical volunteers, primarily with the intention of providing free and effective medical support on the N3 Toll Route, based at the scenic and historical town of Van Reenen.

The CMS Team provides a 24-hour medical response to all road users over peak traffic periods such as Easter and the end of year Festive Season. On average the team spends around 50 to 55 days each year, patrolling and assisting at the various traffic incidents that occur on South Africa's' busiest route.

The service has remained a free service to the motoring public. Over the years, strong partnerships and a sense of camaraderie have been developed between CMS and N3TC and the various emergency services in the area. Over the years, the volunteers have often provided the vehicles and equipment required to support the initiative. However, thankfully, as the project has developed, valuable and ongoing contributions from N3TC and various motor manufacturers have allowed the continued existence of the initiative on the N3 Toll Route.

## Angels in Motion

Project Champion:	Mariette Steele
Years Funded :	Three
Provinces :	KwaZulu-Natal

Angels in Motion (AIM) was established a few years ago, when Sakkie Venter from the BMW South Africa crew, brought a family that had been involved in a collision on Van Reenen's Pass to Ladysmith for assistance. We saw a need and with nothing more than an absolute passion, compassion and empathy for people, AIM became that flicker of light and hope for accident victims and their families in need of post-crash care.

Angels in Motion is supported by a network of local 'Angels' that assist accident victims and their families with their respective needs such as accommodation, translators (if needed), pharmacy, car rental, emergency vehicle repairs and pet care.

Over the past six years many people from different walks of life have been cared for 'under the Angels wings'. The first three years we operated on passion and a shoe string budget, until N3TC came on board and assisted us over Easter and Festive Season holiday periods.



## FleetWatch Brake & Tyre Watch

Project Champion: Patrick O'Leary  
Years Funded : Six  
Provinces : Gauteng

Brake & Tyre Watch is a road safety initiative designed to train Traffic Officials to identify signs of roadworthiness or the lack thereof on trucks. The training aims to empower the Officials to conduct law enforcement more effectively when on the road. Furthermore, it is intended to raise awareness amongst Logistics Operators and Fleet Owners on the importance of vehicle fitness.

## SADD – South Africans Against Drunk Driving

Project Champion: Caro Smit  
Years Funded : One (2015 – first year of funding)  
Provinces : KwaZulu-Natal

SADD provides educational talks on basic road safety, alcohol abuse and drunk driving/walking at the Sibongumbomvu Combined School in Cedara. The school was identified as many of the scholars live in semi-rural to rural township areas, which according to research shows that they run a higher risk of incurring road traffic injuries. The programme aims to educate the learners as well as the educators in high visibility, crossing the road safely, safe and responsible use of cellular phones, use of seat belts and drinking and driving/walking.



## Imperial Peak Period Road Safety Campaign

Project Champion: Niki Cronje  
Years Co-Funded : Four  
Provinces : Mpumalanga, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal  
Website : [www.imperial.co.za](http://www.imperial.co.za)

The Imperial Group as part of its social responsibility programme focused on road safety recognised that the N3 Toll Route is a major economic and leisure corridor of strategic national importance, and that the Easter and Festive Season peak traffic periods are a time of high road safety risk due to significantly increased traffic volumes. Imperial has, therefore, since 2011, partnered with N3TC to enhance road safety on the Route during these times.

It does so, through its Europcar SA division, by providing loan vehicles to law enforcement and emergency services agencies along the Route, as well as supplement emergency medical rescue and route patrol services. The vehicles are manned by SAPS, Traffic Officials and Paramedics. In addition, vehicles are used to provide post-crash support, as required, through Angels in Motion and Community Medical Services.



# child welfare



## Maluti Child Care Project

Project Champion	:	Johann Bekker
Years Funded	:	Nine
Provinces	:	Free State

The Maluti Child Care Project (MCCP) was established in 2005, by Nouwens Carpets and the local businesses in the Harrismith and Qwa Qwa surrounds that recognised a need to care for children in the community. The MCCP is a feeding scheme providing approximately 3200 children from birth to 15 years of age with one nutritional meal per day, five days a week.

Old shipping containers converted into workable kitchens are situated in Intabazwe (three), Tshiame (three) and Moholokoeng (one). An additional kitchen has been established at Harrismith Secondary School in Intabazwe. The kitchens act as multi-purpose centres including play areas as well as after school facilities where specific needs are identified, goods collected and distributed to the children. If necessary, the MCCP provides transportation for the children to local health care facilities in the event of serious illness.

Through difficult economic conditions, the Project has remained sustainable and has continued to support the community. The Project has ensured the wellbeing of the ever increasing amount of children who are destitute and in desperate need of assistance for the last ten years.



## Hope House

Project Champion	:	Jackie Littlewood
Years Funded	:	Eight
Provinces	:	Free State

Hope House is a registered children's home that provides 32 orphaned or vulnerable children with a home-away-from-home environment. A further five places are offered as places of safety, which are filled by the Department of Justice.

Hope House's purpose is to make sure that the children have access to the best developmental support structure possible. They are encouraged to participate in all activities including education, sport, dance, arts and culture to ensure a well-balanced upbringing that is underpinned by a clear understanding of who they are as individuals without losing touch with their heritage. Hope House furthermore assists parents to take care of, and nurture, their children so that they can be reunited with their families when appropriate and in the best interests of the children. Since 2012 ten children have been reunited with their families and one placed in foster care.







## Othandweni

Project Champion: Clive Laing  
 Years Funded : Six  
 Provinces : KwaZulu-Natal

The objective of the Othandweni Group is to provide for the needs and welfare of orphans within the Bruntville/Mooi River area. This includes their housing, feeding, schooling, clothing requirements as well as providing a nurturing environment in which to grow up.

## Free State Care in Action – After School Care Centre

Project Champion: Gerda Louw  
 Years Funded : Four  
 Provinces : Free State

The After School Care Centre is a project of the Free State Care in Action (FSCA) – a non-profit charity organisation. Currently the Care Centre provides after school care from Mondays to Thursdays for poor and underprivileged primary school children under the supervision of two teachers. The children involved are from very poor and broken families, living under the most precarious circumstances. Some of the parents are jobless, have extensive social problems and in some cases there are three families living together in one very small house. The After School Care Centre was established with the purpose of providing a safe haven for vulnerable children where they are well fed and looked after in the afternoons. In some cases, the children would otherwise have been taken away from their families and sent to a formal children's home. In some cases, the meal provided on a Thursday afternoon is sometimes the last real meal the children may have until Monday. The Care Centre is housed in two class rooms furnished with desks and chairs, as well as a "wendy house" that serves as an office for the teachers.

For safety and timesaving purposes the children are fetched from school and taken to the Care Centre where they receive a balanced meal, fruit and milk or cold drinks (when available). The meals are sponsored, prepared and delivered by volunteers from the community. Afterwards they do their homework and tasks under the supervision of two teachers. Most of the children are slow learners and need intensive help to complete their tasks successfully. Some of the children's parents are illiterate, so they cannot help the children at home. If time is left in the afternoon, the children can enjoy playing on the Centre's playground equipment.

Other volunteers look after their spiritual well-being, as well as providing birthday cakes, snacks and gifts, just a small token to allow each child to feel loved on their special day. Some of the smaller problems the children face are also handled by these volunteers. There is a FSCA social worker on site who handles the more problematic cases.



## Topsy Orphaned and Vulnerable Children Project

Project Champions	:	Sarah du Toit
Years Funded	:	Two
Province	:	Mpumalanga
Website Address	:	<a href="http://www.topsy.org.za">www.topsy.org.za</a>

The Topsy Orphaned and Vulnerable Children programme provides holistic support to children in pre-schools or day care centres, primary schools, secondary schools and limited assistance with tertiary education. Support is largely focused on early childhood development, but is continued for children who live in extremely vulnerable circumstances until the end of their academic years.

Support offered by Topsy includes medical, educational, social and nutritional support to children.



## Khanyisile Trust

Project Champion	:	Ansie Jooste
N3TC Champion	:	Gerrie Steenkamp
Years Funded	:	Seven
Provinces	:	Free State and KwaZulu-Natal

The Khanyisile Trust focuses on the health, welfare, development, education, infrastructure improvements and training in the schools of Van Reenen and its surrounds, to ensure a sustainable future for these communities.

Each new school year starts with the development of a database that records each child at the schools included in the programme on a computerised system. These records include a photograph of each learner along with their relevant health details such as height, weight, eye tests, parental and residential details, age, gender and so forth.

These records serve a dual purpose. The first being a basic health baseline to determine health issues during the year; and the second to provide these records to each principal, which is essential for their respective schools' recordkeeping purposes.

Since its inception seven years ago, Khanyisile Trust has become an integral part of the schools and communities in and around Van Reenen. Currently, eleven schools form part of the programme, supporting over 2 800 learners.





# youth development



## Treverton Schools Sports Festival

Project Champion:	David Purdon
Years Funded :	Six
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.treverton.co.za">www.treverton.co.za</a>

The annual Treverton Sports Festival is held in March/April every year; and includes a number of sporting codes such as netball, rugby, hockey and golf.

Treverton has set a standard at the Festival of good sport, fun times, camaraderie, quality accommodation and food along with excellent entertainment for the learners and staff alike.

More than 15 schools participate in the Festival and stem from Gauteng, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal and as far north as Zimbabwe.



Strive not to be a success,  
but rather  
**to be of value**  
Albert Einstein



## Music Voyage

Project Champion:	Helen Mennie
Years Funded :	Four
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.musicvoyage.co.za">www.musicvoyage.co.za</a>

The Music Voyage mission is to develop positive values and invest in the self-worth of individuals through the provision of music education.

Music Voyage is a grassroots, community based music project that connects youth with the creativity and discipline of music. The programme inspires youth to take charge of their own lives and recognise that rewards come through passion, commitment and perseverance. Music Voyage aims to grow leaders who will have a positive and ongoing influence in their communities.

Music students are taught how to play an instrument, read staff notation and the theory of music in a trusting and stable environment. The importance of achievement through effort is emphasised; and performance competence and etiquette are a core component of the programme.





## Origins of Natal Mountain Passes Research Project

Project Champion :	Gillis van Schalkwyk
Years Funded :	Two
Provinces :	Free State and KwaZulu-Natal

In 2013, as part of the Heritage component of its CSI Programme, N3TC partnered with author Gillis van Schalkwyk to publish a book on Van Reenen. The book has been so well received that N3TC commissioned Gillis to publish a further book on "The Origins of the Natal Mountain Passes".

A people, without the knowledge  
of their past, origin and culture  
is like a  
**tree with no roots**







## Sunfield Home Fortuna

Project Champion: Brenda Gouws  
 Years Funded : Three  
 Province : Mpumalanga  
 Website : [www.sunfieldfortuna.co.za](http://www.sunfieldfortuna.co.za)

Sunfield Home Fortuna is a home where mentally and physically disabled children and adults are placed either by family members or the Department of Social Welfare. The facility is, in some cases, the only home that the residents know. The needs of running a facility such as Sunfield Home Fortuna are varied and many; and there is a constant need to raise funds for the Centre to ensure that it can run efficiently and effectively.



### Courage

doesn't always roar.  
 Sometimes courage is the quiet voice  
 at the end of the day day saying,

**I will try again  
 tomorrow.**

Albert Einstein



## Sunfield Home Howick

Project Champion: Karen Lister  
 Years Funded : Three  
 Province : KwaZulu-Natal  
 Website : [www.sunfield.co.za](http://www.sunfield.co.za)

Sunfield Home Howick's history dates back to August 1953. Its mission is to provide a multiracial, caring and home-like environment for a wide spectrum of mentally disabled adults. In doing so, the home undertakes to involve its residents in appropriate training, occupational and recreational activities that will enhance their lifelong wellbeing mentally, physically and emotionally.



# HIV/AIDS



## Trucking Wellness

Project Champion:	Tertius Wessels
Years Funded :	Five
Provinces :	Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.truckingwellness.co.za">www.truckingwellness.co.za</a>

The impact of HIV and AIDS in Sub-Sahara Africa has reduced through a number of programmes but HIV and AIDS is still affecting millions of vulnerable people. Poverty, human migration and the mobile nature of the Road Freight industry makes combating of its devastating effects very challenging. Trucking Wellness was established by the Road Freight industry to assist in addressing some of these challenges by promoting self-monitoring behaviour and assisting with healthcare and HIV prevention at healthcare centres located in Truck Stops and through its equipped mobile units.



We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by  
**what we give.**

Winston Churchill







## N3 Gateway Tourism Association

Project Co-Ordinators:	Matthew Drew – Funding and Strategy Consultant Elsa Watson – Marketing Consultant
Board of Directors:	Andy Visser – Chairperson Victor Mokoena– Vice Chairperson E J Hiltemann Rosheila Thomas Chris Hearne Elisabeth Durham Thorsten Gopp Malcolm Drummond
Years Funded :	Seven
Provinces :	Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.n3gateway.com">www.n3gateway.com</a>

The N3 Gateway Tourism Association is a N3TC-funded and initiated project, established in March 2008. The N3 Gateway is a Non-Profit Company and its primary role is to market the N3 Gateway region as a tourist destination to domestic and international tourists.

The N3 Gateway region stretches from Pretoria in the north to Valley of a Thousand Hills in the south, traversing the N3 Corridor's four provinces – Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal.

Since inception, the N3 Gateway has proactively engaged with relevant Government departments and Tourism Authorities and has become a highly respected tourism organisation in South Africa, recognised for its contribution to promoting domestic tourism and the associated creation of local jobs in the communities that make up the N3 Gateway Route.

## Beads of Hope

Project Champion:	Jane MacKenzie
Years Funded :	Ten
Provinces :	Free State and KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.beadsofhope.co.za">www.beadsofhope.co.za</a>

The Beads of Hope “Be an Angel, buy an Angel, feed an Angel” campaign was founded in 2004 to provide income earning opportunities to people in the Van Reenen area. This area has little in the way of permanent job opportunities, high HIV/AIDS infection rates and functional illiteracy.





### Tsa Lapeng Designs

Project Champion: Rheola van den Bosch  
 Years Funded : Six  
 Province : Free State  
 Website : [www.rheolas.com](http://www.rheolas.com)

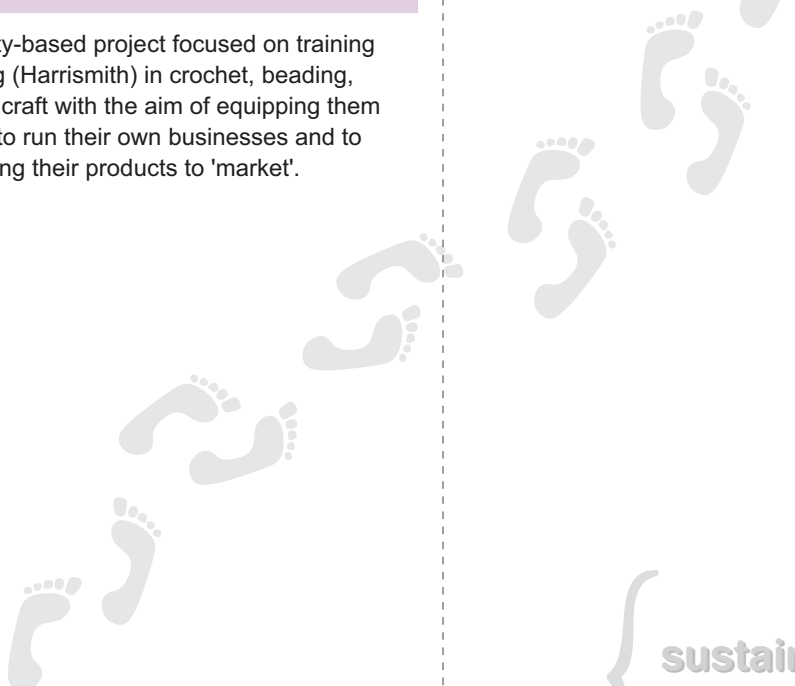
Tsa Lapeng is a community-based project focused on training women from Moholokoeng (Harrismith) in crochet, beading, sewing, quilting and other craft with the aim of equipping them with skills to enable them to run their own businesses and to provide assistance in getting their products to 'market'.



### Project Gateway

Project Champion: Di Milford  
 Years Funded : Three  
 Province : KwaZulu-Natal  
 Website : [www.projectgateway.co.za](http://www.projectgateway.co.za)

Project Gateway was established in 1992 by 21 founder churches who decided to come together to make a greater impact on the local Pietermaritzburg community regarding developing people to have a better quality of life. The Project Gateway Empowerment Programmes empower the beneficiaries to generate an income. Basic computer skills programmes are run in a well-equipped computer centre for those who have never been exposed to the workings of computer technology. The craft group training programme run by Project Gateway subsequently amalgamated with the Gateway School of Fashion, which provides the crafters with exposure to designers and tailors.



### sustainability

can't be like some sort of moral sacrifice or political dilemma or a philanthropical cause. It has to be a design challenge.





## Midlands Meander Emerging Artists

Project Champion:	Marian Evans
Years Funded :	Two
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	<a href="http://www.midlandsmeander.co.za">www.midlandsmeander.co.za</a>

The heart of the Midlands Meander has always been its artists and crafters, since its founding nearly 30 years ago. The vision of the Association is to increase the number and diversity of its artists and crafters by providing opportunities for previously disadvantaged persons with a high standard of work to join the Meander Family.

The intention is that this will be a rolling three-year project that will provide Meander membership, as well as ongoing training in business and marketing skills; and allow participants to build their skills and businesses to a point of sustainability.



## Babanentse Co-Operative

Project Champion:	Elsie Majola
Years Funded :	Two
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal

Babanentse was formed in 2001 by Elsie Majola and two other women in Bruntville, Mooi River. With three sewing machines and hearts to build a small business this group of ladies were determined to get their business up and running. The group has grown significantly since those early days in 2001 and employs people skilled in sewing of garments and linen.



## Senzakahle Primary Co-Operative

Project Champion: Ntombizodwa Egnat Khozwa  
Years Funded : Two  
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

Senzakahle is located in Bruntville, Mooi River, and deals mostly in the manufacture of home textiles such as linen and curtains for individuals and the local tourism industry.



## Central Drakensberg Information Centre (CDIC)

Project Champion: Magda Hearne  
Years Funded : One (2015 – first year of funding)  
Province : KwaZulu-Natal  
Website : [www.cdic.co.za](http://www.cdic.co.za)

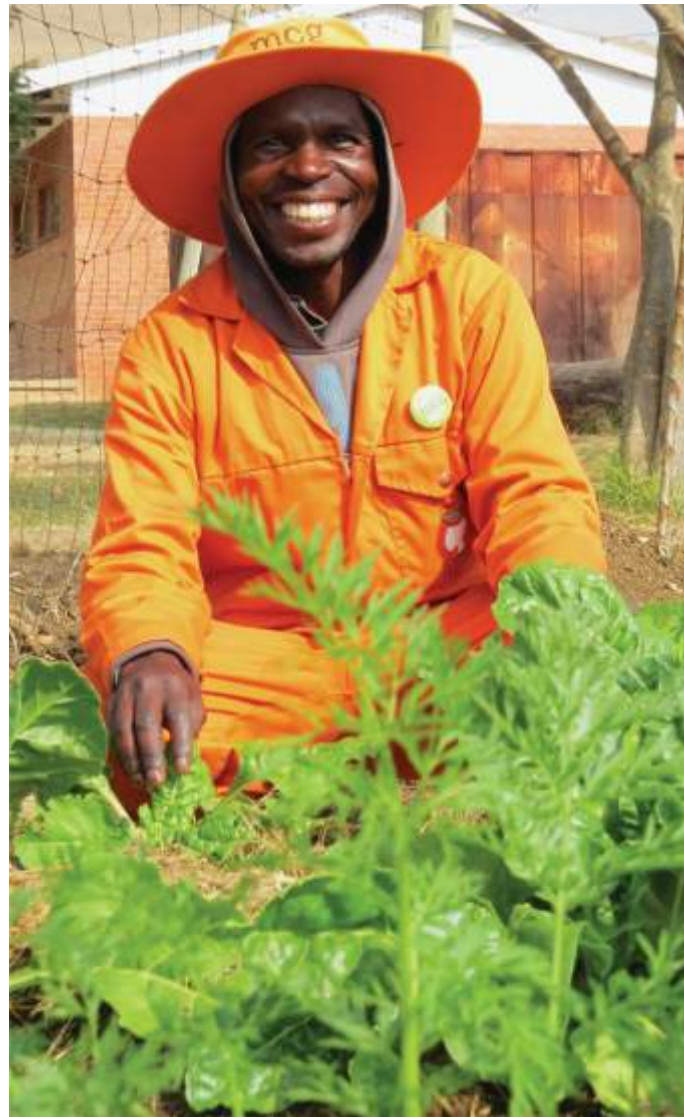
The CDIC is a privately operated Information Centre located at Thokozisa Tourist Village in the Central Drakensberg. The CDIC is an official N3 Gateway Tourism Node and derives its income from commissions on accommodation bookings only. With the uptake in online reservations, the CDIC has seen a significant decline in income from this revenue stream but continues to provide invaluable service to passing tourists. Furthermore, the CDIC acts as the main communication centre for the Drakensberg Experience, which has become a significant roleplayer in the tourism sector.



## Mpophomeni Conservation Group

Project Champion: Ntombenhle Mtambo  
Years Funded : One (2015 – first year of funding)  
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

Mpophomeni Conservation Group (MCG) focuses on food production coupled with education that promotes a healthy lifestyle, sustainability, resilience to climate change, biodiversity conservation and animal rights. Through the establishment of the MCG Community Garden, the Group intends to influence their neighbours by hosting workshops, supporting local schools and monitoring water quality in the Mpophomeni Township.



**You are what you eat.**

EAT what your GROW.  
GROW your COMMUNITY.





# reports from the projects

a year in review...

# 2029 legacy projects



## Singakwenza ECD Project

By Julie Hay

Did you know that almost 80% of a person's brain potential is achieved by the age of four? Did you know that most of this potential is built while a child is playing? Most caregivers in crèches around South Africa are not aware of the fact that they are holding the future of our country in their hands. What an exciting, yet daunting prospect!

Singakwenza – a non-profit organisation based in Hilton, KwaZulu-Natal understands this phenomena. Our goal is to teach as many parents, educators and community workers about the importance of learning through play as we can, and to show them how easy it is to provide fun activities for their children so that they can develop vital educational foundations.

Research around the world has shown that the best way to break the poverty cycle is through education, but unfortunately our South African education system is in a crisis:

- Less than 50% of the children who start Grade 1 make it to Matric;
- Of those who stay in school until Matric, a quarter of them are not able to attain the 30% pass mark;
- The Annual National Assessment (ANA) results from 2014 show that the average Maths result of a child in Grade 5 is 37%, and in Grade 9 is 11%; and
- The World Economic Forum (2014/15) has placed South Africa last in the world in Maths and Science education results.

We can change these frightening statistics. Our young children, whether they are at home or in a crèche, need to have access to caregivers or parents who understand that they are the most important element in a child's education, as well as the importance of access to educational toys.

With an estimated 5,7 million children under the age of four in South Africa, how do we help to transform empty crèches and homes into environments filled with enough equipment to ensure busy, happy, stimulated children? If we provide purchased educational toys, who would replace them if they got



lost or broken? And how would we get these toys into all the homes of the children who really need them?

Singakwenza decided that a creative and sustainable solution to this problem was needed and looked around to see what was freely available that every parent and teacher would have ready access to. And, what we have an abundance of in South Africa is rubbish! We have therefore developed a whole range of educational toys that teach the same concepts as purchased toys, but for zero cost.

Bread bags now become skipping ropes, margarine containers become cars, polystyrene trays become puzzles, yoghurt containers become shape sorters and cereal boxes become maths games. All the parent or crèche teacher needs is a pair of sharp scissors and a marker pen, and she will be able to get everything she needs to provide a fun-filled, stimulating environment....from the bin! If a toy breaks or gets lost, it is easy (and free) to make another one. In addition, packaging that would usually be thrown away now has a value for both adults and children, so the programme is good for the environment too!



Our mentorship programme is currently running in seven educare centres in Howick West, Mpophomeni, Lidgetton, Bruntville and Khethani. We work with fifteen crèche teachers who show initiative and commitment, and help them to build their crèches into educational facilities, rather than a baby-sitting service for the 497 children, collectively, in their care. We encourage them to grow their own crèches and continue independently once we have given them the skills and knowledge.

The Singakwenza trainers spend one day a week in each of these crèches for a minimum of two years, teaching the caregiver how to educate the children using the resources made from recycling. In addition, and very importantly, they teach the caregiver the significance of each activity in terms of Early Childhood Development. Their role is to walk alongside these crèche teachers, guiding and encouraging them towards a daily fun, structured, educational programme, so that when we leave, the programme will continue without us and every child that goes through their crèche will benefit from it.

There has been excellent feedback from the Primary Schools that these children feed into, with the teachers asking what programme the crèche educator has been using as her children are “more clever than children from other crèches” and “stand head and shoulders” above the other members of their classes.

We want to be able to reach as many parents and educators as we can, so we also run Waste2Toys workshops throughout South Africa in areas where access to educational resources is limited. During each three-hour workshop, we teach parents and educators how to make their own toys and teaching materials using recycling and how to use them to encourage learning through play.

Our goal at these workshops is to help the teachers and parents to understand that they are the key to their child's educational success, not shelves full of expensive equipment. We have been into so many classrooms which are beautifully painted and fully equipped with purchased materials, but there is no learning taking place.

Expensive equipment isn't what determines how well children are educated. All that is needed is a dedicated, enthusiastic person with a pair of sharp scissors, a marker pen and access



to a whole lot of waste! Patrick Murray, principal of Nottingham Road Primary, hosted a Waste2Toys workshop at his school for teachers from the surrounding community and wrote to us afterwards saying, “Thank you for your workshop on Monday – my kids are twirling bag-ropes and demonstrating scoop-&-catch all over the school! Bless you for the input and upliftment you and your team have given to all these rural teachers.”

O. Fred Donaldson wrote, “Children learn as they play. Most importantly, in play children learn how to learn.”

What a privilege it is to be part of the solution to the educational problems in South Africa. How inspiring it is to be able to empower communities to improve their children's education for themselves.

We are very proud to be travelling the N3TC corridor and touching lives together with them, as we create a brighter future for our country, one child at a time.



## Northern Drakensberg Vulture Conservation Project

This project aims to build on the successes of previous projects funded by N3TC in the Northern Drakensberg.

The Cathedral Peak Vulture hide has recorded good activity since it was established. Both Bearded and Cape Vultures are resident at the feeding site. With improved access to a regular supply of food, these vultures are able to supplement their feeding. This is vital as human populations encroach on their habitat and reduce access to natural food sources and is especially important while breeding birds are feeding their chicks and fledged birds are establishing themselves within the range.

In order to improve the effectiveness of this feeding scheme, carcasses need to be provided on a regular and reliable basis. Due to the unreliable access to safe (antibiotic and toxin free) carcasses from surrounding farmers, it is important that those supplied can be stored effectively. It is for this reason that the refrigerated container at Cathedral Peak is in the process of being repaired and refurbished.

Another challenge faced by the Maloti Drakensberg Park (MDP) is that of livestock from surrounding farms entering the protected area. This often results in overgrazing and deterioration of the veld. This in turn has a direct impact on the vulture movements and therefore population success.

As part of the project and broader initiative to secure the habitat of this World Heritage site, the park authority is in the process of demarcating the northern boundary between Witzieshoek and the Cavern. Once established, effective



management can take place to ensure long term protection of the grassland habitat. The effect of this improved habitat is far reaching, including more secure vulture habitat (and other species) and improved catchment infrastructure, which will have direct benefits to the surrounding communities who rely heavily on the water leaving the protected area.

Monitoring of the Bearded Vultures in the MDP is ongoing and the project is currently supporting the costs associated with the satellite transmitters used on the birds. The monitoring allows scientific understanding of the movements and behaviour of the birds, and therefore provides a vital tool in managing any threats facing the population of this critically endangered species.

The Northern Drakensberg plays a crucial role in maintaining the link between already fragmented habitat of critically endangered Bearded and endangered Cape Vultures. This link is provided for by the protected areas under the management of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, and the land owned by the Amazizi and

Amangwane communities. It is vital to support both management of the protected areas and education of the community members responsible for their land.

The educational element of the project aims to carry out environmental education for children from the schools surrounding the MDP and especially those in the Amazizi and Amangwane communities. This will provide context and understanding of the importance of this world heritage site and vultures; and the need to protect them.

The direct benefits associated with a conserved grassland habitat includes increased tourism to the area to see these endangered birds, and the indirect benefits associated with ecological infrastructure. The continued development of the Vulture hides at Giants and Cathedral Peak adds a significant value to the tourism experience.





## Old Mutual joBerg2c

By Craig Wapnick

The Old Mutual joBerg2c is about riding the roads less travelled and trails never travelled. It is racing, riding and touring across this magnificent country. It is sharing a passion for mountain biking with those who love riding; and N3TC's role is to help build those 'never travelled' trails.

Starting in the south of Johannesburg and finishing nine days later at Scottburgh on the KwaZulu-Natal coast. Part race part adventure, the Old Mutual joBerg2c takes competitors through some undiscovered parts of the country, from the heat and dust of the city to the cool crisp air of the sea via spectacular mountainous passes.

Using a community-driven formula, the race has its heritage firmly entrenched in supporting communities along the route by providing a fool-proof way to raise money for schools, churches or charities. Every organisation that works on the Old Mutual joBerg2c is paid for services rendered ensuring a good financial 'injection' directly benefiting the communities that the Old Mutual joBerg2c route traverses. From road crossings to water points, it is a way for these communities to raise money and work together while enjoy the fun.

The Old Mutual joBerg2c has been running for six years and we are constantly learning and trying to improve the event. With the support of the communities and our sponsors we believe that 2015 was our best year yet. We did a rider survey with 400 riders giving feedback on the event and they confirmed that joBerg2c offers something special.

The Old Mutual joBerg2c aims is to provide a journey where the destination is less important than the experience along the way.

### Event challenges

The length of the route makes the organisation and logistics of this event a challenge. But we have special partners assisting



us to make the journey effortless. Our rider survey gave us confirmation of things we must keep and things that need improving.

### Plans for the next event

Day 6 – a new proposed route through some breath-taking tribal land full of trails, which will put a whole new spin on the day. Not only will it eliminate the dusty corrugated district road and tar section that riders don't particularly enjoy, it will include an old ox wagon trail and a few trails to rival the best on the route.



*"This is a ride that literally changes lives. Aside from having the ride of your life through this amazing country, many people also ride to raise money and awareness for causes that are close to their hearts. There are many courageous human beings who will ride the Old Mutual joBerg2c." Dr Chris West-Garth Taylor (Paediatric Surgeon at Baragwaneth Hospital)*

*Hi Kelly & J2C Crew*

*Just want to say a BIG thank you for making 2015 such an incredible adventure across our beautiful country! The personal touches and nothing is too much effort attitude make it one of the most unique races that I've done. We both did the J2C in 2014 and it was amazing then. This year I'm blown away by all the upgrades in the race villages and the routes. I'd hate to vote on the best race village as I think the towns outdid themselves at all the stops. We hope to see you again next year. Take care, Nina & Duncan*



## N3TC drOp'nGo2c Supporters Tour

As the riders tackled the sixth Old Mutual joBerg2c, the N3TC team was gearing itself to take care of the 60-odd supporters who had signed up for the second N3TC drOp'nGo2c Supporters Tour.

The Supporters Tour has fast become integral to adding value to the Old Mutual joBerg2c, and at the same time an opportunity to build N3TC's brand and its investment in the development of the joBerg2c route.

The Supporters' experience has helped to showcase the tourist routes and destinations that form part of the N3 Toll Route Corridor, which is essential in growing tourism and interest in the undiscovered and lesser known towns between 'Joburg' and Durban. Supporters are treated to a unique experience from seeing their riders while they tackle the joBerg2c from the comfort of a bean bag and sipping on a cup of tea and a delicious homemade scone; to exploring the gems that make up the N3 Gateway region. Then we add some retail therapy and the delightful tastes of local cuisine and the Supporter's journey is 'made'. All this is packaged as a self-drive tour with the benefit of tour hosts to assist with navigation and share interesting anecdotes about the area.





## EWT Sungazer Conservation Project

By Dr Ian Little and Bradley Gibbons

The Sungazer Conservation Project is now almost certainly the most dedicated reptile species conservation project this country has ever seen. We at the Endangered Wildlife Trust's Threatened Grassland Species Programme are very excited about this ground-breaking project which is growing by the day. We have, recently, in partnership with the South African National Biodiversity Institute and Tshwane University of Technology, initiated an MSc study to look at the extent and impact of trade on Sungazers. The student, Zwelakhe Zondi, has commenced with his field work and will be covering the species range, interviewing traditional healers and people at muthi markets to gain an understanding of the uses and frequency of the use of this uniquely South African lizard. He will also canvas the international pet trade to try to get a handle on the extent of illegal smuggling.

The stewardship programme involving farmers from Reitz, Petrus Steyn, Welkom, Volksrust and Vrede is progressing well. A custodianship project has been established amongst the landowners in the Volksrust area (Versamelberge Protected Environment) who have shown commitment to the conservation of Sungazers and other species on their land. These landowners are awarded custodian boards to display at the entrance to their properties and are encouraged to act as ambassadors for conservation in their areas. This is not legally binding but is a first step towards formal stewardship. Plans are underway to replicate the custodianship programme in the Free State.

It was encouraging to visit Golden Gate National Park and meet with Dr Gideon Groenewald who was involved with the translocation of Sungazers to the Park from Tshiame about 20 years ago. The three areas where the Sungazers were released



were visited and evidence of burrows that appear to have been utilised in the months before winter could be seen. If the Sungazer burrows have many surviving Sungazers, this can possibly show that the Sungazer translocation project was, at least, partially successful and contradicts previous reports of the translocation project's failure.

### Project Concerns

The potential involvement of children from Mpophomo Combined School in the Van Reenen area in the use (and trade) of Sungazers is a concern. Many learners at the school knew a lot about the use of Sungazers (mainly medicinal). The challenge is to ensure that they are aware of the protection needed for Sungazers and the legal implications of trade.

The change in habitat from natural grasslands to agricultural lands is an ongoing concern, especially when farmers prepare areas for crops such as maize. A number of farmers look to expand their ploughed lands and this often destroys Sungazer colonies. Potentially even more threatening to this and other species' habitat is the extensive mining applications all through the grassland biome.



People regard the Sungazer as looking like a prehistoric dinosaur and even point out similarities to crocodiles. It is always emphasised that Sungazers give live birth and hence no eggs are laid, making these lizards unique and full of interesting facts for the public. Farm workers and school children speak with enthusiasm and interest about Sungazers and conversations with local people who have interacted with this species for centuries are always of interest not only from learning about traditional medicinal use but also stories of how children play with the lizards and inform us of previously unconfirmed colonies in their areas.



**There is an old African saying “It takes a village to raise a child”. As we have visited each of the centres of educational excellence showcased in this report, there has been a common theme, a golden thread that has run from one to another: the centres do not exist for themselves, they exist for, and on behalf of, the community they serve.**

And so it gives us great pleasure to report on the work of these centres, knowing that they are doing their utmost, within the often limited resources at their disposal, to make a difference not only in the lives of the children they nurture, but also in the lives of the communities they embrace.

Thank you that you inspire us beyond measure, and that you build our faith in a transformed corridor.

As in previous years, education plays a pre-eminent role in the Touching Lives programme through its seven pillars: Early Childhood Development; Top-up bursaries for school learners; Maths and science; Environmental education; Literacy; Skills development for principals and educators; Tertiary bursaries. In addition, this year, a Facilities pillar has been formalised.

It should be noted that certain Education projects overlap into other sections of Touching Lives, particularly Skills Development, and are accordingly reported in those sections. Together, all the Education-related projects reflect a formidable and extremely gratifying investment into the future wellbeing of the N3 Corridor.

*Con Roux*





## The Topsy Foundation NPC Early Childhood Development Programme

By Sarah du Toit

Topsy commenced implementation of its Early Childhood Development (ECD) Programme in April 2014 with a central educational toy library. The library is situated at the Topsy sanctuary in Grootvlei, Mpumalanga. The purpose of the library is to distribute, on a rotational basis, specialised educational toys to 23 severely under resourced pre-schools and one stimulation centre for mentally and physically disabled children in the impoverished Dipaleseng district.

In addition to providing resources to encourage play in the development of young children in the areas of numeracy and literacy, the day care centre principals and practitioners received informal training on how to use the equipment. While the day care centres visited the toy library, a professional nurse gave every child a health check and recorded their physical well-being, which was routinely monitored with subsequent visits to the Topsy sanctuary.

In 2015, the programme evolved and Topsy partnered with The ASHA Trust to provide formal training in the concept of Early Childhood Development to those working in the day care centres. The ASHA Trust C.A.R.E. skills development programme started in May and the last module was completed in September 2015. The four modules of training were successfully completed by 77% of the day care principals in the programme.

The course has equipped the Early Childhood Development practitioners with the skills required to run an effective and stimulating day care centre. It emphasises the importance of a daily programme and nutrition for the children that attend their facilities. In addition, the course prepares the principals for registration with the necessary local authorities. Once this has been done successfully, they become eligible to receive financial subsidies to help with nutrition programmes and to pay child care workers.



Thembi is one of Topsy's Social Workers who supported the principals during their training and made follow up visits ensuring the skills they learnt had been implemented in their centres. She gave the following personal report of the final module that took place in September:

*"The training has empowered the principals on how to effectively run their centres and provide appropriate and much needed stimulation to the children in the communities served by Topsy. The training has been fulfilling in that it has provided the principals with the necessary skills and know-how to enhance children's development in the centres."*

*I am grateful for the training and this module content for it has challenged the principals to plan better for the centre lessons and provide the best service to the children served in the community. With continuous implementation the centres will be providing better services and contribute to having better future community members."*

A highlight of the year for day care centre principals was the completion of four modules of training in Inclusive Issues & Disability Management. The modules completed were:

- Child Identification and Assessment - facilitators were provided with training to ensure the best education possible at the relevant developmental ages of each child;
- Special needs training at the Bophelong School for the Disabled – practitioners were taught to distinguish the chronological versus the developmental age of special needs children and shown how to focus on most beneficial progress areas for each child;
- Identification of Barriers to Learning or Developmental Delays – content included the different barriers to learning and how children are different from each other; and
- Accurate Observation of children and Making Toys/Resources from Waste - The practitioners learnt that good teaching resources can be made from waste products. There is no excuse for a lack of resources.

A challenge for the Topsy ECD Project is that training sessions have emphasised the need to encourage parents to educate themselves on how to help develop and stimulate their children in order to reinforce the development encouraged at the day care centres. With adequate funding, we would like to develop an Early Childhood Development parental guide.

## Curry's Post Primary School Science Centre

By Cathy Derman

In *How to Fix South Africa's Schools* by Jonathan Jansen & Molly Blank (2014) lessons are drawn from a number of "Schools that Work". They use this term because "it denotes functionality, the working together of all the elements in a school to ensure a quality education for all learners." We, the Curry's Post Education Trust (CPET), believe that the Curry's Post Primary School (CPPS) is a "School that Works" because despite it being a small, non-fee paying farm school, CPPS has shown the capacity to do well under challenging circumstances. So what is it that makes this school stand out from other farm schools?

There is care. You notice it when you arrive at the school. During school hours the gates are locked and learners and teachers are in class unless it is break time. Firm routines are followed. The buildings and grounds are not only well maintained but spotlessly clean.

The principal, Patrick Ndlovu, is a larger than life presence. He is warm, engaging, compassionate and immensely proud of his school, its teachers and learners. He welcomes innovations and interventions, anything that will improve learning opportunities, even if it requires extra work on his part.

He is what Jansen & Blank call a "social entrepreneur". He establishes and maintains relationships with people who help the school and doesn't sit around waiting for resources to come to him. Recently he motivated for funds from the Department of Education for school uniforms. He negotiated a deal with a supplier to provide every learner with a uniform, including a jersey and a pair of shoes.

Mr Ndlovu ensures that the school stays open during holidays to extend the time for learning. The computer centre is used during the holidays to enable grade 7s to do research for their other subjects. Not only that, CPPS graduates who live locally



but attend high school elsewhere are also encouraged to use the school's resources in the afternoon.

The teachers provide learners with love as well as discipline. Sharyn, a recent visitor to the school commented: *"My first impression of the school was how neat, tidy and clean the whole school looked. Secondly the warmth and friendliness exuded everywhere and the discipline of the children excellent. Lastly it is a school which is treated with respect."*

What distinguishes CPPS from other rural schools is that it is supported by local residents who volunteer their time as Trustees on CPET. Since it was established in 1993, CPET has endeavoured to move mountains for the learners of Curry's Post.

### Why Science and Mathematics?

Many studies indicate that the problem with mathematics and physical science has its roots in primary school, where many learners fail to grasp basic mathematical and scientific concepts.

It is hoped that by providing a Science Centre to a primary school, teachers will be able to incorporate the use of apparatus to effectively teach the CAPS curriculum for physical and natural sciences and mathematics and thus give learners a solid foundation in these subjects.





*"There are two critical issues that relate to the [National Senior Certificate (NSC)] mathematics and physical science results. The first is the proportion of learners enrolled for mathematics (rather than mathematics literacy) and physical science in the further education training phase (that is, grades 10, 11 and 12). The second is the quality of passes achieved.*

*The Basic Education Department's reports indicate a 17% decline in the number of candidates who wrote mathematics between 2009 and 2013 (from about 290 400 to 241 400). At the same time, the number of candidates writing mathematics literacy rose sharply to 58% of the 2013 cohort.*

*Likewise, the number of candidates who wrote physical science has also fallen by 17% over the same period (from about 220 900 to 184 300). Critically, as the number selecting to do mathematics is dropping, the overall number of learners who are achieving an NSC pass with more than 40% in mathematics has been falling over the same period to 17% of the class of 2013.*

*This means the national pool of students able to do a degree which requires mathematics is very limited – that is, degrees such as engineering, law, accountancy and teaching degrees in mathematics and physical science."*

Mail & Guardian: <http://mg.co.za/article/2014-01-07-behind-the-matric-results-the-story-of-maths-and-science>

## Science Centre

The Science Centre funded by N3TC was installed in July 2015, during the school holidays. When the teachers returned to school early for the Mandela Day festivities, some had tears in their eyes as they inspected their new Science Centre. The computer teacher jokingly remarked that he now had competition for the best classroom. No-one had anticipated just how state-of-the-art it would be!

Of course it was also quite intimidating and the teachers took a decision not to use the equipment until they had received training. In the meantime, the Centre was used to introduce grades R, 1 and 2 learners to the wonderful science of baking. It was a real hands-on learning experience, resulting in lots of sticky fingers and excited children all very keen to visit the Science Centre again!

Teacher Training took place in September when teachers gathered in the Science Centre to learn various experiential

ways of teaching abstract science and mathematics concepts using the available equipment. One of the teachers commented afterwards that:

*"The training was more profitable and helps us to improve our style of teaching."*

The vision to develop the CPPS as a well-resourced educational centre in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands is being realised. The trustees and principal are acutely aware that there are many schools in the area that do not have resources to promote experiential learning. To this end a decision has been made to make the school's resources available to the community and under-resourced schools. The Computer Centre is already open to learners from other schools, particularly those in grade 12, and has responded to a community request for training in computer literacy.

Future plans also include on-going teacher training and support to be provided to both CPPS teachers and those from other schools.



## The Vula Programme At Hilton College

By Lloyd Smuts

The Vula Programme at Hilton College continues to provide much-needed Mathematics and Science assistance to more than a hundred secondary schools in under-privileged township and rural communities in the greater KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. The Vula Programme extends along the N3 corridor, inland from Pietermaritzburg to Van Reenen's Pass.

The following three component projects that make up the overall Vula Programme were supported by N3TC during 2015.

### Grade 12 Maths and Science teaching and revision week

Each year during the winter school holidays the Vula Programme hosts the Grade 12 class of PROTEC Pietermaritzburg for an intensive week-long Maths and Science teaching and revision week.

In addition to the lessons presented by highly qualified and experienced Hilton College teachers, the group of forty learners also had the opportunity to do hands-on practical work in the laboratories. Although Science experiments are an integral part of the curriculum, the sad reality is that practical work is not done at many schools. One of the PROTEC learners gave the following feedback at the end of the week:

*I enjoyed the kindness of Hilton College, but what I enjoyed the most about being at Hilton College were the experiments we did in Physical Science. At my school we do not do experiments.*

### Vula Mathematics Academy

The latest addition to the projects undertaken by the Vula Programme is the Vula Mathematics Academy (VuMA), which opened in January 2014. The Academy is an eleven week, full-time, in-service training initiative for Maths teachers currently teaching at township and rural schools. While attending the Academy, the teachers have their places taken by fourth year education students from the Durban University of Technology (DUT). In order for this to be accomplished, the Academy has the permission and support of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, and it operates in collaboration with the DUT (Indumiso Campus).



While at the Academy, the teachers are exposed to innovative and interesting ways of teaching Mathematics. The major part of this focus is the use of the latest mathematical software to teach concepts normally considered to be difficult. There have been four VuMA intakes to date – two in 2014 and two in 2015, for a total of 47 teachers. These teachers are all back at their schools using their newly acquired teaching skills and insights. Together these 47 teachers teach more than 10 000 learners in the Umgungundlovu District – a clear indication of the significant impact of the Academy.

Each teacher attending the Academy is provided with a laptop on which all coursework and assignments are done. The laptops are the mechanism of teaching materials for future use. Teachers who successfully completed all the requirements were awarded their laptops at a “graduation ceremony”. N3TC contributed towards the cost of providing the laptops for the teachers attending the Academy in 2015.

### Annual Vula Careers Day

The Vula Programme annually hosts a Careers Day for 500 Grade 12 learners from schools in surrounding communities. The day highlights careers which need good marks in Mathematics and Science as a requirement for admission to tertiary institutions. In addition to attending presentations by several universities, the learners are given the opportunity to meet and interact with representatives from business and industry.

N3TC has been an enthusiastic exhibitor at the Vula Careers Day for the past few years. Learners have been able to chat to N3TC staff members about technical and related careers, and were able to meet members of the police, fire, rescue and ambulance services who N3TC had invited to be present.

Thank you N3TC for giving us the motivation and means to undertake these components of our ongoing outreach work. Your encouragement and support is very important to us!





## Midlands Community College Mobile Science Laboratory project

By Debby Evans

Midlands Community College takes pride in the impact of its Mobile Science Laboratory project on the rural schools it serves. Our technicians are seen as role models by many learners who engage with them in 'making Science fun'.

The presence and involvement of the Mobile Lab at schools, our Saturday Schools and Holiday Schools seem, from a more qualitative research perspective, to be a definite encouragement to learners to choose science as a matric subject – which, in turn, contributes to counter the issues of the dwindling number of learners taking science for matric.

The project has supported 43 schools receiving seven experiments each for Grade 10, 11 and 12. This means that 903 experiments are conducted throughout the year. An additional thirteen schools made requests for assistance, which were met with the laboratory technicians working at these schools on Saturdays. Twenty seven educators attended the first educator's workshop this year, and the programme was represented at the Vula Careers Day, where two of the laboratory technicians demonstrated practical science experiments to approximately 500 Grade 12 students.



Midlands Community College hosted a Winter Holiday Camp on behalf of the Department of Education for 180 "high fliers" from Grade 12 in the Ladysmith district. The technicians were part of the programme, demonstrating all the practical lessons to these learners. A school from Bergville, Ntathakhusa, also brought 80 Grade 11 and 12 Maths and Science students to Midlands Community for a Camp during the July holidays.

Our sincere appreciation goes to N3TC for its support of the Mobile Lab which serves so many schools along the N3 Corridor.

### Testimonial from Thandanani Mdakane - Mobile Lab Technician

*My Name is Thandanani and I love physics a lot. After matriculation I attended Midlands Community College where I upgraded my Maths and Physics results. This is when I came across this job of becoming a lab technician.*

*Every morning from Monday to Friday and sometimes Saturdays, we travel to different schools in our Mobile Lab. Our preparations for the journey start early in the morning. We attend school in different teams and we demonstrate Physical Science experiments for grades 10, 11 and 12 s.*

*Every time I attend a school I usually start by interacting with the pupils by sharing some of my experiences as a science student. In the demonstration I try to help as much as possible by showing as much information regarding the practical as I can. This effort has impacted the learners' lives because they always say they have a better understanding after I have demonstrated. Many teachers really appreciate the help and are always anticipating the next visit.*

*My first time at this job I had to learn how to speak loudly, and interact with learners without being shy or showing any signs of being introverted. The way I handled my first day was one of my proudest moments in the job, thanks to the training I received and the effort that I put during my preparations. It makes me so proud every day to know that I am helping out with disadvantaged communities and schools by helping the learners. Every time I think about this I know that I am contributing to South Africa and it makes me proud.*

## Cranes in the Classroom

By Jenny Stipcich

Rolling hills, picturesque villages, fresh country air, these are trademarks of the beautiful Midlands of KwaZulu-Natal. But, there is a downside to this idyllic picture. No drinking water, no running water in toilets, the fear of water borne illnesses .....this is the sad reality of many of the local rural schools.

The KwaZulu-Natal Crane Foundation has seen South Africa's three indigenous cranes as the perfect tool to educate children about water, wetland and grassland conservation. Their education resource material, *'The Cranes in the Classroom Series'* for Grades 1 to 6, captivates the children and reaches them with songs, dances, artwork and games.

This year, new resource material for the *'Cranes in the Classroom Series'* was introduced to the schools. These lessons consist of twelve graded lessons for the Foundation Phase (Grades 1-3). These lessons are C.A.P.S. supportive and are integrated with other learning areas. For the first time, an effective learner assessment programme was implemented. Before the resource material was introduced, Nkanyiso Ndlela (the facilitator) was thoroughly trained by Jenny Stipcich who is also the author of the material.

So far this year, seven hundred and twenty four learners have been reached in the classroom. The lucky rural schools are Bruntville Primary, Shea O' Connor Primary and Esiphethwini. Uncle Crane (Nkanyiso) has been delighted with the learner's happy reactions to his lessons. *'Yesssssss! It's Uncle!'* His approach with storytelling, singing, dancing, games and artwork have easily imparted the vital importance of crane conservation and wetland care.

Learner Lulama Zwane promises, *'I will never throw my sweet papers in the river again!'* It has been gratifying to see that for most of Nkanyiso's lessons, the class teacher has been present. Mrs Manyoni from Shea O' Connor reports, *'These learners have been fully involved since the start of Nkanyiso's*

*lessons.....'* Mrs Hlela from Bruntville Primary comments, *'This Cranes in the Classroom program is very essential for not only for the learners, but also to us the teachers..... I didn't know about these birds before and also the importance of conserving their habitats not only for the sake of cranes but to also to us a humans .....*

In addition to the classroom activities, Nkanyiso has been conducting outreach programmes on non-school days. So far he has ran two *Enviro Club* and two *Holiday Club* programmes at both Bruntville and at the Usher Centre. Ninety six learners have attended these fun filled days. Nkanyiso has mainly concentrated on water pollution and recycling activities. It is quite a testimony to his enthusiasm when school children give up their holiday time to attend these clubs. Nkanyiso has also started to write newspaper articles in Zulu thus expanding the outreach net.

Such a positive year was not without its challenges. Perhaps the most daunting has been the sheer size of some of the classes. Bruntville Primary, for example, fills rooms with up to fifty seven learners. Nkanyiso has had to refine his teaching techniques to manage classes with Foundation Phase learners. Quite daunting in the beginning! Another new challenge for Nkanyiso has been to implement the assessment programme. Again this is intimidating in large classes! Finally, our taxi services have made transport difficult. The Foundation, however, is hoping to purchase Nkanyiso a moped to alleviate this problem.

The biggest concern at the moment is that more facilitators are required. Even though eight hundred learners have been reached this year, there is still a desperate need to improve wetland and grassland awareness and to increase South Africa's crane population. Another concern is that the networking with other environmental organizations is still in its infancy. This too requires more facilitators.

The KZNCF would like to take this opportunity to thank Nkanyiso for his tireless enthusiasm and professionalism, and N3TC for its invaluable support.







## Free State Eco-Schools Programme

By Delana Eksteen and Zwakele Ngwenya

It is a great opportunity to be able to expand the support WESSA is able to provide to the Eco-Schools in the Free State through the N3TC sponsorship. Out of the eight schools in Villiers, seven are registered in the Eco-Schools programme for 2015.

WESSA has been able to employ another staff member, Zwakele Ngwenya, who is the Project Coordinator in charge of this project. The majority of the Eco-Schools in Villiers have been part of the programme in previous years, however the amount of support they received was quite limited due to the workload of the DESTEA (Free State Environmental Department) officials who were responsible to support them.

Since Zwakele's appointment, the schools have received one-on-one action project support visits which allowed for quality support for the projects done at these schools. The support provided was to ensure progress, sustainability and mindset changes through environmental education to address related environmental challenges currently faced. There were successful school visits to all the schools focusing on the food gardens, water conservation and increasing biodiversity.

Focusing on recycling is a bit of a concern around Villiers. With so much mismanagement of waste it would have been



motivating to be able to recycle as it would not only contribute in cleaning up the environment/ community but also assist with generating income for beneficiaries contributing to job creation. The challenge is to find reliable recyclers and buy back centers within this area.

Within a short period of time since the frequent and intense visits to the Eco-Schools in Villiers the schools have shown remarkable progress within their projects. Comes to show how setting milestones helps in reaching goals!

Information for seven schools is indicated in the table below also showing the action projects they are working on this year. One of the schools mentioned is not yet registered and another school is starting with Bronze this year.

No.	Name of School	2015 Award Aimed for	Current Action Projects
1.	Mohlakeng Primary School	Gold	RU: Recycling HL: Food security CH: Heritage day and culture activities LG: Dibois-bols
2.	Ntataise Educare centre	Gold	RU: Recycling HL: Food security CH: Heritage day and culture activities LG: Soil erosion
3.	Phomello Primary School	Bronze	HL: Food security
4.	Retshedisitswe Primary School	Green Flag	HL: Food security RU: Recycling LG: Water conservation
5.	Zamaloka Primary School	Green Flag	HL: Food security RU: Recycling LG: Addressing pollution
6.	Zenzeleni Educare Centre	Gold	HL: Food security RU: Recycling LG: Water conservation CH: Heritage day and cultural activities
7.	Villiers Combined School	Bronze	Not yet registered, aiming to join in the second semester.

(Themes: NB - Nature & Biodiversity; RU - Resource Use; CH - Community & Heritage; HL - Healthy Living; LG - Local & Global issues)





## Midlands Meander Education Project

By Jessica Dreamtime

The Midlands Meander Education Project (MMEP) is an innovative educational programme designed to bring colour, fun and magic into Midlands rural and peri-urban school classrooms.

The organization is run by a team of inspired and extremely creative environmental education facilitators (fondly known as The Bugs) who co-teach, with educators, to integrate environmental education into the school curriculum, using the WESSA Eco-schools Programme as a framework.

The MMEP's philosophy is based on the premise that *"Each person finds identity, meaning, and purpose in life through connections to the community, to the natural world, and to humanitarian values such as compassion and peace. Holistic education aims to call forth from people an intrinsic reverence for life and a passionate love of learning."*

MMEP education facilitators are always researching new topics and creative ideas to devise relevant and meaningful lessons. This has become part of a continuous learning process, to develop further insight into improving interactions with the children in the classroom. This practice based learning is a source of personal and professional development which benefits facilitators, learners, teachers and the organization as a whole.

In addition the MMEP participates in an internal evaluative process twice a year. Through evaluation we reflect on our practice by looking back on past lessons, actions and events, and take a conscious look at our experiences, actions and responses. These group evaluations help us add to our existing knowledge base. It helps us strategize the way forward (again as individuals, as a team and also as an organization).

The outcome of all this reflection is evident in our work. Through these processes we continuously find better ways of doing things. It gives us flexibility to stay in touch with the needs of the learners and teachers and to make positive changes when and where necessary. It helps us design even more effective lessons and programmes and enables us to stay at the cutting edge of creativity, which is a source of strength and is what makes us so different.



This year's reflective processes have resulted in a number of small changes which have already produced effective results. A few examples being: working with smaller groups of children in huge schools, working more days in fewer schools - asking non participative schools to leave, less talking and more doing/showing in lessons, using technology in the classroom, for example showing educational YouTube clips and 'showing' or reading books on PPT presentations so everyone can see the pictures and words without having to have multiple copies of the book.

Our reflective practice assists in bringing together the theory and practice of what we do. It highlights our accomplishments and shows us where we need to change or focus attention and also informs our implementation strategies. The practice of ongoing reflection builds on what has been successful in the past and gives us confidence and strength when making future plans and decisions.

Ongoing reflection and flexibility has become standard practice for the Bugs and we feel proud of what we have achieved by implementing this style of working.

What also makes MMEP's approach so different and the lessons so effective is the three pronged approach to education - theory that involves reflection and feelings and actual experience. *"We don't think ourselves into a new way of living; we live ourselves into a new way of thinking."* The Centre for Action and Contemplation's eighth principal sums up how the MMEP sees education and influences how we design programmes.



Guided by MMEP education facilitators, learners are given the opportunity to take their learning into their own hands. As a result learners often become so enthused that they take a special interest in the subject. MMEP lessons encourage learning for fun, teaches valuable life skills, encourages independent thinking, fosters self-reliance and boost feelings of self-worth, encourage initiative and build competency through practical experience. We see the positive effects of this approach in a number of stories where learners are taking the time and making the effort to go the extra mile. This is potentially life changing.

Bug lessons are interactive, dynamic, information packed and fun. So much is covered in such a meaningful way, in the space of one lesson! Mr. Magwas, a technology teacher from Shea O Connor School says: *"You are teaching me so much. I have ideas, but no resources, you are showing me how to use rubbish as a resource. This year the technology students will be better than last years because of what you are doing."*

In addition to school lessons the MMEP also participates in and implements sustainable action projects like permaculture gardens, eco-clubs and, this year, ran a pilot "Gap year" programme for school leavers. The programme has made a huge impact on six students who have already been offered work experience and jobs. The MMEP built an outdoor classroom, participated in Trashion shows, hosted educational outings and conducted lessons in 24 schools reaching about 8000 people.

This year the team spent a lot of time exploring educational methodologies to assist in addressing classroom challenges such as violence, discipline, participation and content. Which led us on a significant learning journey and as a result we are



now placing more emphasis on creativity and building competence through practical experience. Giving students the opportunity to take learning into their own hands.

By doing this we foster initiative, self-confidence and self-reliance. It also encourages planning and constructive reflection and equips learners with essential problem solving and mediation skills. Ultimately, we hope, inspiring a passionate love of learning. We are already noticing how children become so easily engaged and light up with this approach. Some learners have even taken their learning and applied it elsewhere.

The Superbug Club kids were tasked to find "someone to help" - after learning about values and 'giving back' or 'paying it forward'. Together they identified an old Gogo whom they often saw walking alone. They watched her for a while before asking if they could come and visit, not really giving any details away. Gogo Zuma welcomed them. The group then met again to plan and arrange the visit.

*"On the day they visited, Gogo Zuma was touched to see all the children arrive with cleaning materials. She didn't ask any questions as she sat on her stairs watching the children do kind things for her including clean and fetch water. She was pleased and said a big thank you. Later the children sat around her and told her how and why they picked her and what they hoped to achieve during the day. They then listened to her stories and the way she lives. After this the children met to talk about how they felt and what they learned."* Zinhle Msimango



## Sustainable Schools and Communities, Impendle

By Samantha Rose

The highlight of the programme is that the schools and communities with which we work appreciate the service that we deliver to them. Each school had its own successes:

At KwaKhetha, they made a wonder bag. They had made one before but because they appreciate that it works so well to cook food with limited fuel, they want to make more with each class learning how to do it. At KwaNovuka, they made solar ovens--each child made their own solar stove out of recycled materials and they came together to make one for the school. Ubunye, a school new to the programme, is so happy to have a tippy tap hand-washer at the school to help with water conservation as well as personal hygiene. At Gomane, they re-did their tippy tap and are happy that the compost heap is going well as they have a strong focus on growing organic food in their garden. At Hlelolusha, they have started making their wonder bag—they have measured and cut the fabric while the children crushed the Styrofoam for the inside insulation.

As the programme is called Sustainable Schools AND Communities, in the lessons we encourage the children to pass it to their parents so that the community can also benefit from the environmental knowledge and skills. Most of the learners are passionate about the environment and recognise that they need to care of it.

Zandile, the Assistant Programme Coordinator and Lead Educator, notes a few things that she finds challenging in trying to run the programme successfully, including transport to schools that are far away. As most of the learners struggle to understand and communicate in English, Zandile has had to translate all the lessons into isiZulu except for one school that seems to understand English well. The teachers want the lessons to be in English so the learners can practice, but then it compromises on the learners' ability to participate and really comprehend.

Zandile is very passionate about this programme as she sees the students, schools, and communities benefiting from the knowledge and skills that the programme offers, which is hopeful considering the challenges. Zandile would like to grow



the recycling movement in Impendle as there is lot of waste so we will continue to teach waste craft and lobby the municipality for a recycle centre in the town.

The following are a few of the anecdotes from the various schools passed along by Zandile:

“One boy at Hlelolusha passed the knowledge gained from the lessons in school to his grandfather who now uses permaculture and organic methods at their home garden.”

“In KwaKhetha, many mothers have been requesting the pattern to be able to make the wonderbag for their homes. The cost of cooking is one of the main expenses of Impendle families, so they are very happy to find a way to considerably cut down this expense.”

“At Ubunye, the children find the tippy tap a fun way to wash their hands and so it makes the little children eager to wash their hands after the toilet.”



“At Gomane, we really like the new method of fertilizing with liquid manure [as taught in the programme lessons] as an addition to our compost. Whereas the compost takes many months to mature, the liquid manure can be used within days and takes a lot less effort to maintain. The community that helps in the garden has taken great interest in this method.”



## Michaelhouse Mobile Library Project

By Canon Fred Pitout and Nkosi Mahlaba

Mr Nkosi Mahlaba “baba books” has continued with weekly visits to each of seven schools in our area; namely: Asithuthuke Combined School, Hlanganani Primary School, Jabula Combined School, Crystal Springs Primary School, Lions River Primary School, Shea O'Connor Combined School and Curry's Post Primary School.

We have further bolstered the library bus programme by employing a qualified English Teacher for extra English Classes in two of the Schools.

In the past quarter Nkosi organized a reading competition amongst the pupils at each school. This has had the effect of the children all wanting to compete to be the best English reader in their School. Mr Mahlaba did the initial selection of competitors from each school and then the finalists were judged by the Canon Fred Pitout and Mrs Michelle Huntley. Winners were brought to Michaelhouse for a prize-giving/party where the winners were presented with certificates and prizes in the form of English reading books and stationery.

We need to refresh the books in the Mobile Library Bus, particularly those for younger children. This will be achieved by making a collection of books through the Michaelhouse boys.



## Kwazamokuhle School for the Disabled

By B A F Radebe, Principal

*N3TC extends its heartfelt condolences to KwaZamokuhle School on the tragic death of Mr Radebe since penning his article for Touching Lives.*

KwaZamokuhle School is a special school situated 21 km away from small town of Estcourt. It is in the rural area with vulnerable communities regarding socio-economic development. It accommodates learners with different disabilities, including physical with high need, intellectually impaired, and Autism spectrum disorder.

The school can only accommodate 122 learners in the hostel and 60 day scholars transported by bus to school. We have more than 150 learners that the school cannot accommodate because of the space. It was with the prefab classroom initiative that the school tried to solve the problem.

Thank you to N3TC for the kind donation of the classroom making it possible to admit more learners. Although it can accommodate quite a small number in comparison with the demand outside, we are very much grateful. We sincerely hope that if God permit we might get more classes.

The school was even lucky to be given an educator without any vacant posts available. The Department saw the need and the effort. May your lending hand not stop. The classroom is big enough for mobility and a storeroom inside for resources. We as the school are going to build shelves, concrete verandas for accessibility and ramps for wheelchairs.

It was the most exciting day when the abnormal truck arrived with our classroom. The staff and the learners were ululating. The sound of joy and relief when we saw that it is actually happening. The classroom is aligned along other classrooms for easy access of learners.

The main purpose for the classroom for now is that it will be utilised by the Junior phase as a stimulation class.





## Esiphethwini Sendezi Primary School (Hlanganani)

By Jon Bates

June 2015 saw the retirement of the Headmaster Mr Milton Ncolosi. He has been an inspiring, dedicated leader, who, by his example, has set high standards of discipline and enthusiasm for learning and teaching. Mr Ncolosi's position has been filled by senior teacher Ms Zuma, who has been with Hlanganani from its inception.

The school thrives, and number of pupils has grown to 191 this year.

Whilst many rural government schools suffer from lack of dedicated teachers and undisciplined, under-challenged students, Hlanganani is a shining example of the opposite. The teachers are highly motivated and driven to deliver young South Africans who go on to thrive at high school. Outside of set, standard subjects, Hlanganani pupils are exposed to other activities which are enthusiastically supported. Here we can mention Music Voyage, which provides music appreciation and skills, as well as the KZN Crane Foundation, through which "Cranes in the Classroom" lessons are given on Wetlands and the surrounding environment, mammals and birds.

N3TC can be truly proud of their financial contributions in previous years which have made a huge contribution towards the success of Hlanganani. These include: The IT Centre and its infrastructure. The school has over 35 computers and every child becomes computer literate. The Ablution facility. N3TC contributed funds for the conversion from long drop toilets to a modern system for both boys and girls.

The Mobile Library. N3TC's sponsorship of this Library Bus benefits the pupils at Hlanganani and many other rural schools in the Midlands.



**Water Supply.** N3TC played a major role in getting reliable potable water to the school. This water comes from Windmills, across the bridge over the N3 Highway, to the water tanks at Hlanganani.

For all funding requests it is the policy for the motivation to come from the school Governing Body. In 2015, N3TC donated money towards the painting of Hlanganani. The balance of the funding required by the painting project originated from Fordoun guest donations. A local community member, painting contractor Mr Msimaga, was hired.

The permanent appointment of a Principle to the school is a major concern. Whilst Ms Zuma is Acting Principle the school runs along the high standards set by Mr Milton Ncolosi (who retired in June, but remains on the Governing Body). The worry is that the Dept. of Education will adopt a "next in line" appointment, rather than allowing the Governing Body to make the appointment on ability.

This school is really highly motivated, with parents, Governing Body and teachers contributing to the overall ethos and effort. Mr Dumisani Mculwane (senior teacher) who heads up the Media and IT center has put himself through two courses of computer education. He qualified with distinction in both. Outside of Department of Education paid teachers, the school itself and the Governing Body, out of their own funds, pays for a Maths and Science teacher (Mr Siphamandla Mhlamvu).





**The important role of Tourism as an industry responsible for job creation opportunities and local economic development is taken seriously in the context of the Touching Lives Programme.**

The N3 Gateway project is firmly grounded in the Touching Lives programme as an Enterprise Development project because of its role in stimulating tourism growth, destination marketing and the development of a tourism route throughout the N3 Corridor.

In keeping with N3TC's philosophy of supporting communities along the N3 Corridor, the Community Tourism Development Fund was established as a means to stimulate projects and provide enthusiastic project champions with the means to pursue their tourism dreams.





## Van Reenen Swinburne Tourism Co-Operative

The Van Reenen Swinburne Tourism Co-Operative continues to pursue its efforts in promoting the benefits of community-based tourism. The organisation facilitates a number of key events every year, including a wonderful Community Heritage Festival, namely the Yenza Festival, which continues to grow and gain support from the Van Reenen/Swinburne communities.

Furthermore, the Tourism Office in Van Reenen, managed by Mbuso Ndaba, is instrumental in providing tourism info to passing tourists and plays a vital role as a resource centre for the local school children, in particular.

Other events on the Van Reenen/Swinburne calendar include a Sports Tournament that aims to address the issue of HIV and AIDS amongst the youth as well as a phenomenal MTB event, 'Over the Edge', which sees many avid mountain bikers descending on the village for a ride in the passes and district roads of Van Reenen.

The Co-Operative receives the support of all the local tourism venues and activities in the area, all committed to promoting the destination as a tourism hub.



## Mpophomeni Gateway Tourism Project

Achieving a lot with very little is the underlying ethos of the Mpophomeni Gateway Tourism Project that meets the tourist at the entrance to the Mpophomeni Township just off the R617 Underberg road. The Tourism Centre is the culmination of a vision of local community members to promote Mpophomeni as a unique tourism destination in the heart of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands.

As a recipient of funding from N3TC to complement the work already undertaken at the Centre as a result of funds from the National Lottery and Local Government, it is heart-warming to see the progress this project has made this year.

The Centre is currently undergoing further landscape development in the front yard of the Mpophomeni Tourist Centre, which aims to capture the interest of passing travellers. Along with the landscape development project has been the employment of hardworking, enthusiastic and reliable gardeners, who take pride in keeping their garden beautiful.

While the challenges of establishing a tourism hub in Mpophomeni are varied and typically the act of balancing a big vision with financial constraints, the Zulu Mpophomeni Tourism team is relentless in moving forward to achieve its goals. Local crafters have been given the opportunity to participate in a quality assessment process and the successful applicants will soon be able to market their handmade wares at an outlet to be established in the Centre.

The area on which the Centre is located is expansive and the Project team is currently negotiating with local community members to start a community garden programme, which will further complement the work of other Community Gardens in the township.

In an effort to address storm water issues, concrete curbstones have been placed along the main entrance to the Gateway Tourism Centre to limit the impact of flooding until a more long-term solution can be funded.

As an active member of the N3 Gateway, we are encouraged by the efforts of the Mpophomeni Community to build a sustainable tourism destination.







## BirdlifeSA Nakekela Project

By Bonginkosi Ndaba

Winter is one of the most challenging times of the year for our Nakekela Project because sometimes it is too cold to go out, but that does not stop the Nakekela Nature Heroes from continuing with their education.

There are times when I get so busy with my studies that I cannot move away from my books but on a Saturday I cannot resist when my Nature Heroes knock on my door and ask what the plans are for the day. Their enthusiasm and passion is wonderful but at times it makes me nervous because as an environmental educator there is no time to relax because once you relax, you cannot develop new and creative ideas. I am so grateful that I have Mbuso who always gives me help and support with the Nakekela projects; and Zinhle, the young, talented and ambitious lady, who always helps me with my group. Zinhle's passion is contagious; she is always ready with new activities.

We arrange many different activities for the Heroes, like environmental movies, bird call lessons and reading. The learning outcomes for these activities is to ensure that the topic is clearly understood and that they have appreciation for the impact of a particular issue.



Arbor Day was a highlight for our Nakekela Heroes. We managed to plant four trees next to the Van Reenen soccer field, and after getting their hands dirty planting the trees, the Heroes promised to look after them until they are fully grown!

My dream for the future is to see these children grow up to become environmental ambassadors, community leaders and ultimately save our world.





## Midlands Conservancy Forum

By Sarah Allan

The most noteworthy highlight for the Midlands Conservancies Forum has been the number of lessons conducted at schools adopted for support by the member Conservancies. This has helped spread the message of the importance of our natural systems and the value of biodiversity to a wider audience at an impressionable age.

Moreover, there have been blogs and posts on the Midlands Conservancies Forum's blog and Facebook page that keep drawing in a wider audience and maintaining the momentum built up through N3TC's contribution to the Forum.

The biggest challenge is always time management by the volunteers that serve their conservancies to ensure that activities to be funded by the N3TC are scheduled and organised ahead of time and within the project financial year. Cognisance of the importance of "time-sharing" by our volunteer members results in reminders being sent out by the MCF administrator to ensure that the funds are utilised appropriately for the best effect.





## DUCT uMngeni River Health Project

By Liz Taylor

This project is seeking to resolve the decline of the health of the uMngeni River and Midmar Dam, the main sources of water for the cities of Durban and Pietermaritzburg. The uMngeni river system services in the region of 5.5 million people and is under threat through contamination from sewerage spills, solid waste, nutrient loading and other forms of pollution.

The following four local activity sites were identified that represent significant contamination or “hot spots” for both faecal and solid waste pollution of the uMngeni River and its tributaries:

- Mpophomeni Township;
- uMngeni River below the N3 at KwaMevane Township, Howick;
- Lidgetton Informal Settlement (Lions River) – the section of the Lions River adjoining and below the Lidgetton Informal settlement and the R103; and
- Rietspruit (Cedara) at N3 and R103 crossing.

Due to the reduced scope of the project it was decided to continue with the Mpophomeni Sanitation Education project (MSEP) in Mpophomeni Township as this is where most of the pollution of Midmar Dam is occurring. There has also been some activity in the KwaMevane Township in Howick. The other two sites will receive attention in the coming months.

The EnviroChamps in Mpophomeni have continued to monitor and report on all Environmental issues affecting them; mainly concentrating on spilling manholes, solid waste and illegal dumping.

We have analysed data which was collected between 2011 to the present day.



This is a work in progress and students at UKZN are working to update our monitoring and evaluation map as new data becomes available. Another exciting development for the project was the request for the Mpophomeni EnviroChamps to help conduct education courses at WESSA's Umngeni Valley Nature Reserve. This is high accolades for the work they have been doing in their Township.

Furthermore, we were delighted to receive a request for proposals from the WWF Green Trust I to extend the concept to five other key water risk sites in South Africa.

As with any project of this nature, future funding remains a concern to the project although the local UMDM (District Municipality) have approached DUCT with a view to supporting the project through the Expanded Public Works Project. Many manholes continue to surcharge despite comprehensive reporting on these problem areas.

DUCT plans to work with all NGO's on saving our environment for the future generations.





The majority of Road safety projects are reported under the Driving Actions section of Touching Lives. The projects reported here are those where the participants volunteer their time and expertise and are, accordingly, priceless.





## Angels in Motion (AIM)

By Mariette Steele

Angels in Motion operates out of Ladysmith in KwaZulu-Natal, providing post-crash support to victims and their families, not only on the N3, but also on surrounding roads. As you will understand, the situations and people I assist are sensitive and not conducive to reporting or photographing in certain situations.

One of the incidents involved helping a Diplomat and his family (wife, daughter and son) from South Korea, who had been in an unfortunate crash. Not only did AIM's involvement enhance the name of N3TC nationally, but also internationally. In another incident, I assisted and supported the Chairman of a local cycling club and his family when he had a crash on the R103 during the KZN Championships.

For the Easter period, I was afforded the opportunity of utilizing an Imperial / N3TC sponsored vehicle – thank you very much for your generosity. There were no major crashes reported

during the period in our area, for which I am very grateful. During this time the 50<sup>th</sup> N3TC Arthur Cresswell Memorial Marathon took place. The vehicle was on display at the finish and attracted much interest and awareness about the work of AIM amongst the general public.

I have also purchased soft toys to hand out to children who have met with trauma (and sometimes adults!). Being able to assist with medication for a baby (the parents Medical Aid was exhausted) was very rewarding, as was assistance to a local family with medication for their disabled child.

It is heartbreaking when an incident occurs and a family member is hurt or dead, and so part of my work involves doing counselling – including work for N3TC's Route Control Centre staff when a colleague passed away and Route Patrol staff were killed in a crash.

I am “slimming down” many extra responsibilities and involvement in other organisations, as I am going to focus my energy and time on AIM. My current plans are to get my website up and running and to continue supporting crash victims along the N3 Route.



## Community Medical Services

By Philip Hull

The CMS team celebrated its 32<sup>nd</sup> year at Van Reenen and has, as always, been very active during peak traffic periods.

The team assisted at accidents and obstructions, not only on the N3, but also on surrounding roads. Most of the obstructions, particularly on Van Reenen's Pass itself, are heavy vehicle related. If not effectively managed and removed, these obstructions create massive backlogs, frustration and secondary collisions.

Three medical responses involving the local communities were attended to, one of which involved a baby whose delivery we assisted with the over the Festive Season last year. Rest in Peace little Mokhetsi.

After all these years, we are still surprised by certain of the vehicles and activities observed on the N3. Over one of the long weekends, we were standing by at the top arrestor bed when we became aware of vehicles backing up towards Windy Corner. To our surprise, and in the middle of a heavy traffic period, down the pass came a tractor, driven by a farmer (presumably), with a child sitting on his lap and apparently quite oblivious to the number of trucks that were collecting behind him. We tucked in behind him with all our roof lights on. This continued for almost fifteen minutes until the tractor turned off the N3, accompanied by loud hooting from a number of very frustrated truck drivers. A very dangerous situation, but thankfully without serious consequences.

It was extremely rewarding to be in a position to take three members of our voluntary group to Moholokoeng (outside Harrismith) for a blanket and beanie hand out at a feeding scheme, funded and organised primarily by N3TC and Nouwens Carpets. Caregivers at the containerised kitchen feed between 200 and 250 children daily. It was an emotive visit to this scheme, but I was very gratified to see the impact it had on the team and their thoughts and efforts thereafter to continue with support for the project.



Sponsored by N3 Toll Concession, the annual 'Meals on Wheels' Charity Cycle Race was once again held during September in the rural areas west of Heidelberg. The Community Medical Services team, with assistance from our Netcare community operations colleagues placed five medical response vehicles at the event. Seventeen accidents were attended to, a higher than normal statistic undoubtedly due to the strong winds, and also one medical call (chest pains).

Every year we are amazed by the camaraderie and spirit of the competitors and this year was no exception. This year was the toughest yet with gusting winds in excess of 30km/h and having a head wind for nearly a third of the event, really placed an enormous strain on those already taxed muscles. Amazing to observe, was a young paraplegic woman probably in her mid-20's, who 'cycled' the full 90km event utilising her arms – her courage and determination just unbelievable and undoubtedly put a lot of our issues that we have in our lives, very much into perspective!







## Maluti Child Care Project

The Maluti Child Care Project (MCCP) continues to provide much needed support to vulnerable children in the Townships surrounding Harrismith. Over 5000 children between the ages of two and fifteen years of age receive at least one meal a day, five days a week from the seven kitchens that have been established in these areas.

These kitchens serve as a place of hope, love and security that many of these children sorely need. Apart from serving a wholesome meal, the kitchens have become after school care facilities, social welfare centres and in four cases, playrooms have been erected.

Local family-run business, Nouwens Carpets, is at the helm of the Harrismith business organisation responsible for this project and apart from its monthly financial contribution to the project, Nouwens provides the resources for managing the project and overseeing the daily programme, and as a result the project is in very capable hands.



Equipping the playrooms attached to the kitchens is an ongoing concern. It was wonderful for the MCCP to partner with Harrismith Primary School that held a collection of old toys for the project's playrooms. Two plastic bags were donated and the toys were divided equally amongst the four playrooms.

The MCCP wouldn't function without the support of local businesses, farmers and retailers. Substantial donations were received from Sesisonke Farming, Paul Farrel Boerdery and Dirk Viljoen Boerdery which make a significant impact on the running costs of the kitchens.

The next project that the MCCP will be focusing on is to source school uniforms for the destitute children identified by the volunteers for the new school year. Ongoing guidance and assistance is provided to these children by the volunteers, as they are generally from child-headed households, where the state grants only contribute towards the purchase of the bare essentials.

The MCCP project team introduced the Magical Goodie Bag Project this year that aims to give each child registered with the project a Festive Season goodie bag.

We were very sad to learn of the loss of one of the original volunteers to the MCCP.

*"On the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Anna Tsoetsi, one of the project's dedicated volunteers who was registered with the project since September 2006, unfortunately passed away. Anna will be sadly missed and was an inspiration to most volunteers, with her helpful, friendly disposition and at the tender age of 88 years she still played a vital role, a guiding beacon to the children under her care."* Leandri Bester.



## Hope House

The challenges of running a home for vulnerable children are vast and many, predominantly centred on funding and lack of resources. However, Kristo Tsoetsi – Hope House's 'Father'- and his team remain ever hopeful that their contribution to providing a loving, safe and healthy home will positively impact on the lives of their young charges well into the future.

The Hope House report reads like that of any other Child Welfare organisation. Taking care of 30-odd children between the ages of birth and 18 years requires a lot of energy, love, compassion and empathy. From taking care of each child's health concerns which are numerous to organising schooling and monitoring each child's progress at school to simply doing all the washing and ironing, there is never a dull moment in Hope House; and any visit to the Centre means that we interrupt a very busy schedule!

N3TC's financial contribution to Hope House assists with the very basic needs of running the facility. There are ongoing requirements to repair and improve facilities – whether it is for the kitchen, laundry, bedrooms or bathrooms – the list of needs is never ending. We applaud Kristo and his team of wonderful caregivers who care so deeply and lovingly for each child in their care despite the challenges.

Rest assured, each day every child in Hope House receive a hug, perhaps a reprimand or two, a balanced meal and bath just like any other home you could think of.





## Free State Care in Action

By Gerda Louw

It is really heart breaking to see these children suffer, and they didn't even asked to be born!

We are always encouraged when the children that we care for at Free State Care in Action (FSCA) participate in extra mural activities and achieve. Some of our children had the privilege of participating in the Harrismith School Eisteddfod and they did very well. One of our young boys, John-Steven, is a very talented singer did very well in the Eisteddfod and he performs from time to time in one of the local churches. Perhaps there is some hope for his future after all.

It is still such a privilege to have N3TC on board. The food parcels remain a highlight for these children as it is their way of contributing to their households, in a roundabout sort of way, of course. When we had to change the date for delivering the parcels, they were immediately concerned. One of them asked the teacher: *"But madam, what are we going to do this month if*

*Tannie Gerda can't give us the food parcels?"* They received their parcels, only a week later! And were very happy!!

Many of the parents of the children that we care for at FSCA are unemployed and this remains an ongoing problem as the uncertainty has a negative effect on the children. As such our challenge is to help these children to believe in themselves and restore their faith in mankind.

Thanks to N3TC's funding we have been able to continue to provide our children with monthly food parcels, school clothes and stationary; and supplement two teachers and the domestic worker's salaries.

I am pleased to report that our senior teacher, Alet Vosloo, who was diagnosed with cancer, has completed her treatment and is up and going again with a new zest for life!

Once again, I can only say how thankful we are for the funding from N3TC because without it none of these projects would be possible.



## Topsy Orphaned and Vulnerable Children Project

By Sarah du Toit

It is hard to capture the massive amount of work that is being done in the communities we serve or the impact of our efforts in a report such as this, so I have instead decided to give a few accounts of our initiatives along with examples of possibly hundreds that the Topsy social workers encounter in any given month.

Our interventions adopt an integrated approach to supporting children from birth to 18 years of age, including medical care, psychosocial support, educational support and food security. A limited amount of assistance is provided to learners who are not able to continue with tertiary education due to a lack of funding.

The Topsy Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme activities include:

- **After school programme** - this initiative is aimed at assisting primary school children to improve their academic results by offering an extension to the support they receive from school. The project targets disadvantaged children in rural communities and takes into consideration the vast challenges and disadvantages that affect orphans and vulnerable children as well as children from a rural environment. It was initiated to motivate, encourage, counsel, and support children at primary school to prepare them for their entrance into high school;
- **Holiday and Life Skills programme** - this flows directly from the after school programme. The children that attend the after school programme are invited to participate in a fun filled, developmental day, with the intention of developing children through fun and entertainment;
- **Food security** - establishing and maintaining vegetable gardens through the provision of training and equipment, which is proving highly effective in supplementing the food parcels provided by Topsy;
- **Tertiary Education and Career Guidance** – assisting learners with applications to tertiary education institutions, offering career advice, providing information on how to apply for financial aid and setting up an email address; and
- **Provision of school uniforms.**

Through the OVC programme, Topsy has made a tremendous difference to learners' lives firstly by providing homework guidance and basic lessons to improve their numeracy and literacy skills. Topsy has also cultivated self confidence in the learners by developing their talents through the Holiday Life Skills Programme and recognising their worth through celebrating their birthdays.



### Tertiary Education Drive Winter Session

This winter session was a continuation of the career guidance session held at Topsy Foundation in April 2015. It was attended by high school children who volunteered to be a part of the TED programme. In this session we highlighted the requirements and procedures for applying for financial assistance, introduced the learners to REAP, StudieTrust, NSFAS, Solomon Mahlangu Scholarship Fund and other financial assistance providers.

A personality assessment test was provided by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) manual and attendees were provided with information on career paths as well as suitable tertiary institutions in accordance with the outcomes of the test.

The event encouraged Grade 11 and 12 learners to apply at various tertiary institutions and financial providers. They were motivated to be diligent in their studies, to be involved in community activities which are essential when applying for financial assistance. These learners will receive further assistance in completing online and postal applications at tertiary institutions and for financial assistance according to their identified fields of study.

Thembi, the Topsy Social Worker who facilitated the drive said "It was a blessing to see the minds, hearts and focus of the children impacted and motivated to beat the odds and be different. At Topsy we value the opportunity that this programme has given to us to reach the lives of the young people."

The children enjoyed every moment of the TED winter session. They were more than happy that their expectations were met. They were involved in team building activities during the session and were encouraged to develop good peer relations in the community.



Children in the OVC programme happy to receive new uniforms from Topsy



Beneficiaries of the OVC programme. Topsy supports these families' with food gardens and essential item parcels



**Below are a few personal accounts as reported by Heleen Venter, Topsy Social Worker:**

This is a very sad story. I knew Maria Motsoeneng as was one of our patients from Topsy's Comprehensive HIV and AIDS Care Clinic for many years. When the programme closed we continued to support Maria by providing food security in the form of a monthly food parcel. Maria has three children which she cared for. Maria recently died; she was tragically murdered by her boyfriend.

Her children are now orphans and will become beneficiaries of our OVC programme. They are now living with their devastated Granny who struggles to survive on her pension. Topsy will support this family by providing food security in the form of a monthly food parcel, and offering advice on how to apply for child support grants.



*Lerato is two years old and she is being washed by her sister, Lydia Motsoeneng*



*Gogo will now care for the children*

Kopana Tshabalala is two years old. Kopana came to Topsy's attention during a visit at JOY DAY CARE CENTRE in Grootvlei. This little boy was accidentally burnt with hot water while he was staying with his grandmother. A day care centre practitioner made me aware of Kopana's situation, explaining that he seemed to be in a lot of pain and was only using one arm during activities. Upon investigation I identified his sore arm and could see that the scarring caused by his burn wounds made it almost impossible for him to extend his arm.

We intervened and started the long process to help Kopana to try to restore mobility in his arm. With permission from his family and with help from the Topsy Community Health Care Worker, our first stop was Heidelberg hospital. They referred him to Natalspruit Hospital, then to Baragwaneth Hospital for plastic surgery, and then back to Natalspruit, where they decided to first try a special burn vest for Kopana. If the vest is unsuccessful, Kopana will undergo surgery in January 2016. It is wonderful to know that we have started a process that will change his life for the better, which will enable this little boy to have a better quality of life. This is one of the most heartwarming experiences I have witnessed during my time as a social worker.



*Kopana wearing his special burn vest whilst enjoying breakfast with his friends at his day care centre.*

## Khanyisile Trust

There are very few people with the energy, tenacity and persistence of Ansie Jooste, the amazing project champion of the N3TC Khanyisile Trust. Ansie, with the support and guidance of Gerrie Steenkamp (N3TC's Route Maintenance Supervisor) tackles numerous infrastructural and food security programmes in the 12 schools that form part of the Khanyisile Trust's school and learner support programme.

This year, Ansie continued to nurture the vegetable and seedling nursery that was established at Sand River School in 2014. When the seedlings are established enough, Ansie distributes the seedlings to the schools and surrounding communities in an effort to provide ongoing food security to the communities surrounding the schools, at large.

Ansie has spent most of her time and efforts this year on the development of a fully-fledged kitchen at Remington Primary School. Remington is situated on the edge of the escarpment along a beaten track just off Van Reenen's Pass. As is typical of the schools in the Khanyisile Programme, Remington did not have a suitable facility for cooking so the school had to prepare food for the children in the outdoors. This is fine on a good day but Van Reenen is known for high winds and extreme weather conditions, and so very often the children would go without food, often the only meal they would get in a day. Ansie set about, as usual, with great passion and enthusiasm in the building of the kitchen. With the assistance of local labourers, Ansie cast concrete, laid bricks, installed windows, doors and a roof; and then fitted the kitchen with the necessary tools and equipment to enable the school's cooks to prepare meals for the children. It was a wonderful celebration for the school's staff and children when the first meal prepared in the new kitchen was served.

Ansie continues to monitor the health of over 1 800 children from the 12 schools in her programme. At the beginning of each year, Ansie takes her RAV on a tour of the Khanyisile schools where she takes her benchmark stats and captures the data of each children. After each holiday Ansie returns to evaluate and assess each child's health, once again. These records are invaluable to Ansie who is able to clearly evaluate and ascertain needs for the children whether it be in the form of healthcare support or nutrition. Furthermore, Ansie assists the schools' management by providing them with her concise records, which they use for their relevant Departmental requirements.

Over and above all this Ansie can be seen travelling up and down Van Reenen's Pass either in her little white RAV or the fabulous fire truck that N3TC has stationed at the Van Reenen Help Centre to assist at crashes and fires.

Ansie, you are a diamond in the Van Reenen heartland and we are privileged to support your ongoing efforts to address needs, take action and impact positively on the many lives that you personally touch. Thank you!







## Music Voyage

By Helen Mennie

I am thrilled with the support N3TC has given Music Voyage this year. I am so appreciative of the role you have played in supporting us. Thank you.

I am delighted that we have now got our own music studio in Nottingham Road (a room in 'the music house') that we can call our own. It is in walking distance for many of the children. They come there to practise and some of our lessons take place there too. It's great because over the weekends the children can come anytime to play. It's really good to have a base that is ours. Our community liaison officer lives there too.

We also have four music students boarding at the music house. These students live along the Fort Nottingham Road thus making it difficult for them to attend music. This is ideal for us as now we have flexibility with time for music and theory lessons. Three of my friends are supporting their boarding costs. It's wonderful. You are welcome there anytime.

This year we also have a post school student who is being mentored in the art of teaching music. He works with the experienced and qualified music teachers at Clifton. He is learning all the associated administrative skills and I'm trying to get him a laptop so we can start with computer skills education (he is computer illiterate). We are grooming him to become a community leader and music teacher and performer. It's such an exciting programme for us as these people are the future of Music Voyage.

A highlight of the year has to be the 100% pass rate for the Associated Board Royal Schools Music (ABRSM) practical exam. The self-satisfaction and pleasure shown from our students is incredibly rewarding to see. It is very empowering to know that you, and you alone, have achieved because of hard work and perseverance.

The impact on self-esteem and dignity for these students is very real; and this has a great ripple effect in the community and in the schools these children live in and attend. Parents and care givers of the students are elevated within their community yielding positive spin offs for everyone.

So all is good and moving forward!



Here is a selection of written messages received from our students:

*Philasande Zuma: "I wish to thank Mrs K and Mrs Mennie for teaching me the music because music is our life. When I play the music I wish that I can fly. I like the music very very much. When I was play the music for the exam I feel like a person who is going to be a big musician." Saxophonist.*

*Asande Ndlovu: "When I get in the house exam I filling good. When I get in the teacher I play very nice. I play scales very good and I filling better." Violinist.*

*Ntombifuthi Mkhize: "When I get in the music room I feel very proud of myself. What I like about music is that teach me how to think careful. I wish I can pass my exam." Flautist.*

## Treverton Sports Festival

By Dave Purdon

The 2015 Treverton Co-ed Sports Festival attracted 800 participants from around South Africa and neighboring countries. The Festival has been lauded as one of the top co-ed school sports events in the country.

Field Hockey continues to be the main sporting code at the Festival and we were very blessed to receive a donation to help start the lighting upgrade required for the many games to be completed. It is interesting to note at this point that hockey was played non-stop from 7am – 9pm for three consecutive days.

It was pleasing to see that the number of Netball players participating in this year's tournament grew and we are looking

forward to raising the profile of this sporting code in the years to come.

Our goal is to include a development team in each sporting code that forms part of the festival. Sadly, our invitations for 2015 were declined due to a lack of funds. We would really like to make this happen in 2016 but need further financial support to be able to assist these teams to make the trip to Treverton.

Planning for the 2016 Treverton Co-ed Sports Festival has begun. Invitations have been sent out and many positive replies received. To add to our development goals, we would like to link the Festival to development initiative to work in the local communities of Bruntville and Mooi River with a focus on coaching in these local schools.







## Origins of the Natal Mountain Passes

By Gillis van Schalkwyk

I am now in the second year of an exciting project funded by N3TC to research the origins of thirteen of our most famous Natal Mountain Passes, all of which are of great historical interest. Five of these Passes, Oliviers Hoek, De Beers, Retief, Tintwa and Bezuidenhout's, were used by the original early Voortrekkers to gain access to Natal from the Eastern Cape in 1837, and later in 1856 Van Reenen's Pass gave access to many more settlers and traders.



This has been a very busy year for me with visits to sites, interviews and document searches taking up most of my time. Everyone has been very helpful and supportive with information and supporting documentation. People and organisations contacted/visited during research have included historians, retired civil engineers, authors, archivists, the descendants of early farmers on which Passes are situated, curators, researchers, guides, a palaeontologist, archivists, the Ladysmith Museum, the Natal Historical Archives, Killie Campbell Africana Library, National Historical Museum, Africa Library, the SA Institute of Civil Engineers and many others.

A challenge remains finding reliable information regarding the Normandien and Muller's Passes. I have, however, been given some good leads by 92 year old historian Sheila Henderson of Ladysmith, which I am following up. A highlight of the research has undoubtedly been making contact with the curator of the Natal Transport Department's archives, Mrs. Margie Vosloo, who has provided invaluable help sourcing scarce construction records relating to the Passes.

Another highlight has been the discovery of the documented family history of the Putterill's, relating to Bezuidenhout's Pass and dating back to 1864. We may also have rediscovered the tracks of the original de Beers Pass. These tracks are unsighted from the current pass, about one and a half kilometers away to the west.

I was thrilled to be given a magazine article by Mrs Jill Frow written by her Great Grandfather. He was the editor of the first South African car magazine, *The South African Motorist*, published in 1912. The magazine sponsored the transport for the very first surveillance of the road between Johannesburg and Durban via Newcastle by a Government surveyor. The trip took thirteen days.

Talana Museum very kindly gave me a copy of a chapter out of a book written by Lady Penelope Dixie, where she describes in detail a trip from Ladysmith to Harrismith in 1882. The trip took four days and three nights. What it must have been like to travel in a post cart drawn by eight horses or mules!

Once research is complete, it is intended, with N3TC's assistance, to publish a book on this fascinating research.





## Cerebral Palsy (CP) Early Intervention Project (Kwazamokuhle School)

By Peta Diack

The project is based at Kwazamokuhle Special School near Estcourt in KwaZulu-Natal, but is an outreach project to the surrounding communities. At this stage we are focussing on the areas around Estcourt town, Ntabamhlope and Loskop. Ntabamhlope and Loskop are rural communities where many people live in poverty with no running water and some areas without electricity.

On an icy cold July morning, with great anticipation (and no small amount of nerves), we made the final preparations for the first round of workshops for caregivers of children with CP. Our two amazing cooks had been at Kwazamokuhle Special School since early morning to set up, begin preparing food and lighting a much-needed fire.

Seven caregivers (six mothers and one gogo) and their children with CP arrived, and with the CBR project's community development facilitator, settled into the dormitory, got a cup of coffee and started getting to know each other around the fireplace. Of these seven, one's child turned out to have Down Syndrome (not CP) and two children were over the targeted age of four years. This made some aspects of the workshops difficult, especially the emphasis of early intervention.

The three days were a blur of workshops, meals together, problem-solving, 'checking-in' time with the caregivers and time with the children. Three facilitators (Nathi, Beatrice and Khanyi) ran the workshops with the caregivers with support from a



therapist, while two assistants looked after the children in the school's therapy rooms with another therapist. At the end of the three days, the caregivers were presented with certificates of their attendance.

We have realised that this was a lot of information for the caregivers to take in over a short space of time, and are planning to change the structure for the next workshops. Nevertheless, the caregivers expressed that they learnt a lot. The gogo said that she used to scold her daughter for having a child with CP, because someone had bewitched her, but now her eyes have been opened. Another mother said that she hadn't known the importance of exercises before, but now she does.



We were able to answer many of the caregivers' questions, but there were some concerns which we could not resolve. One mother told us that she doesn't sleep at night because her daughter with CP moves around so much in her bed and can hurt herself. The gogo expressed that she is worried about what will happen to the child if she dies as there is no one else who will care for her, and she doesn't like what she has heard about some care facilities. As much as the caregivers learnt some things, our eyes were opened to the realities that these women face in caring for their children who will be dependent on them their entire lives.

We are excited to see this project growing, and one exciting potential which is developing, is the formation of a support group and day care centre involving two of the caregivers who attended the workshops in their area.

We hope that this project can continue to grow and provide support for more caregivers and their children with CP!



## Sunfield Fortuna

By Brenda Gouws

A Trip to Margate was without a doubt the highlight of our year thus far! As the old saying goes – if you can dream it you can do it! Well it was a dream of ours for very long and with the help of all our sponsors including N3TC we managed to take thirteen of our disabled residents to Margate for a week.

Some of them have seen the sea for the first time and the look on their faces was such an experience that I cannot even begin to describe in words how you have assisted us in making their dreams come true. This is an experience that will stay with them for a very long time and with me for a lifetime!

To think that life on its own is a challenge for them and they are always so appreciative for whatever they receive, they never ask for much and this is what made this holiday extra special for them.

We have also been very fortunate in the fact that we had 25 doctors visiting us from America, assisting with the health of our residents as well as stimulation. It was a true honour for us that they chose our Home to spend their valuable time and to make a difference in the community.

We are currently participating in the SPECIAL OLYMPICS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE and have improved and now have 2 floor hockey teams. We are now busy preparing for the Provincial games that we are hosting. We are also participating in Volley Ball and Boche and hoping to go through to provincial level as well.

We have participated in Randfontein at the EISTEDDFOD on the 19th where we brought back 6 Double Gold, 22 Gold, 35 Silver and 21 Bronze certificates for choir, solo, acting, instrumental, poetry, dance, arts and crafts as well as needle



work. We have also won the ATKV award SUPERSTARS 2015 which is the highest award given to someone that is an inspiration to the community, which we are very proud of.

With the industrial machines donated to us by N3TC we have managed to have needle work classes and make more articles that we can sell on markets in our efforts to be self-sustainable.

Cellular tree Project has been running the whole year with orders from local and abroad providing jobs to 22 people in the Siyatamba community and 4 strong disabled residents and insuring a constant income for our HOME. The workshop where work takes place has been condemned for safety reasons and a new building is desperately required. This project is crucial for the jobs that it creates and also for the income that it generates for our Home. Our buildings are also in desperate need of maintenance and painting needs to be done to some of the areas.

Our Vegetable Tunnels are in the process of being cleaned and upgraded – although this is a huge challenge for us it is very important stimulation for the residents and a big saving for the Home and good for the residents as we consume the fresh vegetables for cooking meals.





## Sunfield Home Howick

By Karen Lister

Set in the beautiful Midlands of KwaZulu-Natal, Sunfield Home Howick has been benefitting the lives of mentally challenged adults for the last 60 years. At present the Home houses 111 permanent and 6 day residents, providing a stimulating and productive environment in the form of occupational activities, arts and crafts including sports and entertainment and Chapel services.



Sunfield believes strongly in giving back to the community and has two local outreach programmes which benefit 100 underprivileged people from Howick and the surrounding areas per month.

Just recently the lives of the Sunfield family have been made that much richer by several wonderful and immensely helpful contributions from N3TC.

Furniture purchased for the de Smidt unit includes two flat screen TVs (no more fights!), garden furniture, wall fans, and an industrial vacuum (the residents are taught to be independent, they clean and vacuum their own rooms).

On behalf of our residents, a very big thank you, much appreciated.







## Trucking Wellness

By Tertius Wessels

Trucking Wellness, an initiative by the National Bargaining Council for the Road Freight and Logistics Industry (NBCRFLI), was launched to create awareness around HIV&AIDS and sexually transmitted infections amongst long-distance truck drivers, commercial sex workers and those at risk such as driver spouses and partners.

The programme was introduced in 2008, followed by the Antiretroviral Treatment programme in 2009. Since then, 70 000 people have had HIV tests through Trucking Wellness. From 2009 to 2014, approximately 4 600 HIV Positive people have registered with CareWorks to access treatment, including more than 500 spouses of members. In an analysis reported by Wits Reproductive Health and Research Institute, of over 45 000 South African adults (>15 years) who started ART between 2001 and 2009, the mortality rate was 67.7 per 1 000 person-years of observation (PYO). This graphic (*right, top*) draws on CareWorks data over the past 5 years and depicts the improved death outcomes of a proactive HIV programme.

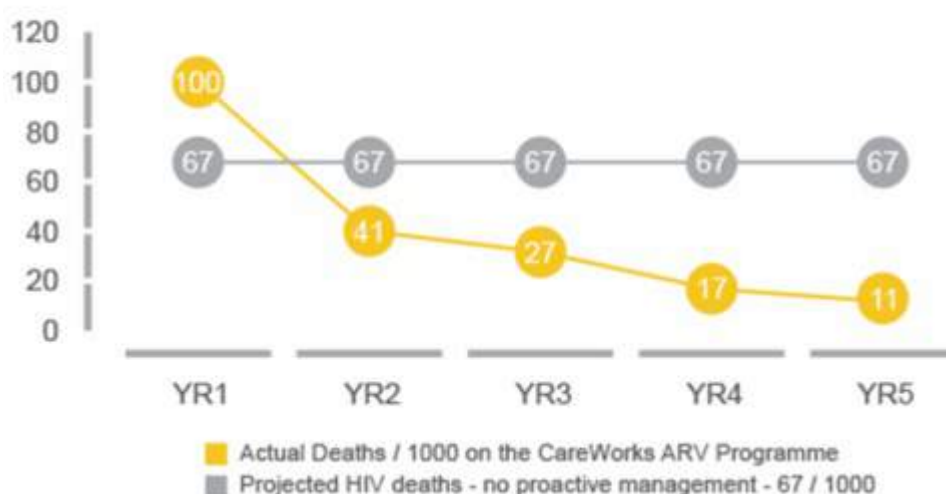
As can be seen, a substantial reduction in mortality is achievable. The return on investment to the Industry is dependent on how far and wide the intervention is taken. Additionally, to maximise the impact of the programme, we have to ensure that the “value chain” is not broken.

The HIV value chain consists of:

- Intensive case finding of HIV positive people;
- Pro-active conversion of those HIV positive people into an ARV programme; and
- Maintaining their treatment adherence on ARVs.

These outcomes reinforce the importance of a comprehensive HIV programme in the Industry that reaches everybody. Over the years, the Programme has further evolved into providing a holistic approach to health and wellness, encompassing a wide range of free primary health care services. These services are offered via the Programme's 22 Trucking Wellness Roadside Centres which are situated at truck stops across major routes in South Africa, including its borders. The free health services offered through Trucking Wellness include TB and malaria awareness, education, screening and referrals for treatment and care as well as screening tests for blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol and body mass index. Other services include primary healthcare, education, training

Projected vs Actual Deaths / 1000



and testing for HIV&AIDS and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) as well as condom distribution, anti-retroviral (ARV) treatment, counselling and emotional support.

There are five Trucking Wellness Clinics operating on the N3 Toll Route, namely Mooi River, Tugela, Harrismith, Warden and Villiers. The Clinics are fully operational and support is received from the respective provincial Departments of Health. The programme is really making a difference in the lives of truck drivers and communities living in the vicinity of the N3. The Warden Clinic, in particular, is showing a steady increase in patients.

Trucking Wellness has embarked on revamping the network of roadside wellness centres, and purchased seven additional vehicles for utilising as mobile wellness centres. This improved and extended fleet will enable us to reach a larger audience and increase access to much needed health screening services.



**2015 N3 Toll Route Statistics as at end December 2015, HCT:**

COMBINED	Training	Male & Female	STI
Harrismith	1682	1563	204
Marianhill	811	515	8
Mooi River	1856	2139	358
Tugela	1499	1853	110
Villiers	1893	1643	111
Warden	954	1123	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>39415</b>	<b>35881</b>	<b>2853</b>

**2015 N3 Toll Route Statistics as at end December 2015, Primary Healthcare:**

COMBINED HCT's JAN - DEC 2015	Total Tested	Positive	Negative
Harrismith	489	27	456
Marianhill	403	13	358
Moorriver	662	14	646
Tugela	388	23	361
Villiers	759	37	704
Warden	286	22	261
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2987</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>2786</b>

**Two stories from Wellness Centres along the N3 Toll Route illustrate the success of the programme:**

At Warden, a truck driver approached the wellness centre, moving slowly and dragging his feet heavily. He was feeling dizzy and his sight was poor. The clinical coordinator, Solomon, assisted the driver to see the nurse on duty, Sr Leburu. Sr Leburu immediately tested the drivers' blood pressure and sugar, and found out that the driver was a newly diagnosed diabetic. A drip was administered and the driver was referred to Hospital. Three days later, the driver returned to the wellness centre to thank the staff and now does regular health checks.



At Tugela, Vusi, a clinic coordinator, was summoned by a truck driver one evening to assist with a fellow driver having difficulty breathing and unable to walk to the wellness centre. After being assisted to the clinic, Sr. Nokothula took baseline vitals to determine the drivers' irregular blood pressure and HGT. A drip as well as oxygen was administered and BP had started to improve by the time the ambulance arrived to take the driver to Hospital.





# enterprise development



**N3TC has made an intentional decision to grow the Enterprise Development component of its Touching Lives programme. The necessity is for projects, as far as possible, to be self-sustaining.**

We are incredibly mindful of the difficulties confronting those who wish, through entrepreneurial endeavours, to contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of their communities. And so, as we showcase the projects, we salute those involved for their tenacity, courage and self-belief.



## N3 Gateway Tourism Association

By Matthew Drew

Working on the Revised N3 Gateway Strategy and Plan for the 2015/16 – 2018 period has been a highlight in many senses. It has required everyone to reflect on past successes and challenges and in this way has reminded us of how far the N3 Gateway has come. Looking forward it requires that new and innovative solutions be developed when it comes to all aspects of the N3 Gateway including marketing and sustainability, and this has led to robust discussion and active engagement both internally and externally. One thing is evident and that is that the N3 Gateway has a long way to go in order to achieve its full potential and that the best way to get there will be through partnerships. Exciting times lie ahead!

Our social media presence continues to grow. We currently have 13 647 fans on Facebook, 48 400 followers on Twitter and 319 followers on Pinterest.

The N3 Gateway received confirmation from the DDG for Domestic Tourism at the National Department of Tourism that they will provide the N3 Gateway with a letter of endorsement. This would be a step in the right direction in terms of partnership building.

The N3 Gateway has been working on getting various key documents and registrations in place. The association submitted an application for a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) registration number to the Department of Social Development. We are also working with our accountants on obtaining a Section 18A Tax Clearance Certificate and creating and Memorandum of Incorporation which is in line with the Companies Act requirements for a Non Profit Company. Some of these documents are required for up and funding applications such as the one to the NLDTF.

The N3 Gateway attends three strategic consumer travel shows every year, namely: The Beeld Holiday Show, the Cape Getaway Show and the Gauteng Getaway Show. This year we tried out our new modular stand design which looked fantastic and worked very well in meeting the needs and expectations of show visitors as well as the N3 Gateway members and crafters. It is interesting to note, that the Gauteng Getaway show



attracted 18 641 visitors and 5800 brochures were handed out at the N3 Gateway stand.

To make things even better, the N3 Gateway received, yet again, awards at the two major Gauteng Shows. This is a credit to the support provided by N3TC and hard work of the N3 Gateway Board, team, its members and stakeholders. It was nice to see how proud the N3 Gateway's members were of our awards.

Tammy Hancock of the Clarens Tourism Forum wrote in her report back on the Gauteng Getaway Show to their members, "we are proud to announce that the N3Gateway stand won 1st prize in the 'Local Destination' category! The most prestigious prize to date and once again Clarens was a part of an award winning exhibitors space, thank you to N3 Gateway for the opportunity."

A welcome addition to the N3 Gateway's marketing collateral this year were the excellent videos produced by Drakensberg Experience, Clarens Extreme/ Clarens Tourism and the N3TC/ N3 Gateway team. The effectiveness of the consolidated N3 Gateway video was highly apparent in the number of people who stopped to watch and then discuss what they were watching with the exhibiting members and N3 Gateway team (see <https://www.youtube.com/user/N3Gateway>).

For the N3 Gateway team our most rewarding achievements are often compliments from our stakeholders in response to the marketing exposure the N3 Gateway creates. After being granted a hot air ballooning trip, Elsa wrote an article about her profound experience. The co-owner of Hot Air Ballooning SA responded as follows:

*Hi Elsa*

*Indeed thanks tons for all this I think we are once more in your debt...*

*And as for your blog - there is little doubt that this is the best description of a ballooning experience I have seen in 18 years of ballooning...*

It was with such sadness that I learnt of Elsa Watson's resignation (her husband is an international polo player and has relocated) as we have worked well together and completely connected traditional marketing, digital marketing and social media marketing together, making one joint effort in building awareness of the N3 Gateway brand.

### Message from Elsa Watson:

*This may be my final report to N3TC, so I would like to use this opportunity to thank N3TC for granting me this wonderful career and LIFE experience. Each day was different and there was more often than not something to smile about in my day-to-day work with incredible people.*



*I first became involved with N3TC in 2009 and these have been my prime career development years and I have a feeling that they will always remain my best years. Thank you for allowing me to grow in this conducive and loving environment you have created in a unique family of like-minded people.*

*Many thanks and much love, Elsa*



## Midlands Meander Emerging Artists & Crafters Project

By Marian Evans

N3TC-funded Emerging Artists & Crafters, Impumelelo Beaders, Siyabonga Duma, Carlson Mangena, Stanley Nxumalo and Xolani (Eric) Ngcobo, managed by Midlands Meander Association, all receive training in a customised New Venture/Entrepreneur Skills Programme presented on a monthly basis by Samantha van der Berg of Isamba, carried out at The Nelson Mandela Capture Site. There has been 100% attendance at each training session.

### Impumelelo Beaders

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year that this Artist Co-operative, consisting of 3 Zulu ladies, has participated in the programme. Although their handmade and unique beaded faces of political leaders sell via The Apartheid Museum and The Nelson Mandela Capture Site, the need for a long term sustainable 'unique selling product' is necessary to provide a continual monthly source of income.

The challenge with this group is to change mind sets, in order that they start seeing themselves in a self-sustaining business. Although the Impumelelo Beaders have been given the training and theory needed, there is room for them to develop by means of building confidence levels in communicating with customers and potential customers.

### Siyabonga Duma

operates his own small workshop in Mpophomeni. One of his goals has been achieved - to own a bakkie to transport raw material and products. He is saving to buy some more equipment which will make his work easier. Siya's woodwork is of a high standard and he currently has so much work on hand that he is having to start employing staff.



Siyabonga used to work for the talented cabinet maker Robin Fowler, who makes one of a kind furniture from exotic and indigenous wood at Corrie-Lynn. Duma honed his skills there and yearned for an opportunity to own his own business. The Midlands Meander Emerging Artists and Crafters Project has given him the confidence to spread his wings and hope for the future.

He had resigned from Corrie Lynn and was making kitchen cupboards for a few customers in Mpophomeni. But he was also dabbling in original furniture pieces when he had the time.

*"I now run a fully-fledged kitchen fitting business from my workshop in Mpophomeni and have a lot of demand. The benefit of getting support from the MMA was the business skills I have learnt because I had the practical woodworking skills, but I did not know anything about paperwork. If you run a business you must know all kind of things about marketing and budgeting and I have really learnt a lot. I am still battling with cash flow as my customers are too slow to pay me."*

Duma has an opportunity to show his once off items at Groundcover Leather Company and tourists who visit the



showroom often ask where his furniture items are and more often than not they are sold.

He says: *"Now that the kitchen side of my business is taking off I have less time to do the one off furniture pieces. It is a catch-22. My family are a little frustrated with me because now I am very busy establishing myself as a businessman and I don't have much spare time. But I hope that they will understand that when you are becoming successful you have to invest in yourself."*

**Carlson Mangena** creates metal art. He operates his own business and transports his products in his own car with a trailer. Carlson is being mentored by Guy Sterling of Sterling's Wrought Iron, a Midlands Meander Association member.



Sterling's Wrought Iron was founded in 1985 by Mr Frank Sterling. His son, Guy who trained under his dad, now combines traditional blacksmithing with modern method techniques.

Carlson Mangena is extremely innovative. He sells his products at markets, shows and is constantly on the lookout for shops who will take his stock. His dream is to have his own outlet in one place. He has a large amount and range of product which he transports in his car with a trailer.

**Stanley Nxumalo** is a weaver currently working as a security guard and is being mentored by Rob Shuttleworth of Shuttleworth Weaving. Shuttleworth Weaving, a family run business that has been operating for over 30 years, produces high quality mohair carpets and throws with a special emphasis on colour and texture in their weaving.



Stanley loves bright colours and makes table mats on a home-made loom. He is being encouraged to use neutral colours in order to reach a larger market. Stanley has difficulty understanding how he should fit into the system, therefore extra time will be spent with him in order to encourage him to broaden his market.

**Xolani (Eric) Ngcobo** is a sculptor being mentored by Kim Goodwin of The Goodwin Foundry, where he also works. The Foundry was founded in 1995 and is reputed to be the leading foundry in KwaZulu-Natal. Eric works in the mediums of bronze and environmental art. As you can see, his work too is exceptional and he is extremely teachable and willing to learn.

The three 'mentee' emerging artist/crafters, namely Carlson Mangena, Stanley Nxumalo and Eric Ncobo meet with their mentors on a regular basis. This new system is proving to be very beneficial.

**Gauteng Getaway Show:** A highlight of 2015 was that the Emerging Artists/Crafters were offered space at the N3 Gateway stand of the Gauteng Getaway Show. Two of the bead makers travelled up to Johannesburg with their own product and Syabonga Duma's cutting boards to showcase their products to the public. They were able to meet Jane McKenzie of Beads of Hope in the hope of securing ongoing contracts. The Bead makers were totally overwhelmed by the space, products and amount of people who attended the Show.

**The Hilton Arts Festival:** Midlands Meander Members and Emerging Artist/Crafters were able to display/sell their works at The Hilton Arts Festival Arts Department from 17 – 20 September 2015. Despite the challenging weather conditions (the worst ever experienced in the history of the Festival), many braved the days with gumboots and umbrellas to experience the very best in local theatre, music, visual art and craft.

Both Carlson and Eric Ngobo's mentors made themselves available to help their mentees with setting up and displays at The Hilton Arts Festival. The mentees didn't sell a lot of product at the Festival, but they received valuable marketing experience and exposure at a very upmarket venue.

Upcoming plans for the Project include more input into each artist/crafter's life in the form of encouragement and ideas. Each of the emerging artist/crafters is currently being encouraged not just to receive, but to start giving back into the community.





## Babanentse Co-operative

By Elsie Majola

We started this project in June 2006 in Bruntville, Mooi River. We produce textile products such as school uniforms, tracksuits, T-shirts, clothes, wedding garments, and traditional attire.

Our vision is to compete with foreign imported goods and clothing materials that are detrimental to our market. We produce strong and affordable local brands to sustain our business and country in this regard. We supply schools and shops, as well as Government departments and the Private sector.

We truly believe that after three years we will manage to employ at least 200 employees, have two offices, a boardroom and finance office by means of expanding the firm. We will be able to import some of my clothing and even sell internationally.

We have succeeded in acquiring big machines, but need more. We have also succeeded in building an office because we were having trouble storing our books and it is now easy to put our books on the shelves and cupboards. We also have a desk.

We now supply school products outside Mooi River, so the challenge we are facing is that we now need to get transport so that it will also be easy to deliver products and buy material and equipment in Durban and Hammersdale.

We are planning to make a big factory and supply the whole world, we also wish to export our products outside the country.

We would like to pass our vote of thanks to N3TC for financial and non-financial support that made everything possible and successful.

We have managed to build one office, bought a laptop to communicate with other business partners. We have used some money for big stock that we have for December 2015 and January 2016. My wish now is to buy an embroidery machine and not to give up on us until we become independent as a business run by women only.

Our success lies in our hands through your guidance, with that we promise you will do better than before.

Thank you



## Beads of Hope

By Jane Mackenzie

At Beads of Hope, we believe that when people have a dream, together with the possibility of having a different future, this will enable them to change their destinies. If one doesn't know that one can have a different future and the chance to get there, life reverts to mere existence at its basic level.

We recently shared the following message on the Beads of Hope Facebook page:

*"Kudos to the large corporate company that made a decision to buy locally manufactured items for their 820 female staff for Woman's Day. This order allowed a group of women in van Reenen not only to buy food, but also to pay for school fees, buy new schools shoes and school uniforms, through controlling their dignity they get to control their destiny. A hand up- not a hand out. These gifts helped change lives!"*

We were delighted with a response from one of their staff members in KZN:

*"The company is Legal Wise...We got the gifts yesterday. It is so awesome being part of a company that cares about empowering and supporting good hard working women...Yay for LEZA Legal Wise".*

Another big order was for five thousand ribbons for Imbalie Beauty Products whose products are sold in 159 beauty salons country wide. One thousand beautifully beaded breast cancer ribbons were made by our ladies in Van Reenen for EyeSlices, a company represented in eight countries around the globe. It is with great pride that we report that a small number of our Angels took flight as gifts given by the costume designer to the performers of the American Dance Theatre. Our Ndebele dolls have finally made their mark, and 65 dolls were made for UNISA as gifts for the 26<sup>th</sup> World ICDE Conference.

We continue to work in partnership with the N3 Gateway to bring Namu the meerkat mascot to life and have approached the Midlands Meander Emerging Artists beading project to see if we could start towards giving an overflow of work to them to ensure that supply chain issues and time constraints for larger orders for handmade items can be overcome.

There are continuous challenges of funding and cash flow, our vision is currently far greater than our reach. As such we are constantly working towards more corporate work, finding partners who have a desire to be the change they wish to see, which means finding the purpose behind their brand and partnering with us as being their corporate gift supplier of choice. This is beneficial for them from a CSI and brand alignment point of view, working towards positive change within South Africa.





## Central Drakensberg Information Centre

By Chris Hearne

CDIC continues to be the 'go to' information outlet, not only for our specific region, but for the wider South Africa as well. It is also gratifying to know that the vast majority of venues now only refer visitors that cannot be accommodated at their particular venue to us at CDIC, knowing that we will do everything possible to find them somewhere acceptable to stay. This referral base certainly indicates that our office can be relied on to successfully manage these enquiries.

On-line booking had a detrimental effect on bookings, however, increasingly we are finding that groups, be they family reunions or companies looking for accommodation, use CDIC services more and more. It is very difficult to make multiple bookings for a diversity of clientele with differing requirements via the internet. The past three months has seen a number of such bookings being made, one being the BMW Motor Cycle Club. An estimated 800 BMW motor bikes descended on our area during that weekend. It was a pleasure having them and the 'beverage' profits for a number of establishments was certainly boosted by their visit.

Visitor numbers through our doors average over one hundred per day, with an average of 132 visitors per day during the very busy July school holidays. At the same time, approximately nine hundred telephone calls a month are made. We saw a



significant increase in the number of French tourists, many as families, during the European summer holidays (July/August) this year. Our other notable increase in visitors was from Eastern Europe, principally from the Czech Republic, however that came with some language challenges.

The cultural route, along the same lines as the Midlands Meander, proposed for the Amazizi area of the Northern 'Berg and being mentored by Ignite Africa, held its second meeting recently. There appears to be a good buy in for this project from the local community and we look forward to it becoming a reality. Overseas tourists are increasingly requesting an experience where they interact with the local Zulu people.

The Lala Khaya (Sleep out) project in the Weenen area has taken on an extra dimension in that it now no longer just caters for individuals wanting to 'sleep out' at a Zulu homestead, it is now also catering for school groups who want to do the same. Lala Khaya have already been booked by an overseas school coming to South Africa next year. This project has immense potential providing an insight into life in a rural environment with the possibility to uplift many peoples' lives.

The South African Embassy in Vienna has extended an official invitation to the Drakensberg Experience Tourism Association to be part of the South African Tourism stand at the tourism trade show to be held there in January 2016. This will be an expensive undertaking, but the possible huge tourism marketing exposure for the whole area will be of great benefit in our quest to promote the Drakensberg and surrounding area's full potential as a tourist destination.

We would like to share one or two of the latest reviews on Trip Advisor by international tourists:

*"We found this a great place to stop. When you are in the area, stop here for the information and a bit of shopping. Recommended!"*

*"This must be one of the best tourism information centres in South Africa. Very friendly and helpful staff."*

To conclude, we continue to be sincerely grateful to N3TC for the Enterprise Development funding we are receiving. Thank you for the trust placed in us, in acknowledging the important role CDIC is playing in the whole tourism network as we strive to grow tourism here in the Drakensberg and N3 Gateway region.





## Mpophomeni Conservation Group

By Nikki Brighton

Recently, we engaged the services of Nomfundo Myeni, an Mpophomeni resident passionate about permaculture and community, to assist us as Coordinator. We intend to grow this position and generate enough funds to employ Nomfundo permanently in 2016.

Many of the MCG activities are focused on ways to generate our own funds or earn personal income in future. Penz Malinga facilitated a Holiday Club in Bergville. Three days of fun and environmental education were had by nearly 200 children. Environmental Education Workshops is one of the ways MCG is able to generate their own funds.

Ntombenhle Mtambo was invited by local councilor Craig Millar to visit and advise the Emlandleni Community on their gardens. Craig: "Spreading the idea of sustainable, eco-friendly gardens to others in this low income area not only helps people put healthy food on the table in an environmentally friendly way, but actually builds community itself. Thank you for inspiring them."

MCG members ran a workshop in Tafuleni on behalf of Community Chest. Sma Sokhela: "Those MCG ladies have an amazing passion and patience for garden training. The groups that they have trained on our behalf are all so excited to start successful gardens, illustrating that training has proved to be fruitful. You guys are doing such an excellent work."



We have devised a detailed programme and quote for our Permaculture Workshops which we have sent to various organisations. In future facilitating workshops on Gardening and Healthy Living (including cooking demos) will earn MCG money to reduce reliance on funding.

Ntombenhle was invited by Community Chest to train three young men who will be creating Office Food Gardens in a new Community Chest Project around Pietermaritzburg. As they had never come across the principles of Permaculture before they were amazed and are well and truly converted! We hope that this will lead to more work for MCG in terms of training and monitoring.

Penz Malinga won the KZN Youth Achievers Awards in the Environment Category. Penz is a founder member of the Mpophomeni Conservation Group (MCG) and acknowledges that she would not have received the award if it were not for the support of other committed environmentalists within the group. "You (MCG) lift me higher" she said holding the golden horn trophy.

The Community Garden is one year old now. The progress since September 2014 when work began clearing the rubbish from the site is remarkable. MCG's reputation is growing far and wide with shoppers coming from Howick especially for their vegetables. Kate Chanthunya "The most beautiful, vegetable bounty freshly picked from the rich organic soil of the Mpophomeni Community Vegetable Garden. Incredible that a year ago it was just a bare patch of soil. Such an inspiring place made possible by amazing ladies." Records are kept of all sales and donations given from the garden. This amount increases monthly and we intend that eventually the garden will be self-sustaining, not reliant on funding for materials, management and labour.

The Seedling Nursery funded by N3TC is producing lots of seedlings under the guidance of Hleziphe Mbanjwa. Potentially this could be a real income generator for the garden and MCG projects. At the moment they are donating lots to plant in school gardens.

MCG has partnered with Reenen Renewable Energy Solutions on a project funded by the EEP (Environmental Energy Partnership). The aim is to introduce pellet burning stoves and wood pellet to rural and peri-urban areas. The purpose of the





project is to introduce a sustainable and easily accessible fuel source at a reasonable cost, as well as to create a sustainable business and jobs on the ground. This project fits perfectly with MCG aims as the founding members all already use these products and promote self-sufficiency in energy, water and food. It will also generate steady income for the agents, who not only get commission on the initial stoves sold, but commission every time the stove owner purchases a bag of pellets.

Mnandi – A Taste of Mpophomeni is a very exciting recipe book project suggested by dear Andy Visser. A print run of 2500 will generate over R400 000.00 for MCG projects. In Mpophomeni Township, joy is a fundamental part of living. Here food is grown from the heart, meals are meant to be shared and stories are told with pride. In this recipe book of fresh garden food, the people with their hands in the soil and their creative customers share their delight in seasonal produce. This is food that celebrates community and the environment. Nikki Brighton is



researching, photographing and writing the book. We hope that Mnandi will inspire others to take part in the magical process of growing and preparing food that is good for you and good for the planet too.

Along with many townships around South Africa, Mpophomeni outside of Howick has a 'problem' with rats. After hearing about the success that Eco-Solutions have had in Alexander Township in Johannesburg introducing owls to assist with the rat issue, MCG have decided to implement a similar Owl Box project in Mpophomeni. The project will be implemented by the Owl Box Project and run in partnership with the Raptor Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Finally, there is the Mhlanga Stream Park and Recycling Centre. The uMngeni Municipality is so impressed with the work of MCG that they have granted them permission to turn the land over the road from the community garden into a park. Currently, the area is very degraded and used as a dumping site for rubble and household waste. MCG believe that the area could be transformed into a community space which everyone could be proud of.

The first step is to alter old patterns and shift to a new reality. We have a vision of a healthier way of living in our community. This will be the first of a series of green spaces that will enrich our community and create hope. People get excited when they are empowered – we will demonstrate the power of community, teach people to generate money from waste, give them the tools to report sewage leaks and dumping, celebrate volunteer efforts with communal meals of locally grown food and inspire youngsters to understand the difference they can make in the world. We will draw on the traditional practice of *ilima* where people gathered to plant or harvest. We will create spaces where people can meet to discuss community issues, hear what the *inkosi* has to say, start stokvels and share stories. Currently there are no open spaces in Mpophomeni where gatherings like these can take place.

On Mhlango Road, there will be a fenced and manned recycling collection depot and a dumping area for non-recyclables for the municipality to collect. Without these options for residents, there would be little point creating the park. Simple signage will educate about the dangers of littering and destroying water resources. MCG will create a path all the way to the Library, build eco-brick benches, plant trees (with animal proof fencing) and restore the riparian zone. Zamilé Mtambo, project visionary, "Starting at uMhlanga stream we will become fearless eco-warriors going from section to section, encouraging and cleaning up the whole community."



## Project Gateway

By Di Milford

The Craft Training and Mentoring Programme aims to empower community based organisations and individuals from within the target communities. We do this by providing practical training in areas of creative product design, business and marketing strategies, as well as life skills such as human rights and HIV and AIDS awareness.

Project Gateway has run two Paradigm Shift Courses for new entrepreneurs in 2015, the first in May and the second in September. Each group comprised about thirty participants. The feedback from these courses has been very positive and during 2016 we hope to implement the second phase, which is more intense.



The Mentoring Programme offers on-site support as the crafters take what they've learned in the classroom and apply it to their businesses. This will enable them to take action for positive change within their lives and communities.

The challenge is always the sales of additional products. This challenge "pushed" Project Gateway into opening the **Wearable** Retail Shop on the Project Gateway site, the aim being for it to become a viable business entity in its own right. Project Gateway is situated on the site of the old Pietermaritzburg Prison. It is hoped the recent opening of the Prison Museum will generate more "feet" through the site, enhancing sales.

Every few months we contact our crafters who underwent the training programme to see how their businesses are doing. Follow-up information reflects positive results. Most have now completed their business plans, and all now have proper price lists, order forms and invoices.

The following are some of the many positive responses when asked if the craft course had been of help:

"The craft course was such a blessing. We are now making products that people want and not what we want to make. We are using our time wisely making products that sell. We have found a way of making the products in a time-saving way due to the course. We now save and pay each other salaries from our craft"

"My Business is growing. I put the customer first and sales and marketing "practical's" that I was taught have grown my knowledge of Business. I am innovative with my products and I'm pricing correctly. I can now see my profits."

"We have now trained six unemployed youth (men) and we have all opened our bank accounts. We are running our business finance well – that is huge for us because we can now see where the business money is going. It is not easy but we work hard and hope when we retire these young men can continue."

"We have changed some of our products and we now check our quality. The course changed my life."

Our plans for 2016 include enhancing UK sales, continuing to continue to empower local people by holding three Paradigm Shift Courses for ninety people, and further empowering those who have completed the first Paradigm Shift Course to continue with the second module of business training.

Project Gateway is very appreciative of the assistance we have received from N3TC.



## Senzakahle Co-operative

By Ntombizodwa Khoza

In 2008, the MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs visited the Mpofana area. We told him that the Mooi River Home Textiles factory, that we depended on, had closed down. He responded by advising us to form a co-operative and Senzakahle Co-operative was formed. Thereafter the MEC arranged training for us in co-operative business at the FET College.

We obtained a certificate of registration for our co-operative in 2010 and began to operate, using off-cut fabric that we bought from the factory that had closed down. We used our domestic machines and began sewing those off-cuts to produce scatter cushions, pillowcases etc. We sold our products to the community. We were pleased with the support we received from the community.



We were able to buy one flat industrial machine. We continued sewing and producing flat sheets, fitted sheets, duvet covers, curtains and everything related to bedding. During 2014, Mhlengi Sithole from Mpofana Municipality assisted us to get funding from N3TC. We were then able to buy fabric and a cutting table and began producing more products. We also received training in business administration and management through SEDA.

We received further funding from N3TC in 2015. N3TC is really helping us because we produce not only bedding, but also other products. As the business becomes sustainable, we are now facing a space problem, because we are operating out of premises for micro businesses.

What inspires our customers is that they can get everything they want from us because our business is nearby; they do not have to go far away or travel to town to get such products. Good news for the workers of our project is that they now get a stipend, which is benefiting themselves and their families.

Our way forward as Senzakahle Co-operative is to expand our business services. We have made a proposal to our local Mpofana Municipality to provide us with a piece of land which we can use to expand our business and we are waiting for its response. Our cutting, making and trimming sections need a more spacious place. We are also looking forward for more sewing machinery and other necessary equipment as we are intending to target certain markets where demand for our products will be very high.

We also look forward to working with big chain stores like Woolworths, Edgars, Ackerman's, etc. We will ask the Department of Economic Development to introduce us to factories where we can buy our fabric and any other new material of best quality. We will increase our workforce in order to create more job opportunities. We will also employ from the community, especially our local youth.

Our three year projection from now is to extend our working space and employ more people, especially youth and disabled people. Our aim is to employ fifty employees and more as the co-operative develops.



## Tsa Lapeng Designs

By Rheola van den Bosch and Cecilia Molefe

We have moved to new premises located at 30 Piet Retief Street, Harrismith. What an exciting adventure. Two shops up from the craft shop, the knitwear sewing workroom and training centre is situated and sewing, crochet and knitting classes are conducted here.

If you walk into our new showroom you are immediately greeted by a wonderful array of colour, quality and texture. We were privileged to have Marianne le Roux to help us to set up the shop. She is a Fine Artist and will be helping us with the training.



After first opening its new (antique) wooden doors at the beginning of May, the sales of the snug, elegant winter coats, knitwear tie-dye scarves & snoods, crocheted flowers, crochet beanies, beadwork and other items have boomed, for which we are very thankful. In this new location the knitwear takes on a whole new dimension. The shop stocks products from our ladies in the project and other artists in the surrounding areas.

Our products are also stocked in other shops in towns such as Clarens and the Midlands Meander.

The ladies who are permanently employed, are very happy in the new Premises. Aleta who was a hero in 2013 with her Mom, is now working for three days a week in our workshop. She is doing her crochet work on the other days and takes any work we have for the other ladies home with her to distribute.

Cecilia Molefe says this about the move:

*"Moving to the new shop and workshop, was a very good decision for the business's sake. We now have many, many more feet passing through our doors. For me it is WOW! And so exciting. I am so happy for us and the ladies that the project is getting more exposure. All I can say is "Rheola you are an African strong woman" - forward with Tsa Lapeng Designs and thank you to N3TC for all the support and friendship.*

The Sewing Course we are teaching is "I LOVE SEWING SOUTH AFRICA", consisting of four modules. It is a two-year course. The Training Centre is working very well for us now that everything is finally set up, with machines and cutting tables. Training takes place on Tuesdays (Quilting); and Wednesdays and Saturdays (Dressmaking).

Some of the ladies find it difficult to pay for transport, but still manage to come to the training. When they have finished the courses, they will be able to teach or start their own businesses.

Linda de Wet, a volunteer, conducts the quilting training. She says she loves sewing and patchwork and wanted to teach the ladies something to enrich their lives with, and which they could use to generate an income. In response the ladies have said: "What a lovely training, we are going to take it to the next level, to buy us some material and sell them, so that we can put food on the table for our families and save some of the money for our kids. We say to Rheola and Linda, thank you ladies you two are a rock".

Zeenath Warsally, who is conducting the dressmaking training, says:

*"I am teaching the "I LOVE SEWING SOUTH AFRICA" Dressmaking and Sewing Course to the ladies of Tsa Lapeng Designs Project. It gives me great pleasure to teach these ladies and I enjoy working with them. I look forward to completing all four levels of the curriculum".*

Marketing is always a challenge. It was very exciting to receive an order for 35 bags from N3TC. Thank you. We have purchased beautiful African fabrics and will be sewing Kaftans, Jackets and bags for our shop. No less than 374 jerseys were made and sold during the cold Harrismith winter.

Thank you once again for the funding and support we have received from N3TC. It has been a wonderful year for us, especially the training courses. We have enjoyed watching the ladies progressing and producing such beautiful work.



A person is seen from behind, wearing a yellow headband and a red life vest, paddling a kayak on a river. The kayak is orange and yellow. The background shows dense green foliage and water splashes. A semi-transparent purple band is overlaid across the middle of the image, containing the word 'sponsorships' in white. To the right of the text is a black footprint icon. The page number '101' is in a small purple box at the bottom center.

# sponsorships



**Another fantastic year has flown by and N3TC can certainly look back and be proud of the events it selected to sponsor this year.**

Sponsorships are typically regarded as marketing and brand awareness opportunities and while N3TC wants people to know about the company, our values and what we do, the N3TC-sponsored events go beyond building N3TC's brand reputation to touching lives meaningfully in the communities along the Route.

N3TC's stringent selection process and analysis of the events that apply for sponsorship ensures that the key criteria for sponsorship from N3TC is the extent of community support linked to the event.

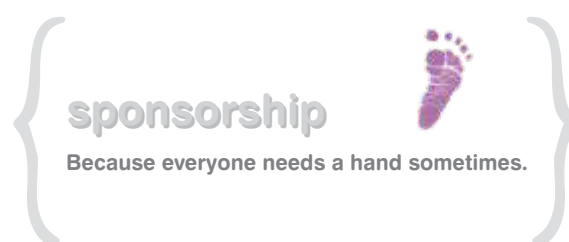
N3TC supports an array of different events from paddling to 24-hour mountain bike races, charity events and so much more! The events that N3TC sponsors are all community focused and have positive and many significant impacts that truly make a difference.

N3TC continued to make sure that supporters attending its sponsored events were well taken care of. The N3TC Chill Zone is one of the most effective ways of adding value to an event for supporters and participants alike. We have had wonderful feedback from the event organisers that the Chill Zone has created a space for people to linger longer at the events.

We trust that this report will give you better insight into each event and the commitment of the event organisers and those who volunteer their time to make them a success. The drive and passion behind these events lies with the organisers and those who volunteer. Without the commitment and action of these individuals, N3TC's sponsorship footprint wouldn't be what it is today.

N3TC is proud to work alongside the many volunteers and committed sporting enthusiasts who are not only community minded but community-connected. We thank them all for their dedication to making these events a success.

*Victoria Greeff*







## N3TC Drak Challenge

Project Co-ordinator	:	Stu Berry
Years Funded	:	Five
Province	:	KwaZulu-Natal
Website	:	<a href="http://www.drak.co.za">www.drak.co.za</a>

The N3TC Drak Challenge is one of N3TC's core sponsorships run under the auspices of the Canyon Canoe Club. Paddlers from all over South Africa travel to the beautiful Underberg in the Southern Drakensberg to tackle the Umzimkhulu River.

The 2015 event was another great occasion and opportunity to showcase the splendour of the Southern Berg. From a paddling perspective, however, the moderate to low water levels posed a challenge for some paddlers but as each paddler reached the finish they couldn't have been more satisfied for successfully conquering the great Umzimkhulu.

The Drak Descent MTB race was hosted, for the second time,

by the local MTB cycling club. The race takes place alongside the river giving riders a unique experience as they share in some of the paddling action along the way.

The 2015 Drak Challenge supported over 5000 beneficiaries from local charities and community schools. Furthermore, from a local economy perspective, this race is one of the biggest forms of generating an income for the Underberg community as paddlers spend the weekend with friends and family in the area.

*"Another Drak Challenge has come and gone. Once again it was a really special event with great weather, maybe a little hot, and a great vibe for the whole weekend. The water level once again tested our teams' organisational readiness but I am happy to report that the feedback we have received has all been very favourable and most importantly it was a safe event both on river and on road. I think the setup of the two finishes was the best so far, the chill zones were really great and appreciated by all." Richard Jardine, race director.*





## Midmar Mile

Project Co-ordinator	:	Wayne Riddin
Years Funded	:	Eight
Province	:	KwaZulu-Natal
Website	:	<a href="http://www.midmarmile.co.za">www.midmarmile.co.za</a>

The aQuellé Midmar Mile attracts over 13000 participants annually to the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. N3TC's sponsorship of the Midmar Mile focuses on water safety, which is closely aligned with the road safety imperatives linked to all our sponsorships. The life savers are geared up in visible N3TC branded swimwear, making it easier for swimmers to identify them in their time of need while in the water. Water safety is a primary concern for the Midmar Mile organisers and incorporates an integrated approach including the support of SAPS, Emergency Services and water safety devices that are all deployed and on standby for the duration of the event.

N3TC sponsored, for the first time, a Qualified Clinical

Psychologist who was available both days to support friends and family in the event of a traumatic experience. It is disheartening to report that the services of the Psychologist were necessary at the 2015 but proved to be a wonderful form of support to those who needed it.

The Midmar Mile has created an opportunity for swimmers to support charities of their choice – in other words, swimmers can swim for a cause! Six groups consisting of approximately 20 brave swimmers each, complete all eight races that make up the Midmar Mile event over the two days, this is known as the 8 Mile Club that collectively raises in excess of R1.5-million that is distributed to their respective charities.

The work of the Midmar Mile team and their commitment to supporting and developing swimming as a sport is applaudable. Apart from the 8 Mile Club, the proceeds from the Midmar Mile event, in part, contribute towards the running of the GC Jolliffe Swimming Pool where young aspiring swimmers start their journey to becoming Olympic level swimmers.





## N3TC Arthur Cresswell Memorial Marathon

Project Co-ordinators : Mariette and Dave Steele  
Years Funded : Six  
Province : KwaZulu Natal  
Website : [www.ladysmithathleticsclub.co.za](http://www.ladysmithathleticsclub.co.za)

The N3TC Arthur Cresswell Memorial Marathon took place in Ladysmith on 11 April 2015. This road running event is a Comrades Marathon qualifier and is known for attracting serious Comrades Marathon contenders. Furthermore, the race is internationally certified and hopes to attract more international athletes in the future.

Three races make up the Arthur Cresswell Memorial Marathon. The 5km Khanyisile Fun Run; N3TC 21km Half Marathon and the 52km Ultra Marathon. These three events are organised by a dedicated team of 50 volunteers from the Ladysmith Athletics club, the event's host club.

On a local economic level, many Ladysmith businesses benefit from the event directly through the food and retail facilities provided at the race finish. In addition, the tourism industry receives a welcome boost as the local accommodation venues fill up as runners and their families to stay for the weekend.



The Khanyisile Trust is the event's official charity, which receives approximately R10 000 per year from the proceeds of the race.

As with most of the events sponsored by N3TC, development of the respective sport is essential. The Ladysmith Athletics Club implemented a very successful Youth Development Programme five years ago; and we are pleased to report that one of the original runners to be selected to participate in the Programme, Siya, completed the half marathon and received a silver medal for his efforts. Siya's success is attributed to his perseverance. He takes his training seriously and has shown his passion and eagerness to compete and excel in road running.

N3TC's Chill Zone was once again erected in the finish area and was the perfect place for supporters to put their feet up and watch the runners make their way across the finish line on a hot, sunny day with a cold drink in one hand and a burger in the other.



## Meals on Wheels Cycle Event

Project Co-ordinator	:	Louis Harmse
Years Funded	:	Five
Province	:	Gauteng
Website	:	<a href="http://www.spectrumsport.co.za">www.spectrumsport.co.za</a>

N3TC is the title sponsor of the Meals on Wheels Cycle event which took place on 20 September 2015 in Heidelberg. Cyclists have the choice of competing in a 90km; 45km or a fun 5km race on race day. Many of the cyclists use this event as part of their training programme for the Momentum 94.7 Cycle Challenge.

Race day proved somewhat challenging for the cyclists as the wind picked up drastically and many cyclists found themselves battling the crosswind being blown into other cyclists. Despite the challenge of the wind, the majority of the cyclists successfully completed their respective races without serious injury.

One of the highlights of the race was the story of a seven year

old boy who completed the 90km race on a tandem with his father. Certainly a champion in the making!

N3TC's Chill Zone was erected for supporters to relax and enjoy some of the locally produced food after wandering amongst the crafters selling their unique hand-made goodies.

The event raises much-needed funds for Meals on Wheels which provides meals to the elderly and the poverty stricken people in Gauteng's Vaal region.

To support the efforts of Meals on Wheels, N3TC embarked on an internal campaign to collect canned food which helped to fill three bins of food that were donated to the organisation at the end of race day.

In keeping with N3TC's focus to support the local community, wholesome food parcels were delivered to two of Sedaven's local communities. The long term goal for this initiative is to identify leaders who would be interested in developing food gardens to ensure sustainability for the families living in these communities.





# community events



## Comrades Marathon – Polly Shortts Water Point

Project Co-ordinator	:	Wayne Riddin
Years Funded	:	Seven
Province	:	KwaZulu-Natal
Website	:	<a href="http://www.comrades.co.za">www.comrades.co.za</a>

N3TC's supports the Comrades Marathon through its partnership with Seals Swimming Club (Midmar Mile). N3TC sponsors the Seals' water point located at the top of the infamous Polly Shortts, which is notorious for separating the 'men from the boys' in the 'up' run. N3TC's involvement is directly attributable to the fact that many Comrades Marathon runners use the N3 Toll Route over this weekend.



## SPCA 1000 Paws Walk presented by The Sunday Tribune

Project Co-ordinator	:	Tess Fernandez
Years Funded	:	Two
Province	:	KwaZulu Natal
Website	:	<a href="http://www.umngenispcas.org.za">www.umngenispcas.org.za</a>

An estimated 3000 people along with 800 of their furry friends participated in this year's event. The Event took place at Hilton College and included three events. A 2km level walk around the sports field; a 4km ramble through Wattle plantations with views of the uMngeni Valley and Albert Falls Dam; and for those who preferred to compete and see what their furry family members could achieve, the Paws Challenge Obstacle Course for dogs.

The proceeds of the Event fund the work of three local SPCA organisations, namely; Pietermaritzburg SPCA; Mooi River SPCA; and Howick-uMngeni SPCA. These three SPCA Outreach Programmes use the funds raised through the event for their ongoing work to alleviate and prevent animal suffering through neglect, ignorance and cruelty; and the provision of regular animal-related medical care and sterilisation.

Furthermore, these SPCAs assist when animals in transit are victims of crashes on the N3 Toll Route by ensuring that they receive any necessary medical attention; or by providing a place of safety for livestock that may have ventured onto the N3.



The greatest achievements were at first,  
and for some time,

dreams



## Greytown MTB Festival

Project Co-ordinator	:	Glen Meter
Years Funded	:	Six
Province	:	KwaZulu Natal
Website	:	<a href="http://www.greytownmtb.co.za">www.greytownmtb.co.za</a>

The Greytown MTB Festival took place on the weekend of 2 May 2015. The event was the brainchild of the teachers of St David's School in Greytown who were in desperate need of funds to expand the school. Over the years, the Festival has grown significantly and now supports a number of local charities in the area, including St David's School. The beneficiaries use the proceeds for infrastructure upgrades and to cover maintenance costs.

Beneficiaries supported by the event included:

- Greytown Children's Home;
- Arcadia Home For The Aged;
- St Davids Primary School;
- Wembley College;
- Kammaland Pre-Primary School;
- SPCA; and
- G911 Local Policing Forum.

## Over the Edge MTB Race

Project Co-ordinator	:	Van Reenen/Swinburne Tourism Co-Operative
Years Funded	:	Four
Province	:	Free State
Website	:	<a href="http://www.vanreenentourism.co.za">www.vanreenentourism.co.za</a>

The Over the Edge MTB event covers three races, the 45 Km Over the Edge, a 21 km and a 10 km for the kiddies. The Race starts and ends at the Green lantern Inn in the small town of Van Reenen giving supporters an experience of the friendly Van Reenen community.

Cyclists come from far and wide to participate in the event, and many marvel at the spectacular scenery in the area. The scenery is certainly one of the advantages in participating in this event.

A unique feature of this MTB race, is that spectators can follow the progress of the cyclists for almost 50% of the race from a view point in front of the Petrol Pipeline Pump Station. Entries again exceeded the previous year's record, indicating a growing interest in the event.

The event aims to attract visitors to Van Reenen and boost tourism in Van Reenen and Swinburne.





## N3TC Royal Drakensberg MTB Challenge

Project Co-ordinator	:	Megan Bedingham
Years Funded	:	Five
Province	:	KwaZulu Natal
Website	:	<a href="http://www.royaldrakmtb.co.za">www.royaldrakmtb.co.za</a>

The Royal Drakensberg MTB Challenge took place on 19 April and 290 participants completed the event. The Drakensberg MTB Trails are situated in a pristine valley in the Northern Drakensberg. The network of sweeping single track makes this area a fantastic MTB destination. Marked trails, friendly marshals and well-stocked water tables guaranteed that this was an easily navigated ride and overall, a great event.

The range of rides and races offered in the Challenge meant that there was something for everyone. The technical 50km Extreme provided a challenging ride for the die-hards while the intermediate 20km was a fantastic ride with a few challenges in-between. The 10km beginners ride offered a wonderful experience for those starting out or for families looking to enjoy time together. The event is hosted by All Out Adventures, which provides a wonderful space for riders to relax after the race and is a hub of activity for spectators.

The Royal Drakensberg MTB Challenge has been one of the main fundraisers for the Royal Drakensberg Primary School that provides quality education to children in the Northern Drakensberg. This is a vital education project in this rural area where children can often be forgotten and schooling can be less than adequate. Families who are unable to afford the full fees are assisted through the financial assistance programme which this race helps to finance.



## Trans Draak 24-hour MTB Quest

Project Co-ordinator	:	Gerrie Steenkamp
Years Funded	:	Five
Province	:	Free State and KwaZulu Natal
Website	:	<a href="http://www.transdrakensberg.co.za">www.transdrakensberg.co.za</a>

This is an event for the serious MTB enthusiast and especially those looking to test their perseverance and fitness levels.

A total of 167 riders lined up at the start of the 5th Trans Draak 24hr MTB Quest on 28 February 2015. Although wet and muddy conditions threatened, the organisers decided to go ahead with the Quest's planned route.

This Trans Draak race takes riders over 207km of challenging terrain through the Van Reenen and Drakensberg escarpment. The event starts at Montrose, just off the N3 Toll Route, and finishes at the ATKV Drakensberg Holiday Resort.

The new route took riders on a thrilling downhill ride at Van Reenen which included a road tunnel, built in the early 1860's, and a section through remote natural forest at the foot of Van Reenen's Pass. No rain occurred during the first half of the race which allowed riders to ride at a blistering pace. The organisers introduced the Mini Trans Draak Race to the Quest in 2014. The 2015 Mini Trans Draak took riders on a 146km journey, a longer distance than the previous year, with the objective to improve the rider's experience.

The Trans Draak Quest organisers were able, through the proceeds of the race, to award a scholarship to Siyabonga Radebe from Hope House in Harrismith to assist with his schooling costs in 2015. The Trans Draak event aims to award more scholarships in the future as children whose foundations are rooted in education are bound to have a successful future.

The Khanyisile Trust is the official charity linked to the event and has, as a result of the funds donated to the organisation, erected a kitchen at one of the community schools this year.

*"Just a short note of thanks for a fantastic event. When asked what were my highlights and lowlights, my answer was a short and simple one. Highlight - the fantastic organisation. Low light - the mud. Roll on 2016. Thanks again." Tommy Sylvester, 2015 Participant.*





# skills development







**Skills Development is surely one of the greatest challenges facing South Africa. Daily, we read how our economy is constrained by a lack of skills, and how ordinary men and women with talent but no, or inadequate, skills struggle to find work, provide for their families, and rise above the clutches of poverty.**

The N3 Toll Route Corridor from Cedara to Heidelberg is no exception to the challenges facing our country in this regard. Indeed, given its predominantly rural nature, the Corridor reflects a paucity of skills that in turn translates into joblessness and hopelessness.

N3TC is not able to be all things to all people in addressing this lack of skills. It does not have the capacity or resources to do so. However, the skills development component of N3TC's Touching Lives programme is nonetheless far-reaching and geared to make a life-changing difference to individuals and communities who call the N3 Corridor home.

*Con Roux*



# top-up bursaries: basic education



## Drakensberg Boys Choir School

by Brad Glasspoole

The term “naughty angels” is a great description of the boys of the Drakensberg Boys Choir School situated in the heart of the KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg. What the public, locally and internationally, has fallen in love with is not only the melodic voices and African rhythms, but the angelic look of the boys on stage.

The angelic part is partially deceptive as these are boys who go to school in one of the most spectacular campuses in the world, on a farm in Drakensberg. Their swimming pool is the river and their playground is the fields around the school. What you see on stage is their professionalism and love of the art they practise, but what you see at the school is a group of young men who love the fresh air and outdoor living of the Drakensberg.

It is this “ying and yang” that makes this institution so unique. Whilst there are many great school choirs in South Africa, many conducted by Old Boys, the DBCS is the only “choir school” in Africa and one of very few world-wide. It provides the best of both worlds for musically talented boys allowing them an opportunity to nurture their musical talent but at the same time it is the fresh air and outdoors that are unmatched by any urban school.

It is a truly representative school with boys from grade 4 to 9 from South and southern Africa. Entry to the School is by way of a music audition which is not quite as stressful as it may sound. The music staff look (hear) for talent that in many cases parents

may not even be aware of. If one passes this audition there is a check of academic performance as the school curriculum combined with the music is demanding on the boys. If both boxes are ticked, then the boy is offered a position at the school.

Many of the boys who attend the school do so through the generosity of funders such as N3TC who assist with the school's bursary programme.

When we first began our relationship with N3TC we did an active drive in the local community surrounding the N3 Toll Route. There were a great many talented boys discovered during this process and their parents were then required to fill in application forms for bursary funding.



Under the heading of “assets” the mother of one of the most talented boys had written “Rake, fork and spade”. I still to this day have to take a moment after writing or telling the story as it put it all into perspective, he simply had nothing but his talent. If the DBCS had not received bursary funding from the N3TC to allow him to pursue his talents at the School, there is little or no chance that he would now have gone on to receive a full scholarship to one of the top independent schools in the country, excelling at academics, sport and music.

Which takes me back to the beginning. We can only thank each of our funders for helping this “choir with a school” provide opportunities for talented boys to excel.

Who knows, one day someone may well be handing the baton to one of the boys funded by N3TC.

**An up-date from Luyanda Mazibuko** (who graduated from Drakes at the end of 2014)

The first few days at my new school were a little overwhelming as I was used to a much smaller environment. Fortunately, a fellow Grade 10 student, Siya, was assigned to me as a mentor – his advice and guidance helped me to adjust to my new school. As much as I miss the Drakie family and being a part of the Drakensberg Boys Choir School, I already feel that St. Stithians College is my new home.

After passing the voice and drumming audition, as well as sight-singing tests, I was accepted into the Dukes of Cornwall Singers training programme – this is going very well! This term I will be inducted into the Dukes.

I have joined the Djembe Jitaz, a drumming squad – we perform at various cultural events. Being a part of this club complements my drumming studies as I am currently doing the Grade 5 Rock School course.

In between the various music rehearsals I manage to take part in rugby and soccer – I really enjoy the camaraderie associated with being part of a team.

I am working hard on my academics this year and have so far managed to achieve respectable grades, three of which were distinctions last term. As I am unsure of what career path to take I have chosen a broad spectrum of subjects, including Advanced Programme Mathematics and Science.

I am enormously grateful to N3 Toll Concession who sponsored me whilst at the Drakensberg Boys Choir School. Being a part of this world class choir taught me skills and gave me a solid foundation. Furthermore, doors were opened for me to attend a prestigious school like St. Stithians and to be awarded a scholarship from Virgin Galactic in this next phase of my life.



**Nhlanhla Mdladla** produced some very good results during the year and progressed very well. He maintains an overall average of above 70%. In choir he demonstrates a keen interest and is setting a good example.

**Dean Cronje** is slowly progressing academically. He struggles to memorise things which might still be a consequence of the accident that he was involved in. In the choir Dean is doing well. He has a wonderful stage personality.

**Odirile Mokoma** has delivered a satisfactory performance throughout the year but does need to focus on improving in one or two subjects. He demonstrates a keen interest in choir, and is showing good progress. If he can maintain a positive attitude, he will be highly successful.

**Nathaniel Stoffel's** academic progress throughout the year

was satisfactory and he maintains an average of above 65% overall. He is a respected alto in the choir and, in general, is an asset to the choir.

**Ndumiso Nhlapo's** academic progress during 2015 was highly commendable. If he continues like this I foresee very good end of year results. He is currently 3<sup>rd</sup> in his class with an overall average above 80%. In the choir he demonstrates a keen interest as well. In general he is a superb chorister and a valuable asset to the school.

**Leroux van Zyl's** academic progress was satisfactory and he maintains an overall average above 68%. He does very well in Visual Art and loves drawing. In the choir he showed good development as well. He shows a lot of responsibility towards his duties in the choir.

## Kwazamokuhle School for the Disabled

by Peta Diack

The N3TC top up bursary fund is managed by the Kwazamokuhle CBR Project which is based at Kwazamokuhle School outside Estcourt in KwaZulu-Natal.

It is so humbling that sometimes, something small can make such a difference in the life of a person who is really in need. Although the pupils on the Kwazamokuhle top-up bursary fund are not necessarily high achievers academically, each one of them "shines" in their own special way and their achievements are truly great in the context of their disability.

The wise words of one of the top-up pupils, Kwanele Dlamini, can always be applied to life "It is not what I can't do that is important to see, but rather what I can do!"

**The CBR committee decided to put a portion of the funding towards a wheelchair for a very disabled boy.**

### Lungelo Majola

Lungelo is 12 years old and has Arthrogryposis which causes tightness of his soft tissues and muscles resulting in contractures and weakness. Lungelo had been schooling in Durban, but the long distance from home was a problem and he applied at Kwazamokuhle School.



Lungelo was in desperate need of a new wheelchair as his one was old and broken. We were fortunate to get him assessed and measured by the Shonaquip therapists as he needed a wheelchair that gives support for his spinal deformity.

Lungelo is an amazing young boy who needs total care as he has no hand function and is dependent on a wheelchair for mobility. He writes beautifully using his mouth. He initially taught himself to read and write and would even help other kids with their homework.

### Updates on the other Kwazamokuhle students:

**Kwanele Dlamini** has received his laptop stand and headpointer. It was such a joy to get a phone call from Kwanele one evening. He is so expressive in his way of talking and his words of gratitude were "Thank you! It is amazing and incredible to be given help to make me a better person". Kwanele is achieving well at Adelaid Tambo Special School and is now participating in sport and plays Boccia. There are still plans for his school Principal to arrange a class aid to assist him with class work and the end of year exams.



**Siyanda Dumakude** continues to enjoy schooling at Open Air Special School. Extra Maths lessons were arranged for him in the July holidays as he was struggling with some of the Grade 8 algebra. A local maths teachers went to Siyandas home for five sessions and it was great as he had one-on-one attention. Siyanda has found an interest and that is singing in the school choir. He has enjoyed going on trips with the choir for competitions as it has given him the chance to travel to Johannesburg.



**Wendy Hlongwane** has continued to achieve in wheelchair tennis. She was again chosen to play in a wheelchair tennis competition in Gauteng. A variety of clothes were bought for Wendy to see her through winter as well as her other personal hygiene needs. Her tremendous gratitude for the contributions to her schooling and wellbeing are evident in the thank you note that she sent, expressing how wonderful it is that she is considered worthy of such help.



## PROTEC Pietermaritzburg Academy

by Rose Smuts

In the 2015 national matric exams, the Admissions to Bachelors Degree Study – University Entrance Rate was 20.8%. A phenomenal 100% of the 38 pupils participating in the Protec programme achieved this feat, amassing 84 distinctions, including 18 in Maths and Physical Science (national PASS rates in these subjects 16% and 14% respectively). Congratulations on a remarkable achievement.

2015 has been a wonderfully busy and successful year here at PROTEC PMB. Class places filled up rapidly as soon as schools opened for the 2015 academic year, and we had huge numbers of hopeful candidates in Grades 8 – 12, writing our entrance tests. All candidates must opt to study both core Mathematics and Physical Science to matric in order to be considered, and they must be getting reasonably good results.

It is very important to be a participant at PROTEC PMB – someone who is prepared to give an opportunity their BEST SHOT! And we are not short of enthusiastic, hard-working students who fall into this category.

Our highlights in 2015 included Career Guidance Assessments; Vula Programme Career Day; N3TC Maths & Science Winter School; Personal Development Camp to L'Abri, Karkloof Valley; SAICE Bridge Building – KZN Contest; Grade 9 Subject Choice Workshop & IDEAS Psychometric assessment; Life Science Workshops; "Acceptable Teenage Behaviour at School and in the Home"; Grade 12 Workplace Preparedness Workshop and Workplace Experience Week; Balanced Diet & Microwave Cookery Workshop – "Varsity Life Skills"; and practical Science experiments

Along with these amazing highlights, all thirty Saturday School sessions involving the teaching of English written, spoken and literature skills, Mathematics, Physical Science and World of Work (Career Guidance & Life Skills) were held as planned. The three weeks of Vacation school were also held as scheduled, and an industrious and business-like atmosphere pervaded our classrooms throughout the year.

Our post-students must also not be forgotten; of particular interest is the story of our two qualified civil engineering technicians, who are now employed by N3 Toll Concession as inters at the N3TC Route Maintenance sites. They are Mphilwenthle "Mpilo" Mncube (PROTEC PMB 2009) and Sipheshile Dladla (PROTEC PMB 2010), who have both written to us to say how wonderful it is to be working on site for N3TC this year!

Sipheshile wrote a detailed letter to us a month after joining N3TC, describing his comfortable accommodation, new bed and fridge! He then popped in to see us a fortnight ago, telling us that he was enjoying a long weekend off and was back in Pietermaritzburg doing some essential shopping and catching up with his family and friends.

The appreciation of these young men for the opportunities offered by PROTEC PMB for enabling them to make the grade to get into university and to graduate with a credible qualification; and N3TC for empowering them in the civil engineering workplace, is enormous!

Furthermore our post-students Londeka Ximba (4<sup>th</sup> year BSc Civil Engineering), Thandiwe Khoza (3<sup>rd</sup> year BSc Environmental Science) and Sifiso Kunene (BSc Civil Engineering 2<sup>nd</sup> Year), are also extremely grateful for their N3TC tertiary study bursaries, and the interest in their well-being.

The following is a summarised list of PROTEC PMB students who have received support in 2015 from N3TC:

Student and Grade	Results: Mid Year 2015	Comments:
Onke MADLANGA Grade 8	Maths: 85% Natural Science: 70% English: 78%	Onke is a happy and hard-working young lady; she stays in Dambaza, Greater Edendale with her mother, father and brother (who is also a PROTEC PMB student). Onke is very hard-working and is proud to be a PROTEC PMB student – we expect her to do very well at year end
Kwanele KHUMALO Grade 9	Maths: 84% Natural Science: 73% English: 77%	Kwanele is a hardworking young man whose mother is a teacher, and father a traffic officer. Kwanele's sister, Thobeka, attended PROTEC PMB until 2014 when she matriculated. Thobeka is now studying BSc Hydrology at UniZul. Kwanele is attaining very good results and intends studying Maths and Physical Science to matric. We expect him to continue to do well.
Asanda JALI Grade 10	Maths: 60% Physical Science: 57% English: 51%	Asanda attends Fundokuhle High School and lives at home with her mother. Asanda's marks have dropped a bit since last term, but she is determined to regain the lost ground and to do very well at year end.
Anele DLADLA Grade 10	Maths: 83% Physical Science: 70% English: 67%	Anele lives with her mother and extended family in Azalea, Greater Edendale. She attends Nsikayethu Secondary School, which is working hard to raise its academic standard. Anele is a focused and hardworking student and we expect her to continue to excel.
Sibusiso CELE Grade 11	Maths: 96% Physical Science: 59% English: 44%	Sibusiso lives at home in Imbali, Edendale with his mother and older Sister. He is a hardworking young man who is brilliant in Mathematics. Sadly Sibusiso's English needs a lot of hard work so that his results in Science can also improve. It is a sad fact that many PROTEC PMB students coming from rural and semi-rural areas ONLY speak or hear English at PROTEC PMB. Writing examinations in English is therefore a huge challenge.
Zama "Pinky" NDAWONDE Grade 11	Maths: 70% Physical Science: 70% English: 79%	Pinky is a hardworking student who lives with her mother in Imbali, Greater Edendale. She is hardworking and loves Maths – PROTEC is essential in keeping her focused on building her knowledge in Maths and Science. Her school does not always have qualified teachers in place.
Sipheshile CELE Grade 12	Maths: 78% Physical Science: 74% English: 82%	Sipheshile lives with his unemployed father and extended family, in Imbali, Greater Edendale. He has always been a very hard worker and his results reflect the effort he continues to put in; he hopes to study either Medicine or Teaching in 2016.
Samkelo MACINGA Grade 12	Maths: 85% Physical Science: 86% English: 80%	Samkelo lives with his father and aunt in Mantaunya, Edendale. He comes from a very poor background, but has not let this deter him in his quest to do well. He is hoping to study either Civil or Electrical Engineering. He is very focused and is achieving excellent results. We wish him well – a very deserving young man indeed!



## Royal Drakensberg Primary School

by Megan Bedingham

The Royal Drakensberg Primary School has grown from strength to strength under the careful guidance of our Head Teacher, Sue Kraupner. Our young staff remain committed and excited about education and the little people are continuously striving to do their very best.

As a small school in the great outdoors, with a range of children from diverse backgrounds, we provide a safe space for learning. The creation of this school has been a journey for all those involved and the challenges have brought enormous growth. We have learnt that when one door closes there is often a great ladder that emerges with a basket of wonders that we could never have imagined.

We have two fundraisers which have helped keep us afloat. The Royal Drakensberg MTB Challenge, sponsored by N3TC, and our Big 5 Hike. What makes these two events so special is that they are in our valley, sharing the mountainside with active families and friends with a common goal which is to help uplift this rural community through education.

We remain committed to helping each child realise their potential and we help them grow not only academically but through guidance developing important values which we know will help create a successful country; Integrity, Kindness, Respect and Hard Work.

We are grateful to N3TC for their continued support of our project through their contributions to our scholarship fund. These children are able to enjoy a quality education as a result:

**Kabelo Mabula** is a delightful, creative pupil who has an impressive command of the English language. She is a very eager learner and reads extensively. She loves the time she spends at school and makes the most of all she is offered here. She has a phenomenal thirst for knowledge and loves researching any topic of interest, to find out as much information as possible.



**Fortunate Khumalo** is a hard working girl that takes pride in her school work and has a positive attitude towards her work and school. Fortunate is a confident girl and makes valuable contributions to our class discussions. She is well loved among her peers and is always willing to lend a helping hand.



**Sizwe Khumalo** is a delightful boy. He is always ready to have fun and is loved by his peers. He always makes an extra effort to present work that is beautiful. He has a good attitude at school and is respectful to teachers in and out the classroom. Sizwe adds great value to our classroom.



**S'lindelo Hlatshwayo** is a kind and caring boy who always makes sure that his friends are happy and have everything they need. He loves writing interesting sentences, and



will always attempt to make each sentence longer than the one before. S'lindelo enjoys playtime and will often lead an intricate game of Lego Town, where he is the mayor.

**Ayanda Dlamini** loves reading any kind of story he may come across. He is adept at decoding any challenging word due to his advanced reading skills. He is a valued member of the class and will often help his fellow classmates with their work once he has completed his own work. He is always happy and has an infectious giggle; which contributes toward the positive atmosphere in the grade 2 class.



**S'yabonga Mthethwa** is a confident young boy, who works hard and always does his best. He is eager to read and is always up for the challenge of reading new books. He enjoys working with numbers and is happy to try working with bigger numbers. He is a very friendly boy who gets on well with all his classmates.



**Katleho Lekhula** is a hard working young girl, who is always trying her best. She is eager to learn new things, and is always willing to help those around her. She enjoys playing games with her friends, and is very cheerful and talkative in class.



**Esihle Nkosi** is a quiet young boy who is always proud of the work that he hands in. He is eager to read at every opportunity, and enjoys playing with Lego. Esihle loves playing with his classmates and his favourite game to play is noughts and crosses. He is always happy to help others in the class.



**Asiphe Radebe** is a curious boy who is always asking questions about the world around him. He loves nature and enjoys taking care of his environment. Asiphe is intuitive and knows when somebody is not happy. He is informative and enjoys sharing his knowledge during class discussions. He is a skilled soccer player and takes this game very seriously when he is playing with his friends.



## St. David's Diocesan School

by Janet Klapprott

The school is well-known in the district and competition for the places for 143 pupils is fierce. Forty applications were received for Grade 1 in 2016 and only eighteen places are available. Our mix of races, languages and cultures in the school continues. This multiracial aspect benefits our pupils and enables us to fulfill our original vision, mission, and motto of *Ubuntu*. We pride ourselves on being able to pay individual attention to each child and to know all the children by name.

The main project, a staff room, has now been completed. One of the teachers created a beautiful flower bed below the windows, which she planted with shrubs, succulents and Namaqualand daisies. She also added a large earthenware container resplendent with a white rose bush to adorn the entrance.

The biggest challenge in Greytown is the shortage of clean water. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that water is being turned off during the day and night. Our parents have taken responsibility for emergency measures to avoid closure of the school. One of our learner's grandmothers, on her own initiative, took it upon herself to spend many hours visiting businesses personally for donations to purchase a 5,000 litre water tank and plinth. This task was carried out without complaint despite the fact that this courageous lady suffers from a hip and knee condition which makes walking difficult and painful.

A small boy in Grade 1 was diagnosed with Perthes' Disease and has to wear a custom-made brace from hip to toe, which necessitates the use of crutches. He has adapted to his situation and tries to put on a brave face, despite the fact that he cannot join in sports or break dance (his favourite activity). His classmates are happy to lend a helping hand, especially his very caring sister who is in the same class, and the boys take turns to accompany him to the toilet to make sure he doesn't fall. His mother wrote us a thank you note saying, *"What a dedicated and caring school St. David's is. You have really gone out of your way to accommodate Cameron and his condition. Thank you."*

Our bursary holders' parents were all absolutely delighted for the financial help offered to their children.

### Awande and Anele Ntshingila

are twins and the youngest members of a large family of academics. Anele, especially, produces work of a consistently high standard and her brother Awande is fast closing the gap between them. They are very responsible, competitive and determined. Awande has a lovely sense of humour. He is good at sports and was awarded the Junior Achiever Cup at the Interhouse Athletics. The twins are insightful, affectionate and an asset to St. David's. Their parents wrote, *"We wish to thank N3 Toll Concession for awarding a bursary to our children. The amount will give us relief since of our daughters is at the University of Johannesburg and we are struggling with the university fees."*



**Sinenhlanhla Lerolle** is a lovely, polite, well-mannered pupil. She is reliable, works well and is intelligent. Her strongest subject is Maths, for which she achieved 86% in the mid-year exams. She lives with her single mother and grandmother who are both unemployed. Her father struggles to pay the fees as he also supports his family in Pinetown. Last year the teachers provided food parcels to the family as the children were not registered for a grant. We phoned Social Welfare and the grants have now been sorted out.



Sine's mother thanks N3TC for the bursary and writes, *"May God bless the helping hands always."*

**Victor Mpofu** is a delightful learner. He works hard and tries his best at all times. In the mid-year exams he achieved a lovely set of results, his best marks being 81% for History, 79% for Social Sciences, 78% for Geography and 74% for Maths.



Victor's mother wrote to N3TC, *"It is with humility and profound gratitude that I accept this wonderful bursary granted to my child. It has come at a very crucial time when I have just buried my sister and my family is still recovering from the financial strain. This assistance is also going to be a big help for me as I am planning to further my studies next year. I would like to become a teacher and give back to my community by teaching their children. I promise to continue teaching my son Victor respect, good behaviour and to do his best academically. Thank you so much for this generous and meaningful support."*

**Aphiwe Khanyile** has a pleasant nature and is a quiet, responsible learner. He works independently and does not hesitate to ask for help when he is stuck or does not understand something. He is polite and has a well-developed sense of responsibility towards the school's property and his own belongings. He has a good understanding of mathematical concepts and is achieving well in this subject. He enjoys sport, especially rugby and soccer. He also won the 800m athletics race in his age group.



His mother wrote a letter thanking N3TC for her son's bursary and thanked the school for nominating her son as a beneficiary. She said that the teachers were kind to the children and that she was proud of the school.

**Asanda Mbatha** is a very independent, responsible child, due to the fact that she is looked after by a domestic worker during the week because her mother teaches at a rural school and only comes home at weekends. Asanda is self-reliant and works conscientiously to achieve her best. She is friendly and outgoing, with an inquiring mind, and participates fully in class activities. The school sponsored her to attend the annual three-day camp, which her mother could not afford. In the mid-year exams her best mark was 79% for Maths.



Asanda's mother is a single parent. Her eldest daughter is at



university. She wrote to N3TC, *"We as a family are grateful and humbled by your company's contribution to our child's education. We guarantee that she will not disappoint you as she knows our family situation. We thank N3 Toll Concession for the opportunity they have given to my child. May God bless you."*

**Aphiwe Shange's** mother died when she was small. Her father is a hospital orderly in Durban and sent his daughter to live with her sister at Tugela Ferry. He struggles to pay her school fees. Aphiwe is friendly, outgoing, with a pleasant manner and always gives of her best. She takes her work seriously. She works quickly and accurately in Maths. In the mid-year exams her best mark was 79% for Maths.



**Nkosinathi Ngubane** is a tall boy for his age but with a soft heart and very caring nature. His mother is a school cleaner and has great hopes for Nkosi to achieve well. Therefore he works with great responsibility. In the mid-year exams his aggregate was 70%. His mother has taught him good manners and respect. He is a member of the soccer team and he also broke the record for the U12 400m at the Interhouse Athletics this year.



His mother wrote, *"I write to thank N3 Toll Concession for their kindness to build our child's future. This means a lot to my family and gives hope to us that our son will be the one who can develop our family and let our family dreams come true. God bless all the members of the Board."*

**Jade Jonck** is a friendly, popular pupil who gets along well with all her classmates.

Always smiling and full of life, she brings a positive attitude to the class; she is very helpful and a natural leader. Academically, Jade is a hardworking dedicated pupil and produces work of a high standard. She came first in class with an aggregate of 73%. She loves reading and is often to be seen with a book in hand, ready to immerse herself in the story at the first available moment. She is also very enterprising, baking cakes in her spare time to sell for pocket money.



Jade's mother has a home industry selling chickens and her father is a policeman. Her parents wrote to N3TC, *"We wish to thank you for the bursary awarded to our daughter Jade. In these difficult financial times any form of assistance is greatly appreciated."*

## Villiers Hoërskool

by Wilma Malherbe

The Villiers Hoërskool Learner Assistance Programme provides quality education to ten deserving learners. These learners come from poor families and the assistance given makes it possible for them to complete their studies. The success of this programme is clear, in that all the learners supported are staying on in school to complete their education. All of these learners are performing to their potential academically and some excel at difficult subjects like maths and physics. Hennie van Schalkwyk, who was also in the 2014 programme, is the elected chairman of the Representative Council of Students 2015.

I started as the new principal at the beginning of the second term. The number of learners in the school is currently slowly increasing – an upward trend that we hope will continue.

At the District Award Ceremony, Villiers High School was one of only four schools in the District that achieved 100% pass for 2014 grade 12 results. At the same function three of our teachers received the "Best Teacher" award in their respective subjects: First Additional Language, Mathematical Literacy and Life Sciences.

VHS, like many other rural schools, finds it tough to survive but thankfully, through hard work from its School Governing Body, dedicated staff and support from the likes of N3TC, we continue to provide quality education to our learners.

During the first semester of 2015, the Maths and Science Centre was completed and teachers received training. In addition, the "Design Centre" for teaching Engineering Graphics and Design (EGD) and other technological subjects has been utilised optimally. Teaching commenced with three brand new computers loaded with the suitable programs for EGD and an A3 printer. The school also managed to replace the school bus that was stolen earlier in the year.

Urgent refurbishment for the Farm Schools Project at our hostel is a priority. We also have marketing plans in place that will hopefully grow learner numbers again, to qualify for another Departmental position.

We are very proud to be part of N3TC's Touching Lives programme.

## Treverton Schools

Situated on a unique, 270-hectare campus in the heart of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands, Treverton provides an educational environment like no other. The school is dedicated to giving young adults a head start in life which is relevant and appropriate to today's fast moving, ever changing world. Its ethos is built around what English philosopher Dean William Inge described as the aim of education: **"the knowledge, not of facts, but of values"**.

The continued enrolment of the following pupils is facilitated through the generous award of N3TC funds:

**SNAKHO NGUBANE** has been at Treverton since Grade R. His progress through the Prep School has been characterised by commitment to his studies and extra-curricular activities. He was awarded a special Environmental Awareness certificate in 2013 for his general attitude to, and care of, his natural environment. Snakho has maintained a sound academic record and contributed very positively to his team's performances on both the cricket and soccer fields.

**TRISTAN SHAW** has made tremendous progress academically and emotionally during his time at Treverton and he is a good ambassador for the school. Tristan's commitment to his studies has reflected in his report, which shows the significant strides he has made in all his subjects. He is truly embracing the opportunities offered him at Treverton.

**APHIWE NTULI** is a true citizen of Mooi River, having lived here since birth. He first enrolled at Treverton Pre-Primary School in 2009 as a five year old in the Grade 00 class and is

currently in Grade 5. Aphiwe's academic progress has been remarkable and he is excelling in all his subjects. His all-round contribution to school activities is valued.

**LUTHANDO NDAWO** has been a boarder throughout his time at the school. Luthando's character development has been the most significant aspect of his time at the school. He has great leadership potential, contributes at the highest levels on the sports field, is an enthusiastic participant in cultural activities and achieves better than average academic results. Luthando's larger than life personality is a significant feature of his year group and he is a good ambassador for our school.

**JASMINE SHAW** has continued to display a positive and committed approach to every aspect of school life. Her diligence in the classroom was rewarded with a good set of results at mid-year and her extra-mural commitment is also highly commendable. In her boarding hostel Jasmine is co-operative and she displays flexibility and maturity in the manner she conducts herself. It is encouraging to see Jasmine genuinely embrace all the opportunities and challenges that Treverton is offering her.

**AIMEE JOOSTE** is a committed and enthusiastic member of the Treverton College pupil body who has made an exceptional contribution to the life of the school, including sacrificing many hours for fund-raising initiatives. Her determination and self-discipline have been key factors to her success. Aimee is a diligent academic who has also excelled in the sporting arena, having been selected for the KZN netball team. Aimee is a highly respected and popular member of her peer group because she is trustworthy, dependable and consistent. Aimee is a tremendous asset to Treverton.

## Harrismith Primary School

by Lizel de Beer

We have decided to use N3TC's funding to place five learners in our school's hostel. Two of the learners did not have a home. The other three children had to walk seven kilometers to and from school every day and did not always get enough food or sleep.

**Tshepiso and Tegobogo Monareng** have adapted to their new home. They get three meals a day and they are progressing very well. We decided to keep the brother and sister close together to help them to adapt to their new surroundings. The teachers from our school provided them with duvets and blankets and toiletries.

Tshepiso and Tegobogo's teachers have reported that they are doing much better in their schoolwork. They are more confident in class and are becoming more self-assured. The little girl comes and talks to me very often to tell me how much she enjoys it in the hostel. The boy, Tegobogo, is still shy, but smiles happily when spoken to.




**Themba Twala, Fezile Zwane and Bonga Zwane** (all siblings) have moved into the hostel. I cannot tell you how grateful they are for not having to walk to school on freezing cold Harrismith winter mornings. Fezile is in my English class. Her marks have improved and her self-confidence is so much better. She is very happy and works really hard. According to her other teachers she is also less shy in class and her marks have improved.

Themba and Bonga love the hostel. The hostel mother reports that they enjoy their new friends and love their own rooms and beds. The hostel personnel helped with bedding and some toiletries. Themba is much more confident. He does his homework every day. He is also more relaxed now that he no longer feels responsible for his siblings.

Bonga wrote his first exams this term. He completes his homework every day. He is not so emotional anymore, because he is not tired when he comes to school. He eats well and is so grateful!




# bursaries: tertiary



N3TC's tertiary-level bursary programme, in particular, is of great importance in introducing high-level skills to the Corridor. For the first time, N3TC has a doctoral bursary student! N3TC is exceptionally proud of its students, many of whom have risen from the ashes of a disadvantaged background to prove to the world that they have what it takes to rise and soar like eagles. Final year civil engineering student Londeka Ximba, is a case in point.

Bursaries are granted in accordance with N3TC's Bursary Policy in fields linked to N3TC'S business, namely engineering (in particular civil); transportation; finance/accounting; information technology; commercial law; the environment; and marketing (including public relations and communication). In addition, funds permitting, bursaries may be granted in education and tourism, two core CSI categories.




A total of sixteen persons, including Doctoral candidate, Jennifer Russell, and three Masters students, are in receipt of university bursaries for 2015. Ten of these are persons from communities along the N3 Corridor, while six are linked to N3TC - two members of permanent staff, three interns, and one staff member's child.


*Con Roux*



## Whenever you are in doubt...



recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen and ask yourself if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him? Will he gain anything but it? Will it restore him to control over his own life and destiny? **That test alone can make our plans and programmes more meaningful.**



*Mahatma Gandhi*

## Jennifer Russell

**PhD (Science) University of Kwa-Zulu Natal**

It may seem strange to many that, at a somewhat mature age, I have returned to university to obtain a post-graduate degree. I graduated from the then University of Natal in 1986 with a B.Sc. (Hons.) in Biological Science.

After that I led a varied and fulfilling life, culminating as a specialist Battlefield guide, a pursuit that was highly entertaining and rewarding. Yet I longed to return to my first love: that of biology and, in particular, ecology.

The upshot of that longing was to return to the University of KwaZulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg) to do a Master's degree. It just so happened that I was able to combine my beloved Battlefields with a study on bush encroachment. It was research that was based on photographs taken over 130 years ago as well as a comparison of aerial photographs of the same area. But the M.Sc. proved to be only the beginning and it wasn't long before I began to look for a project worthy of a Ph.D.

My doctoral project took me onto Van Reenen's Pass, that amazing piece of road engineering that snakes up the Drakensberg escarpment. It also happens to provide an almost unique outdoor laboratory in which to investigate the gradual encroachment of *Vachellia sieberiana* (formerly known as *Acacia sieberiana*), or the paperbark thorn, into high altitude grasslands.

Now I was propelled from a fairly inexpensive M.Sc. project into something that was going to require a fair amount of funding. It would never have occurred to me to appeal to N3TC for assistance, but my sister-in-law, who farms on the Pass, suggested I approach the organisation. She was well aware of N3TC's involvement with tourism and community based projects in the area. Why not give them a try? No harm in asking! So it was with some misgiving that I began to make enquiries, asking for assistance with travelling costs, as I would be commuting to Van Reenen's Pass on a regular basis. I was utterly flabbergasted when N3TC offered, not only assistance towards the running costs of my project, but more than I had dared hope for!

*Vachellia sieberiana* is a savanna tree, occurring naturally throughout Kwazulu-Natal, as elsewhere. However, it is moving out of its normal range and this poses a problem. Grasslands and open savannas support 78% of the global grazing area, making them socioeconomically important. Woody plant encroachment into grasslands and open savannas has been associated with loss of biodiversity and an acceleration of erosion and gully formation. The reason for encroachment by *V. sieberiana* is under debate as are the factors limiting savanna trees from further encroaching into the higher altitudes. This project aims to investigate the effect of frost, fire and defoliation of the grass sward on *V. sieberiana* across an altitudinal gradient, in other words, up Van Reenen's Pass. As we approach the end of 2015, I come to the end of the first year of my project. It has been an extremely active year as I established my trial sites on the Pass: one site at the bottom of the Pass, one halfway up and one at the top. I have had to contend with drought, gale-force winds, fires, heat and cold. At times I have been disheartened, but there are also times when I look up at the magnificent scenery around me, or when I



discover two little nestlings in an exquisitely made nest woven between the grass stems, or when I startle a scrub hare and I feel so much better. I've got to the stage of collecting preliminary data, of noting interesting trends. Next year I begin the experimental work on the trial sites.

Why am I doing all this, one may ask? I want to make a difference; to contribute, in some small way, to understanding the incredibly beautiful and complex world in which we live. I feel it is a privilege to be able to do this and to be able to do it in partnership with N3TC.

## Londeka Ximba

**B.Sc (Civil Engineering) University of Kwa-Zulu Natal**

*N3TC congratulates Londeka on having now completed the requirements for her B.Sc (Civ Eng) degree and on being placed on staff as a Candidate Civil Engineer in the Transportation Department.*



I am in the final year of study towards a B.Sc Degree in Civil Engineering at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. I came through the PROTEC Academy in Pietermaritzburg and in 2010 attended the Vula Maths and Science Revision Week, sponsored by N3TC. In 2011, I received a bursary offer from N3TC to further my studies in the field of engineering, a blessing for which I am forever grateful.

I had never pictured myself as a civil engineer, I always thought I would probably be a physician. However, after being given an opportunity by PROTEC to attend a week's vacation work experience at a hospital, I discovered that medicine wasn't for me. I didn't have the passion or zeal to withstand such an environment. Therefore, I am grateful for the experience, it helped me choose a career that best suits me.

In my university applications civil engineering was actually my fourth choice. I would say N3TC came to my rescue. I was confused about the career path to take and there were financial constraints as well. I received N3TC's offer with both hands and I don't regret my decision, I cannot picture myself doing anything else other than what I am doing right now.

I come from a broken home. I had some form of stability living with my mother for just the first twelve years of my life. Thereafter, I have moved from home to home. My mother and I were separated just after I completed grade 7 when an unfortunate family tragedy took place and she feared for both our lives and had to send me away. I lived with my sister and her husband for a couple of years, lived with my grandmother, other years I stayed with my dad and his wife, so this basically has been the cycle of my life. But all in all I conquered. I am proud of myself and the wonderful person I have turned out to be.

I am more than grateful to my late mother for the greatest life lesson she taught me, to fear the Lord. She introduced me to our Lord Jesus Christ. God has been my rock, redeemer and pillar of strength. I am constantly assured of His existence and presence in my life. The verses in 1 Corinthians 1:26-30 are a summary of my life. Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit I would have taken so many disastrous turns in my life and would not be where I am today.

The challenge that I am facing these days is the sad thought that I shall shortly be completing my degree. There is so much I would have loved to do for my mom, unfortunately she is no longer around. The fear of how I am going to get through all the



other important days in my life without her like graduation, wedding etc. I can only hope she is in a better place.

What keeps me going, especially this year, regardless of the severity of the situation, is the following verse, Isaiah 40:31 *“but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”*

My short term goals are GRADUATION, work hard, accumulate as much experience as possible, register as a Professional Engineer, travel the world, and go for a girls' shopping spree in Milan just to reward myself for all the hard work!

Long term goals definitely include being a role model to others and giving back. My biggest dream is to own a primary school, just to teach the little ones the basics of life (morals and values), and provide them with the right foundation. Empower the youth, those who have had a great fall in their lives, help them put back the pieces and take charge of their lives.

I am also very curious to see where my career takes me, I cannot wait!

### Anisa Khan

**Masters in Education Degree (Env. Education), Rhodes University**

My Dissertation Topic is “The Development of Teacher Knowledge in a Community of Practice - Professional Learning Communities in the Fundisa (teaching) for Change and the Eco-Schools Programme”.

Since I began my studies, as a part-time Masters student and while working as a Senior Project Manager for the Eco-Schools Programme, a lot has changed. There have been the obvious changes, like changing jobs (I am now the Newton Fund and Higher Education Programme Manager for the British Council), and the less obvious and hard to measure changes.

Investing in further study, particularly as a mature student is not only an investment of time and finances but is also an extension of who one is - a tapestry of learning, interaction and experiences intertwined with the learning and experiences of others, be this fellow Masters students, texts or a vast, connected community of practice all tied together by the common desire to improve social and environmental wellbeing.

One of my colleagues often said to me (with regard to the monitoring and evaluation of environmental education programmes), that what you can't measure still exists, or to quote William Cameron, “not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted.” This holds true for the value of the experience and opportunities that I have been afforded as a result of the study bursary granted to me by N3TC.

Through the journey of studying I have both studied the theoretical basis of “Communities of Practice” theory and felt my own community of practice grow and expand. I have interacted with teachers in deep rural areas, felt and experienced their concerns and deep sense of appreciation, journeyed across South Africa, met other like-minded colleagues from across SADC, Germany, Mexico and India (the ESD Expertnet), travelled to Sweden to assist in developing an online teacher education course and even

facilitated a youth session on Global Citizenship Education at UNESCO headquarters.

I feel that I have developed and grown as I have embarked on researching and understanding the development of others. As part of the data gathering for my study, I needed to observe and to investigate what teachers value in terms of learning opportunities through their involvement in the Eco-Schools programme and how they reflect on their own learning and development as environmental educators. My approach was to use a technique called Appreciative Enquiry. As the name suggests, this is founded on a positive reflection on experiences.

The feedback I received clearly demonstrated that the teacher development activities of Eco-Schools and the Fundisa for Change Teacher Education Network were indeed “touching lives” and making a positive contribution to uplifting communities through support for teacher learning and development.

As I near the conclusion of my study, I hope that the insights from these teachers can have a positive impact on the programmes and efforts of non-profit civil society organisations and public benefit organisations involved in the improvement of education, by providing evidence of the positive impact that they are making.

I am very grateful to N3TC for providing me with the grant assistance I needed to enable me to conduct these field visits and for the ongoing support, financial and otherwise to help me to complete my studies.

### Vusumuzi Mvelase

**B.Sc (Geography and Environmental science) Rhodes University**

This is the story of how N3TC has touched my life.

Since I was very young I had been involved in the Midlands Meander Education Project, funded by N3TC. These programmes nurtured our young minds and helped us grow solid thoughts on environmental issues such as global warming, climate change and the conservation of endangered species.

The lessons and ideas that I gained from the programme greatly influenced my career choice to take a Bachelors Degree in Science, majoring in environmental science and geography. My passion for these subjects arose not only from my involvement in the Eco Schools project, but also from my desire to develop my community and make the world a better place.

The idea of going to university was exciting because it meant I could focus on what mattered most to me as an individual, but my transition from high school was not as smooth as I had planned. There were many challenges to overcome and the move was not easy, but it was necessary. N3TC made the transition much easier by assisting me with my bursary. With the help of N3TC my dream started to take shape and become a reality.



When I arrived at university one of the biggest challenges that I had to overcome was leaving the safety of home and dealing with a new environment. Making new lasting friendships was one of the most challenging things for me because I had to learn to accept other people's values and beliefs without losing my own in the process. Finding people who share the same work ethic, however, was not that difficult as most of the people on my course share the same mindset about their work.

In second year I have taken environmental science, geography, botany, statistics and computer science. I really enjoyed all these modules and found that I enjoyed computer science the most because of the programming and database modules. I enjoyed the fact that it was a very practical course where I learnt things that I could apply to my other courses. I also enjoyed doing statistics because of the knowledge I gained on how to handle and analyse data to gain meaning from it. I enjoyed environmental science because of the way the department operates and the focus they put on the value of looking at things from all perspectives. They also emphasise inter- and multi-disciplinary work. I really enjoyed the human (urban) geography module because of the way the lecturer interacted with us and the way she presented her lectures.

One of the biggest challenges for me this year was dealing with deadlines and the increased workload that comes with second year. The amount of group work that I now had to do was also very challenging as I now had to learn to deal with juggling my busy work schedule, group meetings and dealing with difficult group members at times. I also have to deal with doing my work in advance and managing my time, which I am not very good at.

A highlight for me this year has been my responsibilities as class representative for the second year geography department, as well as my residence's environmental rep. I have met a lot of interesting people and I have grown as a person. I think I have matured in a sense and I am a better person today than I was last year.

## Sifiso Kunene

**B.Sc (Civil Engineering) University of KwaZulu-Natal**

My name is Sifiso Musawenkosi Kunene. I was born on the sixth of April 1995. My story begins in Pietermaritzburg, the only place I have ever lived.



I have four sisters and grew up in a household filled with women. I'm sure you are wondering about my father. Well he's in a better place now, a peaceful place. He passed away in December 2014. My life has been rather different ever since.

I truly believe that as individuals we are all unique and deal with things differently. Change is one of the things which a lot of people struggle to deal with. Well, I myself have struggled with the change I have had to undergo in a very short period of time. A lot has happened and a lot has had to change within the space of less than a year, some good and some drastically bad.

Academically I had a good year in 2014. My first year of university wasn't as bad as I had anticipated. I believe I

excelled in all of the modules that I had been doing. Though it wasn't smooth sailing, I managed to overcome all odds and finish the year on a high note.

To add to my successful year of learning I started my vacation work with N3TC during the month of December and carried on until mid-January. It was a truly eye opening experience. Only being there for a few weeks was not enough for me because there is still so much more I still need to learn, but then again learning is a time-dependent phenomenon. I still have the rest of my life to learn all I need to know about civil engineering. This gave me more reasons to give my best towards my studies so I can join the working world as soon as possible.

My second year of university brought about great change to my life. Firstly I had to relocate to Durban which meant I had to learn a whole new city, a new campus and adopt a new lifestyle, a lifestyle without my family. Secondly it was my first academic year without my father. Though he didn't support me financially the fact that he was still there, alive, meant I had to make him proud.

The year began on a high note, regardless of what had happened during the month of December, I managed to find a place to stay in Durban which was very close to campus. Lectures commenced and I thought things will be a bit better and easier given how well I had performed in first year. I thought I had gotten the hang of things but I later realised that was not the case. I now had my responsibilities that I alone had to take care of.

The pressure and the immense change proved far too great for me to handle. At times I missed my family so much that I wanted to just drop everything that I was doing and get on a taxi and go home. Being responsible for myself further increased the pressure I was under. I had gotten used to the idea of coming home from school to a warm home full of people, with supper already prepared. I now come back from school to an empty house. I never realised how important my family was to my success until I had to leave them and stay on my own.

My state of mind and wellbeing deteriorated. My focus now wasn't entirely towards my school work, I was constantly thinking of other things. My first semester results were indicative of that. I was at my lowest. It was the first time in my entire schooling career that I had failed an exam. I was in disbelief so much so that I thought maybe I'm dreaming, that the whole semester was still a practice run to see whether I am ready to leave home and be independent.

When I finally came to my senses I realised that in life there are no second chances. For a very long time this statement was just another cliché. Well now it has become one of my mottos.

Despite all the ups and downs I've had over the past months, if ever given the chance to go back and change the outcome, I would turn it down in a heart-beat. I believe everything that I went through, I went through for a reason and it has helped me tremendously to grow. I'm now smarter and wiser than I ever was before and I will forever look back at this moment in my life. If ever I have to undergo change, I'll know what to do and what not to do in order to succeed.

I know I can't change the past but I won't allow it to dictate my future.



**Antonia Mkhabela**  
**M.Ed (Environmental Education)**  
**Rhodes University**

I am a Life Sciences teacher at Shea O'Connor Combined School in Nottingham Road. The title of my thesis is "An investigation of grade 11 teachers' methods and assessment practices in mediating life sciences environmental content knowledge and competencies".



This study was triggered by the 2013 yearly examiners' report that highlighted the fact that learners in Life Sciences matric exams failed to achieve the competencies outlined in the curriculum that develop life-long skills and attitudes.

The study, though not yet completed, has not been easy and has had its highlights and challenges. I hope, upon completion, it will have a positive effect on the teaching of Life Sciences environmental content knowledge to our learners at schools.

There have been a string of highlights, including my admission to study at Rhodes University, the offer of a full bursary from N3TC, receipt of permission from the Head of Department, Dr Lubisi, to do this study in the four schools around Mooi River, acceptance by the schools to do this study with them, and recovery from the serious illness and operations I had towards the end of 2014.

The school environmental projects that link to my research study have also been highlights. These include a Trashion Show held on Recycling Day at Shea O'Connor. It links precisely with one of the CAPS aims, which is to 'use science and technology effectively and critically showing responsibility towards the environment and the health of others'. Here the aim was to educate learners towards reducing waste and take action around waste challenges.

Another project was rehabilitation of the school wetland: The enviro-club took the initiative of solving the problem of the destruction of the school wetland using critical and creative thinking. The club invited, Mr Vaughn, the wetland specialist, from WESSA, to advise them on how to rehabilitate their wetland. This project incorporated the following competencies: inter-personal (working as a team and with different stakeholders); strategic (coming up with a strategy to rehabilitate the wetland); anticipatory (think about the future impact of the destruction of the wetland); normative (see values of why they have to conserve the wetland); and systems thinking (looking at the inter-relationships of the living and non-living organisms in achieving sustainable living).

Facilitating a professional development workshop was another highlight. In this workshop, I showed Shea O'Connor teachers how to compile lesson plans that incorporate activities that respond to competencies supported in the CAPS curriculum.

One of our grade 12 learners, Tafadzwa Bero, investigated water quality in the recently built Spring Grove Dam at Rosetta. This led to him winning a gold medal at the International Science Fair in the category "Environmental Management: study of human interaction with the environment", as well as a R30 000 bursary to study at Stellenbosch University. His

investigation addresses the CAPS aim of using science and technology effectively, showing responsibility towards the environment and health of others.

These types of projects go to the heart of my study. It is my aim to have them emulated by other Life Sciences teachers. A challenge for me has been the debate around the concept 'Competence in education'. Scholars have different approaches or definitions of this concept and its application in education. I am trying hard to prove its relevance in education through thorough reading and the abovementioned school-based environmental projects that I have conducted.

I have completed chapters 1 to 4 of my study and look forward to completing chapter 5. My goal is to submit my thesis by November 2015.

**Robert van der Walt**  
**B.Eng (Electronic) University of Pretoria**

My journey with N3TC started about a year ago when I was in matric. I was still very uncertain of what I was to study the following year, but my dad, who is a Civil Engineer, encouraged me to follow in his footsteps, and that was how I heard of N3TC.

It was a difficult choice between Civil Engineering and Electronic Engineering, but in the end I went with Electronic Engineering because ever since I've been a small boy my passion has been electronics and computers. How computers operate and how systems work is so interesting to me, I had to know more and ended up choosing Electronic Engineering. I feel it suits me and I will happily do this line of work for the rest of my life.

During my first year at university, there have been several new experiences for me such as moving out of my house and into a university residence. This was very hard for me to do because I've been living at home for the better part of 18 years, depending on my parents to care for me, but now I am forced to take care of myself.

I think this was one of the best decisions I have made because it taught me to be independent and to act more responsibly. The residence also proved to be a great opportunity to meet people and make new friends.

As for my studies, the applied maths subjects presented themselves as quite easy at first and the fact that I had Alpha Maths at school helped a lot, but as the year went on the work got gradually more intense and I now know that Engineering isn't going to be a walk in the park. I believe with hard work and dedication I can pull through with my studies.

Engineering is definitely the right course for me. I think what motivates me is when I imagine myself holding my degree after four years and to be able to call myself an Engineer.

In the long term, I hope to be a qualified Engineer with a job and financial security. In the short term, I just wish to make the most of my short time at university and to enjoy all the small things that make life so great, but still to be focused on my studies!

## Sizwe Mchunu

**National Diploma in Engineering  
(Civil) Durban University of  
Technology**

*N3TC congratulates Sizwe on completing the requirements for his National Diploma in Engineering (Civil). On route to this achievement, Sizwe has amassed an incredible thirteen distinctions.*



*In addition, Sizwe was appointed to tutor first year Applied Mechanics students from July 2015 to November 2015. He modestly says he did his best to help them achieve the best possible results, in fact he was nominated as the best tutor because his students achieved an average 72% for the subject!*

In 2014 I enrolled for the first semester at the University, hoping to be assisted by the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS), but my application wasn't successful. I had to go and ask for financial assistance from different people to be able to settle outstanding study fees when I registered for the second semester. I was then helped by Mrs Stent from Nottingham Road.

Even though I was registered for the second semester, I had the same situation of not knowing how the fees were going to be paid, this was a turning point in my life. I told myself that if I pass well they cannot chase me because of the debt and someone might offer to pay for me for the remaining study period. With all that being done, I was still applying for NSFAS but still my applications were unsuccessful due to insufficient funds.

A turning point in my life came when I told myself that I have to look for a temporary job and work for six months and pay for my fees before I go back to school. That's when I thought of all possible people and companies that might help me. I went to Mpofana Municipality but they couldn't help me, then I thought of N3 Toll Concession, who gave me a bursary for my third semester in 2015.

Personally I try by all means to do my level best in everything I do. I try new things day by day and expect the outcome of my hard work will prepare me for the future. Also having the opportunity to study civil engineering and to tutor helped me to give back. With that being said, I have been appointed by the Student Housing Department to be a tutor for Applied Mechanics 101.

Life's challenges are the only things that can undermine my performance, as they are most likely to cause stress and that disturbs one's character resulting in poor performance. A person's future is determined by what they do today, anything you do now will affect your future. Planning for the future is the most ideal thing and it goes hand in hand with dedication and hard work.

The main aim of my career and future is to be a better person, not only thinking about myself, but to improve the lives of the poor working class. This includes my local community of Bruntville (Mooi River) since it is a disadvantageous area in terms of academics and resources for developing youth.

To help students that have potential and are dedicated to improve their life through education is my vision, especially since I know how painful it is to be financially disadvantaged while you dedicate yourself to your studies.

The civil engineering field is broad it also exposes you to different life experiences. After completing my national diploma qualification, I would like to further my studies by doing a Bachelor of Technology in Transportation Engineering, as I found it interesting and I understand it better.

## Thandiwe Khoza

**B.Soc Sc (Geography and  
Environmental Management)  
University of Kwa-Zulu Natal**



I have been a N3TC bursary recipient for three years now. N3TC has been good to me since my first year, it has not been strawberries and cream but we have made it work. I love being part of this bursary programme because it has so much to offer. I have grown a lot with N3TC's support.

At N3TC there is always someone to talk to when facing problems, without this bursary I don't know where I would be, because I have experienced things I would otherwise not have experienced, being a girl from the township. Who knows where I could have been the last three years. People at N3TC are friendly, give a lecture when needed and are very helpful.



I love being at UKZN because being in a university makes one versatile. I am majoring in geography and environmental management. My degree is a social science degree and I get to choose anything from social science and science. This year I took agro-meteorology, which is the study of the soil and weather patterns.

Being a UKZN student has been hard with all the strike action and violence we have been facing on campus, it makes our academic life very hard since most classes have been suspended. As an individual you need to put in extra work because of the disruptions.

I intend to finish my degree and do my Honours degree in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).



# staff training



N3TC has always taken the responsibility to develop staff seriously. The Company only has a small staff contingent, who are mutually dependent on one another's professionalism. It is therefore of utmost importance that levels of expertise be developed and/or maintained to the required standard.



## Mentors

give you perspective.

## Sponsors

give you opportunities.

## TERTIARY BURSARIES

**Amy Maharaj**  
**M.Eng Pavement Engineering**  
**(Structured) University of**  
**Stellenbosch**



Amy is in the 3rd year of her Masters of Engineering Degree, specialising in Pavement Engineering at Stellenbosch University.

I have completed two modules thus far in 2015. These are Pavement Evaluation and Rehabilitation Design and Rigid Pavement Design. This entailed attending two block weeks, one for each module. The final result for each module is based on an extensive assignment, which is sent a few weeks after the course. I have successfully completed both assignments and am awaiting results. My next and final course will take place later in the year. Thereafter, I will carry out a research study and submit a research dissertation for final completion of the programme.

I started working at N3TC in my second year of the Masters program. Working at the company has given me a lot of experience in the field of pavement engineering, which in addition to the course work, has had a major impact on my knowledge and work experience. I work with a great mentor, which is a major bonus. Working at N3TC has been completely satisfying.

My thoughts for the future are not very deep or profound. I would just like to complete my studies (mid 2016) and continue working happily at N3TC.

**Hennie Wolhuter**  
**Post Graduate Diploma in Human**  
**Resource Management UNISA**



Every day is a new beginning, for some beginnings you work a long time, for others it is like the start of every day, a new day.

At the beginning of this year I started a Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management through UNISA. I had a fairly narrow outlook on the management of staff and everything that I thought it was about. What you learn at university only helps you to an extent, but working and applying your knowledge is something totally different.

With the start of my studies I immediately realised that there is so much more to the management of human resources than the idea I had. With the experience I gain every day and my studies, I have really learned a lot.

Like most events in life there are challenges. To study and work at the same time is, in fact, a huge challenge, this is something I realised early on. It is not a bad thing to be challenged, I believe that challenges bring out the best in people and that everyone can really perform when placed under a bit of pressure.

Talking about a bit of pressure and challenges, something I

realised a couple of years ago, while still at university, is that there is time for everything. The problem is the management of your time and how you cope with the challenging aspects of life. I find the best way is to keep your head down and work. Take on the challenge before you, climb the mountain and get to the top a better and stronger person. My thought for the future: Hard work will pay off in the end!

**Naasera Sheik**  
**Information Technology Diploma UNISA**



"Winning means you are willing to go longer, work harder and give more than anyone else" Vince Lombardi  
Though I am not competing with another person to win, I am competing with the challenges and obstacles in my life, and I push myself to work hard to achieve victory.

It was a relief to be successful in securing a bursary this year and I must thank my employer, N3TC, for this. The Almighty has indeed blessed me by placing me within the N3TC family; I am really honoured to be part of this excellent company. Without this bursary I would not have been able to embark on this adventure of tertiary studies.

I chose Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as my field of study largely due to the fact that I like figuring out how things work (though I do not have a head for science) and what better environment than the world of computer technology, the future of this world.

I am well into the second semester, preparing for examinations, and proud of my achievements thus far. It has been a difficult journey, daunting and stressful, but that comes with the territory and one just has to adapt. With each progressive semester I learn how to improve my study methods and routine, so my struggles decrease as I go along. Of course I have a skeletal support system comprising my family, friends and colleagues, something I would never be able to do without. They always provide motivation, and words of encouragement to balance the negativity that sometimes crops up.

I am so-to-say at the halfway point of the Diploma, where the modules get more complex and intensive with each level and so do the challenges. Still, I am always filled with excitement at the beginning of a semester, and eagerly await the learning material and textbooks, so I can get on with it. I try not to focus on the course as an entirety but focus just on the modules at hand as it is less overwhelming. Remember the old adage, do not bite off more than you can chew.

My current modules are Systems Analysis and Design, Object-orientated Analysis and Digital Logic (the most challenging of the three). With distance learning you mostly have to 'teach' yourself, using the tutorial material and textbooks for guidance. You therefore require strong self-discipline to ensure that deadlines are met. I am thoroughly enjoying my learning experience and I value this opportunity presented to me.

When I am confronted with any conflict or difficult situation, I have learnt that the best is to be calm and pray, and not let it get the better of me. I still have a long way to go, but I am hopeful that with God as my guide and N3TC as my crutch, I will reach my goal with minimal effort.



"In life, as in football, you won't go far unless you know where the goal posts are" Arnold H. Glasow  
Thank you, N3TC, you have touched my life!

**Palesa Senty**  
**B.Tech (Tourism Management)**  
**Durban University of Technology**

I would like to thank N3TC for giving me a bursary to complete my B.Tech Degree in Tourism Management. I have graduated with the B.Tech and this achievement was certainly not an easy journey for me. The challenge began when I was left with one module to repeat and had to move back to Harrismith to complete my six month internship after a year of studying.



This module required that I travel to Tshwane University of Technology (Pretoria campus) fortnightly to attend classes at my own expense, while being a full time intern. I had to learn how to balance the two which was not easy as I was used to being a full time student.

My six month internship programme ended and just when I thought I had the module to myself I was offered full time employment in the N3TC Route Control Centre. This is where the huge challenge began because at the RCC I was required to work twelve hour shifts which meant I had to change my study routine, learn the new job and at the same time my body had to adapt to the new sleeping patterns.

All this meant that I had to take leave from work, which made me feel awkward to ask for leave days which I didn't have, but the manager Annatjie van der Sandt was very understanding and tried as much as she could to accommodate my requests. As much as it was a huge challenge with the new job it was a blessing especially in terms of finances because I could now afford my travelling expenses better.

My dream is to have my own tourism establishment promoting SA Tourism, making it the number one tourism destination. My love for tourism was inspired by my love for travelling, communication and interacting with diverse cultures. I'm hoping to have at least a five year career in N3TC Tourism while working on realising my dream. I would love to work for N3TC Tourism where I was groomed and one day even head a department, I feel this would be my way of giving back to the company.

In conclusion I would to thank N3TC for the support and the study opportunity.

**Sikholiwe Gwala**  
**B.Tech (Tourism Management)**  
**Durban University of Technology**

Everything that has a beginning must come to an end.

This ends with a smile on my face and a few tears for the wonderful people I have been working with and also tears with smiles as my time with N3TC has come to an end. New opportunities have opened up for me.



My journey with N3TC has been everything from smooth to eye opening; with that said if everything is smooth then one learns nothing. The year 2015 is one of those years for me when I look back at my hard work and feel proud of my achievements in life: National Diploma in Ecotourism; my love of nature and exploring. And now my Bachelor's Degree in Tourism Management, tackled for the love of travel and learning about new things in different environments.

I would like to thank N3TC for the opportunity and congratulate myself for being in love with challenges because the truth is I could have turned down the offer when it was handed to me. I wouldn't have got to this point. The size of the smile on my face as I type this email, is just one of the signs of how grateful I am and how proud I am of myself.

Now I'm living without limitations because "I have me" and I understand that only I can limit myself. I always say I am destined for great things and I am not about to disappoint myself by not doing all I have to reach those great things.

**Isandrie Naudé**  
**B.Ed (Foundation Phase) North West University**

*N3TC congratulates Isandrie on completing all the requirements for her B.Ed (Foundation Phase) degree, obtaining an outstanding five distinctions in her final year. We wish her all the very best for her teaching career.*



"Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

I started my B.Ed Foundation Phase in 2012 at North-West University. I enjoyed every moment of this course as it broadened my knowledge to enable children to reach their full potential. I have walked this path for four years and will soon be stepping into the working world! I cannot wait to start my new journey as a foundation phase teacher where I can make a difference in each child's life.

I am blessed to have received a bursary from N3TC that assisted me to gain this qualification. When I look back on the practical experiences I have gained since I started my career in education, I realised how each child blessed, touched and helped me to become the ideal teacher. Thank you to each and every little child who assisted me! I learned how to reach out to the uncommunicative child and learned how children react when they want to tell you something big, small or about people that hurt them at home. I promise to walk the path of an excellent teacher looking out for the best interests of the children.

In my fourth year, a group of fellow students and I helped a teacher to make her school a better place for learners to feel at home, but at the same time get the necessary education they need. We established an educational playground and assisted the teacher with tools to enable learners to learn from the moment he/she steps into her class. Blankets were donated for children to sleep on and keep them warm in the winter as well as pillows, crockery, cutlery, and many more.

I love teaching as I adore working with children, making a difference in their lives and teaching them to reach their full potential. Children are honest, full of love and teachers are important in children's lives. The love a child gives a teacher is

most rewarding and I do not regret a day that I chose to study teaching.

I know I am good in teaching children, it encourages me more to expand their knowledge and do what is best for them. My mother is my role model as she keeps motivating me to reach my full potential and will at any time provide me with advice and support.

## SHORT COURSES, WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

### CAPSA 2015

by Koos Radebe

During August 2015, N3TC provided the whole Technical Department, with an opportunity to attend the highly technical 11th Conference of Asphalt Pavements of Southern Africa (CAPSA) which was held at Sun City. The focus areas for the conference were:

- Optimising structural design in new construction and rehabilitation;
- Up-to-date procurement practice for products and services to promote efficient, sustainable and innovative delivery;
- The design of asphalt layers and spray seals to ensure efficient application and adequate performance;
- Construction, practice and materials assessment for a high level of efficiency; and
- Low volume surfaced roads to promote access and mobility in southern Africa,

CAPSA 2015 explored innovative practices and advanced implementation in pavement engineering practice. The conference program was structured to encourage full participation by delegates. Plenary sessions provided time for questions and debate; and parallel workshop-style sessions further advanced mentorship of young professionals.

During the 11th CAPSA conference I learned about the new technologies and techniques that are practiced and/or under development in the road industry. Social events provided me with opportunity to network and meet some old varsity friends, thus balancing the equation of work and play.

### Microstation by Naasera Sheik

Microstation is a product of Bentley Institute and is used for engineering and architectural projects. Recently I was fortunate to join our team of engineers when they attended a two-day training session on how to use the CAD (Computer-aided design) programme, Microstation.

We did the Basics course, which focuses on how to use the software and the concepts, tools and features; and how the various tools and features work to create designs and manipulate elements. Microstation works on a model system;

I have six more weeks of being a student at the North-West University then I am off to conquer the big world where I can live out my dream and do the best I can. I am uncertain where I will be located next year but know where ever I am I will make the best of it.

I would like to thank N3TC for assisting me with a bursary to fulfil my career goals. It is lovely to know there are people who care and want to assist others to live their dream.

models act as your base to do your drawings. A model or workspace in Microstation can be likened to a worksheet in Microsoft Excel or a page in Microsoft Word.

Although I had no prior exposure to, or have never worked on, the programme, it was enlightening to know how to produce 2D designs, how to draw shapes, lines, add text to drawings, etc. Besides using the general tools, we were shown a few shortcut features, drawing aids like Accudraw and Accusnap, and how to manipulate elements. As with many software programmes, we need to play around with it to get accustomed to it and to familiarise ourselves with the Microstation environment.

At the conclusion of the training, I walked away with a better understanding of how our genius draftsman, Gerrie Steenkamp, puts together the complex designs of the N3 Toll Route's infrastructure. With this training, and lots of practice, the rest of us will be able and ready to assist him when necessary.

### Office Administration by Zandile Malinga

Zandile is registered at Avuxeni Computer Academy to study Office Administration.

I would like to start by thanking N3TC for the opportunity presented to me to improve my computer skills. Not just for the funding but the encouragement I received as well.

At first it was a bit difficult as it was my first time studying after many years, but I am now well-adjusted to it. I have learnt a lot about how to use a computer and how to use Microsoft Office.

The main sacrifice I have made has been taking time from my family and rest time on a Saturday to catch the early morning bus as I attend classes in Qwa Qwa. I am willing to bear this difficulty as I know that only hard work will lead me to my destination. I will hopefully complete my course by April next year, and though it seems like a long time, it will be over soon.

I try to practise the tutorials at work to reinforce what I learnt so far, and also to prepare myself for the next class. Working on a computer seemed very difficult to me as I had no prior experience, but since I have started this course, it doesn't look scary anymore. I have realised that nothing is impossible; as long as we make an effort and show an interest, we can achieve our dreams.

I want to again extend my appreciation to N3TC for considering me in their staff training and upliftment programme. I am happy to be working for a company that cares for its staff so well.





## Mentorship towards Professional Status

### Christopher Kheswa

Another year has passed and more experience gained towards achieving my professional status. The journey has been interesting as usual, a lot learnt and certainly much to contribute towards my qualification as a Professional Technologist.



I'm still working under the supervision of the Resident Engineer, Chris Breytenbach, on road rehabilitation projects on the N3 between Estcourt and Mooi River and between Sand River and the Keeversfontein interchange. The projects commenced in November 2013 and are due for completion before the end of 2015. The projects entail the following tasks:

- The improvement of the road drainage systems to enable enough draining ability of the pavement;
- The rehabilitation of the pavement structures to improve the life span and the ability to handle high volumes of traffic on a National road; and
- The rehabilitation of the cut embankments (slopes).

The above mentioned tasks were the highlights of the project but obviously they are further broken down into many other tasks.

The main reason for my involvement in the above mentioned projects is to attain enough experience for my Professional status. The requirements are to get enough experience in the supervision of construction works, design and project management. As soon as all these have been achieved, I will then submit my reports to the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA).

In order to be recognised as a possible candidate to obtain the qualification, one must be able to work under very minimal supervision. This means working independently and being able to make strategic decisions on site. My role in the current project is as Assistant Resident Engineer. The role comes with great responsibility because I act on behalf of the Resident Engineer in his absence and have to be decisive and proactive with the contractor to avoid any delays to the work.

The highlight of my last 24 months though, is not only within the project itself, but also on extra work given to me by N3TC's Technical Manager, Douglas Judd. N3TC has set up mini-projects, which were not part of the main contract, namely:

- The application of chip and spray (seal) on the Winterton/Colenso interchange using bitumen rubber and pre-coated steel slag aggregates (single seal); and
- The rehabilitation of the Bergville interchange – mill and inlays and a final overlay to the overpass road.

Douglas approached me and said I was going to be responsible for the supervision of these mini-projects. He also mentioned that I was being appointed as the Resident Engineer for these projects. I was very excited as this was going to be the opportunity to showcase my experience that I acquired under Chris Breytenbach's supervision.

This was a great opportunity to test my knowledge as I was going to work under very minimal supervision. I had to report directly to Douglas and had constant liaison with the contractor on site. The responsibilities were as follows:

- Identification and indication of works to be executed by the contractor;
- Supervision of all construction works;
- Site administration;
- Measurement of all works;

- Ensuring that safety is practised at all times; and
- Ensuring adherence to all environmental standards and regulations at all times.

I can safely say that both projects have been successful and were up to the required construction standards and regulations as expected by the client, N3TC. These projects afforded me an opportunity to measure my level of confidence in making decisions.

The responsibilities that come with being in charge of the site are daunting, hence communication is of paramount importance. I learnt that in this industry one can't claim to know it all. We need to constantly improve ourselves by educating one another and reading a lot as the industry changes constantly through technological advancement. This was such good experience which I wouldn't trade for anything and is certainly going to have an enormous contribution towards reaching my career and professional goals.

In conclusion I want to thank Douglas Judd for believing that I can be a good engineer and affording me an opportunity to extend my knowledge through the N3TC's Engineer in Training programme.

This year I was afforded an opportunity to attend CAPSA 2015 by N3TC. It was a great experience and will have a massive impact on my career going forward.

I have been appointed as the Resident Engineer on another N3TC in-house project, which will commence in February 2016. It is going to be a challenging experience, but I'm looking forward to the opportunity to gain more experience.

### Koos Radebe

I was born and raised in Villiers, a small town in the north-eastern Free State on the banks of the Vaal River.

I did my primary school education at Zamaleka Primary School and secondary education at Retshedisitswe Secondary School. I grew up with a dream of being an Astronomer and this inspired me to achieve excellent results in Mathematics and Physical Science.

The bridges, silos, water towers, buildings and roads surrounding and within Villiers inspired me to consider Civil Engineering as an alternative career, toppling my childhood Astronomer dream.

When I grew up I used to cross the N3 using the underpasses from East to West and from West to East. Little did I know that one day the N3 would be my workplace.

After matriculating, I was the recipient of a bursary from N3TC and graduated almost seven years ago as a Civil Engineer with a B.Eng. Civil Degree from the University of Johannesburg. I then joined the Transportation Department and later the Technical Department at N3TC.

During this tenure I attained experience in traffic engineering, pavement engineering, contract administration and documentation, project management and environmental management.

I am very grateful to be well on my way towards achieving my goal of becoming a Professional Engineer.

## INTERNSHIPS

### Spheisile Dladla

I come from Pietermaritzburg. I am a learner site technician at N3TC. I completed my civil engineering modules at the Durban University of Technology in 2014 and am working towards shaping my future with N3TC.



Through Rose Smuts at Protec PMB, I was introduced to the company. My learning experience started in March 2015 and to date I'm enjoying being a part of the organisation and learning new things every day. Being with N3TC has taught me a lot of skills for tackling everyday site challenges, I've seen improvement in my time management and ability to work and communicate with people. I have improved my ability to work and cope in all types of weather conditions, which has not only trained me mentally, but physically as well.

As a child from a disadvantaged background, being part of the company has given me the privilege to support my single mother and wheelchair-bound brother, who have been positive and supportive ever since I started this journey.

I work at one of the N3TC sites, highway section 5C with Christopher Kheswa. I have to admit that he has been influential in the journey to achieve my dreams. He has taught me a lot, not only in the field of civil engineering, but about handling everyday life. Experience is priceless and ever since my involvement with N3TC, it's all I have been gaining and using to tackle the kind of challenges I face.

I am grateful to have been given an opportunity to be part of one of the company's projects, the rehabilitation of the N3 Toll Route between Estcourt and Mooi River and between Sand River and Keeversfontein. Under the supervision of Chris Breytenbach, the Resident Engineer of the project, I have been involved and responsible for the supervision of the rehabilitation of the Mooi River, Treverton and Hidcote interchanges.

I was solely responsible for the daily measurements and running of the sites in respect of milling, paving, site safety and daily site diaries.

The last six months have provided me with massive experiences which I believe will contribute a lot to my future and career. My level of confidence has grown and I'm quite sure that given an opportunity I will excel. To N3TC and all the Individuals involved in making this dream a reality, I would like to say thank you and I look forward to an even greater relationship with the company in the future.

### Thabiso Setai

I am the last born in a family of five children. I was born, bred and "battered" in Harrismith and had a very beautiful, colourful and fun-filled childhood. My development years were quite interesting as I was in the Afrikaans medium class from grade 1 to 4 and later changed to English medium class from grade 5 to matric.



I attended Harrismith Primary before moving to Harrismith High School and later moved to boarding school at Paul Erasmus High School in Senekal, also in the Eastern Free State, where I matriculated in 2012.



The first time I knew that I wanted to study tourism was in High School and I had just chosen a shortlist of possible career choices. My motivation in the choice came because I am a peoples' person and knew I would enjoy my job if it meant helping or putting smiles on people's faces. One of my former teachers actually encouraged the choice and started taking us on road trips to various organisations in different industries so that we could get an understanding of the working environment before choosing a possible career. I chose Tourism.

N3TC has given me a very good opportunity by granting me the chance to do my work integrated learning (WIL) at their Route Help Centre in Harrismith. Working here has been an absolute pleasure not only because of the value of working for such a big company to add to my CV, but also because of the lessons I have learnt, some of which will last me a life time.

The company granted me a very clever, goal orientated tourism-promoting supervisor, Isabel Potgieter, who, honestly speaking, has been guiding and sharing her knowledge with me. I wish I can continue learning a lot from her until my last day as an intern.


In the near future one of my goals is to go back to University and to get a higher qualification because like the late Dr Nelson Mandela once said "Education is the most powerful weapon one can use to change the world". I would also like to infiltrate the industry as a businessman, not only because of the money, but so that I can grant future tourism students opportunities like N3TC has done for me.

My goals, in no particular order, are to make my parents proud; be successful, not only in money or materialistic things, but with success in helping people become better; success in eradicating lack of opportunities for people; and also success in creating as many jobs as possible.


I would like to thank N3TC for granting me the opportunity to do my WIL with the company.



# community skills development



A diverse range of skills development programmes have been undertaken this year. Many of them are integral to other aspects of the Touching Lives programme and are reported elsewhere, for instance Enterprise Development and Driving Actions. The common theme of all skills development remains building expertise and capacity along the N3 Toll Route Corridor.



An enterprise that is

**constantly exploring new horizons**

is likely to have a competitive advantage  
in attracting and retaining talent.

Gary Hamel



## S.M.I.L.E.

by Nicky Lyle

Implementation of S.M.I.L.E.'s (St Mary's Interactive Learning Experience) CAPS Teacher Training and Support Programme: Grades 4 to 10 (five primary and three high schools)

We are thrilled that N3TC has made Classroom Teacher Training and Support possible at Bruntville Primary School, Crystal Springs Primary School, Isibongo Lower Primary School, Nogqaza Primary School, Sibongumbomvu Combined School, Injoloba Secondary School and Asibemunye High School. These community schools, all between Cedara and Mooi River, were carefully selected to provide teachers with curriculum-based support in teaching their subject, English First Additional Language.

At S.M.I.L.E. we believe that when the standard of English as a subject in a school is raised, this has a positive impact across all other subjects. English is not only a subject for learners in community schools, but is the language of teaching and learning for all their subjects from Grade 4 onwards. These learners are always desperately keen to improve their English, identifying at a very young age that this is a key to their success.

It has been my privilege to assist their teachers this year, providing support with daily teaching, using our textbook, Interactive English, which is listed on the Department of Basic Education's National Catalogue of approved learning and teaching support material. S.M.I.L.E.'s presence in these schools ensures that the teachers have quality material from which to teach their learners and assists them with their daily planning, teaching and assessment.

This supportive relationship with teachers has been maintained through regular visits to the respective schools, providing workshops and demonstration lessons in the classroom. Our focus on skills development is an important part of our work, ensuring that continued success is maintained, long after the formal S.M.I.L.E. Programme at the school ends with the close of the academic year.

Over the course of this year I have worked with thirteen teachers in these seven schools. The schools are diverse and every teaching and learning experience unique to that school, each with its own particular challenges. Some teachers have needed more support than others. Some schools have better systems in



place than others. Every teacher in each one of these schools has expressed a willingness to improve their teaching skills.

*Crystal Springs Primary* in Lidgetton has had a long association with S.M.I.L.E. They have been using our textbooks for a number of years and their Grade 4 and 5 learners visit Michaelhouse weekly to participate in the S.M.I.L.E. English Oral Conversation Skills Programme. The oral extension which these young learners receive with the Michaelhouse boys on the same topics they are speaking, reading and writing about in their daily lessons is invaluable. This has assisted these learners to speak English confidently.

To further reinforce this development, the Principal of *Crystal Springs*, Mrs Thembi Ngubane, requested classroom support for her teacher, Lindile Sibisi, who moved up from the Foundation Phase to teach Grades 4, 5 and 6 this year. I have worked closely with Lindi and it has been a pleasure to watch her grow in confidence and ability. She is enthusiastic and committed and is sure to get good results from her learners. *Crystal Springs* is an exciting example where a formal classroom support Programme is complimented by a structured informal extra mural Programme leading to excellent learner results.

A number of the other schools needed help with English textbooks. *Bruntville Primary* in Mooi River was only using our textbook in Grade 7 and using Department workbooks and an assortment of other textbooks in the other grades.

*Sibongumbomvu Combined School* in Cedara only had our Grade 7 textbook and a limited number in other Intermediate grades. In the high school their learners in Grade 10 had no textbook to use. This was also the case at *Asibemunye High School* in Mpophomeni where the learners in Grades 8 and 9 had no English textbooks at all. N3TC, in partnership with Chateau Gateaux, purchased books for these schools to meet their needs. The day these schools received their textbooks was one to remember. There was much celebration as teachers and learners carried the books from my car into their schools.

At *Bruntville Primary* a Grade 6 learner thanked me on behalf of the whole school. He said, "This is the day we begin to pass matric!" The positive response from both teachers and learners at all the schools has been heart-warming.

In central Howick, I have been working with the Grades 8 and 9 English teachers at *Injoloba High* as well as the Grade 7 teacher at their feeder primary school, *Nogqaza Primary*. Both





these schools are efficiently run with good classroom discipline in place. Working with learners in these schools in a number of demonstration lessons has been a pleasure. Smangele Gwamande and Pinky Ngcobo at *Injoloba* and Chris Maphumulo at *Nogqaza* are all experienced teachers. They are an example of professionalism, pride and dedication to other teachers. I have demonstrated new creative teaching techniques to these teachers and I believe they have enjoyed the professional interaction. To be a part of building a 'pocket of excellence' has indeed been rewarding.

S.M.I.L.E.'s motto is 'one teacher, one textbook, many learners'. One English teacher can reach approximately 200 to 300 learners in a year. With each learner using a S.M.I.L.E. English language textbook, the teacher can make every lesson count and enable learners to believe that against all odds it is possible to excel educationally and reach dreams.

With the support of the N3TC Touching Lives programme, I have been able to work with thirteen teachers and 2221 learners in their classes. We are all enormously grateful to N3TC for their generosity, enabling us to promote excellence and positively transform the future for these learners.

## Bonginkosi Ndaba

To follow my dreams is the only way to my destination and the people around me play a significant role with their support and encouragement. This is true for me, I always feel at home with the support that I get from N3TC and BirdLifeSA. Your support has really changed my life and that of many other people, thank you.



I am excited that I passed my Environmental Educators Course, but it wasn't that easy, especially when I went for Module 2 at the Walter Sisulu Botanical Gardens. I now feel more confident that I am competent and that gives me strength to look forward and, more than that, it makes me ambitious to study further.

After the Course, I saw myself bringing change to our area of van Reenen, especially to change attitudes and behaviour among the people to turn them into nature lovers. Even if people think differently, we need to show them good reason why we all have to care about our environment. That is our big task as environmental educators.

I hope that the job I am doing right now in our Nakekela Project will reach a higher level and will help our community to become nature lovers as well as to ensure that future generations will live in a sustainable environment. My personal reflection is that being part of this course has opened my eyes even wider than before, especially to notice how people behave towards the environment. What I have learnt so far has developed my knowledge, and the challenge is what we want to achieve in the future with our community.

My concern is to see more people transform their bad habits into good ones. As an Environmental Educator, I always want to see attitudes and behaviour change for the improvement of our community.

Sometimes it is not easy to cope with studying, working and my

home life, but the only thing I can do is to try to manage by telling myself that I have a long race to run and to win it. No matter what challenges I face, I keep on focusing on what I want to achieve. That is my daily motivation which gives me strength to go on and to manage these things together.

Van Reenen really needs people like me especially our youth and without me they will lose hope but with me around them they feel connected to nature.

## Paul Greyling

I come from a small family, mom, dad and an older sister. In February 1993 I joined the South African Police Services; however my interest was primarily with the Traffic Department. In August of that same year I was awarded a position with Pinetown Protection Services. It was a dream come true! I qualified as a Traffic Officer and worked in Pinetown for eight years.



I started a new journey in 2001 at Melmoth (Mtonjaneni) up the North Coast of Zululand. This new position allowed me to undergo further training in the field of Driving Licence Examiner and Vehicle Examiner Grade "A". I was also exposed to Fire and Rescue Services, which involved more training, this was such a great experience for me. It was there where I met my lovely wife Paula and we have a son and daughter.

Four years later (2004) I applied for a position with the Department of Transport Road Traffic Inspectorate Pietermaritzburg and was successful. The experience I gained at RTI Pietermaritzburg was a springboard for my career! I was now exposed to new things such as the weighbridge and abnormal loads. My time with the RTI was short but well worth it, the Supervisors whom I served under were such a great example to me.

It was in November 2005 when my career was launched into a more senior level as Manager Traffic and Safety at Mpofana Municipality (Mooi River). This was just such a blessing. I am still so grateful for this appointment, which has enabled me to prove my capabilities and share my knowledge gathered over the years with my staff members and to try and impact them and make a difference in road safety and saving lives. I have now been with Mpofana Municipality for going on seven years and I still enjoy my profession 100%.

Over the years I have developed good friendships and working relationships with various service providers, both in the private sector as well as Government Departments. This has enabled us to work as a team on operational demands along the N3. We have partnered with N3TC and TollCare on various projects such as Driver Wellness, Pedestrian Enforcement, and Truck Enforcement such as drivers stopping on the N3 at night to sleep.

In the Mpofana area we are very blessed with the commitment and involvement from N3TC through our PPP. They are always prepared to assist with road safety matters and provide training in various fields of our profession. When I started with Mpofana Municipality we only had two Traffic Officers. We now enjoy a staff complement of six and more to come in the near future in

our new Weighbridge venture (Public Private Partnership) with N3TC and SANRAL. This PPP is just the start of my vision I have to touch lives and make our roads a safer place.

A big thank you to N3TC for my bursary to study Traffic Management through Lyceum College. I have now completed two of the three years. My reason for studying is to broaden my knowledge on road safety and give back to the community and those who have made this possible for me. The studies have assisted me to gain a wider view of things in this profession. They have provided me with the necessary skills and knowledge to think beyond today, plan for the future and be more proactive rather than reactive in planning events, be prepared and focus on preventing incidents/accidents.

My vision is to make our roads a much safer environment to all levels of transport, road safety is a key factor in saving lives. It is my vision to reduce road accidents on our roads, one life lost as a result of a crash is one life too many. The "BIG" (if I can call it that) thing for me is to see stricter and more intense law enforcement on a 24/7 basis with high Traffic Police visibility. I would like to encourage more Private Public Partnerships in the fight for Road Safety and saving lives.

Being a Traffic Officer is such a wonderful profession, it's not just a "JOB" it is something I love and enjoy doing. I am passionate about my work and encourage anyone out there who has a similar passion to look into the field of becoming a Traffic Officer!

## iThemba Projects

by Steph Ebert

### Asidlale (Early Childhood Intervention in Sweetwaters)

The Asidlale ("Let's Play") Programme is iThemba Project's early childhood intervention programme. Thanks to N3TC, we have been able to increase the number of local crèches in Sweetwaters with whom we partner from 11 to 12.

Our goal is to eventually be partnering with 45 sites in the community, which will ensure that every child in this area has access to quality early childhood education. Our strategy is to partner with existing unskilled crèche teachers and equip them in ECD through one-on-one mentoring, curriculum, skills development, and creating a community of support.

One way we create a supportive community is through Hlanganani ("Come together") Teas. These are teacher support groups, where local crèche teachers can come together and talk about challenges in their classrooms and give each other advice on how to overcome them.



*"When we started these groups, the teachers would often look to me to provide answers," says Wendy Shelembe, iThemba's ECD mentor. "This term, however, I couldn't have said a word even if I wanted to, because the teachers were so busy sharing advice with each other."*

Helping facilitate an environment where quality ECD is valued, and where teachers across the different crèches see themselves as part of the same team is critical for sustainability and long-term impact. Through Hlanganani Teas, the teachers who have been exposed to more ECD training through longer involvement in the programme are able to pass on their knowledge organically. They are able to help others persevere when progress is slow, or doesn't make sense.

It's encouraging to see teachers take hold of new ideas and skills, even after initial resistance. It's a process; however, and it takes time. That is why we are so thankful to N3TC for giving us the chance to walk alongside crèche teachers in Sweetwaters, and empower them to provide quality ECD to class after class of children!

## Life Skills

Thanks to the partnership with N3TC, iThemba Life Skills facilitators are able to work in 14 different classes across the community, impacting more than 500 young teens each week.

*"We started helping with the physical education classes at a high school in Sweetwaters," explains Sizwe, one of the iThemba facilitators. "And this school is one that is known in the community to have very poor discipline. The teens just ignore their teachers and do whatever they like, and education is not happening. We had just started teaching Life Skills there, and it was difficult."*

*After a few weeks, we were able to bring some volunteers and facilitate a fun sports day for the entire school. We could really sense the attitude of the teens shifting. When we went back in the class the next week, we realised that we had earned the respect of the teens. Because we came in with a relational approach, listening to them, and trying to find activities they would find fun, they were able to cooperate when the time came. This really reminded me of the importance of investing in relationships."* Sizwe adds that it has also given the full-time teachers at the school a new perspective on how to approach classroom management.

This fun event that Sizwe shared is just one example of the types of activities Life Skills facilitators do to encourage relationships, openness and respect. They also make home visits to parents and guardians of at-risk teens so they can understand the context of their students' lives as well as provide after-school sporting clubs.

*"We want these young people to have a supportive environment to help them make wise life choices," iThemba mentors explain. "If they can have the support of their parents, their teachers, adult role models like us, and hopefully their peers, then we believe they're better equipped to tackle the challenges that come from growing up in an impoverished community like this one."*

Thank you to N3TC for giving us the chance to impact young lives in Sweetwaters and assist them in making life choices that will lead to success!



## School of Equine Management Excellence

by Leigh Adams

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."*

Nelson Mandela

The School of Equine Management Excellence is situated on the thoroughbred breeding farm, Summerhill Stud, within a few kilometres of the KwaZulu-Natal town of Mooi River. The story of the School began long before the plans were drawn, or the first foundations were laid. It's a story of visionaries, leadership and sacrifice.

Wherever you go in the world, the buzzword is education. Nowhere is it more critical than it is in Africa, and nowhere is it appreciated more than at Summerhill. Well over two decades ago, Summerhill embarked on a journey of upliftment for the people who call the farm "home", and the benefits can be seen in every aspect of their daily lives. For some time there have been three learning institutions at Summerhill, a crèche, a preparatory school, and a life skills mentoring class. The mentoring class has seen the award of over forty overseas scholarships to people who'd never ventured too far from the boundaries of Mooi River in their lives. These are the "home runs" that get the team up in the mornings.

And that's what prompted the development of the School of Management Excellence. A clear vision, nurturing and training philosophy has driven the need to establish a school of this kind. The School is now a registered Training provider with CEEPSEA and EQUASA and is in the process of gaining its accreditation through CATHSSETA.

The School's main objective is to upskill members of previously disadvantaged communities from around South Africa, equipping them for management roles within their organisations in the equine industry, besides the development of a mentorship programme, and the creation of employment.

The Stud Management Certification course presented at the School endows the graduates with an array of gifts, including that of foresight and the choice to forge their own paths, to make the most of every opportunity in their careers and life. The year of 2015 was no different to the years that came before it – each student gave of their best, rose to all the challenges, conquered their fears and reaped the rewards at the end of the course. The students had a great year and excelled in all their



subjects – practical and theoretical and pursued their studies with all the vigour and enthusiasm that one could hope for as an educator.

This year, N3TC once again provided the School of Equine Management Excellence with bursary funding to help mould a young person's life. The recipient was Eric Motlou, a student who showed signs of being a worthy recipient. We were not wrong in pinning our hopes on young Eric. He exceeded all our expectations and was awarded both the Top Student Of The Year Award, as well as the Fellowship Award for 2015. The school has received international recognition through the annual award of the Childwick Trust Scholarship to the British National Stud, for the top previously disadvantaged student graduating from the course. Eric is the proud recipient of that prize.

We have been incredibly honoured to enjoy the support of N3TC through its Touching Lives Programme and the provision of funding towards bursaries and the running of the School. This makes a huge difference to the success of the School and the impact on young people's lives.

## Alpine Heath – HIS National Diplomas in Hospitality Management

by Heidi Duncan

Through a wonderful partnership arrangement between N3TC and Three Cities Alpine Heath Resort, Sizwe "Speedy" Maphalala and Lungile Khoza are in the second year of their respective three-year IHS (International Hotel School) National Diplomas in Hospitality Management. The main aim of the partnership is to support local communities through job creation and skills development.

Both Speedy and Lungile have grown from strength to strength whilst having their lives touched by N3TC. Having both come from local communities, they have been given an amazing opportunity to move their lives forward and have embraced the opportunity with enthusiasm. They are a true inspiration to the community.

Lungile is studying Management. She started the year in the Food and Beverage (F&B) Department, where she gained insight into the art of guest service. She then moved to Housekeeping and ran the department together with the HOD. In the second half of the year, Lungile moved into Reception and Night Audit, where she received further training in guest satisfaction, before moving on to the Kitchen to support her F&B training.



Lungile has had a direct inspiration on the newest applicant to the N3TC family, Makhosini Dlamini, who commenced work at Alpine Heath as a gardener. After he had seen the positive growth that Lungile has undergone from working as a Chambermaid to now having the opportunity to run the Housekeeping department, Makhosini took it upon himself to borrow books to begin a process to upgrade his skills. He is now in the first year of his IHS Diploma.

Speedy lives up to his name in the kitchen and constantly keeps himself moving forward and learning, learning, learning. As Speedy is a Chef trainee, his time has all been spent in the Kitchen where he has been working in the various sections – hot kitchen, cold kitchen, pastry kitchen, staff canteen, etc. He has trained extensively in various aspects within these sections, such as general food preparation, menu training (a la carte and buffet), baking, pizzeria, dessert making, pastry, health and safety and audit.

Speedy, who started out as a dishwasher, will continue training with our new senior chef staff and will undoubtedly grow his knowledge further. He has recently been showing Mkhosini the ropes in the pizzeria and the two are definitely having some fun whilst learning.

The biggest challenges that both Lungile and Speedy have faced is to be able to complete their I.H.S. tutorials on-line as they don't have private access to a PC or the internet – Three Cities Alpine Heath Resort has supported them in their studies and submission of their materials.

Lungile has further embraced her personal growth by 'giving back' to the community as much as possible – on her recent three weeks leave she spent a vast majority of her time at her local crèche and primary school where she assisted with providing the children with some adult supervision, assistance with food preparation and feeding (even going so far as to donate her own supplies), educational support (reading / coloring-in), nurturing and love.

## Educators Development

by Janet Snow

We are proud to have completed the requirements for the Teaching Life and Living, Natural Science (Intermediate Phase) course. This Course forms part of the Fundisa for Change programme ([www.fundisaforchange.co.za](http://www.fundisaforchange.co.za)), a national project developed under the guidance of Rhodes University.

During this period we conducted:

- The first round of assessments of the Portfolio of Evidence submitted by the teachers who completed the Course;
- Private assistance sessions were given to the teachers to assist them in achieving the required level for the standard required. Teachers then resubmitted their portfolios;
- A second (and in one case third) round of assessment of the portfolios was held;
- Full report submitted to Rhodes University on the project and achievements (so they are able to endorse the course).
- All portfolios went through a moderation process to ensure the assessments and the level of work was appropriate for the certificates. The certificates were submitted by Rhodes University, Department of Education; and

- Contact with the Department of Basic Education – Natural Science Subject Advisors. Information on the development of the teachers and the course given. Two regional advisors attended the hand-over of the certificates. They have indicated that they would like to attend (as a priority) the next course conducted for the Natural Science teachers.

A Certificate Presentation event was organised and conducted during the N3TC Touching Lives Board Tour in October. Teachers were presented with their certificates and gifts of trees to be planted at their schools. During the event teachers and board members were requested to assist with the planting of trees at Treverton as a means of commemorating the event.

We are confident that the teachers who participated in this course have developed as teachers, personally and academically. Although we were not able to conduct a full research into the long-term outcomes of the course, it appears as if these teachers are happier in their profession in general and more willing to teach the specific requirements for Life and Living. During the Certificate Presentation, the group representative, A Kazi, said:

*"... I found that [the participants] were eager to learn, thirsty for knowledge and took ownership for their learning. ... There has been tremendous growth for me as a participant of the program. Fundisa for Change has sparked an interest in me for teaching Natural Science and Environmental Education. So much so that, as a Principal, I will be teaching more Natural Science next year. I have taken it on myself to teach more because I enjoy it, after attending the Fundisa for Change course. ..."*

Mrs Sibongile Molefi summed up the knock-on effects of the course when she said in her thank you speech at the Certificate Presentation event:

*"... We thank the sponsors [N3TC]. If it wasn't for them we wouldn't be here. They gave us so much in such a way that in our school we are the centre of the cluster. So everybody, if we go for the course, they come to us 'just tell us what you got' ... what we share with them, it was so much".*

She completes her speech by asking:

*"... So I hope our funders will do it next time for us and for others and for others so that all the people can share and have the knowledge that we got from [the course]. ... I thank you so much".*

We would like to thank N3TC for its support in this project. With the funding received we are able to assist the teachers in the region to become competent and confident to teach the environmental requirements.







# driving actions

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# introduction

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**The N3 Toll Route is an important lifeline for many people in South Africa. It is the busiest freight Route and one of the most important holiday Routes in the country. As such it plays an important role in the health of the South African economy on all levels and it is therefore important to ensure that a high degree of accessibility is maintained to keep the traffic moving.**

Despite the recent slowdown in the economy, the N3 Toll Route continues to be one of the most important strategic transport links in southern Africa moving large volumes of freight in 2015, which are vital for the economic health of South Africa as well as other SADC countries.

These tough conditions have resulted in a marginal increase in heavy vehicles by 0.2% when compared to 2014. In contrast the decline in the petrol price has resulted in a 4.7% increase in light vehicle traffic in this period. There is a daily flow of between 14 000 and 32 000 vehicles per day. The busy peak flows during the special high season periods reaches in excess of 4 000 vehicle per hour. The proportion of heavy vehicle traffic on the Route is about 32% of all traffic using this road.

Road Safety is a primary concern for N3TC and the various enforcement agencies operating along the route. Significant resources and interventions are deployed in order to keep users informed of adverse conditions and to combat those who wish to break the law.

Our Driving Actions report aims to showcase some of the road safety interventions that have been implemented or enhanced in 2015.

*Miles le Roux*

One of the most important things  
we adults can do for young children is to

**model the kind of person  
we would like them to be.**



## Road Safety in Perspective

The number of crashes on the N3 Toll Route in 2015 shows a marginal increase, however, the decline in fatalities and fatal crashes when compared to 2014 indicates that the ongoing Route Incident Management Systems (RIMS) initiatives, increased awareness campaigns, average speed over distance monitoring and enforcement and an increase in visible law enforcement on the Route, are having a positive impact.

The three most common types of crashes for 2015 were vehicles rolled (28%), vehicles leaving the road (23%) and head-tail (18%). Crashes where vehicles rolled or left the road are single vehicle crashes, where the driver allegedly lost control typically attributed to poor concentration and excessively dangerous speed.

Pedestrian crashes account for 4% of all crashes and, as expected, are almost always fatal. These generally occur in areas where dwellings are situated close to the route and hitch-hiking is prevalent. This issue of pedestrian activity along the Route is being addressed by SAPS, Traffic Authorities and Provincial Road Safety Divisions who first educate and thereafter arrest offenders if caught walking on the N3. The issue is further exacerbated by hawkers who sell their wares to the truck drivers at many unsafe locations.

ITEM	2014	2015	VARIATION 2015 vs 2014
Crashes	1071	1079	0.7%
Injury Crashes	476	463	-2.7%
Fatal Crashes	89	82	-7.9%
Fatalities	115	112	-2.6%

## Training of Emergency Services and Law Enforcement Agencies

The following training was provided to Emergency Services and Law Enforcement agencies during course of this year:

### Training in Tyre fitness

One hundred and eleven (111) traffic officers and thirty nine (39) road safety officers received specialised training in tyre aspects during the year.



### Dangerous Goods Awareness Training

Two hundred and eighty nine (289) law enforcement officers and emergency services personnel were trained this year.



# RIMS Enforcement Interventions

## Road Blocks

The various law enforcement agencies held 123 road blocks at various locations on the N3 Toll Route. The following Table summarises the numbers of vehicles inspected, impounded and found to be un-roadworthy.

Apart from the roadblocks referred to above, there were special operations held in Harrismith where trucks were impounded for travelling without the proper documentation, defective tail lights and other serious offences.



2015	No of RBs Done	Total number of vehicles checked	No of LMVs impounded	No of HMVs impounded	No Of Buses impounded	No Of Mini Buses impounded	Tyres	Lights	Warrants of arrests	Reg. Plates Non-Comp	Alcohol (DUI)	Unroadworthy vehicles
January	15	2258	17	21	7	12	230	251	4	67	65	28
February	11	1668	19	75	12	13	90	68	3	32	37	22
March	10	3550	14	10	5	15	18	2	7	13	9	9
April	13	5714	35	34	19	33	97	68	13	53	28	27
May	20	7596	8	17	3	28	74	157	7	106	55	28
June	22	12686	14	17	4	7	66	64	6	70	84	21
July	16	6672	20	12	5	15	55	42	3	46	35	26
August	17	7749	16	10	2	28	68	70	16	29	20	19
September	20	10352	14	18	5	10	46	40	4	25	7	23
October	22	10436	20	11	4	15	85	83	2	30	32	17
November	25	14580	9	3	6	11	95	207	4	60	23	19
December	30	15777	22	22	14	95	132	175	9	73	35	40
1st Quarter	36	7476	50	106	24	40	338	321	14	112	111	59
2nd Quarter	55	25996	57	68	26	68	237	289	26	229	167	76
3rd Quarter	53	24773	50	40	12	53	169	152	23	100	62	68
4th Quarter	77	40793	51	36	24	121	312	465	15	163	90	76
Annual Totals		99038	208	250	86	282	1056	1227	78	604	430	279





## Public Transport Compliance

Public transport compliance operations were held along the N3 Toll Route. The focus for these operations was to ensure driver and vehicle compliance within the industry.

As a result of the Driver Wellness initiatives co-ordinated at strategic locations along the Route, the need for Eyesight Testing with appropriate law enforcement action was highlighted. As such regular eyesight compliance operations are held along the route and are gaining momentum.

## Registration Plates Compliance

It has been noted that many drivers are intentionally removing their number plates in order to transgress the law. Some of these drivers even go to the extent of covering their number plates with mud. The driver of the below vehicle was arrested in Harrismith.ers and emergency services personnel were trained this year.

A focused effort to address the issue of number plate compliance was undertaken in the third quarter of 2015. These operations were responsible for 143 drivers being fined. In some, more severe cases, drivers were charged with Defeating the Ends of Justice. Through the RIMS and Focus Group meetings coordinated by N3TC's RIMS team, the enforcement agencies are requested to pay special attention to these transgressions. Someone who deliberately removes their number plates has an intention to commit a crime.



## Illegal and Unsafe Truck Parking or Stopping Operations

These operations target trucks that are illegally stopped along the N3 Toll Route. These exercises are carried out between 22h00 and 03h00 at night. In the year to date, 264 trucks were found to be illegally stopped or parked and fined; and in some cases vehicles were impounded.

The following results were recorded:

2015	Total Trucks Impounded	No of trucks chased away	Fines or Summons for 2015									
			Illegal stopping	Oil Leaks	Tail-lights	Headlights	Reg Plates	No Triangles	Veh. License	Tyres	Driver's Licence	Impound
January	18	67	21	10	8	19	16	8	4	21	4	18
February	24	52	27	7	18	22	13	14	5	16	5	24
March	21	21	39	9	31	14	14	15	24	50	27	14
April	37	102	40	16	61	46	29	25	14	35	11	46
May	37	146	33	16	27	50	19	13		28	3	49
June	25	181	47	12	43	45	34	12	5	40	4	28
July	15	206	48	17	21	45	48	12	8	28	8	29
August	9	236	9	17	23	25	29	9	4	37	6	9
September	20	204	25	16	26	24	27	22	6	57	3	15
October	16	165	28	37	30	22	23	11	3	53	10	11
November	14	117	45	39	31	28	34	9	8	45	4	45
December	12	52	69	46	61	70	42	32	21	87	10	70
1st Quarter	63	140	87	26	57	55	43	37	33	87	36	56
2nd Quarter	99	429	120	44	131	141	82	50	19	103	18	123
3rd Quarter	44	646	82	50	70	94	104	43	18	122	17	53
4th Quarter	42	334	142	122	122	120	99	52	32	185	24	126
Annual Totals	248	1549	431	242	380	410	328	182	102	497	95	358

## Dangerous Goods Law Enforcement

Dangerous goods enforcement is highly technical and requires expertise in the field of dangerous goods and the associated requirements of the Road Traffic Act. Law enforcement officers with the required expertise conducted special exercises at Mooi River, Harrismith and Heidelberg. This involved detailed road side inspections where the authorities checked all aspects of the load, vehicle requirements and driver qualifications.





# Vehicle and Driver Fitness

## Driver Wellness

Voluntary Driver Wellness exercises were conducted at various locations on the N3 Toll Route. An impressive 484 drivers voluntarily stopped at the sites and underwent the tested offered by the respective healthcare service providers. The following table summarises the test results:

2015	BP			Glucose			TB		VCT			Eye Test		Cholesterol	
	Tested	H/Reading	Referred	Tested	H/Reading	Referred	Tested	Referred	Tested	Positive	Negative	Tested	Tested	High	Low
January	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
February	59		4	59	7	2	59	0	42	6	36	59	51	6	0
March	305		5	279	35.8	3	93	0	180	8	172	0	121	20.1	6
April	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	54		2	54	3	1	63	0	44	2	42	63	61	2	0
June	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	66		1	63	1	1	66	0	47	0	47	61	57	2	0
September	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
October	311		6	310	52.3	4	78	0	192	6	186	0	178	124.9	10.8
November	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	80		3	76	6	6	88	0	68	3	65	0	74	7	0
1st Quarter	364		9	338	42.8	5	152	0	222	14	208	59	172	26.1	6
2nd Quarter	54		2	54	3	1	63	0	44	2	42	63	61	2	0
3rd Quarter	66		1	63	1	1	66	0	47	0	47	61	57	2	0
4th Quarter	391		9	386	58.3	10	166	0	260	9	251	0	252	131.9	10.8
Annual Totals:	875		21	841	109.1	17	447	0	573	25	548	183	542	162	16.8

## Seat Belt Simulator

The seatbelt simulator is an extremely helpful educational tool when the teams visit schools or community initiatives, which highlights the importance of buckling up. Learners and community members are taught the importance of wearing a seat belt and then given the opportunity to experience the impact on a person in the event of a crash.

## Heidelberg Vehicle Test Station

SANRAL recently commissioned two fully equipped vehicle test facilities on both sides of the N3 at the Heidelberg Traffic Control Centre. The purpose of these facilities is to test all vehicles that the law enforcement personnel suspect may have mechanical faults and to determine the fitness of drivers.

From April to June 2015, 232 vehicles were inspected at the new Heidelberg Vehicle Test Station. A mere 38 vehicles passed the tests but, alarmingly, 194 vehicles failed. These figures indicate that there are a high number of un-roadworthy vehicles travelling on the N3 Toll Route.

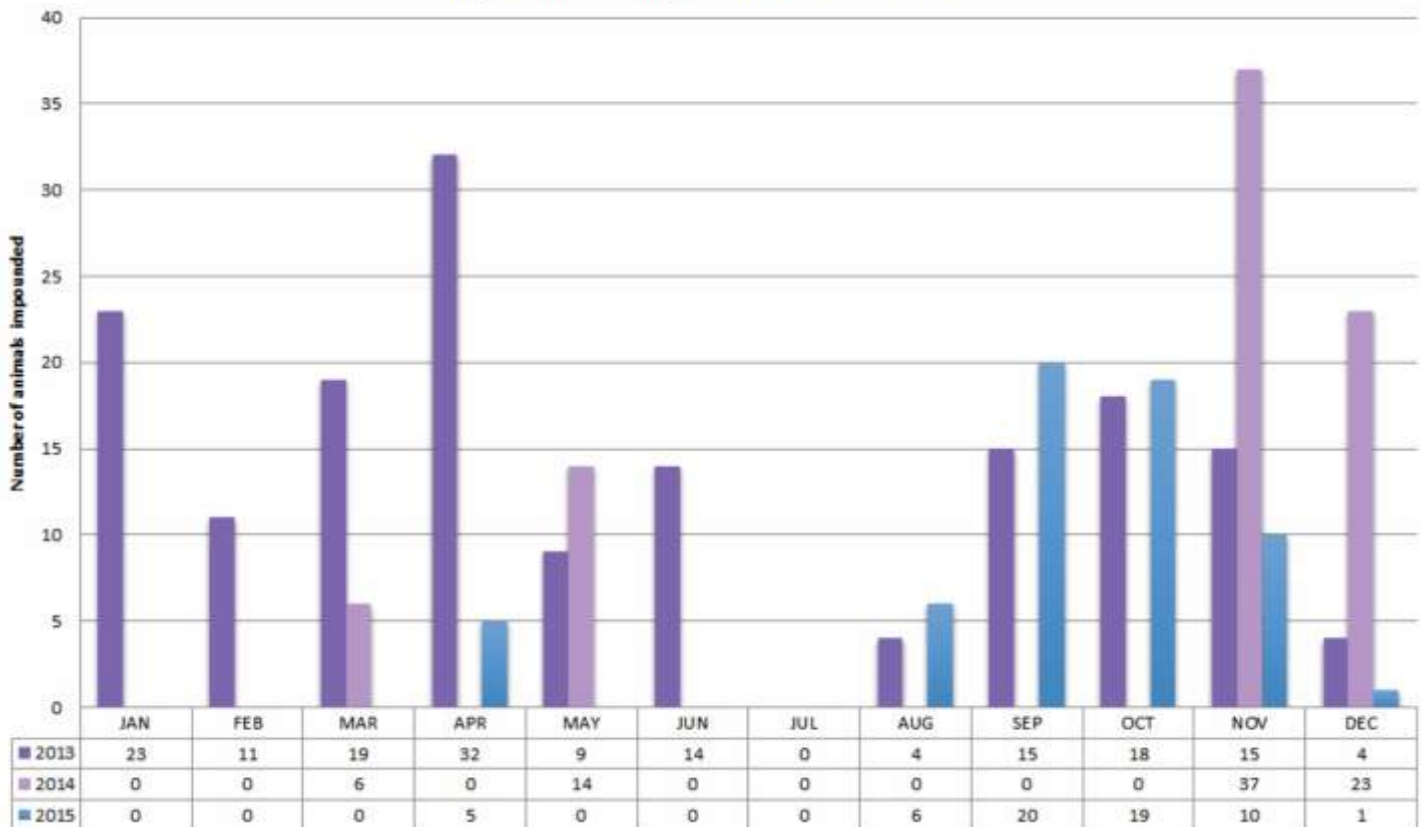


## Stray and Wild Animals

N3TC Route Services and local law enforcement agencies continue to impound stray animals. Combined efforts and operations take place along the route periodically. In addition N3TC has erected temporary holding pens and equipped the Route Services' vehicles with temporary capture fencing to contain animals for a short period of time. Through these efforts, N3TC has recorded a reduction in the number of stray animal impounded by authorities.

The significant decrease in the number of animals that require impoundment on the N3, leads us to believe that the owners are now taking more care for their animals.

**Stray Animals Impounded 2013 to 2015**





## Route Services

The N3TC Route Services provide an invaluable service to N3 Toll Route customers. Their responsibilities are vast and numerous, all contributing towards N3TC's vision to provide customers with safety, convenience and mobility. The Route Services are responsible for responding to crashes, assisting with break downs, removal of objects or livestock from the road and monitoring of the Route through patrols, amongst others.

The table (top, right) summarises the extent of the Route Services activities during 2015 compared with 2014.

ITEM	2014	2015	VAR %
No of patrols	8 927	9 202	3.1%
Distance covered by patrols	1 718 261	1 780 353	3.6%
No of crashes attended	994	1016	2.2%
No of customers assisted	2 087	1 823	-12.6%
No of customers assisted with fuel	344	337	-2.0%
No of tyres and objects removed	7 628	8 220	7.8%
No of vehicle fire incidents	26	19	-26.9%
No of veld fire incidents	60	49	-18.3%
No of stray animals removed	1788	1890	5.7%

The comparison between 2015 and 2014 highlights the following:

- Increase in the number of stray animals chased from the roadway;
- Decrease in the number vehicle fire incidents;
- Motorists requiring assistance decreased;
- Marginal decrease in the number of motorists requiring fuel;
- Marginal increase in the number of crashes attended; and
- Increase in the numbers of tyres and objects removed.

The following table provides an idea of the types of objects Route Services pick up from the roadway:

	CEDARA MIDWAY	MIDWAY TUGELA	TUGELA H/SMITH	H/SMITH ROADSIDE	ROADSIDE WILGE	WILGE HEIDELBERG	TOTALS
Wood	8	30	20	2	7	5	72
Steel	6	21	11	2	10	4	54
Rope		12	13	1		2	28
Road cones	15				1		16
Chevron boards			1		9	2	12
Loan protectors			3	5	3	1	12
Securing straps	1			1	4	1	7
Steel lengths	1	1	4				6
Plastic bags			5			1	6
Planks	2			3	1		6
Mudguards		1		1	1	1	4
Steel pipes		1	1			1	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>237</b>

## Route Control Centre

The Route Control centre (RCC) continues to perform well in a demanding environment. The positive feedback received from road users is encouraging and contributes to a sense of worth for the team as a whole.

Together with TollCare, the Route Services Operator, the RCC has helped many road users during their travels along the N3 Toll Route. Road users have responded with sincere gratitude for the assistance, especially those stranded next to the roadway.

This service included a total of 1 076 follow-up courtesy calls made to N3TC's customers who had requested assistance.

The RCC supports the successful use of N3TC's Twitter feed (@N3Route). This has become an essential and regular means of communication between N3TC and its customers. This medium is very popular and there are currently in excess of 50 000 followers on N3TC's feed. N3TC receives a large number of compliments for services rendered via this medium. In addition the RCC uses a Bulk SMS facility to keep its 845 registered members, predominantly from the trucking fraternity, advised on incidents and road closures that could affect their vehicle/s journey along the Route.

On a daily basis, the RCC diligently manages N3TC's incident database known as IRIS. This database is the only one of its kind in South Africa at this time and many requests are received for information from this source.

In summary, the RCC is an integral component of N3TC RIMS efforts but furthermore supports the company's efforts to maintain a good brand reputation.





## Mpofana Public Private Partnership (PPP)

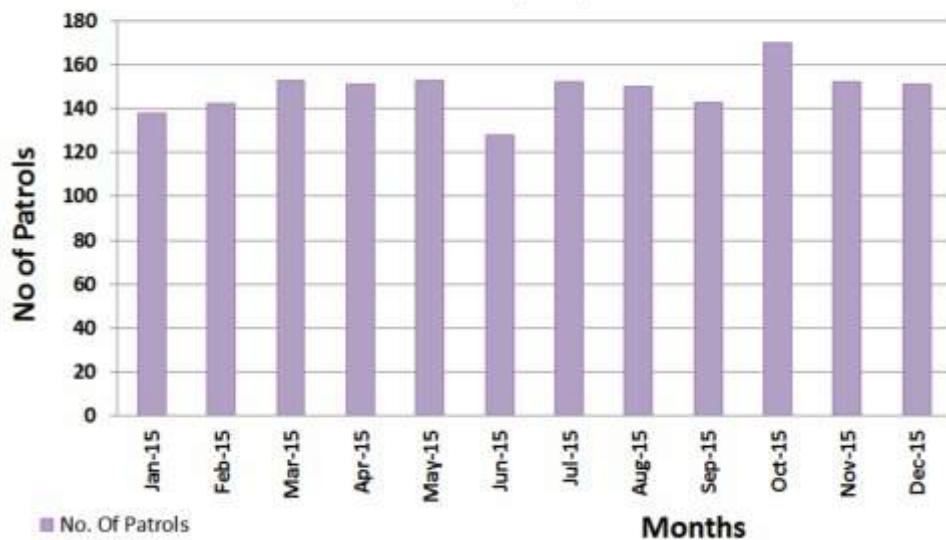
The PPP between N3TC and Mpofana was implemented in July 2013, and has enabled the local authority to improve the effectiveness of its traffic law enforcement capabilities and especially at night when no other agencies are operating on the N3 Toll Route.

A number of traffic enforcement operations are conducted under this PPP, which are having a positive effect on road safety. There is now a regular night shift for five days of the week focusing on specific issues. It is believed that due to the increased visibility of law enforcement in the area, SAPS has recorded a decrease in the general crime rate on this section of the N3 Toll Route.

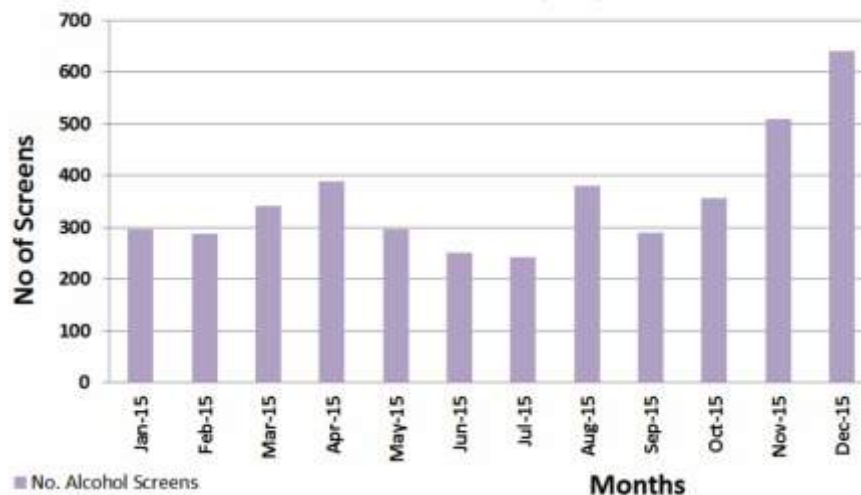
Although the Mpofana team is relatively small, it is effectively managing many issues and actions. The results of their efforts are summarised in the graphs below. mpany's efforts to maintain a good brand reputation.



**No. Of Patrols by Mpofana**



**No. Of Alcohol Screens by Mpofana**



## N3TC Duduza 'We Care' Initiative

The N3TC Duduza 'We Care' Initiative is one of those truly heart-warming and sincere projects that meaningfully touch lives and bring comfort when there is very little else to hold on to for young hospital patients.

Since 2008 teddy bears have been given to children at a number of Provincial hospitals along the Route. This gesture of kindness and hope still remains a beacon of light and comfort for the young recipients.

In addition, the team distributes blankets and teddy bears to orphanages and places of safety for vulnerable and abandoned children. This is a sustainable commitment from N3TC and its partners, which include law enforcement agencies, emergency services personnel, community members, local businesses and staff.

N3TC is exceptionally proud of this initiative and its impact on touching lives meaningfully.



## CCTV Pilot Project

N3TC embarked on a pilot project in 2015, whereby ten CCTV cameras will be installed at strategic locations along the N3 Toll Route. It is expected to have these fully operational by the end of this year.

The purpose of this project is for N3TC to be able to observe the traffic, road and weather conditions from the N3TC Route Control Centre at Harrismith and enable it to provide a suitable response depending on the situation observed from these cameras. Further devices will be installed once the pilot project is complete and has been assessed.





# Acknowledgements

**N3TC expresses its deepest gratitude and appreciation to the following for their support of N3TC's road safety efforts.**

- Road Traffic Inspectorate (RTI)
  - Pietermaritzburg
  - Midway
  - Ladysmith
- South African Police Service (SAPS)
  - Highway Patrols
  - K9 Units
  - Search and Rescue
  - Nottingham Road
  - Mooi River
  - Estcourt
  - Ladysmith
  - Besters
  - Van Reenen
  - Maluti-a-Phofung Cluster
  - Phumelela Cluster
  - Mafube Cluster
  - Dipaleseng Cluster
  - Harrismith
  - Warden
  - Vrede
  - Roadside
  - Villiers
  - Grootvlei
  - Heidelberg
  - Vaal Flying Squad
- SAPS Collision Unit, Pietermaritzburg
- SAPS KZN Provincial Office
- Ladysmith Collision Unit
- Ladysmith Public Safety
- Bethlehem Collision Unit
- Traffic
  - uMngeni
  - Mpofana
  - Umtshezi
  - Mafube
  - Lesedi
  - Phumelela
- Department of Transport: Head Office, KwaZulu Natal
- Department of Transport: Road Safety, Pietermaritzburg
- Department of Transport: Road Safety, Ladysmith
- Department of Health: uMgungundlovu District

- Department of Health: uThukela District
- Department of Health: Free State Province (EMS and Primary Health Care)
- Department of Health: Mpumalanga Province
- Department of Health: Gauteng Province
- KwaZulu Natal Department of Water Affairs and Forestry
- KwaZulu Natal Department of Environmental Affairs
- Department of Community Safety: Southern Cluster, Heidelberg
- Department of Police, Roads and Transport: Thabo Mofutsanyana District
- Department of Police, Roads and Transport: Fezile Dabi District
- Department of Public Roads and Transport: Balfour
- Free State Department of Economic and Environmental Affairs
- Mpumalanga Department of Environmental Affairs
- Department of Water Affairs: Vaal Catchment
- Disaster Management:
  - Thabo Mofutsanyana District
  - Fezile Dabi District
- KZN Emergency Medical and Rescue Services
- uMgungundlovu Fire and Rescue
- Msunduzi Fire and Rescue
- Berg EMS
- Umtshezi Fire
- Sharaj EMS
- Nsele EMS
- Maluti-a-Phofung Fire and Emergency
- Mafube Fire and Rescue
- Lesedi EMS
- Sasolburg Fire and Emergency
- Vaal Emergency Services
- Grootvlei Nooddienste: Fire and Rescue
- Lesedi Fire and Rescue
- Greys CCC
- Alpha Control CCC

- Lesedi CCC
- Grootvlei CCC
- Bethlehem LCRC
- Vereeniging LCRC
- Secunda LCRC
- SPCA
- Drizit
- Hazclean
- Spilltech
- Natal Towing Association RMI
- TollCare
- Tolcon Lehumo
- Community Medical Services
- Angels in Motion
- BMW Road Service
- Khanyisile Trust: Ansie Jooste
- Liberty Life Helivac
- Rescue SA
- Netcare 911
  - Pietermaritzburg
  - Harrismith
  - Bethlehem
  - Frankfort
  - Springs
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- Trucking Wellness
- Driver Wellness Optometrists
- Chemical and Allied Industry Association (CAIA)
- Sasol
- Alimdaad Foundation

