



TOUCHING LIVES

Knowledge. Skills. Literacy. Perspective.

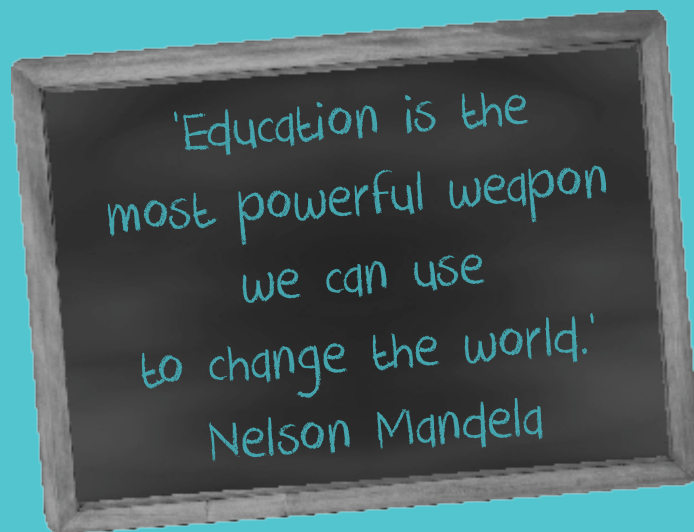
2016

FEBRUARY 2017

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Touching Lives 2016



Supporting sustainable education projects that encourage, motivate and build confidence in learners of all ages through study, knowledge and life experience and in so doing provide hope for the future.

Knowledge. Skills. Literacy. Perspective.

Contributors – Touching Lives:

Each and every person who has contributed in any way towards the Touching Lives programme is acknowledged with profound admiration and respect.

The N3 Corridor is a better place because of you.



N3 Toll Concession (RF) Proprietary Limited
1st Floor, Block D, Southdowns Office Park, Cnr John Vorster Drive & Karee Street, Irene
PO Box 67166, Highveld Park, 0169
Tel: +27 87 285 6382

CONTENTS



The Year in Review 2

Andy Visser 3

Graphs and Geographic Spread 6

Looking at the Statistics 8

Touching Lives - The Tour 16

Corporate Social Investment 20

Geographic Key 7

2029 Legacy Projects 21

Education 31

Road Safety 54

Environment 61

Child Welfare 66

Youth Development 74

Disabled 76

HIV and AIDS 78

Sponsorships 79

Community Events 84

Enterprise Development 91

Skills Development 109

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



by Con Roux

Touching Lives had its genesis in certain contractual commitments during the Initial Construction Works period, early in the new millennium. In meeting these commitments, the enormity of the socio-economic needs of the mostly-rural N3 Corridor began to hit home.

It became clear that N3TC would need to do everything within its means to leave a lasting legacy of change to the Corridor, change that would outlast N3TC's thirty year concession contract that ends in 2029.

The Board and shareholders, in visionary fashion, embraced the expansion of contractual undertakings into a far-reaching programme with three pivotal elements: Socio Economic Development; Skills Development; and Enterprise Development.

At the centre of the entire programme is a profound commitment to Touching Lives in a meaningful and sustainable way. At the centre of the entire programme is, also, the non-negotiable conviction that education is of pre-eminent importance in addressing the needs of the Corridor.

I write this overview having just returned from hosting our annual Board and Shareholder tour along the Corridor. The presence of N3TC's highest decision-makers on the tour is testimony to their personal commitment to the Touching Lives programme.

All the projects we visited were world-class, all characterised by the golden thread of education, from Early Childhood Development to career-linked skills development (and everything else in-between!).

On tour with us was Londeka Ximba, N3TC bursary student, now proud UKZN B. Sc. (civil engineering) graduate and N3TC employee. Londeka, whose story is told in more detail later, personifies the life-changing power of education and determination that N3TC so earnestly seeks to imprint on the Corridor.

And so, dear reader, as you page through this edition of Touching Lives, gaining an all-too brief glimpse into the extraordinary work that has been done during the year, we trust that you, too, will be touched.

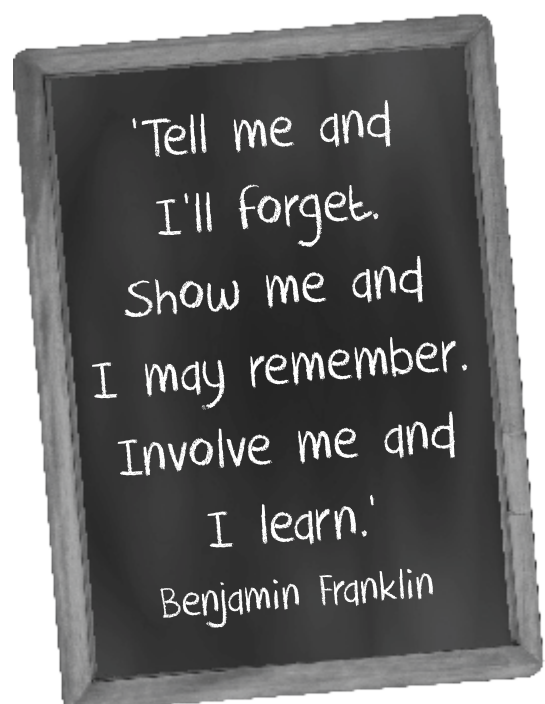
Touched by the project champions and the incredible work they do, touched by the joy that comes from serving, touched by the power of ordinary South Africans working selflessly for good, touched by the resilience of those who withstand great hardship to fight for a brighter future.

N3TC is proud to partner in this journey of nation-building, and pays tribute to the Heroes whose life-work is reflected in these pages. Andy Visser is one of those Heroes.

Andy joined N3TC in 2007 as PR & Communications (later Marketing) Manager. Andy's skill in her chosen career was already known. Her heart for the people and communities who call the N3 Corridor home was immediately apparent.

Andy played a fundamentally important role in the evolution of the Touching Lives programme, before leaving N3TC at the beginning of 2016 due to the relocation of her husband.

We treasure your legacy Andy, and wish you God's richest blessing in the next chapter of your life.



ANDY VISSER

by Nikki Brighton

Andy is an all or nothing sort of person - once she sinks her teeth into a task, she gives it everything she has. While this is wonderful for the projects she has been involved with during her years at N3TC, her family has been known to get a little tired of having to share her with Twitter as she tweets about the road conditions during holidays!

Growing up in Benoni, she spent many happy hours playing with her dog Snoopy, reading *The Famous Five* in secluded parts of their garden and exploring the frog-filled pan down the road, which were much wilder back then. "What a happy childhood that was," recalls Andy. "We had so many pets, including a rescued Mousebird named Monica – a real menagerie – and plenty of freedom to ride our bikes."

Andy's family were regular church goers - she was encouraged to think about others and to be thankful for all she had. "I always took the tomato out of my sandwiches, which drove my mom crazy. She implored me to remember the children who had nothing to eat." This grounding in gratitude and service has certainly influenced Andy's life. Nowadays she fulfils a role of pastoral care counsellor in her community and is able to use her skills as peacemaker, organiser and counsellor to help others. Her empathy comes from the personal challenges she has faced - each one making her stronger as she overcame it, her faith guiding her even through uncertain times.

The N3TC Touching Lives projects have given her glimpses into so many other worlds, alongside the N3 Toll Route. When she joined N3TC in 2007, she had no idea that she was going to participate so extensively in the growth of the CSI programme! Andy has found the opportunity to work with inspiring and passionate people a delight. So many of the project coordinators believe that Andy is their best friend – a testament to her genuine interest in the project, and her ability to really connect with others, and intuitively know what their needs are. "It isn't difficult to establish relationships because they are all such nice people," she smiles.

Sue Hopkins of Future Growth (a shareholder of N3TC) has observed first-hand the respectful relationship that Andy has with each employee and every beneficiary, without exception. "As much as anything else, I looked forward to witnessing the exchange between Andy and the people we were visiting. This was always filled with warmth and mutual pleasure in each other's company, which was truly contagious! She has a way of not drawing attention to herself but rather championing others through her words and actions - an example we could all do well to follow."

Andy finds the networking so satisfying – putting people in touch with others who can improve their world. "What a joy to



see an opportunity, come up with a concept and make it happen. I honestly believe that our Touching Lives programme has had a positive impact on many, many lives."

Naturally, there are a couple of very special moments that stand out. She recalls, with delight, being made an honorary Bug by the Midlands Meander Education Project – the Fabulous Freeway Firefly. Education makes up a large segment of their projects and watching little people grow and blossom gives her great joy. "I remember a little boy at Sand River Primary in Van Reenen, following me shyly one morning. When asked by the headmistress why he was doing that, he responded with a quiet 'I love this lady so much' – that moment makes up for a whole lot of other stressful ones!" She also values the fact that this programme has enabled her to show her daughters (Nicole and Caitlin) a world they may never otherwise have known; to share some of the hardships others experience, and to learn that going to school and having a plate of food is a privilege. It appears that they will follow in Andy's kind footsteps, as Catlin recently asked her friends to make donations to Sunfield Home Fortuna, rather than buy her gifts on her last birthday.

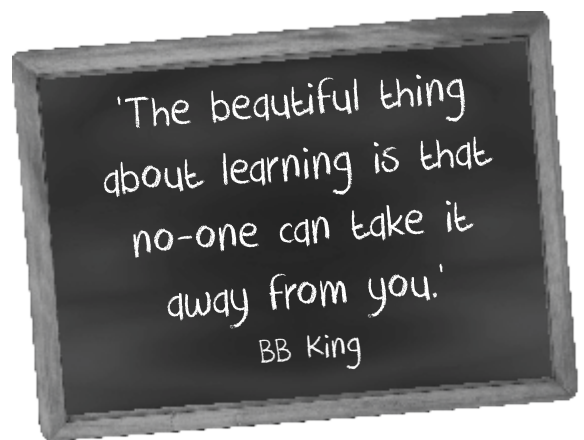
The N3TC Touching Lives programme has never been just about handing out money, and Andy has been the perfect person to build relationships, and to bring encouragement and support along with her marketing and business skills. Andy has been responsible for the annual N3TC CSI Board Tour that brought the projects into the board room. James Howard is a regular participant in these tours, visiting inspiring projects in far flung places. "This vital link between the Board and the projects ensured that this work was always fully supported and funded to match Andy's passion and persuasion. As a director participating on the trips I would feel that I had contributed personally, so I would happily help drive this within the Board."

Inspiring and committed colleagues at N3TC have meant her job is very satisfying. Andy has made the most of opportunities offered by the company to travel to conferences in Mexico and New York, and to complete her Marketing Degree at Wits Business School (where she came top of the class). At overseas gatherings she is often surprised at how far ahead N3TC is with Social Media, up-to-the-minute technology and creative and effective campaigns. A major highlight and testament to her marketing skills is the N3 Gateway – a tourism project linked to the arterial national road – which aims to become self-sustaining. Another is the annual drOp'ngo2c 'Supporters Tour' linked to the joBerg2c staged MTB event. The Tour is Andy's brainchild and quite unique. Andy relishes the fact that she has been able to see opportunities to change lives, to initiate fantastic projects and do things she never imagined were possible.



Colleague, Thandi Rakhale, appreciates the genuine love she has for her co-workers and the investment that Andy has made in her personal growth. "Andy has taught me many lessons which have shaped me in more ways than she may know. Her warm heart and caring nature, supported by a highly efficient and organised manner, has made an enormous difference to the lives of so many."

Con Roux has worked extremely closely with Andy throughout her career at N3TC. His admiration for her passion, vision and caring is boundless. "Andy is a perfectionist and will settle for nothing less, especially in relation to her own multi-faceted role."



However, beneath her professionalism and effectiveness, Andy has an unbelievably caring heart. I will always treasure a memory of her tears of joy while cradling a handicapped child in her arms."

Andy is an exceptional gift to the communities of the N3 Corridor as the Touching Lives programme attests.

Andy loves to escape to the bush with her family (they just have to stop her from tweeting!), to birdwatch and hike at Kruger or the Cape. At home she squeezes in as much reading as she can, adores pottering in her garden growing herbs and veggies and intends to revive her love of tap dancing someday. She is thinking of taking up drumming too! Watch out for Andy Visser moving to her unique beat and making the world a better place with every step she takes.







Geographic Spread: Key

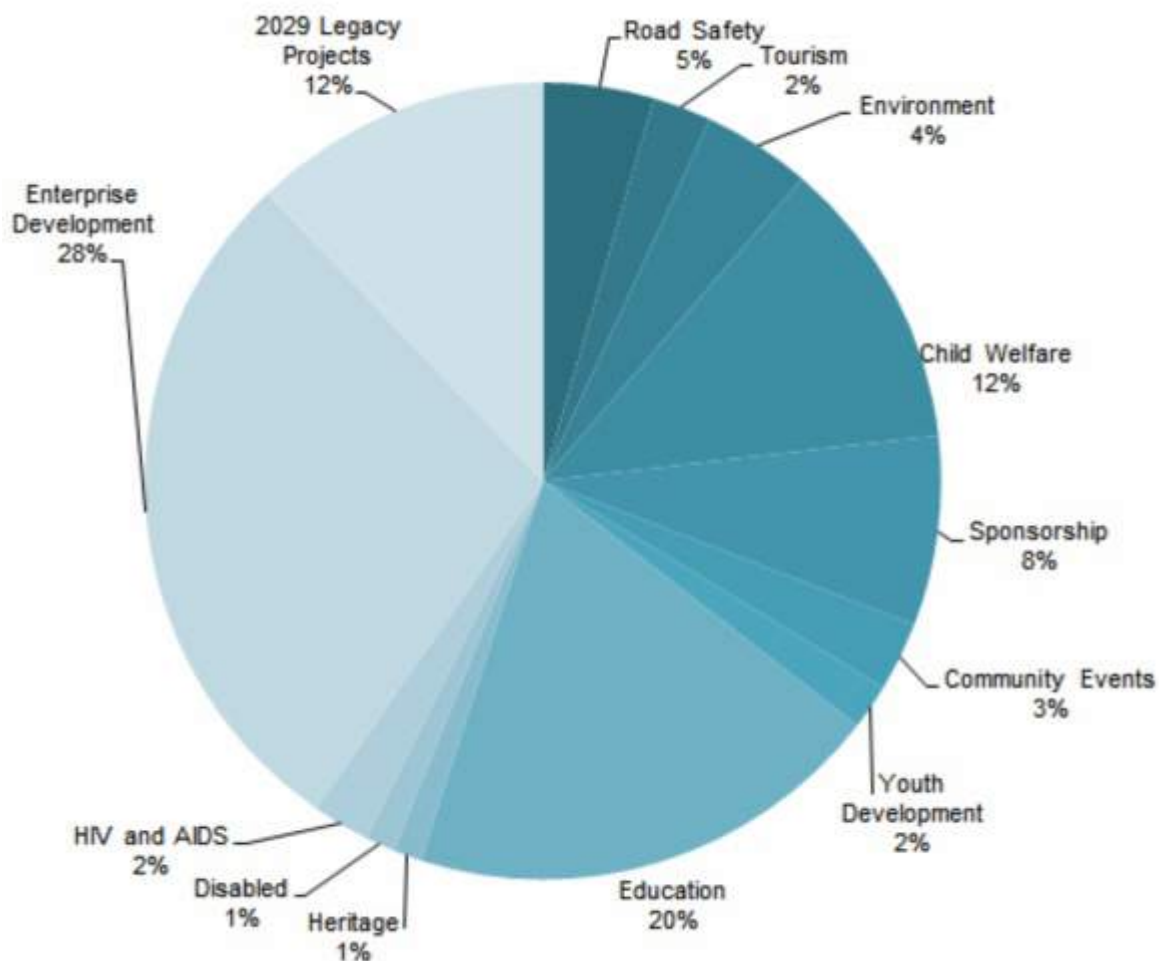
	PROJECT	CATEGORY
A	Meals on Wheels Cycle Event	Sponsorships
	Sedaven Community Intervention Project: LUSA	Community Training
B	Sunfield Fortuna	Disabled
	Topsy Foundation:	
	• OVC Project • ECD Project	Child Welfare Education
C	Villiers High School	Skills Development: Basic Education Bursaries
D	Free State Eco Schools Project	Education
E	Free State Care in Action	Child Welfare
	Maluti Child Care Project	Child Welfare
	Tsa Lapeng Designs	Enterprise Development
	Mamello Support Group	Enterprise Development
	Harrismith Primary School	Skills Development: Basic Education Bursaries
	New Horizon College (Hope House)	Skills Development: Basic Education Bursaries
F	Angels in Motion	Road Safety
	Community Medical Services	Road Safety
	Khanyisile Trust	Child Welfare
	Nakekela BirdLife Project	Environment
	Van Reenen Events	Community Events
	Trans Draak MTB Event	Community Events
	EWT Sungazer & Grasslands Conservation Project	2029 Legacy Projects
	Van Reenen/Swinburne Tourism Initiative	Enterprise Development
	Beads of Hope	Enterprise Development
	N3TC Arthur Cresswell Memorial Marathon	Sponsorships
	Wildlands Vulture Project	2029 Legacy Project
	EWT Drakensberg Crane Project	2029 Legacy Project
H	Royal Drak MTB Event	Community Events
	Drakensberg CDIC	Enterprise Development
	Drakensberg Boys Choir School	Skills Development: Basic Education Bursaries
	Royal Drakensberg Primary School	Education
		Skills Development: Basic Education Bursaries
	Kwazamokuhle School for the Disabled	Education
		Skills Development: Basic Education Bursaries
I	SamLyn Literacy Programme	Education
J	St David's Diocesan School	Education
		Skills Development: Basic Education Bursaries
K	Greytown MTB Festival	Community Events
	Othandweni	Child Welfare
	Wildlands Green Heroes Programme	Environment
	DUCT umNgeni River Health Project	Environment
	Treverton Sports Festival	Youth Development
	Babanentse Co-Op	Enterprise Development
	Senzakahle Primary Co-Op	Enterprise Development
	Othandweni/Singakwenza Crèche	Enterprise Development
	Treverton Educator Development	Skills Development: Community Training
	Midlands Principal Development	Skills Development: Community Training
	Summerhill Equine School of Excellence	Skills Development: Community Training
	Treverton Schools	Skills Development: Basic Education Bursaries
	Sunfield Howick	Disabled
	SADD Youth Road Safety Project	Road Safety
L	Midmar Mile	Sponsorships
	1000 Paws – uMngeni SPCA	Community Events
	Vula Maths and Science Programme	Education
	Midlands Meander Education Programme	Education
	Curry's Post Primary School	Education
	Lions River Primary School	Education
	Singakwenza ECD Programme	2029 Legacy Projects
	Midlands Meander Emerging Artists Project	Enterprise Development
	Owl Box Project	Environment
	Mpophomeni Conservation Group	Enterprise Development
M	Comrades Marathon	Community Events
	Crystal Springs Primary School	Education
	Project Gateway	Enterprise Development
	PROTEC PMB	Skills Development: Basic Education Bursaries
	SMILE	Skills Development: Community Training
	iThemba Projects	Skills Development: Community Training
O	Music Literacy Africa	Youth Development
		Skills Development: Community Training
	Midlands Conservancies Forum	Environment
	KZN Crane Foundation:	
	• Education Programme • Wattled Crane Breeding Centre	Education 2029 Legacy Projects
	Impendle Eco Schools Project	Education
	Midlands Community College	Education
	Nottingham Road Primary	Education
	Esiphethwini Sendezi Primary School	Education
P	N3TC Drak Challenge	Sponsorships
	Splashy Fen	Community Events
	Underberg Primary School Remedial/Mastery Project	Education
	Pevensy Place	Disabled
	Underberg Primary School	Skills Development: Basic Education Bursaries
Q	Road Safety Peak Period Initiatives	Road Safety
	EWT Road Ecology Project	Road Safety
	Trucking Wellness	HIV/AIDS
	Old Mutual joBerg2c	2029 Legacy Projects
	N3 Gateway Tourism Association	Enterprise Development

LOOKING AT THE STATISTICS

Spend per focus area 2016

CSI

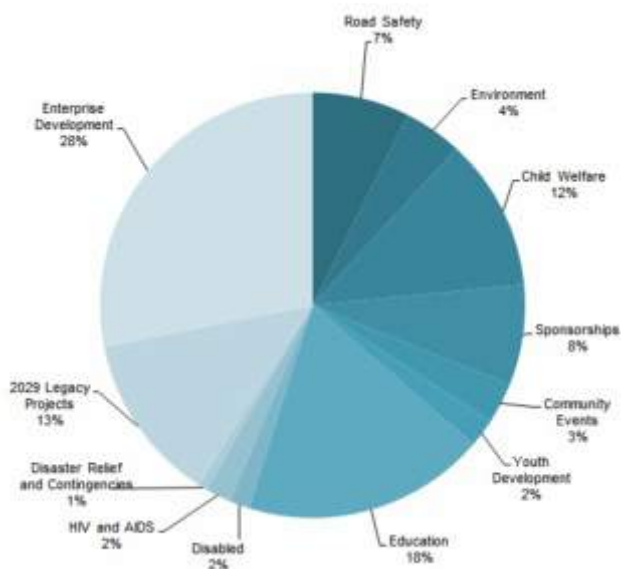
2016 CSI Spend: R10.3 million



Spend per focus area 2015

CSI

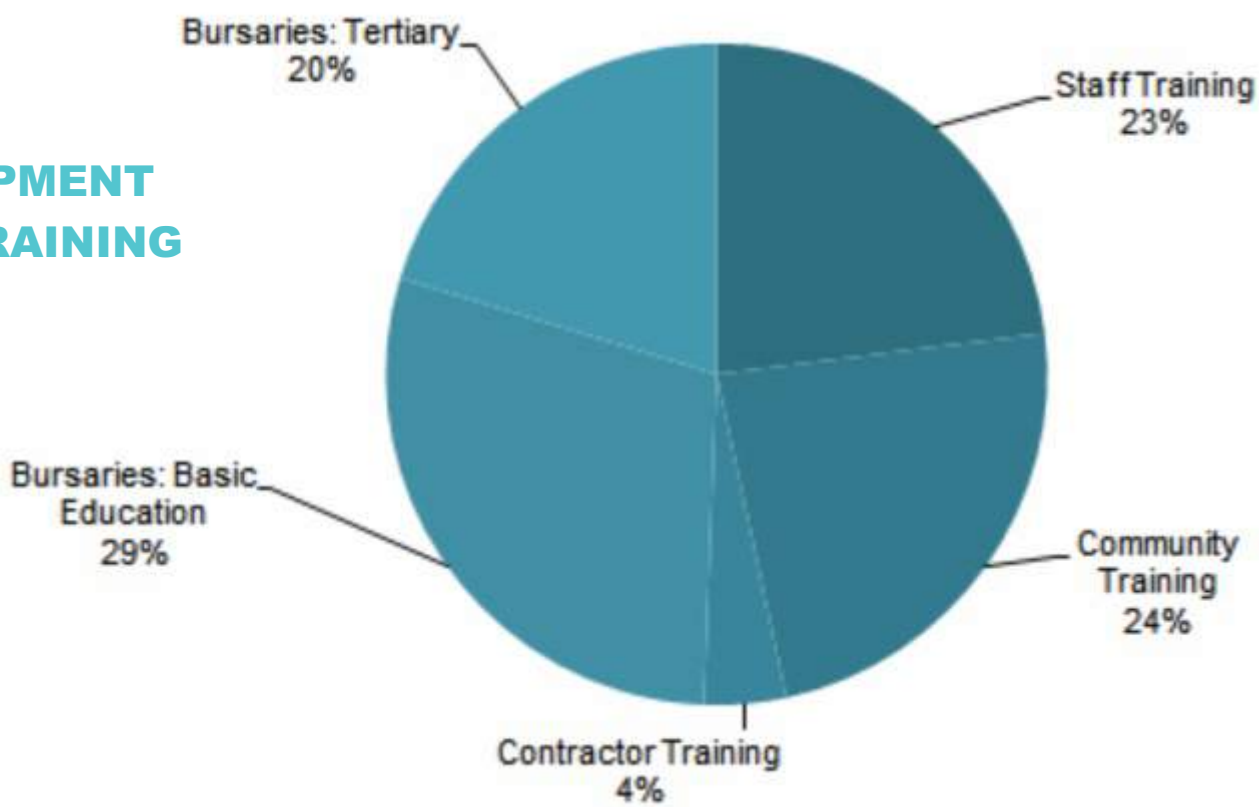
2015 CSI Spend: R10.3 million



Spend per focus area 2016

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

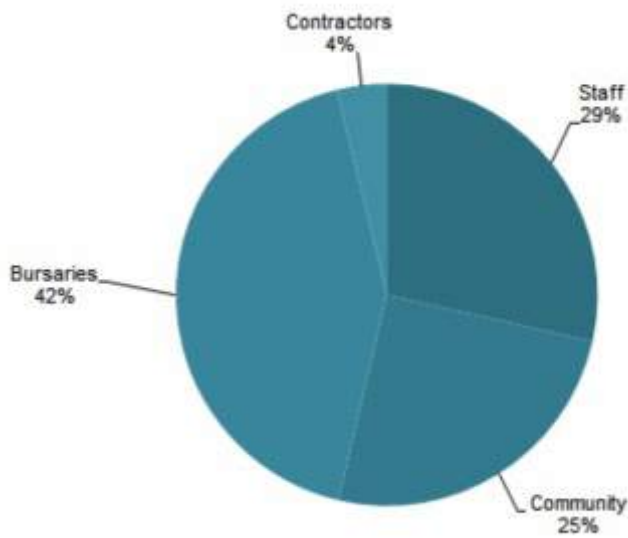
2016 Spend: R2.9 million



Spend per focus area 2015

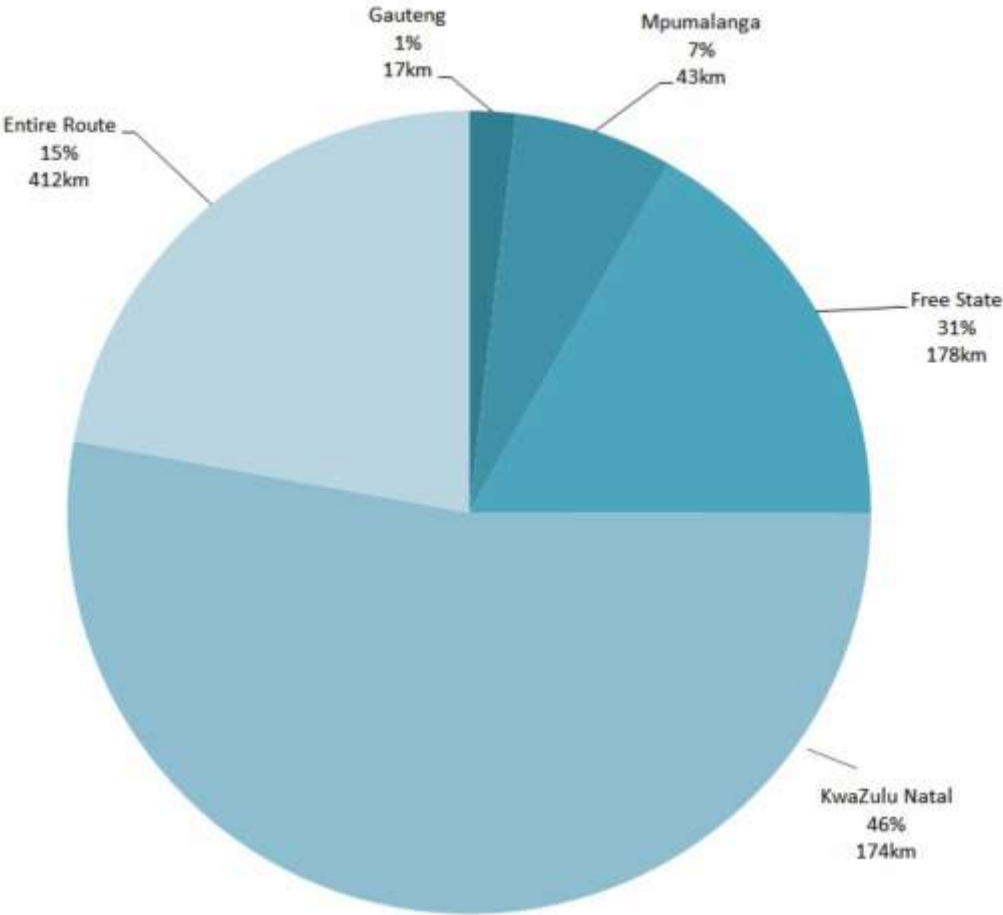
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING

2015 Spend: R2.5 million

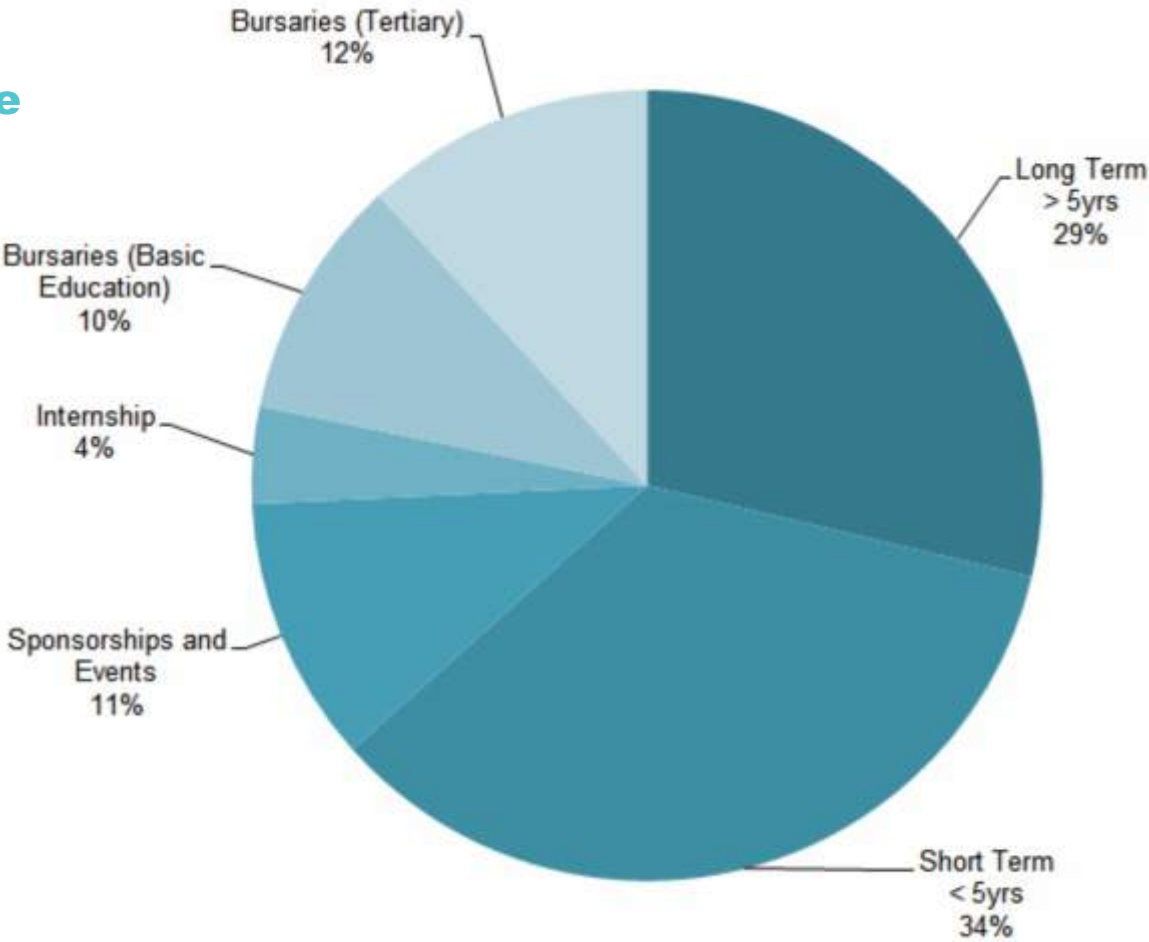


Spend per Province 2016

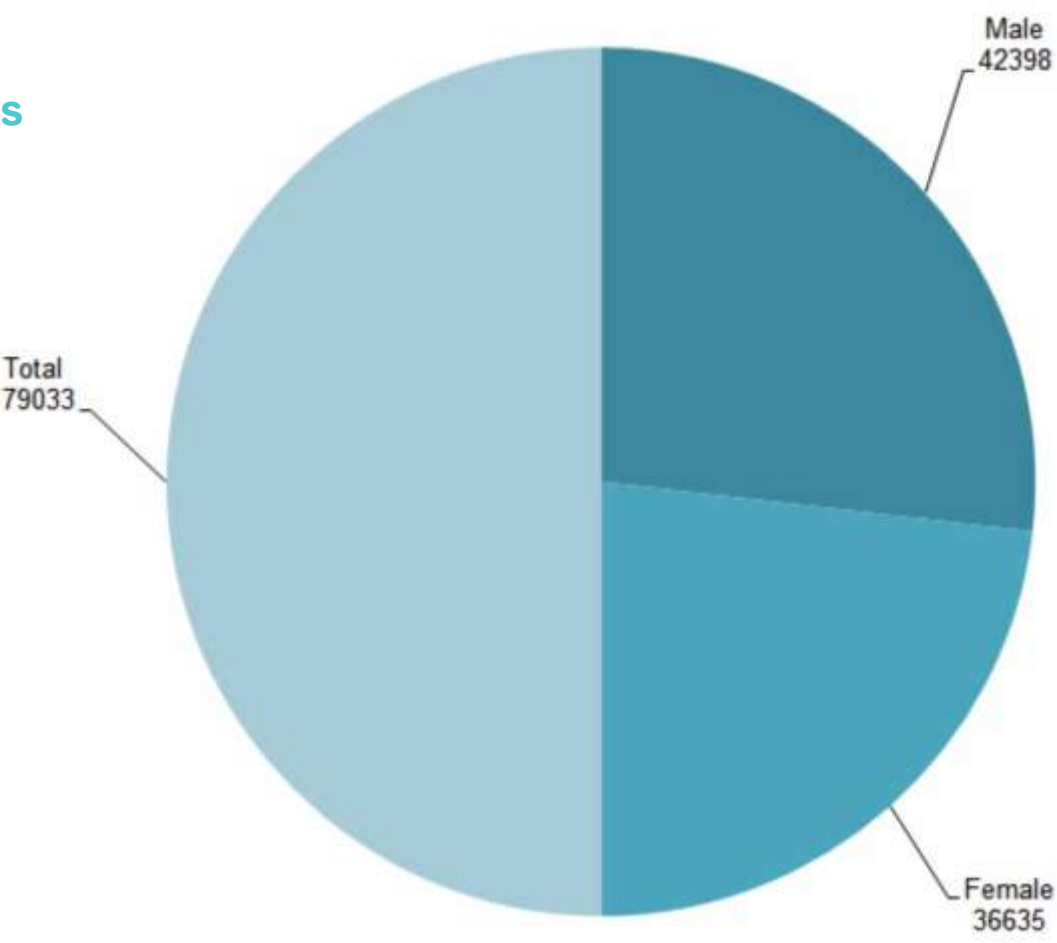
NOTE TO GRAPH
Includes Skills Development
and Enterprise Development
budgets.



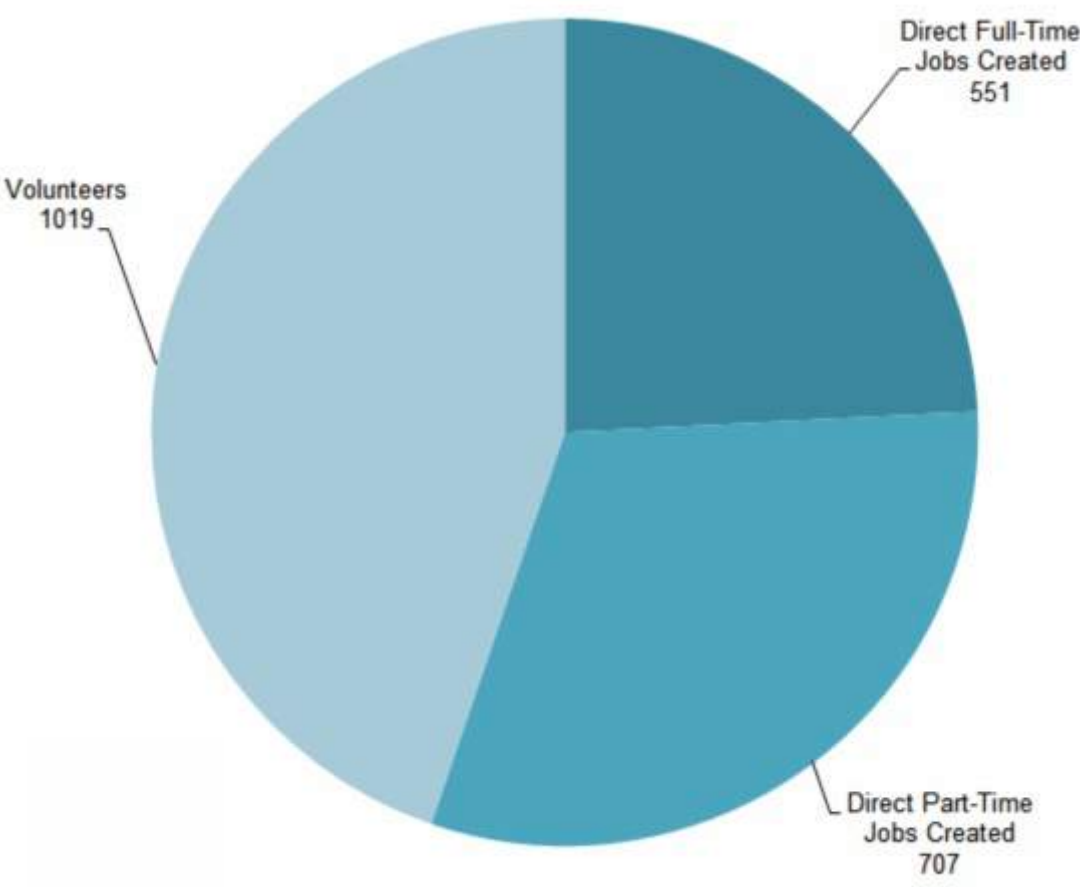
Sustainable Projects 2016



Lives
Touched:
Beneficiaries

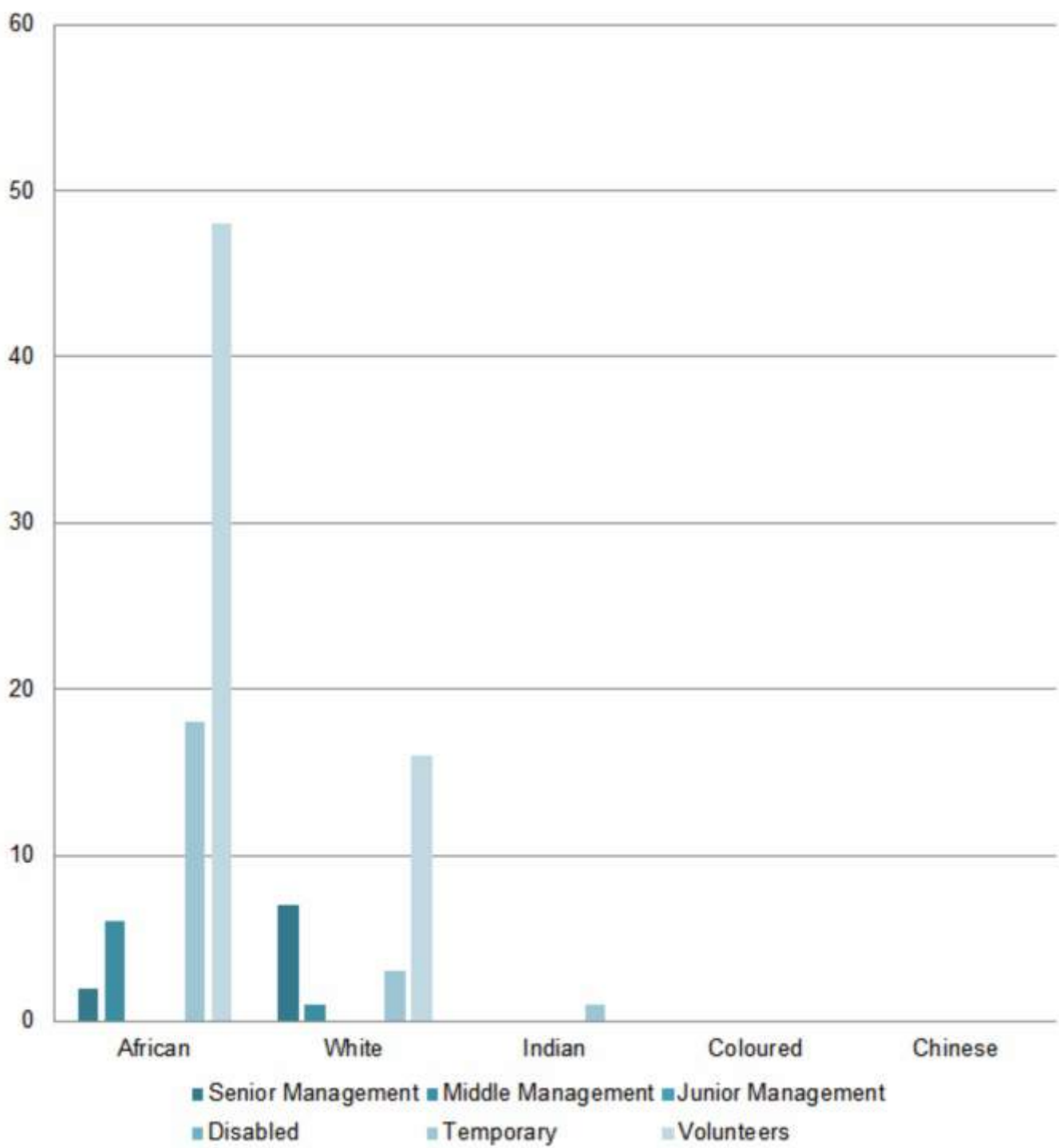


Lives
Touched:
Employment



Lives Touched: Employment 2016

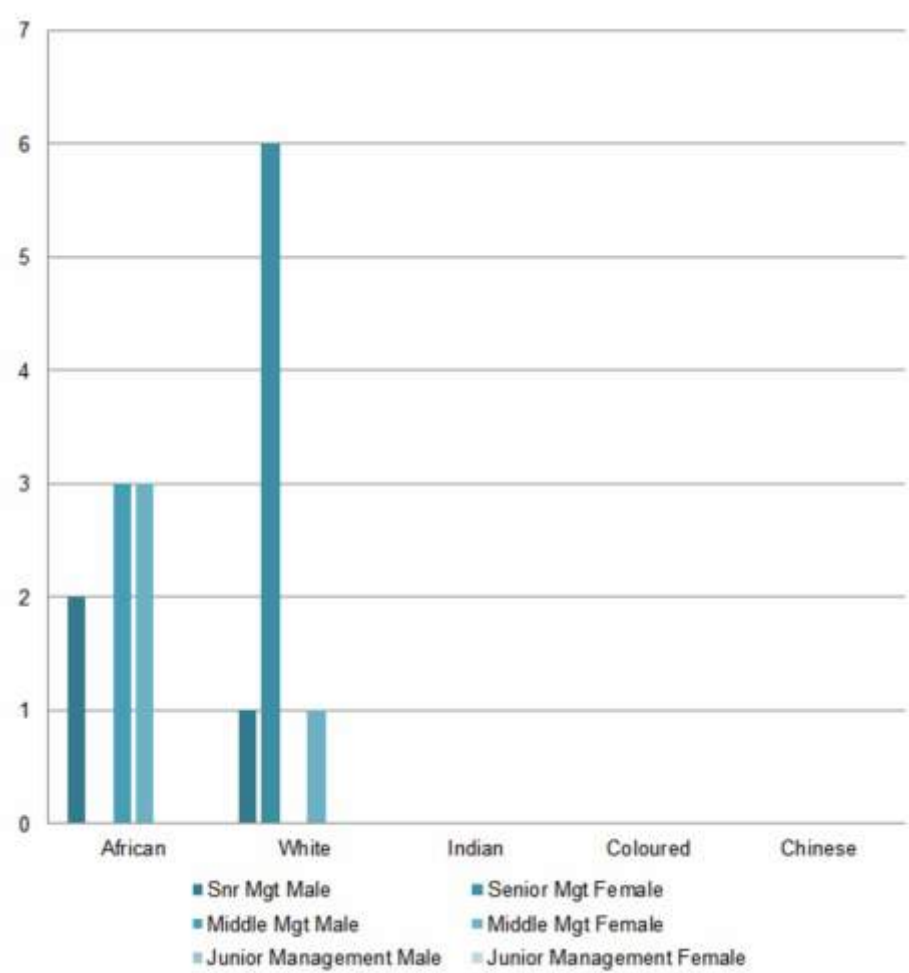
NOTE TO GRAPH:
Employment figures according
to BBBEE criteria.



Lives Touched: Employment

Gender: Management 2016

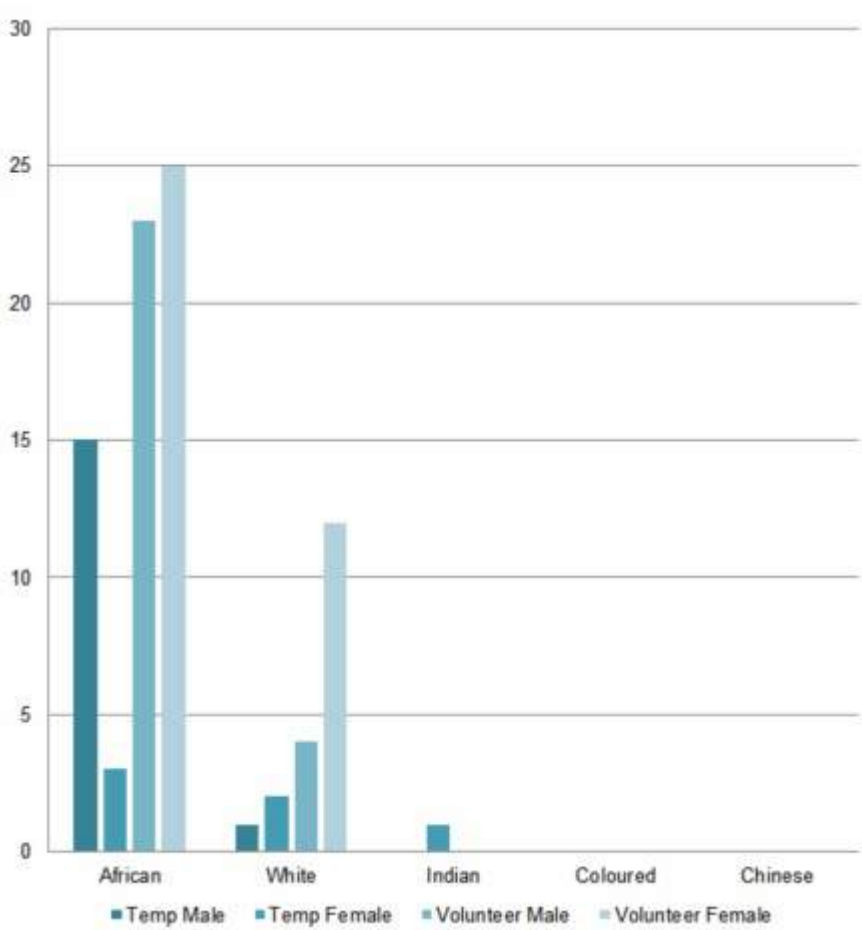
NOTE TO GRAPH:
Employment figures according to BBBEE criteria.



Lives Touched: Employment

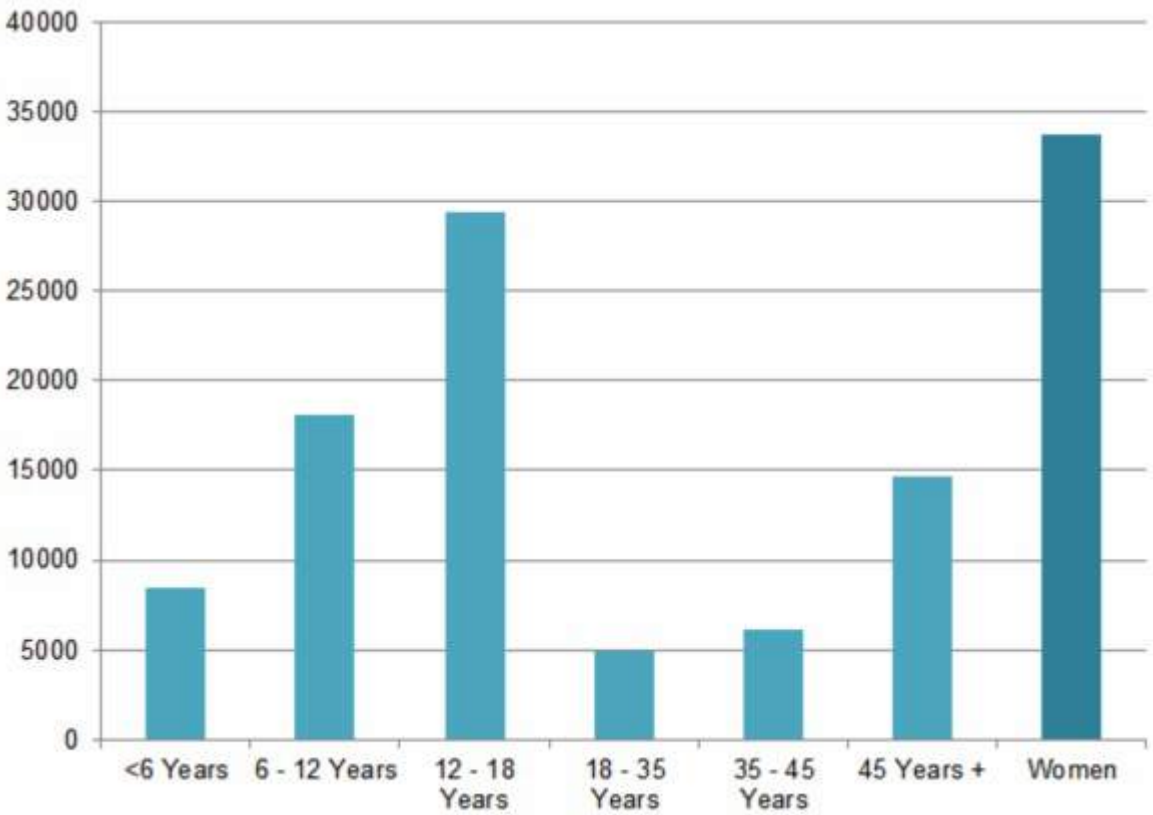
Gender: Temporary and Volunteers 2016

NOTE TO GRAPH:
Employment figures according to BBBEE criteria.



Beneficiary Age Breakdown 2016

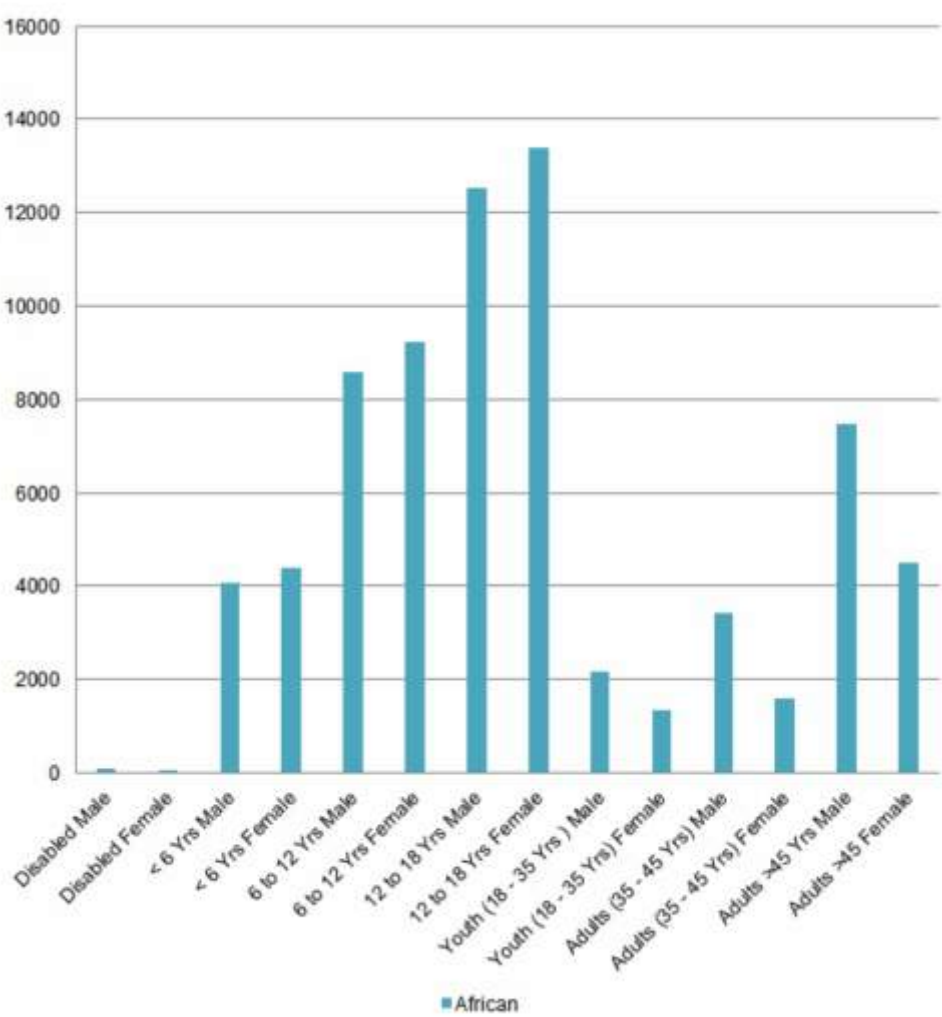
NOTE TO GRAPH:
Beneficiary age
breakdown figures
according to BBBEE
criteria.



Beneficiary Age Breakdown:

Category: African 2016

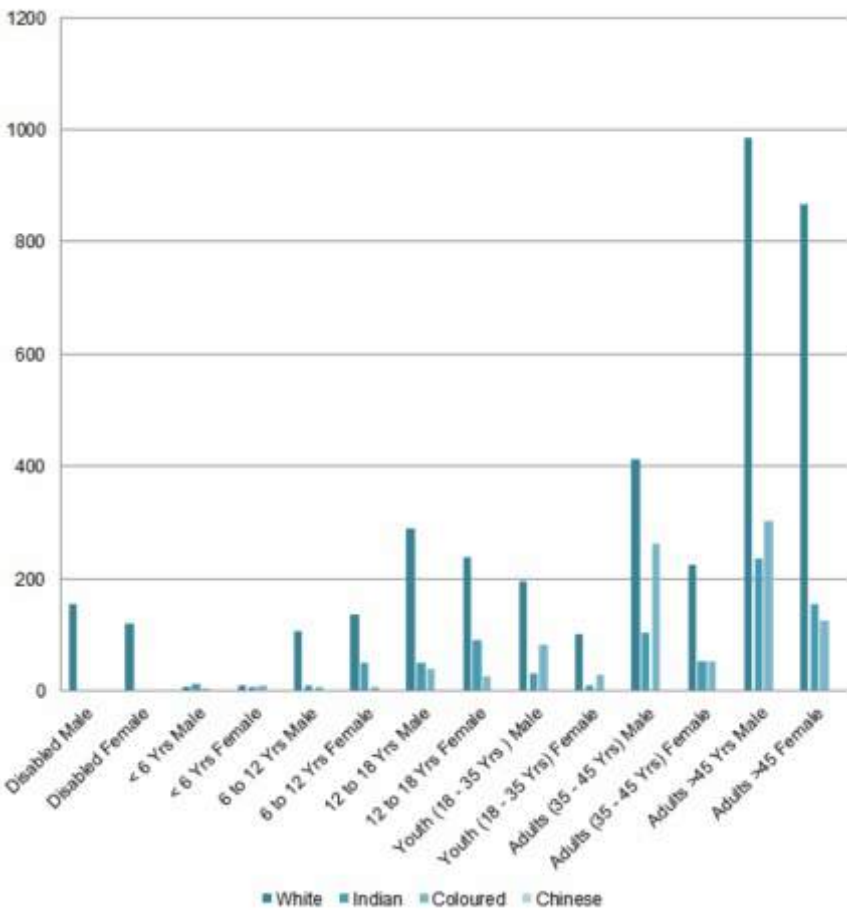
NOTE TO GRAPH: Beneficiary age breakdown figures according to BBBEE criteria.



Beneficiary Age Breakdown:

Category: Other Racial Groups 2016

NOTE TO GRAPH: Beneficiary age breakdown figures according to BBBEE criteria.





TOUCHING LIVES

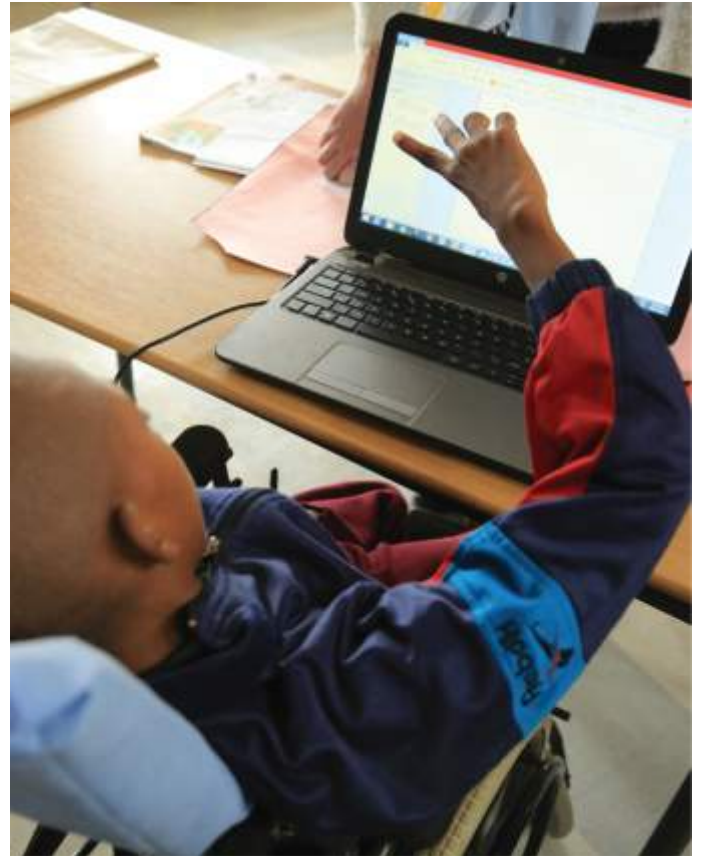
The Tour

'Education breeds confidence. Confidence breeds hope.
Hope breeds peace.'
Confucius



N3TC's Board, Shareholders and Senior Management have a vested and keen interest in the N3TC CSI Touching Lives Programme; and have placed priority on participating in an annual tour to a selection of projects that make up the Programme.

Each year, the tour takes on a different tone, focus and approach in an effort to keep Board members and shareholder representatives informed and to showcase progress being made at a few of the projects included in this report. Emphasis is placed on profiling a selection of new projects and highlighting areas of excellence in existing programmes. This approach to the Tour aims to 'do justice' to the expansive nature of this Programme and to provide sufficient background and insight into the projects, the project champions and the respective beneficiaries.



This year, the N3TC CSI Touching Lives Board Tour took place from the 19th to the 21st of October and combined a number of site visits with presentations from projects in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands and Northern Drakensberg.

The group departed OR Tambo International Airport on the morning of 19 October for Pietermaritzburg, for the three-day tour. There was a sense of anticipation amongst the group and many new 'faces' were welcomed by the N3TC team. For some it was their first experience of the N3 Toll Route and the region we had selected for this year's tour, giving the team a wonderful opportunity to highlight other areas of interest while travelling along the Route.

The projects selected for the 2016 tour were:

- iThemba Projects
Category: Skills Development
- Wildlands Conservation Trust
Category: Legacy
- Midlands Meander Education Project
Category: Education
- Drakensberg Cranes Conservation Project
Category: Legacy

- KwaZamokuhle School for the Disabled
Category: Education
- N3 Gateway Tourism Association
Category: Enterprise Development
- Owl Box Project
Category: Environment
- S.M.I.L.E. Foundation
Category: Skills Development
- Esiphethwini Sendiza Primary School
Category: Education
- Project Gateway
Category: Enterprise Development

N3TC thanks the following Board members, shareholder representatives and management for taking time from their very busy schedules to meander along the N3 Toll Route to meet some incredibly passionate and committed project champions – our *Heroes* – and witness *Touching Lives* in action.

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Fikile Ndlovu | Fikile Projects cc |
| • Phambili Gama | Zimele Investment Enterprise Company |
| • Francis Jackson | AIIM & Old Mutual |
| • Narayan Vyas | Futuregrowth Asset Management |
| • Whitney Mohlokoane | Futuregrowth Asset Management |
| • William Crosse | N3TC (Chief Financial Officer) |

Three days of visits and presentations seemed to pass so rapidly. As always, the projects were remarkable in hosting the Tour delegates and presenting their projects with such passion and enthusiasm. It is hard not to believe in the work being done when seeing people in action and how their efforts are having an impact on ordinary and, in most cases, vulnerable lives.

After an exceptionally interesting and insightful tour of the Project Gateway facilities at the 'Old Prison' in Pietermaritzburg, where we all learned something new about South African history, the group was homeward bound. Certainly tired from



three days of intense activity but inspired by the stories, activities and presentations they were exposed to.

N3TC expresses its sincere gratitude to all involved in making this tour a resounding success, from the smallest detail to the biggest activity we are grateful to be able to journey with each of you.



Emphasis is placed on profiling a selection of new projects and highlighting areas of excellence in existing programmes.



Dear Thandiwe and crew

Thank you very much for hosting me. You guys do great work with a lean team and I'm full of admiration for the difference you make in these communities.

Travelling with the N3TC team to visit these communities makes clear their level of enthusiasm and commitment to the purpose. Each initiative is carried by individuals who go beyond the call of duty and remuneration in their desire to make a difference. I was impressed by the understanding of the issues that each service provider applied in their work and how they aimed for impacts that were self-replicating in the effect. Examples of these were Wildlands' entrepreneurship model in their gardens and recycling programmes, Ithemba Projects' aim to reach the tipping point of 65% shift in each community, and SMILE's contribution to how an English class is actually managed that leads to intrinsic discipline and tangible results. The highest impact for me was in visiting the actual locations where the work was being done and meeting the community members involved.

With thanks
Francis Jackson
AIIIM Africa

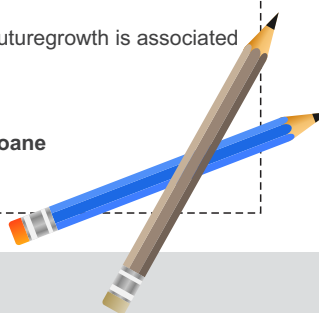
Dear N3TC team

I would like to thank you for the great work that you are involved in and for hosting us so well during the board tour. I got to experience firsthand the true meaning of "touching lives" and had so much fun seeing the kids and the innovation and enthusiasm of all the project participants. I am inspired that you are invested in projects that enable people to help themselves and also impact the communities in a significant and sustainable manner.

It was evident that you are helping make a real difference with what we witnessed with the variety and magnitude of the projects. Continue collaborating with world changers!

Very proud that Futuregrowth is associated with you.

Kind regards
Whitney Mohlokoane
Futuregrowth



Morning Thandi

Please see below my impressions of the tour. Just a final thank you to yourself and Con, it really was a great experience and I felt very privileged to be part of it this year.

The Touching Lives tour was a truly memorable experience. While we were exposed to projects that touched very different areas of need in the N3 corridor area, there were some very important similarities that stood out. In each case, not only was the passion and dedication of the project champions clear to see, but so was the strong connection between them and the N3TC team. It was also clear that this connection was due to deep and regular engagement on the part of N3TC, which was a good indication of the commitment that N3TC makes when funding a project. As highlighted by Con during the tour, another important common thread across the various projects was the vision of the project champions to effect drastic, positive, sustainable change in their chosen area of involvement. Being exposed to this on such a deep level over the course of the tour was a very humbling and uplifting experience, even though the hardship of the areas we visited was all too apparent. As a shareholder representative of N3TC, I was extremely proud to be associated with the work being done in the projects we visited.

Narayan Vyas
Futuregrowth

Members of the N3TC team are invited to join the Board Tour in an effort to spread knowledge, understanding and awareness of the Touching Lives Programme amongst staff. This year we were proud to host Isabel Potgieter, Route Help Centre Manager, and Londeka Ximba. Below are their thoughts on the Tour.

It was very interesting to see Projects that are focused on children's education and nutrition, while taking time to educate on conservation issues. The Midlands Meander Education Project' presentation was wonderful and we loved our time at Midmar Dam with the 'Bugs'.

Another highlight for me was the work being done at KwaZamokuhle School and how effective the school has been in reaching out to the community to change the stigma associated to disabilities. As able-bodied individuals we have so much in life to be grateful for that we find it difficult to associate and empathise with the struggles faced by disabled people.

The close relationship between the N3TC team and the Project Champions was evident no matter which project we visited. I felt extremely proud to be an N3TC employee. By the same token, the respective Project Champions were very excited to showcase their projects to the Board and no-one failed to express their appreciation for N3TC's contribution to their project.

I am proud to be part of N3TC's CSI team and thank management for inviting me along on this tour.

Kind regards
Isabel Potgieter
Manager: Route Help Centre

The tour was such a wonderful experience for me, I actually didn't know what to expect. But I was quite overwhelmed by the wonderful work being done. I would really love to commend N3TC for the wonderful work they are doing, literally changing peoples' lives for the better. I found the whole experience to be eye opening, enlightening and encouraging. I am actually reminded of the saying that says, "One man's trash is another man's treasure". I am deeply challenged, I am challenged to give the little that I have, be it time, money or whatever to me that maybe nothing but to someone else it may mean everything. Seeing people who have committed their lives into helping others was quite wonderful I would love to commend all of them as well, we see very little of that these days. May God bless them all abundantly.

The tour was well managed, I'm certain everyone felt welcome. The accommodation was great and so was the food. Many Thanks to Con, Thandiwe, Isabel and everyone else who was involved in organising the tour. God bless.

Kind Regards,
Londeka Ximba
Candidate Engineer



CORPORATE SOCIAL INVESTMENT

2029 LEGACY PROJECTS

Bearded Vulture Captive Breeding Project

Project Champion:	Mark Gerrard
Project Facilitator :	Wildlands Conservation Trust
Years Funded :	Four (<i>first year for Captive Breeding Programme</i>)
Provinces :	KwaZulu-Natal and Free State
Website :	www.wildlands.co.za

Bearded Vultures are listed as critically endangered, having become locally extinct in a large part of their natural, historical range. As conservation initiatives and landowner attitudes towards these magnificent birds improve, so too does the likelihood of successfully establishing populations in their former range. It is for this reason that Wildlands Conservation Trust embarked on a captive breeding programme to increase chick numbers and release them into suitable areas within their former natural range.

A captive breeding programme is possible as the mother will neglect to feed the chick that hatches second, resulting in its death. With the assistance of Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and the African Bird of Prey Sanctuary, the Trust will collect second eggs from the nests before they hatch and incubate them either artificially, or by using the maternal instincts of a captive bird.

Identification and monitoring of nesting sites

The planning phase of the operation was carried out between May and June 2016. Sites that were frequented by adult birds were identified and these birds were monitored closely for signs



of nesting behaviour. Monitoring was carried out by dedicated specialists based in regions of high Bearded Vulture activity.

Egg Collection

Bearded Vultures typically nest in 'potholes' or 'bowls' in the rock face of the Drakensberg and Maluti mountains of KZN, Free State and Lesotho. They are often located on sheer rock faces and are extremely difficult and dangerous to reach. Once nesting sites were located, highly experienced climbing teams were selected to locate and collect the second egg. A helicopter was used to assist the teams to improve accessibility to the nests and to transport the egg to an incubator to ensure the continued viability of the egg.

The team was very disappointed to report that the collection of the eggs during the season proved unsuccessful, due mainly to heavy snowfall over the crucial period in which eggs were to be collected. The snowfalls made the entire region inaccessible to climbers during the two-week collection window. In addition, one of the attempts to fly to a site was thwarted by helicopter issues and the helicopter was forced to perform an emergency landing before getting out of the foothills. All the passengers of the helicopter were fine, however, this highlighted the risks of operating in this high altitude environment. Of two sites accessed in the Eastern Cape and Lesotho - one had no eggs after the bird had been seen incubating and the site in Lesotho had one chick only (this due to the late access because of the snow).

Way Forward

The team believes that this project will provide the opportunity to bolster the Bearded Vulture population in southern Africa. Although unsuccessful this year in collecting and hatching additional eggs, the team is already preparing for the rearing of chicks in 2017.





Drakensberg Crane Conservation Project

Project Champion:	Tanya Smith
Project Facilitator :	Endangered Wildlife Trust
Years Funded :	One (2016 – first year of funding)
Provinces :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.ewt.org.za

Report by Tanya Smith

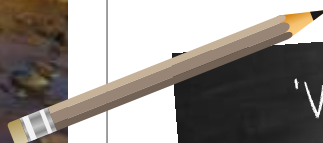
Cranes cannot survive without the habitat on which they depend.

Specifically, Wattled Cranes need permanent wetlands, open water and natural grasslands to successfully and/or regularly



raise a chick. The KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg and Midlands still has these habitats remaining and supports the vast majority of South Africa's *Critically Endangered* population (about 90%). It is also the stronghold for South Africa's Grey Crowned Crane population, which is only one of two populations in Africa that is stable or increasing.

Our project in the Drakensberg has enabled us to develop relationships with landowners, the custodians of our cranes, in order to protect cranes and the habitats on which they depend. Our primary focus of the project funded by N3TC is the Hlatikulu Catchment. Here we have been working with the farmers of the Hlatikulu Collaborative Management Area (HCMA) to promote balancing farming with conservation. This year we hosted a series of three farmers' days, in collaboration with the farmers of the HCMA, within the central Drakensberg (Mooi River and Kamberg). These farmers' days were aimed at providing a knowledge-sharing platform focused on current and relevant issues facing farming and the environment. The themes were as follows: managing and controlling alien plants on farms; energy efficiency and alternative energy options on farms; and managing grasslands sustainably for biodiversity and agriculture.



'What we learn becomes a part of who we are.'

We had on average 30 farmers attending each workshop, many of whom commented what a great opportunity these workshops presented for everyone to learn from each other and experts in a friendly, neutral space.

A highlight from the alien plants workshop was when a guest speaker (and farmer from the Karkloof) gave his very personal story about his commitment to clearing American Bramble on his farm. After the workshop he mentioned to me that one of the participants, another farmer from Mooi River, had seen him at a stock sale and mentioned that since that workshop he has made a commitment to clearing bramble on his farm, something he had never done before due to fear and cost commitment.

These are the small wins we make along this journey that keep us moving towards the greater vision of a landscape where people and nature live in harmony.

We work very closely with the farmers of the HCMA to raise funds to contribute to improving the local environment within the membership area or towards initiatives that promote species protection.

This year we assisted the farmers with a fundraising initiative around the JoBerg2c mountain bike race, which moves through the heart of the Hlatikulu catchment. From this the HCMA farmers have contributed funding to ensure the local rural schools were able to attend a day of fun and environmental learning at the Hlatikulu Crane and Wetland Sanctuary. They have also contributed to a PhD study on Wattled Cranes, as well as security/anti-poaching efforts within the HCMA. The members of the HCMA look to us for guidance on where to make the biggest impact with their contribution.

Thanks to N3TC's support we have been able to employ a full time field officer based at our Howick office. Matthew Becker, our Drakensberg Project Senior Field Officer, joined us on 1st



June and will enable us to make significant strides in meeting the objectives of the project as outlined in our application. In particular, ensuring we formally protect the Hlatikulu Catchment through the Biodiversity Stewardship Programme and work towards improving the management of ecosystems in key catchments within the Drakensberg. There will be a strong focus on these two areas, as well as extensive monitoring of the wild crane populations in the Drakensberg, thanks to the appointment of Matthew.

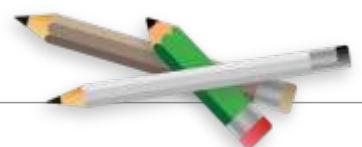
With the drought currently gripping much of the country, in particular KZN, we are unsure what this current Wattled Crane breeding season will bring us. But thus far, monitoring of the wild breeding pairs in the Drakensberg and Midlands is painting a picture of low breeding productivity.

It is during times like this where we see the importance of having resilient ecosystems and this reinforces why we (EWT, N3TC and others) need to work together to protect our natural ecosystems.

The drought is a major challenge facing us all and something we have to consider in all our interactions with farmers. The monitoring of breeding pairs to determine breeding success of the population will be critical this year to compare to normal years.



It is the small wins we make along this journey that keep us moving towards the greater vision.



Singakwenza ECD Project

Project Champion: Julie Hay
Years Funded : Five
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : www.singakwenza.org

Report by Julie Hay

Our mentorship programme is progressing very well in Sizakala Crèche in Howick West, Simcelisile Crèche in Lidgetton, Senzokuhle Creche in Mpophomeni, Othandweni Crèche in Bruntville and Siphuthando Crèche in Khethani (Winterton). These teachers have made wonderful strides in their teaching and are making the most of the opportunities that our mentors are offering.

Our Occupational Therapist, Mags Hounsom, travels to all our crèches to help the teachers to identify barriers to learning, assist with programmes for those children who have minor problems, and help with the referral process for those who have more severe barriers to learning. When she went to screen the Grade R's at a crèche in Lidgetton, she noticed a little 4 year old boy "running" around on his hands and knees in the playground. Working with the Singakwenza trainer, she assessed him and saw that he was an alert, articulate little boy, with Cerebral Palsy in both his legs. So began *Thulani's journey (not his real name).

She managed to arrange for Thulani to be assessed by one of Pietermaritzburg's top orthopaedic surgeons, who donates his time to helping cases like Thulani's at the local government hospital. He suggested that first Thulani would need to strengthen some of the muscles in his legs in preparation for the operation. Fortunately a kind donor was found who sponsored a walking frame for him. He took to this like a duck to water and his grin stretched from ear to ear when he realised that he could move across the room on his feet.



Singakwenza – is a non-profit organisation based in Hilton, KwaZulu-Natal. 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.



In January this year, Thulani was admitted to Grey's Hospital and had both his feet and legs operated on. According to the surgeons, it was a great success, and he was an incredibly brave little boy! The journey after the operation was a challenging and painful one for Thulani, as he spent 6 weeks in full leg casts and then in metal callipers during the day, which are very uncomfortable. Thanks to physio at the local hospital, supplemented with sessions by a volunteer physiotherapist, Thulani soon progressed to crutches and is now able to walk a short distance on his own – a miracle that his mother never thought would happen! He has been accepted into St Christopher's in Grade 1 in 2017 and is looking forward to his new journey.

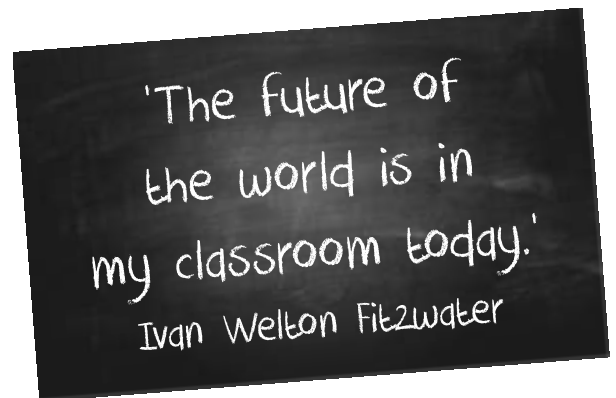
One of the little boys at Othandweni Crèche in Bruntville has a medical condition that has caused his brain to grow too large for his body. Initially the teachers didn't know how to handle him, so he was usually just left lying in a corner to watch what the rest of the children were doing. Thanks to intervention from our



Occupational Therapist, the teachers are now encouraging him to sit with support and he is starting to engage in the activities himself, instead of just being an observer. We heard recently that, thanks to the reports and referrals that our OT has submitted, he has been accepted into Kwazamokuhle School in Estcourt from next year, where he will be given a special wheelchair which will support his head so that he can learn to feed himself and participate fully in school activities.

We are extremely grateful that we were given the opportunity to film some short video clips which explain some of the skills and terminology that we use in our programme. These are available on the Resource section of our website, which should be live by the end of 2016, to enable further learning for those who have attended any of our Waste2Toys workshops.

The Eco-Schools programme that we started at Mickey Mouse Educare Centre in Howick is continuing successfully. Thoko, our trainer, is proving to be an excellent student in the environmental field and is working very well with Charlene Russell from Midlands Meander Education Project. They visit

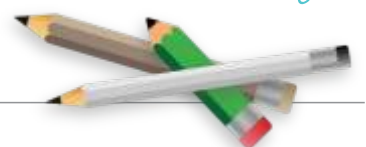


the school once a month and use recycling for the activities that teach children about conservation. These past few months they have been focusing on "A Healthy Environment" and have built little houses and people out of recycling as part of this learning.

We were delighted to be able to link with Isabel Potgieter and run a Gross Motor Waste2Toys Workshop for 40 teachers and caregivers at the Memello Support Group Development Centre. The delegates were a lively and enthusiastic bunch of people who responded very well to the training. The 1 937 children in their care will now benefit from their new knowledge and skills. It was wonderful to receive the following message on our return home; "Thank you for running a workshop at Mamello Support Group. Every one enjoyed the learning phase extremely and undertook to implement it where ever they go."

Our grateful thanks for your ongoing support, enabling us to empower educators and give children a better chance at a brighter future!

The teachers have made wonderful progress in their teaching and are making the most of the opportunities that our mentors are offering.



KZN Crane Foundation Isolation Chick Rearing and Release

Project Champion: Jon Bates
Years Funded : Five
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : www.kzncrane.co.za

Report by Jon Bates

In 2016 we had hoped to rear chicks for release into the wild. The worst drought ever recorded has, however, resulted in the KZN Crane Foundation not having water to fill the dams under the rearing domes. Since Wattled Cranes have to be habilitated to roosting in shallow water, the rearing would have been pointless.

As a consequence, we waited until it was obvious that there was no hope of sufficient water to carry out the Rearing and Release programme. Mid-year we made an alternative application to N3TC based on other important and related aspects of the Wattled Crane Recovery and Research Programme and to the KZN Crane Foundation in general.

N3TC considered our revised application and generously made specific allocations as follows:

- The KZN Crane Foundation has received a very substantial grant from the Hans Hoheisen Charitable Trust for state-of-the-art tracking transmitters and software from the USA. These were fitted onto wild chicks in 2016 and will be fitted onto captive reared chicks thereafter. The scientific benefit will be to have a comparison of movement patterns in the wild for both wild sub adults and captive raised and released birds. A part of this exercise is the cost of volunteers and staff who will have to record and monitor integration and



behaviour patterns of birds fitted with trackers within the Midlands Wattled Crane territory.

- At Kildare, the farm next to Fordoun bordering the N3 Toll Route, there is a shallow dam which has the highest concentration of wild, unpaired adults and sub adult birds. These are what we call a Floater Flock. A Floater Flock is where wild pairs bring their young chicks with the intention of weaning the chick into the wild population. For purposes of observation by KZNCF workers as well as a site for the public to see and photograph the wild birds, we have



designed and had quotations for converting a shipping container into a bird hide. This hide will be used as an observation point when we release captive reared birds into the Floater Flock in the future.

- In July 2016 the KZN Crane Foundation received a grant from the Fortress Property Group for a wetland offset. To bring this to fruition, Fordoun granted a 12 hectare wetland area as a legal servitude in favour of the KZN Crane Foundation. It adjoins the Bill Barnes Reserve. This area also includes the new roadway donated by N3TC (2015). The 12 hectare area has been surveyed and is in the process of registration. A local Contractor has been awarded the contract to fence off and thereby protect the delicate (nesting potential) wetland areas, as well as to barrier off a confined section of a dam (within the offset area) to enable cattle to access drinking water without disturbing the potential roosting and foraging areas.

N3TC previously sponsored the design and printing of 500 high quality brochures. These have been of huge marketing and fundraising benefit to the KZN Crane Foundation. As an example, a brochure given out after a talk given by Daniel Dolpire and myself resulted in an extremely generous donation by the Ken Collins Charitable Trust to the KZN Crane Foundation. As mentioned, these brochures are invaluable to the KZN Crane Foundation. We currently have 2,000 additional brochures on order.

Completion of the Staff Accommodation

The building of accommodation for volunteers and students is complete (N3TC 2015). In order to furnish the building we are carpeting, installing a fireplace and ordering beds, linen, kitchen cupboards, cutlery and lounge furniture.

The general position of the KZN Crane Foundation is very positive. Good progress has been made in attracting new donors. Membership has increased. Activities such as working relationships with farmers and education of rural school children have been extremely satisfactory. These activities aim at the understanding of the need to respect and protect habitats where Cranes breed and forage. The emphasis is particularly strong in regard to wetlands and water.

The Bill Barnes Conservancy is being well managed by Ryne Ferguson. Remarkably, it appears that, by some miracle, our resident pair of Wattled Cranes found a suitable watery patch of wetland and hatched a chick in late September. This was caught on a motion-activated camera.

A very important aspect of our activities is the work that Daniel Dolpire is doing in photography of Wild Cranes. These images will make up the visuals for *'The Sentinels'*, a coffee table book to be published, hopefully by 2018. N3TC is acknowledged as a

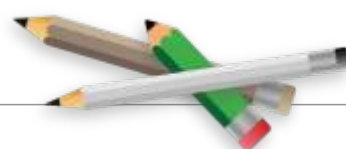


funder, partner and supporter in this huge and challenging venture. The photographic evidence to date is stunning. When published, *'The Sentinels'* will fulfill an important role in rallying corporates, government and high net-worth individuals to the cause of the Cranes and their habitats.

Finally, we are very excited at the prospect of hosting the founder of the International Crane Foundation, George Archibald, in February 2017. George is travelling the world to see all 15 species of Cranes. He is planning to spend two days with the KZN Crane Foundation.



Wattled Cranes have to be habilitated
to roosting in shallow water.





Old Mutual joBerg2c Route Development Project

Project Champion:	Craig Wapnick
Years Funded :	Five
Provinces :	Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State, KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.OldMutualjoBerg2c.co.za

The Old Mutual joBerg2c is a nine-day mountain bike (MTB) race that starts in Heidelberg (Gauteng), traverses through the Free State mielie fields, ascends along the Drakensberg escarpment into the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands and ends at Scottburgh's beachfront (KwaZulu-Natal).

The event's reputation rests on its philosophy that 'the Route is King', which focuses on providing the race participants with an



interesting, challenging and scenic route that exceeds expectations. N3TC has provided the necessary funding for the construction and development of unique 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.

N3TC drOp'ngo2c Supporters Tour

Supporters of Old Mutual's annual joBerg2C mountain bike stage race enjoyed a great time on the drOp'ngo2c Supporters' Tour

This grueling nine day mountain bike stage race over 900 kilometers not only offered thrilling experiences to adventure bikers, but their supporters had an equally exciting time on the drOp'ngo2c supporters' tour sponsored by N3 Toll Concession (N3TC).

The joBerg2C race took place from 22 to 30 April 2016.

The off road race starts south of Johannesburg at Karan Beef and takes riders all the way to Scottburgh in KwaZulu-Natal. The route winds through some of the most beautiful parts of South Africa, little back roads, small towns and villages and along farm land that is not



otherwise accessible. From grasslands, over mountains and river crossings to the coast, bikers and their supporters are treated to unique experiences.

Sharon van Zanten was one of the supporters who joined the drOp'ngo2C tour this year. Her partner, Joe Lubbe, has been participating in stage races for nearly a decade, and Sharon has been supporting him all the way, but this was the first time she joined an official supporters' tour.

"I loved it," says Sharon. "Being a supporter of a rider taking part in these endurance events can be pretty stressful. Off road races often wind through rough terrain and getting to specific locations and water points can be quite a challenge. You are in unfamiliar territory, and if you don't have a 4x4 vehicle, the going can get really tough," explains Sharon.

"This year neither I, nor Joe had to worry about my safety and my ability to reach the right place at the right time. drOp'ngo2C really made my job as a supporter so much easier and I had the added benefit of spending time with like-minded people; having fun along the way. I have formed some lasting friendships on this tour."

"The job of a supporter is not an easy one. You never quite know how the day will unfold or what your rider may need. As a supporter you are on standby, and you play a central role in your rider's success, helping him or her stay focused on completing the journey. You need to keep their motivation up and perform all sorts of tasks from getting laundry done, to rubbing sore muscles, and mixing supplements," explains Sharon.

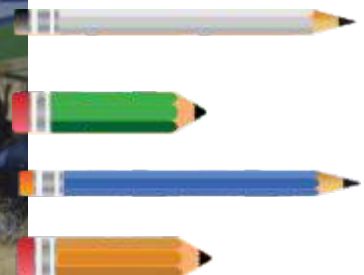
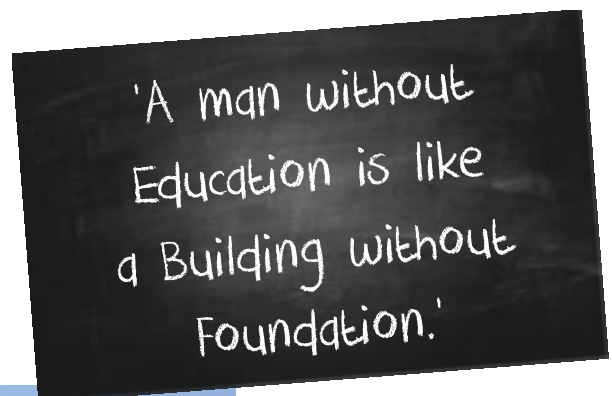
"Our support group was escorted along the N3 Gateway region by N3TC. My needs as a supporter, and to ensure that I am able to see and communicate with my partner on the route, were their priority. They managed to get us to the right spot at



the right time during the race; and in between they helped fill the hours by taking us to little-known tourism gems."

"For a rider it is fantastic to have a loved-one present; someone to help you stay comfortable and motivated. It makes all the difference," says Joe Lubbe.

"The drOp'ngo Supporters' Tour is most definitely highly recommended. It is one of the best ways to see parts of our country and the hospitality of the people is truly fantastic," ends Sharon.



EWT Sungazer and Grasslands Conservation Project

Project Champion:	Dr Ian Little
Project Co-Ordinator:	Bradley Gibbons
Project Facilitator :	Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT)
Years Funded :	Three
Province :	Free State
Website :	www.ewt.org.za

Report by Dr Ian Little

The stewardship work initiated by the Project Team in the past two years in the grasslands southeast of Harrismith (between Harrismith and Van Reenen) has continued in 2016. This area is known as the Wilge Stewardship Initiative and is found within two existing conservancies. The Initiative aims to work beyond these conservancies and increase the size of the proposed Protected Environment; and although the boundaries are not yet finalised, the area should comprise up to 40,000 hectares once completed.

It has become evident to the team that the Free State DESTEA (Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs) and MTPA (Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency) are under-resourced, which impacts the process and results in lengthy delays. The team is optimistic that, with EWT's assistance, the authorities will be able to move forward with proclamation in the near future.

Furthermore, careful monitoring of potential development projects such as mining and oil and gas applications are managed by the team to prevent potential harmful impacts on grassland areas, which are so important for food and water security. As a result, the EWT has registered as an Interested and Affected Party on the following proposed projects:

- Proposed aggregate and silica mine in the Heilbron district which may impact on Sungazer habitat;
- Application for gas exploration rights by Sungu Sungu (Pty)

Ltd. in the Harrismith district;

- Oil and gas exploration in the Harrismith/Verkykerskop/Ladysmith area by Rhino Oil and Gas (Pty) Ltd;
- Two oil and gas applications by Afro Energy in southern Mpumalanga and Free State. The Free State Afro Energy application is from Vrede to Frankfort and is within Sungazer habitat; and
- A dump site has been proposed on a ridge on Greenwich Farm near Newcastle.

In the coming months, the EWT team will place more focus on the proposed Free State Protected Environments project. Two Masters students from the University of KwaZulu-Natal will be mapping Sungazer distribution to estimate the actual remaining intact grasslands. This will allow for more accurate population estimation.

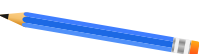
One of the highlights of 2016 for the team was their attendance at NAMPO (Nasionale Mielieproducente Organisasie, commonly known as 'NAMPO Oesdag'). This is an agricultural show that attracts over 75 000 visitors and takes place near Bothaville in the Free State. EWT hosts a popular stand at the show and visitors to the stand commonly include landowners, children, learners, students and farm workers. EWT engages with attendees on wildlife issues, which present an opportunity to gather information from landowners on species occurring on their farms, such as Sungazers.

The use of technology has been a major advantage for Sungazer monitoring this year. Borescopes (commonly known as endoscopes) are made up of a thin extension with a camera at the end and a monitor that makes it possible to look inside the Sungazer burrows. This gives the team an idea of which burrows are active and the number of Sungazers in each. This information is vital for Sungazer population estimates. A number of Sungazers were microchipped at a private facility in Pietermaritzburg earlier this year, which allows for identification at a later date if required.

The Majuba Power Station Nature Reserve, which provides a habitat for Sungazers, has not had active management over the last three years. In partnership with Eskom, EWT has been driving an ecological study of the nature reserve. Once this is complete, it will be possible to compile a management plan that can be used as a guideline to improve the condition of the reserve for the benefit of Sungazers and other grasslands species.



The use of technology has been a major advantage for Sungazer monitoring this year.



EDUCATION

Midlands Meander Education Project (MMEP)

Project Champion: Jessica Wigley
Years Funded : Eleven
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : www.mmaep.co.za

Report by Jessica Wigley

It is an historical year for the Midlands Meander Education Project (MMEP), in that we are on our way to becoming independent from the Midlands Meander Association. We have realised that we have outgrown our original vision and mission. As an organisation, we have fine-tuned our educational approach to respond to the specific needs of teachers and learners in rural and township schools.

Change can be scary as it means facing the unknown. This year has been full of change as we transitioned to independence, modified our vision and mission, changed staff, designed a new



'Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education.'

Martin Luther King Jr

framework programme and modified our approach, all while managing our regular challenges. This year has been a major and most important turning point in Bug history as we take the next step. We have had creative and innovative input from various sources to support us through the process.

Our focus has expanded to **improving life skills**, which incorporates environmental education, technology, art, language, emotional awareness, health, values, permaculture and Maths; **and learning skills** including teaching methodologies that improve academic abilities and the understanding of concepts.

As a result, we have re-examined our vision and mission statements and our strategy moving forward. It's been a very productive and meaningful journey that is still unfolding. We invited Qondisa Ngwenya, from Octagon Marketing, to assist in updating and refining our vision and mission as a group. The workshop was intensive, productive and insightful.

It allowed us to come to the clear conclusion that what the MMEP provides is **supplementary, meaningful and relevant education at a local level**. Our programme is designed to bridge educational gaps and focuses on:

- **Learning/academic skills;**
- **Life skills; and**
- **Sustainable environmental education.**

The MMEP has noted from experience that change comes from within and we have realised that we cannot tackle serious issues like poverty, food security and environmental decline without addressing basic life skills that build core competencies to support positive change, as well as the intrinsic qualities that support self-development.

It is for this reason that the MMEP is involved in making education meaningful and building learning and academic skills

that can be used across a number of academic disciplines, for life. These universal life-skills (problem-solving; leadership; understanding; emotional intelligence; self-reliance; time, stress and conflict management; team work and creativity etc.) along with intrinsic qualities such as initiative, independent thinking and reflection are becoming increasingly important in the world today and will be needed in the future, as research has indicated.

At the beginning of each year we spend several days in intensive training revisiting the challenges we identified at our year-end evaluations and to seek ways to redress these challenges. We took an in depth look at the methodologies employed and assessed if these could be improved. As a team we constantly share, learn from each other and analyse our lessons to ensure they are relevant, meaningful and fun. This year's training led to further exploration, experimentation and wonderful discoveries.

We are, for instance, developing a new framework programme that focuses on skills development. It is still in the process of being designed as we pilot ideas out in the field. We are very happy to have the chance to create a programme that is unique to the MMEP and perfectly suited to us.

The CAPS Foundation Phase guidelines, on learning to read in English as a second language, highlight the need for learners to have a strong oral foundation and suggest that learners need to hear as much spoken English as possible. We generally focus our literacy lessons on grade 4 and upwards because in grade 4 English becomes the language of instruction. Our experience in the classroom has shown that the children's ability to write and spell correctly is very poor, hence the need to practice speaking, writing and reading English. Learners need to hear words, phrases, poems and stories which need to be repeated and repeated.

This year we have developed lessons in which we project relevant stories (always illustrated) onto a screen and the whole class is able to see the words and pictures. We encourage them to read aloud alongside. When the story is finished we work through the new words and discuss their meaning, this is followed by discussing the what, who, how and where of the story. The story is read a second time, words explained and details of the pictures discussed, by identifying specific animals, events and characters. The learners themselves identify key



words and write these on the board, the facilitator helping with any spelling and encouraging any shy children. The older classes use dictionaries to check meanings, discover how important dictionary use is and the subtle differences that occur in the English language.

We have clothes pegs with the letters of the alphabet written on them and lengths of string to which the clothes pegs can be attached so the learners are able to construct words themselves. We have found this to be very effective in introducing children to new words whilst keeping their focus and entertaining them.

We have found that a lot of our learners, due to low quality early childhood development, have great difficulty using their imagination. The re-telling of a story in which they become immersed can often be followed by them imagining different conclusions and discussing these, empowering them to become story-tellers.

Another area of concern is the understanding of basic mathematical concepts and making meaning of their relevance in real life. Claire Raciborska (a mathematician) developed maths-orientated educational resources based on the Montessori teaching method – *Play to Learn* – which she introduced to the Bugs. These resources can be used by all grades and are made from recyclable materials and, after Claire explained each game and their application, we couldn't wait to use them.

Using these new approaches in our English and Maths lessons has allowed us to have a deeper impact as the children remain engaged in the lesson and concepts are easily explainable.

Education facilitator Charlene Russell shares insight into a maths lesson:

At Corrie Lynn we set up five activities for the Grade R's – making shapes with the geo-board; matching colours with pegs; a fine-motor threading and counting activity (made with bread tags and skewers); another counting activity with sticks and play dough where they push the correct number of sticks into

Mrs Caroline Mamaru of A I Kajee School in Mooi River said she had not seen her class as enthusiastic about an activity as they were when making the peg words. She pointed out how proud they were of their accomplishments and how focused they were on making as many words as possible. This was a great encouragement to us.

balls of play dough; and a domino-like shape matching game on small pieces of wood. The children then rotated around from each activity to the next.

In between each activity, we placed a book about colour, or shapes, or numbers which the learners could look at if they were waiting to use an activity.

The Grade R teacher (initially very worried about the potential chaos that could erupt in this self-discovery lesson) was very impressed by the level of concentration of the learners as they moved from activity to activity. She also showed us some of the resources she already has in her class, but has not been able to use because she was unsure of their application. Having seen and participated in the Bug lesson she is now confident of using these herself. ***“What looks like playing is learning in disguise.”***

The MMEP invited a variety of other NPOs, working in education in the Midlands, to share what they do and how we can all work together to ensure maximum impact. Our plan is to share our common challenges in order to learn from each other and plan together so that we synchronise activities to build on and strengthen each other's work.

It was interesting and encouraging to learn of the amazing work that other people do and we feel part of a strong network. We had a basic knowledge, and know most, of the NGOs that



attended, but this meeting enabled us to hear in more detail what they do. Through this very helpful and productive process we have made various project links and realised that together we are providing an important and valuable service to our community. The MMEP was thanked several times for taking the initiative to host the ***“Productive, networking Tea Party”***.

The MMEP set up the Sisonke – 'Now or Never' (SNN) Community Network in 2015. This group continues to meet quarterly to support one another and refer cases. It has proved to be an invaluable source of support and information. The group continues to grow in strength. One of the member organisations is relocating to Cato Ridge but announced that they would still be attending the SNN meetings simply because it adds so much value to the work they do. They also committed to forming a similar group in Cato Ridge using the same “powerful and effective model”. We are thrilled that this group is growing, morphing and replicating.

As with all social issues, we often encounter a degree of resistance when introducing a sensitive issue, but by using creative art and games such as 'Chinese Whispers' showing

Comment from a teacher after a maths lesson using a geo board ***“Oh! So THAT's what Pythagoras theorem is all about! This is my first time to actually understand it!”***



how a story can change as people pass it on leading to confusion and problems, we find the learners become more confident in sharing their experiences, views and beliefs.

We found in one school there was a belief that bullying was okay! Listening to the learners we see that bullying is a big issue, especially in the bigger schools and follow up lessons are planned. Mr. Sokhela, Principal at Bruntville Primary, acknowledges this as a major concern and said: ***“I am very grateful that the Bugs came to speak about this issue of bullying in our school.”***

One of the challenges we face with some of our schools is the number of learners per class. We even experienced one class that was in excess of 100 pupils in one Grade 4 class and 75 pupils in the other Grade 4 class. This is an extreme situation and was caused by the absence of a teacher, but classes in excess of 45 learners are common. When faced with such an enormous number of children in one room, we have to consult with the school and revise our plans for the day. In the specific instance of 100 learners, the Bugs divided the class and teamed up, but this meant that the other planned lessons with other grades had to be abandoned.

Bugs are often approached by past pupils in the street who remember them fondly. This happened again recently when a teenage boy approached a Bug to say ***“I remember you, you visited our school”***. We established that he had been in one of our classes and lives with his father on a farm (his mother and siblings have all died). We are finding more and more children are recognising Bugs at local shops, sometimes rushing over and giving a quick hug. These meaningful



interactions are very encouraging, showing Bugs that they are making a difference in ordinary lives.

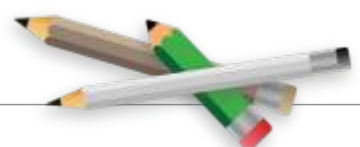
“Please know how we value your visits. Sometimes it might seem that we don’t, but your visits are very important to us.” Nicholas Nxumalo, Principal Shea O Connor School.

The way in which our organisation is structured and managed encourages each of us to develop to our full potential as people and professionals. We sometimes joke that the MMEP is akin to 'A Universitea of life' where we discuss, brainstorm, reflect, grow as individuals, and, of course, drink lots of tea at the same time.

We are encouraged to use our initiative and take responsibility and explore different parts of ourselves and our career. We are accountable to ourselves, the team and the project as a whole. The focus is on our valuable contribution to the organisation as opposed to position and power. We learn so much from each other and from what we do.

So thank you to N3TC for investing not only in our teachers and learners but also in our team. Every single person who has come through the programme has gained a huge amount of knowledge, experience and depth and we are all very grateful for the opportunity.

Education Facilitator Lesle Hall shared a classroom delight:
I was teaching a multi-grade class of grades one to three. I had the children write words on the board from a story we had just read. I have a set of pegs with a letter of the alphabet written on each peg and the children then have to form words using the pegs by pegging them onto ice cream sticks. The grade 3s managed this task well. I often will get the grade 1s to write their names using the pegs as they are not skilled enough to copy the words from the board. While I was helping the children a little girl came up and showed me she had tried to write the words 'thank you' but had written 'fthank yno'. I was about to show her where she had gone wrong when Mr Ndlovu pointed out that she was a Grade 1 student. She had spent a long time on her own trying to find the correct letters. Her pride in her achievement was lovely to see. I then tried to include her in my circuits around the class. She may never have been exposed to spelling as a fun activity before and it was lovely to see her take the opportunity and run with it. These are the children that we impact positively.



Vula Programme at Hilton College

Project Champion: Lloyd Smuts
Years Funded : Six
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : www.vulaprogramme.com

Report by Lloyd Smuts

The Vula Programme has three elements in which N3TC is involved, namely the Vula Careers Day, the Vula Mathematics Academy, and the Vula Grade 12 Mathematics and Physical Science teaching and revision week.

The target area for the Programme is Hilton, Howick, Pietermaritzburg, Estcourt, Bergville, Mpendle and Bulwer, as well as surrounding rural districts in KwaZulu-Natal.

N3TC has been a faithful and enthusiastic participant in the Vula Careers Day for a number of years, as was the case again this year.

The Careers day has been held annually since 2002. The day is attended by 500 selected Gr 12 learners from schools with which Vula has an ongoing working relationship. The day has been attended by more than 7500 learners since 2002. As in the past, the learners all take Mathematics and Science and have been selected by their schools because they have the potential to study further at a tertiary institution.

Through the enthusiastic encouragement of Praveen Sunderall, N3TC RIMS Manager, representatives from several of the emergency services in the region also participated in the event, adding considerable depth and variety to the range of exhibitors who were present.



The Vula Mathematics Academy (VuMA) had two intakes of teachers during 2016 – one in the first school term (VuMA 5) and the next in the second school term (VuMA 6). Since the opening of the Academy in January 2014, 74 teachers of Mathematics have attended VuMA. Of these, two have been promoted to Mathematics subject adviser positions, two are no longer teaching Mathematics, one has sadly passed away, while the remaining sixty nine are all at their schools, using the laptops, materials and methods provided by the Vula Mathematics Project. Together these teachers teach Mathematics to some 16 500 pupils in the Umgungundlovu district.

Teachers are at one in saying that attendance at the Academy was a life-changing experience which completely altered how they teach and their attitude to teaching.

Twenty of the teachers who attended VuMA in 2016 had their laptop computers funded by the donation from N3TC. The laptops are an integral part of the eleven week programme

which makes up each intake into the Academy. All coursework and assignments are done on the laptops. Access is also provided to the Hilton College computer network for the purposes of internet research and emailing. As such, the laptops become the storage mechanism for a huge amount of mathematical material which the teachers take back to their schools with them when they successfully complete their time at the Academy.



Teachers are at one in saying that attendance at the Academy was a life-changing experience.

It cannot therefore be sufficiently stressed how important the N3TC contribution towards the cost of providing the laptops is. For many of the teachers, their laptop is the key to a new and different way of teaching Mathematics.

One of Vula's biggest dreams has been realised with the completion and opening of the Vula Lodge. This new building provides Vula with comfortable on-campus accommodation in twelve en-suite double rooms, something which was not possible in the past, especially during term time. The first teachers to be accommodated in the new building were part of the VuMA 6 intake.

The Vula Lodge was officially opened on Thursday 23 June at a late-afternoon function hosted by the Chairman of the Board of the Hiltonian Society NPC, Mr Alistair Franklin, and attended by invited guests and friends of the Programme. We were honoured to have Con Roux, Thandiwe Rakale and Isabel Potgieter representing N3TC at the opening, and their words of delight when viewing the building were greatly appreciated. The Grade 12 Mathematics and Physical Science teaching and revision week is an important component of Vula's annual schedule of projects. This year it took place from Monday 4 to Thursday 7 July 2016 during the winter school holidays.



"I met teachers at Hilton College who are passionate and who want us as the younger generation to study hard. They motivated me and I gained back my strengths. I also enjoyed the encouraging talks they gave us." Protec Student



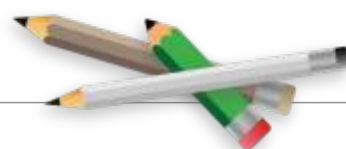
The week was attended by 40 Grade 12 learners from PROTEC Pietermaritzburg. Teaching of the group was undertaken by college staff members Mr Noel Robert (Physical Sciences) and Mrs Charmaine Padayachee and Mr Lionel Julius (Mathematics).

As with the opening of the Vula Lodge, it was wonderful to have an N3TC representative at this event. This time it was Praveen Sunderlall who was able to pop in to speak to the group on behalf of the company and encourage them to grasp any opportunities which may come their way in life.

We eagerly await the Grade 12 results of this group, which will be released early in January 2017.

N3TC's support and encouragement is very important to us – please accept our sincere thanks for walking with us in our journey of making a difference in the lives of so many teachers and learners in the greater KZN Midlands.

It cannot therefore be sufficiently stressed how important the N3TC contribution towards the cost of providing the laptops is...



Underberg Primary Mastery/Remedial Project

Project Champion: Cheryl Taylor
Years Funded : One (2016 – first year of funding)
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

Report by Cheryl Taylor

Underberg is a rural community situated at the foot of the Drakensberg, bordering Lesotho. Our closest bigger towns are Howick and Kokstad, both approximately 120km away. It is essentially a farming community with most of its commercial activities involved with agriculture. The tourism and hospitality industries are developing well too.

A large portion of our community is employed in the farming sector having few skills other than what they have learnt on the farm. Literacy competency levels are very low. Due to the vast distances from major centres, the support infrastructure within education in our area is very poor. Schools have very few resources and learners, educators, parents and caregivers are in dire need of support and training in many areas. Ours is a community that needs to be boosted and uplifted through learning to read, write and acquire new skills all the way from children to adults.

The Mastery Unit is a Special Needs Educational Support facility providing the services required for Remedial Education, Occupational Therapy, Psycho-social services, Grief Counselling, Play Therapy, Study Skills, Child and Family Counselling, Visual Acuity Training, Study skills, Intellectual, Standardised and Diagnostic Assessments, Bridging Education, Mind Moves and Computer-based learning.

As it is the only unit of its kind in KZN, we started the project as a pilot four years ago with the vision of branching out to the greater community once we had 'ironed out the creases'.

Children who have been assessed and identified as requiring assistance outside of the mainstream classroom attend the unit for two hours each day and learn their English language and Maths in a tactile, hands-on environment designed to cater for individual learning styles and focused on building confidence; and reinforcing and consolidating basic concepts.



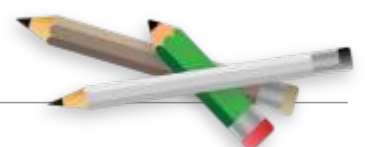
Due to the overwhelming success of the project we are now ready to extend our offering to an additional three rural under resourced schools in our area. This will once again be a Pilot project as once the programme has been fine-tuned, the idea is to offer it to as many of the 29 schools in our ward as funding and management will allow.

This will be referred to as the Mastery Unit Outreach Programme. 30 pupils from the three schools identified, Camanga, Goxhill and Thukeyana will be assessed and trained in basic computer skills while being taught English and reading through the media of a computer-based reading programme - Reading Eggs. The Toe-by-Toe Remedial/Dyslexia Programme will be implemented to teach reading to children who have been unable to progress in reading due to Special Needs Learning Disabilities. Training of educators, parents, care-givers and community group leaders focused on assisting children with Special Learning Needs will take place.

We will partner with The Family Literacy Project (FLP) which has been very successful in our area with ECD groups, reading groups, community libraries and home visiting groups for ten years. This will be advantageous for all parties as FLP has already established networks, support groups and built trusted relationships within the community. We will use their communication network to assist as many people as possible and their groups will receive additional training and education regarding reading and enrichment of children with Learning Disabilities.

Some of the highlights of the programme to date include:

- English proficiency in Zulu speaking children. Children who were unable to express themselves at all in English at the beginning of the year now read fluently and have conversations in English.
- Special needs children with learning difficulties have reintegrated into mainstream classrooms.
- Huge growth, progress and success – socially, emotionally and academically - in children who have been given the opportunity to learn and succeed in a small group learning environment that meets their needs.
- Improved tolerance, support, understanding and acceptance of children with learning difficulties within our community.





Lions River Primary School

Project Champion: Slondile Mhlongo
 Years Funded : One (2016 – first year of funding)
 Province : KwaZulu-Natal
 Website : www.michaelhouse.org

Letter of thanks received from Lions River Primary School

Please convey our sincerest thanks to N3TC's Board and Management for the funding Lions River Primary School received for 2016. The money was used to purchase a

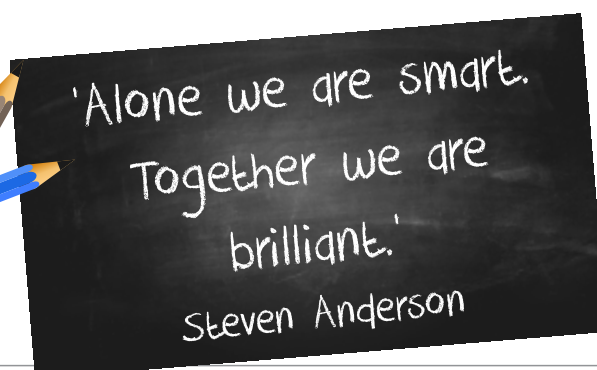
previously used ParkHome from Container Conversions Rental Division. The unit will be used as a much needed classroom.

It was delivered to our new school site in Lions River on Wednesday 20 July and members of the community watched in anticipation as the unit was lifted off the flatbed truck. Have a look at our FaceBook page – Lions River Primary School Supporters – to see photos that were taken on the day.

Your support has helped us to continue to educate children in our community, and hopefully more learners from the Lions River community will enroll now that we have an additional classroom.

Lions River Primary School and the community it serves are deeply grateful for N3TC's generous support of our school.

Yours sincerely
Slondile Mhlongo
 Principal



KwaZulu-Natal Crane Foundation Education Programme

Project Champion: Jenny Stipcich
Project Co-Ordinator: Charles Nkanyiso Ndlela
Years Funded : Six
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : www.kzncrane.co.za

Report by Jenny Stipcich

Once again children from less privileged rural schools are being taught about our national heritage - the beautiful Blue Crane, the endangered Wattled Crane and the colourful Crowned Crane. They also learn about important issues like water, wetland and grassland conservation. When the principal from Esiphethwini, Mr Zuma, received our certificate for participation in the programme, he made the following comment, ***"Thanks to the KZNCF for such a great opportunity to participate in the 'Cranes in the Classroom Programme'. Our learners are benefiting from it. They also so enjoy Uncle Crane's (Nkanyiso) lessons."***

It is one of our aims to improve and increase our interaction with other environmental organisations. Nkanyiso Ndlela is representing us at meetings with the Midlands Collaboration and Networking Forum. This has resulted in our exposure to twelve organisations. In August the KZNCF hosted a conservancy lunch for local environmental groups. At the lunch Nkanyiso presented a slide show. He also prepared a display of our work in the schools. It is indeed wonderful to see how Nkanyiso has now the confidence to give public talks. Both Ryne Ferguson and Nkanyiso represent the KZNCF at the Midlands Conservancy Forum meetings. Nkanyiso is actively involving himself in the Adopt a Stream Project in Nottingham Road.

Our 'Cranes in the Classroom' resource material works well. We have found, however, that the Foundation learners sometimes battle with our formal assessment at the end of each programme. We plan to rectify the problem by translating the worksheets into Zulu.



'So much to do and so little time!' is the refrain of the Education team. We desperately need another Education Officer to service schools in the lower N3 Corridor. We are also worried about the sustainability of the Education Project with only one Officer as we are 'putting all our eggs in one basket'.

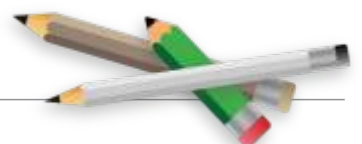
This quarter the KZNCF ran the 'Cranes in the Classroom' programmes in five schools. The schools are Isibonokuhle, Isilindele, Bruntville, Crystal Springs and Curry's Post. By the end of the term learners from these schools will have received four two-hour lessons. Each class will be formally assessed when the programme is finished.

In the July school holiday the KZNCF ran two workshops at Bruntville and another two workshops at the Usher Centre. Children spend their days in a safe and stimulating environment. At these workshops Nkanyiso tries out the new teaching resources and teaching methods that he acquired at *Fundisa for Change (FFC)*, a teacher-training organisation. The Bill Barnes Nature Reserve is a perfect venue to reinforce the drought crisis and all its implications. As usual, the Bruntville Holiday Club workshops were very crowded. We now employ an extra person to help Nkanyiso on those days.

As a result of Nkanyiso's networking with the Zulu Mpophomeni Tourism Experience (ZMTE), sixty five learners attended a workshop at the Usher Centre.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank N3TC for affording 'Uncle Crane' (Nkanyiso) such an amazing opportunity for personal growth. I have watched this natural teacher grow in self-confidence and learn a multitude of teaching skills. He now speaks publically and is mastering technology (I now have to ask him for advice). Nkanyiso takes on more and more administration and shows good initiative in the many projects that are being introduced. Indeed you have touched the life of Nkanyiso Ndlela.

One of our aims is to improve and increase
our interaction with other environmental
organisations.



Free State Eco Schools Programme

Project Champion: Delana Eksteen / Zwakele Ngwenya
Years Funded : Two
Province : Free State
Website : www.wessa.org.za

Report by Delana Eksteen

The 2016 project started on a good note and a high level of enthusiasm, with nine schools in Villiers now participating in the Eco-Schools programme instead of only seven as agreed upon. All these schools are now familiar with the programme procedures, evidence required for their portfolio and, most importantly, the benefits that come with being part of the programme.

With the word spreading fast around the community about the amazing work done through the programme around Qalabotjha Township, three new schools joined the programme. The new schools are Qalabotjha Development Centre, Thuto ke Lesedi Pre-School and Qalabotjha Secondary School. We welcome the new schools in the programme and hope that they will also benefit greatly and most importantly take care of our environment and help change the mindset of the teachers and

'Education is the
kindling of a flame,
not the filling
of a vessel.'
Socrates



learners to address environmental challenges in their community.

The popularity of the programme is growing within the Villiers community providing a challenge of having to support all the schools with the available budget as we do not want to break their enthusiasm.

Challenges such as intruders who trespass and harvest the schools' vegetables, community pets such as chickens and birds damaging the vegetables, and collection of sorted and packed waste material is faced by the schools therefore it is a big concern to have more schools joining the programme when the mentioned challenges are not yet addressed. Resources such as palisade fences and identifying a reliable recycler could be suggested to address the challenges, however, we have to consider the limitations of the budget.

Mohlakeng Primary School focused on sustaining their continuing projects and improving the implementation from previous years. The school implemented their Resource Use theme project on water conservation through re-using grey water and working on a schedule for classes to take turns bringing grey water and watering the school's food garden.

Phomello Primary School is facing a challenge of managing their waste, especially used paper from the classrooms. Therefore the Eco-Committee decided on recycling the white paper and re-using paper for making charcoal with a paper-brick press to compress damp white paper to make paper-bricks which can be used as charcoal.

Retshedisitswe Secondary School focused on improving their existing projects and implemented their new theme project for the year, which is water conservation. They are re-using grey water to water their food garden. The project coordinator is assisting the school in using the water audit to identify areas of high water consumption and to find possible solutions to address it.



Zamaleka Primary School took on water conservation as their new theme project due to the water challenges from last year continuing into 2016. Re-using grey water from the kitchen and mulching the garden were some ideas to ensure minimising water usage.

Zenzeleni Educare Centre harvested many vegetables last year as well as this year. For three consecutive weeks the school harvested tomatoes and cooked them for the learners. Linking their theme projects, the school used the plants left after harvesting for their compost heap as a way of enriching their soil for their next planting season.

Ntataise Educare Centre already implemented three of their five theme projects which is a food garden, soil conservation and water conservation. They have dedicated parents who are providing the school with grey water as they realised the benefits of the initiative.

Qalabotjha Secondary School, Qalabotjha Development Centre and Thuto ke Lesedi pre-school are all new schools to the programme. For their new theme projects the only focus is providing them with enough information and support to ensure a better understanding of the programme, integrating the projects with their classroom work and ensuring successful implementation of the theme projects.

On behalf of WESSA Eco-Schools and the nine participating schools we would like to express our sincere gratitude to N3TC for the support provided which is touching the lives of the community of Qalabotjha (Villiers) as it would not have been possible otherwise.

With the word spreading fast around the community about the amazing work done through the programme around Qalabotjha Township, three new schools joined the programme.





Midlands Community College: Mobile Laboratory Project

Project Champion:	Rebecca Wakeford
Years Funded :	Four
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.midlandscommunitycollege.co.za

The Midlands Community College continues to respond to the growing number of requests from schools to join the Mobile Science Laboratory Project. This Project is a way of **"Bringing Science to Life"** for over 5 000 Grade 10-12 learners in under-resourced rural schools to address the problems resulting from a shortage of equipment, resources and suitably qualified Physical Science educators in Secondary Schools in Kwa-Zulu Natal. It was started in 2002 and has kept expanding in response to demands from schools that still do not have science laboratories.

"I have grown as a person. Before I came here I wasn't able to do a simple presentation in front of people. But now I can teach and demonstrate science experiments to many students. I have also developed understanding of how students with different interests and abilities make sense of scientific ideas. The practicals help me as a technician as I gain more knowledge from the research on all experiments we demonstrate."

Siyabongi Msomi

A total of 49 permanent project schools are visited during the week, seven times a year. The project continues to be well received by both learners and educators. The technicians are found to be approachable and knowledgeable and learners have expressed the view that they see the technicians as role models who have a great sense of humour while still being professional and helping them to really understand the work. The technicians visit each of the 49 project schools to conduct science experiments. We find that when the learners encounter the technicians in Grade 12, they have established a rapport and work well together as the technicians have been assisting with practicals since the learners were in Grade 10.

The technicians are always willing to give up their Saturdays so that additional schools, which cannot be accommodated during weekdays, are assisted on Saturdays. Attendance from learners at the Saturday sessions has been very good and consistent. The assistance to the additional six schools has brought the total number of schools to 55. Six trained technicians are employed to conduct the practical science experiments. Two are new:

- **Siyabonga Msomi** matriculated in 2011. He achieved 74% in mathematics and 75% in physical science. He was accepted to study applied chemistry, but dropped out for financial reasons. He then set up his own tutoring programme, Siya Tutor Learning Programme.
- **Bongamusa Majola** is a graduate from the MST Project at MCC, who re-wrote his NSC exams at the end of 2015. Bongamusa was the top maths student last year attaining 81%.

The Mobile Laboratory Project held four Educator Workshops to cater for the different operational regions as well as the new schools included in the programme. In total 31 educators

attended the workshops. The objective of the workshops is to provide information on the programme and an overview of the practical demonstrations that will be covered.

School visits started in February, and within the first term, the Technicians had completed 225 practical demonstrations. In addition, the Technicians assisted five additional schools to complete their physical science practical assessment tasks on Saturday mornings, benefitting 105 Grade 10, 99 Grade 11 and 143 Grade 12 students.

A highlight for two of our Laboratory Technicians, along with Programme Manager, Rebecca Wakeford, was to attend the Vula Careers Open Day at Hilton College. The objective of the demonstrations we performed was to showcase that science can be fun, as well as exposing learners and schools to the project and college. The technicians chose two demonstrations that provided the most impact and within moments of them starting they were surrounded by students for the next two hours. Some of the schools that were present were already beneficiaries of the project, but there were some schools and educators present who indicated both at the careers day as well as during further conversations that they would like further involvement with the programme.

A second and significant highlight for the project was that the Mobile Laboratory Project was the recipient of a new, and more appropriate vehicle for the project, funded by Al Baraka Bank. Three of the technicians who have their drivers' licenses, obtained their Professional Drivers Permit in order to allow them to drive the new vehicle.

There is no doubt that the demand for the services of the Mobile Laboratory will continue to grow. The ability of educators and students in under resourced schools to complete the curriculum-aligned practicals in order to compile assessment marks, is an ongoing challenge. Currently the resource base of the project is stretching to service additional schools over week-ends and holidays.

The model around which the mobile laboratory project has operated over the past fourteen years is a model with scalability

that, with sufficient funding, can ensure that the project can expand within and beyond its current footprint. A number of beneficiary project schools have been with the project since inception, showing that the provision of physical science resources to schools is still a challenge for the Department of Education.

Some schools have been recipients of private donor funding for science laboratories, but the project remains active even in these schools as the educators still require support and assistance with the practicals. The reach of the project has scope to extend into Grade 12 Revision Camps offered by the Department of Education. At present we service two revision camps with Grade 12 practicals.

As a result of the increasing demand for the Mobile Laboratory at schools, the College has taken a strategic decision to replicate the model over a period of three years starting in 2018. In each of the three years a further two technicians will be employed to work with an additional fifteen schools. A total of 45 additional schools will be assisted by the year 2020.

The College's Science Educator is responsible for training the technicians and runs four workshops for 70 Science Educators from the project schools each year. We will continue to invest in this training as the project expands and would also like to look at the role of technology, including devices such as tablets and other learning tools in the classroom as this is certain to be a key component in the future and rapid innovation means that we cannot afford to be left behind.

Since its inception in 2001 the project has tripled in size and its reputation amongst schools has grown. Typically, educators in previously disadvantaged schools have large classes and lack the equipment or time to conduct the experiments or allow the learners to have hands-on experience of the practical component of the syllabus. The benefit of the project is indicated by the large volume of requests we continue to receive from educators to assist their learners.



The technicians are always willing to give up their Saturdays and additional schools which cannot be accommodated during weekdays are assisted on Saturdays.



Impendle Eco Schools Programme

Project Champion: Zandile Sikhakhane
Years Funded : Four
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

During the latter half of 2015, Sam Rose, the Impendle Project Champion, relocated to New Zealand. N3TC was not sure whether or not to continue with the Project in her absence. We asked Jessica Wigley, the Midlands Meander Education Project Co-Ordinator, to conduct an assessment for us, which she kindly did. This was her response:



Dear Con and Thandiwe,

Impendle Sustainable Schools and Communities Programme

At our last meeting I said I would visit the Impendle SussED project, set up by Sam Rose, to assess the project's progress. I have compiled this report for your interest.

On the 6th of September I met with education facilitator Zandile Sikhakhane who took me on a tour to four of the five schools where she teaches. I was impressed by her passion, determination and dedication. Having been an education officer I know how hard working out in the field can be, even as a part of a team. The fact that she has continued to conduct her lessons alone and with such enthusiasm is inspiring. The MMEP invited Zandile to join in our mid-year evaluation process and our teacher's workshop where she participated whole heartedly and actually took what she learnt back out into the field. There is no doubt that she puts a lot of effort into her work.

The schools are located in extremely challenging rural conditions so the context of Zandile's work is by nature quite difficult (extreme weather conditions, lack of potable water, wandering animals that eat everything, theft of fresh produce grown by the children and so on) but when we arrived at each school the children's faces lit up. It is evident by the enthusiastic way in which we were welcomed that Zandile has set up meaningful relationships and the teachers really do appreciate her support. Three of the 14 teachers I met commented on how helpful Zandile's work has been and what a pleasure it is to work with her. I also saw evidence of her lessons in the form of posters on the wall, trees and veggies planted, a hot box, a wonder bag and numerous tippy taps.

In my opinion this programme is worth supporting because:

- The children and teachers are enthusiastic about the programme.
- Meaningful relationships have been set up and Zandile has become part of the school programme.
- Zandile's enthusiasm is infectious and as a community member herself, she stands out as an exemplary role model advocating for positive change and environmental awareness wherever she goes.
- Zandile has a 'green dream' for Impendle and has approached the municipality to start recycling and implement permaculture training. If there is buy-in, she will then have more support.
- Impendle is really rural and Zandile is bringing a valuable range of learning opportunities to children who may not otherwise have been exposed to hands on environmental education like this.
- The lessons and programme are well organised and managed.

Going forward the Midlands Meander Education Project (MMEP) would be happy to draw up a budget for this programme and take it 'under our wing' so to speak, to offer Zandile and the Impendle project valuable support.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Kind Regards

MIDLANDS MEANDER EDUCATION PROJECT
Jessica Wigley
MMEP Co-ordinator

As a result, N3TC gladly continued its support of the Impendle Programme in 2016. This year, Zandile Sikhakhane is again working with five schools: Ubunye, KwaKhetha, Hlelolusha, KwaNovuka and Nhlabamkhosi.

Highlights and successes have included vegetable gardening; lessons on soil and how to prevent erosion; waste and its effect on the environment; nutrition; permaculture and water.

Zandile reports:

Everyone is affected by the drought we have here at Impendle. The students need to learn about the importance of saving water. I introduced grey water to them, which they started to collect to irrigate their food garden and flowers. The enviro committee and I managed to persuade the school governing body to provide gutters to catch rain water and direct it to the food garden. We wish to have enough money to buy Jojo tanks.

I taught the schools about Tippy Taps and built one for each school. I introduced ways to save electricity and wood in winter. Firstly, I talk about the WonderBag, how you only need to boil beans and samp for a few minutes before putting them into the WonderBag. You can go and do whatever, then you will come back and your food will be cooked and it does not burn. I also taught the children how to make solar ovens and that all they need is foil, cardboard, tape, and a plastic cover.

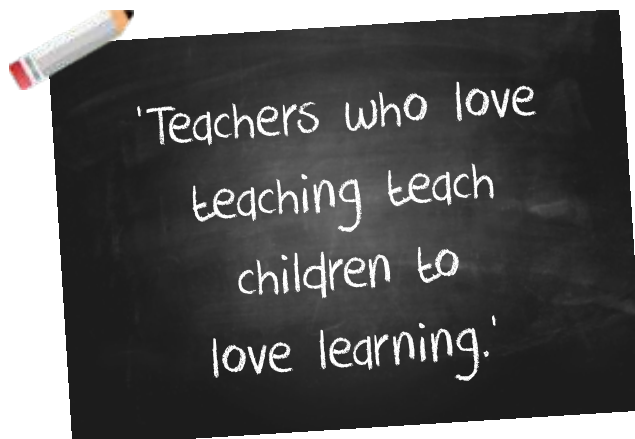
We went outside to observe the soil that they have. Is it fertile? I gave the school children the idea that if the soil doesn't have worms that means that soil is not fertile. Many plants are affected by insects, so I suggested companion planting with herbs and spraying with garlic and chilli spray to help. What has inspired me the most is to work with the teachers that practice what I teach them. Ms Ndlela from Ubunye said she will not use chemicals in her veggie garden at home. We were able to harvest the food that we planted at the beginning of the year.

Zandile has tremendous dreams for Impendle - a recycling campaign; a waste art competition or trashion show amongst



the schools; convert the tuck shop products into healthier alternatives; have a drama competition about fracking, water, and renewable energy; and a clean-up campaign around the community, especially the beautiful wetland which is badly polluted.

We wish Zandile well as she pursues these dreams, and thank Nikki Brighton, as well as the MMEP, for the assistance they have provided.



Esipethwini Sendiza (Hlanganani) Primary School

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

In 2015, thanks to N3TC and other donors, the entire school was painted. The work was professionally done and the school is looking good. From 196 pupils in 2015, the number of pupils jumped to 256 in 2016. The growth in pupil numbers reflects the success of a truly amazing staff and a school which is known to deliver satisfactory results.

Department of Education funding for 2016 was based on the school numbers in 2015, so the school was underfunded by some 23.5%. This impacts on the number of teachers and class size (Grade 7 now has 70 pupils), funds for lunches, repairs and maintenance, contribution towards electricity, and many other basic operating expenses. Some of the shortfalls are met by donors, the largest of these being N3TC.

Over a number of years Esipethwini has been in discussions with Eskom about disputed electricity bills (suspected theft during holidays and weekends). The electricity supply had been disconnected, making it impossible, for instance, to run the computer centre. Thanks to N3TC and other donors, including Fordoun, the Brown family, and the Nottingham Road Farmers Trust, a pre-paid meter has been installed to control of the consumption and get the account settled; and electricity supply re-connected.

Mr Mhamvu is a young man who has been teaching at Esipethwini Sendiza for some two years whilst studying part time. His passion is teaching and this reflects in his enthusiasm and performance. He will go far. By pure chance it was discovered that he was paid only a tiny stipend per month. Fordoun and N3TC supplement this stipend. Mr Mhamvu expects that he will have completed his studies by the end of 2016. Hopefully he is retained at Esipethwini Sendiza and his salary reflects that of a qualified teacher.

Michaelhouse School continues to be a valued partner at the school. During school terms 12 pupils from Pascoe House and a teacher employed at Michaelhouse visit and assist with guiding and training of pupils and staff in the computer lab. They also help pupils with homework. Michaelhouse pays the local service provider for the internet service to the school, as well as the cost of a regular



computer repair and maintenance service. The Mobile Library (donated by N3TC) is a valued asset to Esipethwini Sendiza and other local schools. It visits Esipethwini Sendiza every Friday.

Local Educationist, Sandy Stewart, who is also involved with Cranes in the Classroom (KZN CF), is helping the school to properly assess the needs for taking Esipethwini Sendiza into the future. This assessment will be thoroughly undertaken and submitted to N3TC and other donors.

The entire school was painted. The work was professionally done and the school is looking good.



Topsy Early Childhood Development (ECD) Project

Project Champion:	Sarah du Toit/Elizabeth Moshe
Years Funded :	Two
Province :	Mpumalanga
Website :	www.topsy.org.za

It is ordinary South Africans, such as the team of care workers who are dedicating their time and energy to the Topsy Foundation, in Mpumalanga's rural Gert Sibande District, who help to empower vulnerable communities to break the cycle of abject poverty.

Located in close proximity to the N3 Toll Route, Dipaleseng where many of the Foundation's projects are based, is a largely rural area, lacking adequate infrastructure and large-scale industries. It is here that Topsy Foundation, with the support of its partners, sets out to bring about positive change and relief to communities through programmes that are centred on the well-being of children and their families.

"We follow a child-centred approach, with our key focus being to improve family structures and to create a sense of ownership and long-term sustainability in communities," explains Sarah du Toit, Topsy's Development Manager.

The Foundation achieves this by offering a variety of services to facilitate the emotional, intellectual, mental, spiritual, moral, physical and social development and growth of children.

Nutritional services provided by Topsy have had the most notable impact in our community with 120 individual vegetable gardens feeding an average of 470 beneficiaries monthly; and a further 29 community vegetable gardens feeding 4 440 beneficiaries monthly.



On an educational front, more than 1 300 children receive early childhood development support through 23 early childhood development centres that the Topsy Foundation has partnered with, as well as another centre which especially cares for the needs of children with disabilities.

Through Consultation with stakeholders including Dipaleseng Early Childhood Association in 2014, Topsy implemented its new Early Childhood Development (ECD) project to provide for the holistic development requirement of children in their formative years, encompassing physical, cognitive, social and language development needs.

Topsy's ECD project aims to ensure children between the ages of 0-6 are emotionally and physically nourished. Children who have benefited from the ECD project have improved social and emotional behaviour, are less likely to drop out of school later in life, and have increased earning potential as adults. Studies have shown that high quality stimulation through early Childhood Development programmes gives children a better chance of breaking the poverty cycle.

The ECD Project includes the implementation of a central educational toy library, which distributes, on a rotation basis, specialised educational toys to the pre-schools and centres supported by the project.

In addition to the provision of specialised equipment to encourage play activities to develop young children in the areas of numeracy and literacy, Topsy provides training to 88 practitioners, teachers and principals at pre-schools, on the concept of ECD and use of the equipment provided. This is facilitated by the ASHA Trust.

The training takes place over a three year period and includes face-to face tuition, as well as follow-up hands-on support from Topsy social workers in the centres. The aims of the skills development programme are to:

- Equip the ECD practitioners with the basic skills of running effective and stimulating centres;
- Emphasise the importance of the daily programme and nutrition; and
- Prepare the principals/owners of the centre, for financial management and registration with the necessary local authorities. Once this has been done successfully they become eligible to receive financial subsidies to help with the nutrition programme and pay child care workers.

The children that visit the toy library also receive medical checks from our professional medical staff, including weight and growth monitoring; TB Screening; general medical care including medication for opportunistic infections and x-ray facilities; and specialised annual assessments as per volunteer availability such as dentists, paediatricians and dermatologists.

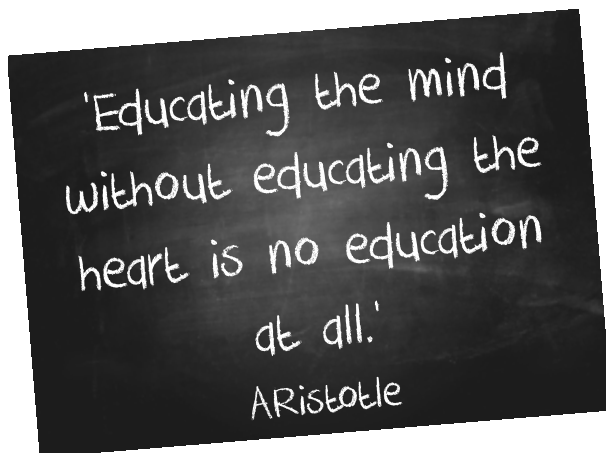
"We acknowledge that our work would not have been possible without the support and partnership of the local communities which we serve, as well as the donors who have believed in our work throughout this time, including N3TC," concludes Sarah.

KwaZamokuhle School for the Disabled

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

The Cerebral Palsy (CP) Early Intervention Project began by serving the communities immediately surrounding the Kwazamokuhle Special School, namely Loskop, Ntabamhlope, Wembezi and Estcourt. Recently, it has extended into areas slightly further away, namely Emabhalonini and Weenen.

These are rural and semi-rural communities with poor access to infrastructure and amenities such as running water and electricity. Most families in these communities live in poverty and rely heavily on grants for income. For a person with a disability in these areas, access to health and rehabilitation services, as well as access to assistive devices to aid with necessary daily activities is limited. For many, the distance to travel to get to clinics or hospitals is too far and the services available at these facilities are overloaded or non-existent.



As a result many of those needing rehabilitation services choose not to go, or they are held back by misconceptions and misunderstandings of disability. Many still hold the belief that a disability is the result of witchcraft or is the fault of the mother or the person themselves.

Cerebral Palsy is a life-long condition resulting from injury to the brain at or around birth, which results predominantly in difficulties with movement, but also may include epilepsy and/or difficulties with vision, hearing, cognition or sensation.



Early intervention for children with cerebral palsy to improve movement and posture, provide stimulation for cognitive development and problem-solve for difficulties which exist is crucial to preventing secondary complications that arise from lack of these (such as contractures, delays in learning, lack of communication and lack of movement skills that may have been possible from a younger age).

The 2016 goals of the Project were to:

- Host two workshops for caregivers of children with CP for a total of twelve caregivers, to educate them about what CP is (and what isn't), how best to position their child and to assist them with problem-solving their specific difficulties. The focus will be on understanding the "why?" behind suggestions and instructions given by therapists.

- Continue to grow the database of children with CP attending the local CP clinics.
- Run short presentations/workshops at the CP clinics.
- Encourage caregivers of children with CP to form support groups and share information with other caregivers about CP.

The Project is overseen by the Therapists and Community Development Facilitator (Nathi Mayaba) at KwaZamokuhle. Nathi, who attended the Malamulele course for mid-level workers in 2015, visits the local clinics to network with Therapists from the Department of Health to identify moms of CP kids who would benefit from the training on what CP is.

Nathi has other duties to attend to, so it was decided to send another person to Malamulele so that there would be more input into the CP Early Intervention Project. Ntokozi Hadebe is an ex-KwaZamokuhle pupil, who is a CP Diplegia himself. He has been assisting in developing Siqalokusha, which is a support group for people with disabilities.

So Nathi and Ntokozi have attended a five day Malamulele course on "Caregivers of CP children". We are confident that together they are going to make a wonderful difference to many moms of CP kids.

The first Workshop for moms of CP kids for 2016 was held over three separate days in June and July. It was decided that the course would not run over consecutive days as it is exhausting for moms and children, as well as facilitators. And, of course, the weather in June/July was freezing!

The group, consisting of three, was mothers of CP kids who are able to walk but present with little or no speech, improved hand function and behavioural problems.

All three days ran smoothly with a lot of discussions and sharing from the mothers of their own stories about their children. The children were looked after by three caregivers, two of whom are German volunteers who have been at KwaZamokuhle for the past eleven months. Over the three days, the therapists and facilitators were able to advise the

moms on exercises and programmes to help their children.

The impact of the training on one mother can be exposed in her words ***"I understand now that some things will get better but others not, but I accept that my child needs lots of love."*** Another mom said ***"I am very happy to get this knowledge about my child. It's been very helpful."***

Another project funded by N3TC at KwaZamokuhle is the development of an accessible playground. The concept of this playground, outside the therapy block, is that it will be a play area for the more severely disabled children, those children in wheelchairs who need special/ extra attention and assistance in all that they do.

The site for the playground is outside the two therapy rooms, adjacent to the existing covered concrete veranda. The veranda allows for play on tricycles and mini-go karts, as well as hopscotch and ball games. This area will be fenced in, in order to ensure learners are supervised while playing on the equipment, and to limit interruptions of children walking through whilst others are playing or busy with therapy activities.

The grassy play area currently has a sandpit, which needs to be adapted and upgraded to accommodate children with mobility difficulties. This will entail raising the walls of the sandpit to act as seats, purchasing a cover for the sandpit, and purchasing toys for play in the sandpit.

A wheelchair accessible play system will be purchased, including swings for children in wheelchairs, simple and secure climbing equipment and a slide. There are currently plant beds in the area which will be used for this equipment, but these can be moved to new beds.

Water play tables will be purchased, which are the correct height for children in wheelchairs to be able to sit and play, as well as water play toys (eg. Cups, jugs, funnels).

The process began with a "painting day" when the LIONS club of Estcourt helped paint a roadway and hopscotch on the concrete veranda. Much fun was had by all!



The process of accessing quotations from suppliers of wheelchair-accessible swings is slow as there are not many companies who make such swings. It is planned that the playground will be completed by the end of 2016, with the LIONS club again being willing to come in and assist with transplanting plants, planting grass etc.



Sam-Lyn Edu-Centre

Project Champion : Hazel Stanley
Years Funded : Two
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

Report by Hazel Stanley

Our desire at Sam-Lyn Edu-Centre, in Weenen, has been not only to improve the rural children's language skills, but also to make learning exciting. This I do believe we have achieved – the children often have to be told again and again that they are free to go home!

From the 'Whizz Kidz' Club on Mondays, to those attending on the other afternoons, learning has certainly been happening. The children are gaining in confidence as well as improving their English Skills. The drama sessions have been hugely successful and so well received by the children. This is a wonderful tool in developing a child's self-esteem which in turn impacts language skills.

The groups are rotated – each group arrives to everything laid out, ready for them to begin. Comprehension exercises, educational games, the newspaper and various other activities are laid out and the group being taught the new skill, is facilitated by myself while guiding the others on their activities.

The lending library is a huge hit and the children can't wait to change their books each week, especially those who don't have access to a library. Some of these children are taking home two books at a time!

We believe at Sam-Lyn, that education should be exciting - encouraging the children to come back for more. The children from the 'Whizz Kidz' club are exposed to educational games such as Scrabble Dash, 30 Seconds, Funky Maths and many more. These they play in their groups and are loathe to pack up



when it is time to go home. The fun, excitement and keenness to learn is tangible.

The children were abuzz as they arrived at Sam-Lyn Edu Centre recently. They had been requested to be dressed in casual gear as they were going on an "outing". This surprise outing had them guessing even when given boarding passes to climb onto an aeroplane. Due to the cost of a visit to a real airport or anywhere else for that matter, the Centre offered something different that would impact the children, outside the confines of a classroom.

The seating inside Sam-Lyn Edu Centre was set up like the seating in an aeroplane with blankets on the seats and a cosy atmosphere to emulate the inside of an aeroplane. The children entered one at a time and were shown to their seats by the "Air Steward". They were then told to imagine that the screen in front of them with a Power Point presentation was the screen on the aeroplane. They fastened their seatbelts for take-off and were given a taste of what it is like travelling in an aeroplane.



The children watched in awe as they were taken through the steps of planning a holiday such as budgeting, passports, how to get there and what clothing to take. Their trip was to Zanzibar, part of Tanzania, which is the country that they learn about in Social Science. They were shown maps as well as tourist destinations such as a Spice Farm, Stone Town, Prison Island and the Slave Museum.

They were also served juice off a trolley by the 'Air Steward' while watching the Power Point. They were then treated to traditional Tanzanian Buns and cake to round off this exciting adventure. According to one of the children – it was just “perfect”!

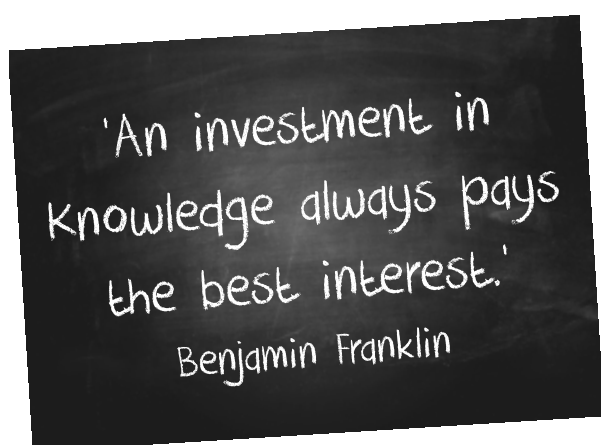
We are truly blessed and privileged to be working with these children!

One of the biggest challenges is trying to impact the teachers at the schools. Having worked with these children more intensely, on a full-time basis, we see the huge gap in terms of English – as the teachers themselves struggle to speak the language. We have offered to have the teachers work on the Readers are Leaders programme which goes right up to tertiary level – ideal for them. As we do not like to encourage teachers to leave their classes during school time, we offer to run these workshops on Friday afternoons, when many of them go home to other areas.

The Sports Skills are thoroughly enjoyed by the children and are impacting their playing at school level. They are hugely blessed to have an ex professional soccer player teaching them soccer skills!!! Cement has now been laid for the cricket pitch and cricket has begun in earnest.

We have also unearthed our Puppet Theatre which is an invaluable tool for second language learners. The children are often far more prepared to speak a second/third language under the guise of a puppet.

It is our belief that educating parents is an extremely important part of our programme. With this in mind, we invited parents, gogos (grandmothers), uncles, aunties and siblings to come to Sam-Lyn Edu Centre to experience what their children do at the Centre in the afternoons. By bringing parents to the Centre, we believe that they will take back what they learnt to the community, especially the importance of reading with their children.



There was great excitement as parents built puzzles, worked on the computer, listened to stories, played games and read stories to their children. The morning was certainly a success confirmed by the fact that there have been many requests to “please organise more of these”. As with the children, the parents were reluctant to leave!

As our Centre has developed, so other educators are showing an interest in helping support our programme, including an art teacher. Art is another area that is lacking in many of the schools.

Tracy Usher-Jones who is already involved, will be starting a Grade RRR on our premises as well as be involved in the Centre in terms of music and reaching out to the parents of the children in terms of supporting their education.

I feel it is important to ask why children are absent and I was told by one of the boys that a certain child has not been able to attend due to the cost of transport. He is saving his money to be able to attend again! We take so much for granted.

To us, the most exciting story is the fact that the children don't appear to want to leave. This clearly indicates that they are being offered not only something exciting but also a Safe Haven. It is so encouraging that one of the young boys is coming regularly as a volunteer on the days that other schools come – he is such a help and an incentive to the others to speak English.

All in all, Sam-Lyn Edu Centre is growing in leaps and bounds and it is humbling and a privilege to be able to do what we are doing.

Thank you, N3TC!!!



Project Champion:	Cathy Derman
Years Funded :	Two
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal

During the year the school's Science Centre (funded by N3TC in 2015) and well-equipped Computer Centre provided crucial support for learners, teachers and members of the community. The Science Centre was used to host a science and mathematics workshop for twenty teachers from eleven local schools. The Computer Centre is opened after-hours to allow local community members to learn computer skills and to assist high school learners with the necessary resources for additional study.

A hand-drawn mind map on a blackboard with 'SCIENCE' at the center. The map branches into several categories:

- Types of Current** (top left): Includes 'AC' and 'DC'.
- WRITE-UP** (top left): A branch from the center.
- UNDERSTANDING AND CONCEPTS** (top left): A branch from the center.
- APPROACH** (top left): A branch from the center.
- SCIENCE** (center): The main topic.
- PHYSICS** (top right): A branch from the center.
- CHEMISTRY** (top right): A branch from the center.
- BIOLOGY** (top right): A branch from the center.
- ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE** (top right): A branch from the center.
- ENERGY TRANSFER** (middle right): A branch from the center.
- RENEWABLE** (middle right): A branch from the center.
- NON-RENEWABLE** (middle right): A branch from the center.
- CONDUCTION** (bottom left): A branch from the center.
- CONVECTION** (bottom left): A branch from the center.
- RADIATION** (bottom left): A branch from the center.
- IONIZATION** (bottom left): A branch from the center.
- HEAT** (bottom left): A branch from the center.
- MOVING** (bottom left): A branch from the center.
- WATER** (bottom left): A branch from the center.
- INTERNAL** (bottom left): A branch from the center.
- RESULTS** (bottom right): A branch from the center.
- THEORY** (bottom right): A branch from the center.
- CONCLUSION** (bottom right): A branch from the center.

Additional notes and drawings include:

- A drawing of a house with a chimney, labeled 'HOUSE'.
- A drawing of a beaker with a flame underneath, labeled 'HEAT'.
- A drawing of a light bulb, labeled 'ELECTRICITY'.
- A drawing of a battery, labeled 'BATTERY'.
- A drawing of a plant, labeled 'PLANT'.
- A drawing of a sun, labeled 'SUN'.
- A drawing of a moon, labeled 'MOON'.
- A drawing of a star, labeled 'STAR'.
- A drawing of a planet, labeled 'PLANET'.
- A drawing of a galaxy, labeled 'GALAXY'.
- A drawing of a nebula, labeled 'NEBULA'.
- A drawing of a comet, labeled 'COMET'.
- A drawing of a meteor, labeled 'METEOR'.
- A drawing of a meteorite, labeled 'METEORITE'.
- A drawing of a black hole, labeled 'BLACK HOLE'.
- A drawing of a wormhole, labeled 'WORMHOLE'.
- A drawing of a time machine, labeled 'TIME MACHINE'.
- A drawing of a teleporter, labeled 'TELEPORTER'.
- A drawing of a teleportation device, labeled 'TELEPORTATION DEVICE'.
- A drawing of a teleportation portal, labeled 'TELEPORTATION PORTAL'.
- A drawing of a teleportation beam, labeled 'TELEPORTATION BEAM'.
- A drawing of a teleportation energy, labeled 'TELEPORTATION ENERGY'.
- A drawing of a teleportation field, labeled 'TELEPORTATION FIELD'.
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- A drawing of a teleportation economy, labeled 'TELEPORTATION ECONOMY'.
- A drawing of a teleportation society, labeled 'TELEPORTATION SOCIETY'.
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- A drawing of a teleportation productivity, labeled 'TELEPORTATION PRODUCTIVITY'.
- A drawing of a teleportation performance, labeled 'TELEPORTATION PERFORMANCE'.
- A drawing of a teleportation quality, labeled 'TELEPORTATION QUALITY'.
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- A drawing of a teleportation economy, labeled 'TELEPORTATION ECONOMY'.
- A drawing of a teleportation society, labeled 'TELEPORTATION SOCIETY'.
- A drawing of a teleportation culture, labeled 'TELEPORTATION CULTURE'.
- A drawing of a teleportation community, labeled 'TELEPORTATION COMMUNITY'.
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- A drawing of a teleportation organization, labeled 'TELEPORTATION ORGANIZATION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation institution, labeled 'TELEPORTATION INSTITUTION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation association, labeled 'TELEPORTATION ASSOCIATION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation union, labeled 'TELEPORTATION UNION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation coalition, labeled 'TELEPORTATION COALITION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation alliance, labeled 'TELEPORTATION ALLIANCE'.
- A drawing of a teleportation partnership, labeled 'TELEPORTATION PARTNERSHIP'.
- A drawing of a teleportation collaboration, labeled 'TELEPORTATION COLLABORATION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation cooperation, labeled 'TELEPORTATION COOPERATION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation joint venture, labeled 'TELEPORTATION JOINT VENTURE'.
- A drawing of a teleportation merger, labeled 'TELEPORTATION MERGER'.
- A drawing of a teleportation acquisition, labeled 'TELEPORTATION ACQUISITION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation takeover, labeled 'TELEPORTATION TAKEOVER'.
- A drawing of a teleportation consolidation, labeled 'TELEPORTATION CONSOLIDATION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation restructuring, labeled 'TELEPORTATION RESTRUCTURING'.
- A drawing of a teleportation transformation, labeled 'TELEPORTATION TRANSFORMATION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation revolution, labeled 'TELEPORTATION REVOLUTION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation change, labeled 'TELEPORTATION CHANGE'.
- A drawing of a teleportation transition, labeled 'TELEPORTATION TRANSITION'.
- A drawing of a teleportation shift, labeled 'TELEPORTATION SHIFT'.
- A drawing of a teleportation movement, labeled 'TELEPORTATION MOVEMENT'.
- A drawing of a teleportation trend, labeled 'TELEPORTATION TREND'.
- A drawing of a teleport

Principal, Patrick Ndlovu, is very proud of his school and pointed out at the gathering that the local community is fortunate to have an excellent school, which is supported by dedicated teachers, the Curry's Post Educational Trust, the MMEP, Curry's Post Conservancy and donors such as N3TC. He thanked N3TC, in particular, for providing funds to refurbish the hall in 2016.

A group of approximately 12 young children, mostly of African descent, are standing in a line on a stage. They are dressed in colorful, casual clothing. Some are clapping, and others have their arms outstretched, suggesting they are performing a dance or a play. In the foreground, there are several potted plants with colorful flowers. A large blackboard is positioned in the lower-left corner, displaying a quote in white cursive text. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

'The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth.'

Erdsmus

Crystal Springs Primary School

Project Champion: Mrs T. D. Ngubane
Years Funded : One (2016 – first year of funding)
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

The School governing body, principal, educators, learners and all other stakeholders wish to express their hearty gratitude and appreciation to the N3TC family for the funding you sent our school.

It was used to revamp our parking lot and the sidewalk in front of the pre-fabricated classrooms. The whole front area was neatly paved with cement bricks. It is looking beautiful. The experience of mud all over the yard and inside the classrooms is forgotten and gone forever, thanks to N3TC. It was a wonderful and fantastic job.

The project changed the lives of the school community. It has brought hope and excitement, and everybody is proud of our school. Parents could not hold their joy and love for our school, this project was an eye opener. It helped us visualise and redesign the whole front area to curb the problem of having water and sand inside our school yard and classrooms.

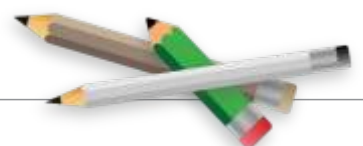
Initially there was a challenge of getting quotations from companies and service providers. We went as far as Howick and Pietermaritzburg to find the suitable person, the other frustration was giving the correct measurement when quoting. Ultimately we managed to get someone to do the measurement and we sent requests for quotes to three service providers: Mfiso Contractors, Mathonsi Investments and Maqhumela Multi Purpose Co-operative. The committee awarded the project to Maqhumela. He is a local service provider and provided the lowest quote.

Working with him was a blessing in disguise because after he started putting the paving bricks we realised that we needed to attend to the area outside the main gate because if we did not, the sand would have eroded from the road covering the paving. After negotiating he finally agreed to accommodate our proposal without inflating his cost.

"I am a teacher at Crystal Springs Primary School, having the school paved has helped us tremendously because the classes used to be full of mud on rainy days and dusty and sandy on dry days. We had to wear plastic boots when it rained because there would be mud everywhere, which made moving from class to class difficult. It was even harder for the learners that could not afford the plastic boots, because the mud would tear their shoes. But now it's all in the past, thanks to what you have done for us. As teachers and learners we would like to say thank you so much for the help you have given us".



It brought hope and excitement, everybody is proud of our school.



ROAD SAFETY

A DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY

Self-regulation, attitudinal change, pro-active law enforcement and prosecution are essential to reach road safety targets as set out in the Global Plan for the “Decade of Action for Road Safety”.

At the end of 2015, the halfway mark has been reached in the Global Plan for the “Decade of Action for Road Safety” which was instituted in 2011 as part of the United Nation's Road Safety Collaboration.

Worldwide, the road safety situation constitutes a crisis with devastating social and economic impacts. The global initiative provides a clear framework and guidelines to improve road safety with the aim of stabilising and reducing road fatalities.

Governments, international agencies, civil society organisations, the private sector and other stakeholders support the global plan. South Africa is a signatory to the “Decade of Action for Road Safety” plan, and so too is the N3 Toll Concession (N3TC), the company which maintains and operates one of the country's major transport links, the N3 Toll Route, between the Heidelberg interchange in Gauteng and the Cedara interchange near Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal.

Since the implementation of this framework in 2011, N3TC has instituted various road safety interventions and activities to improve general safety along the N3 Toll Route. These interventions, where applicable, tie in with the five pillars set out by

the United Nations in its road safety plan:

- building road safety management capacity
- improving the safety of road infrastructure and broader transport networks
- developing the safety of vehicles
- enhancing the behaviour of road users
- improving post-crash care

Despite making excellent progress during the previous five years, and achieving an overall 43% [from 196 in 2011 to 112 in 2015] reduction in fatalities along the route, some serious concerns remain. “These can only be effectively addressed through the commitment of all stakeholders, most notably that of drivers themselves and law enforcement agencies,” says Miles le Roux, transport engineer at N3 Toll Concession.

“The general attitude of South African drivers remains poor. About 70% of crashes on the N3 are due to human behaviour and errors of judgement. Generally, it seems drivers show little respect for other road users and the law. They seem to be proud of breaking the law and getting away with it,” says le Roux.

“Drivers need to be made aware of how dangerous driving actually is. They are often not skilled enough for the speeds and conditions they encounter on the road. The co-operation of all road users and an overall behavioural change is essential to overcome our road safety challenges.”



The three most common types of crashes for 2015 on the N3 Toll Route were vehicles that rolled (27.5%), vehicles that left the road (21.9%), and head-tail collisions (19.0%). Crashes where vehicles rolled or left the road are single vehicle crashes where the driver lost control. "In all these situations, the driver lost control usually due to poor concentration, judgement and excessively dangerous speeds," confirms le Roux.

Pedestrian crashes account for 4.3% of all crashes, and are almost always fatal. "These generally occur in areas where there are dwellings close to the N3 Toll Route and where hitch-hiking takes place. The issue is further exacerbated by hawkers who sell their wares to truck drivers at many unsafe and illegal locations along the Route," explains le Roux.

As road safety is a primary concern for the N3TC, the company works in close cooperation with the various law enforcement agencies along the route. Various interventions, such as speed over distance monitoring, road blocks, alcohol and drug screening tests, specialised training for law enforcement agencies and more are bearing fruit. However, despite the fact that our country has excellent traffic enforcement laws, more needs to be done to apply the law to its fullest and enforce rules and regulations governing traffic violations and the roadworthiness of vehicles.

"It would make a tangible difference on our roads if law enforcement officers are working 24-hours a day, 365-days a year, and sufficient commitment and manpower are available to successfully prosecute offenders," says le Roux.

N3 Toll Concession deploys significant resources to enhance overall safety along the N3 Toll Route. "We are thankful for the support received from our various partners in this regard," continues le Roux. Some of the pro-active steps taken by N3TC include the following:

Improving the knowledge and experience of all emergency services along the Route and providing a dedicated N3TC Route Services to enhance safety, convenience and mobility along the N3 Toll Route.

On-going N3TC incident management initiatives, increased awareness campaigns, average speed over distance monitoring and enforcement, and an increase in law enforcement are having positive results.

N3TC has launched various training initiatives for emergency services and law enforcement agencies, including specialised training in monitoring roadworthiness of vehicles and checking the condition of tyres; impounding vehicles; policing dangerous goods on the road; hosting specialised operations and road blocks; performing alcohol and drug screening tests at road blocks; monitoring and fining for illegal and unsafe truck parking and stopping along the Route; and driver wellness testing which includes blood pressure, blood glucose, eye, cholesterol, tuberculosis and HIV tests.

During various operations, it was noted that many drivers are intentionally removing their number plates in order to transgress the law without getting caught. Some of these drivers even go to the extent of covering their number plates with mud.

During the 3rd quarter of 2015, 143 vehicles were caught without plates and the drivers were fined. In some instances the driver was also charged with defeating the ends of justice. Enforcement agencies are now paying special attention to these transgressions.

In consultation with Law Enforcement agencies, N3TC has also implemented average speed monitoring cameras in certain areas along the Route which enables traffic officials to better meet its obligations and reduce excessive speed.

Road signs and markings are enhanced to improve the transfer of important information to motorists in an attempt to improve their reaction times to dangerous situations. These include:

- Increasing the use of sharp curve chevron signs in horizontal curves
- Regular re-painting of yellow lines
- Regularly cleaning, replacing and adding road signs
- Checking the reflectivity of signs with a special, dedicated machine and improving the specifications and manufacturing of road traffic signs using Crystal grade/Diamond grade (Future Class IV) materials
- Placing of three rows of road studs at 12m interval at narrowing bridges
- Improving the specifications and/or materials for road markings providing for improved night-time or wet weather visibility of road markings at hazardous sections

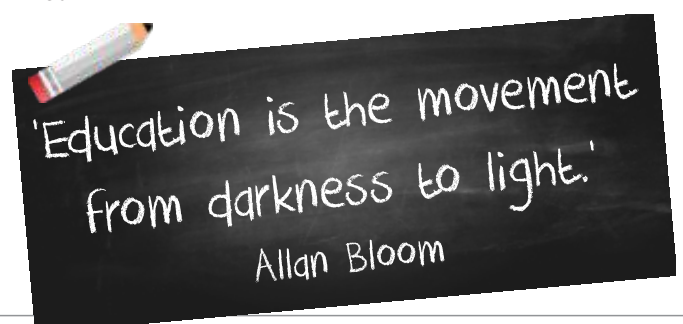
Furthermore, N3TC also operates a Route Control Centre (RCC) which manages all incidents along the N3 Toll Route and provides traffic and route updates and assistance to stranded road users between Heidelberg and Cedara.

"On a daily basis, the RCC diligently manages the very important N3 Incident database which is currently the only database of its kind in South Africa. It enables us to identify hotspots along the N3 Toll Route and gives a better understanding of the type of incidents and how to manage and mitigate these. It is a very powerful tool. Without proper data it is near impossible to know which resources are required where, and how to intervene to ensure overall improved road safety," explains le Roux.

N3TC has also recently embarked on a CCTV Pilot Surveillance Project on its Route installing CCTV cameras at strategic locations to observe the traffic, road and weather conditions from the N3TC Route Control Centre at Harrismith; and to enable timeous responses to any dangerous situations. More devices are planned to be installed along the Route at key points to extend this service.

Since 2008, N3TC is also proving post-crash support to victims of vehicle crashes. Through the Duduza "We Care" Initiative, comfort and practical support are given to victims with the help of community members and businesses along the Route. Apart from assistance provided with contacting family members, transporting victims to hospitals, arranging for the towing of vehicles, collecting and storage of belongings, etc. blankets and teddy bears are also distributed to give comfort and care.

"Partnerships are essential to achieve lasting results. Despite our best efforts, real change will only be achieved if individual drivers, vehicle owners, law enforcement officers and prosecuting authorities also make road safety their utmost priority," ends le Roux.



Community Medical Services

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

With the way the public holidays fell in 2016, the first four months of the year were busy for the CMS volunteer paramedic teams stationed at Van Reenen. Firstly, the holidays around Easter, an unusual combination this year, meant a twelve day stint on the Pass followed by a further eleven day stint over the Freedom Day public holiday.

The Easter period was unusually quiet with regards to serious accidents in our area, probably due to the 'double' weekend, but nevertheless a quiet period we were grateful for.

In total over the Easter period, we responded to three accidents, four medical emergencies and seventeen obstructions. Two fatalities were recorded in our area over this period.

The Freedom Day period in contrast was a lot busier than we expected. The team responded to sixteen accidents (eleven of which were bumper-bashings on the final day), three medical emergencies and eleven obstructions. Rain, mist and colder weather certainly created a more challenging environment in which the team had to perform, but thankfully without any tragic consequences.

We continue looking for effective methods to operate safely in the mist and other inclement conditions, particularly methods to keep the teams safe at accident scenes where we are undoubtedly at our most vulnerable. Three fatalities were recorded in our area for this period.

Having a full team down at Van Reenen for the Youth Day long weekend, allowed us the opportunity of having two medical 'visitors' join us, hopefully resulting in both these individuals becoming part of our permanent team. Although our medical responses and assistance at road incidents and obstructions was somewhat quieter than normal, the quieter period gave us the opportunity of introducing our 'newbies' to the area. Our

Observations from the CMS Activities:

- The number of rear seat passengers and particularly children not buckled up, is staggering. One of our fatalities was as a direct result of not being secured when the accident occurred.
- There appears to be a dramatic increase in the number of vehicles with no front number plates, presumably in an effort to negate the role of the average speed cameras.
- Three of our four serious accidents were as a direct result of wet and inclement weather, where drivers were simply driving faster than conditions allowed.

primary response area is essentially the N3 between Harrismith and Tugela Plaza, however, our secondary areas include the N5, N11, Oliviershoek Pass and the N3 as far as Estcourt, so an introduction to these routes, facilities in the area and relevant personnel was opportune.

The team responded to five accidents and eleven breakdowns/obstructions over this period, giving the potential new members of the team an ideal opportunity to observe the various protocols and just how we operate.

Both of the 'newbies' have indicated they will join us at some stage over the Festive Season for the second part of their initiation and training and I look forward to their permanent involvement with the team in the new year.

A further three days was spent at Van Reenen's with the threat of snow in July. Although there was minimal snow falling on the N3 near Van Reenen's, we were able to assist the occupants of two light motor vehicles that had got caught in the snow on Oliviershoek Pass.

The first week in August gave us two public holidays, being the Election holiday and that of National Women's Day. The team assisted at four accidents and nine obstructions over this period, during which we had windscreen and fog light damage to one of our vehicles, due to gravel not having been adequately cleared at a road maintenance site near Villiers. This damage has subsequently been repaired.

The N3 Meals on Wheels Charity Cycle event near Heidelberg took place on the 18th of September and, once again, the CMS team was proud to assist with four medical patrol vehicles. An ambulance from HELP MED joined us for the event to cover any patient transport requirements.

It is purely by grace that none of us have been injured or killed whilst treating others.



December, however, proved a little more challenging. The team had to cope with multiple accidents, fires, suicides, extrications, maternities and the normal day-to-day medical responses. Add to this many days of rain, mist and general inclement weather.

The CMS teams responded to 68 crashes in the December 2016/January 2017 period on the N3, N11, R103 and Oliviershoek Pass. We believe that it was our worst-ever Festive Season operations, with 57 fatalities and 83 patients in total that required attention with greater or lesser injuries. From our observations, alcohol, an obvious lack of seatbelt and child restraint use, poor driver behaviour, adverse weather conditions all contributed to the statistics mentioned above.

We were fortunate to have the support of a trauma response team located at Makiti in the Free State section of the N3 under the leadership of Nick Dollman, who managed to arrange a fully equipped medical helicopter along with highly qualified medical and response personnel during the Festive Season. This proved highly beneficial to response times and our ability to assist patients promptly with the best care possible.

Thirty three years of responding to accidents, medical emergencies and obstructions on the N3 in the vicinity of Van Reenen's, in all sorts of weather conditions has, as you can imagine, not been an easy task. Fatalities, injuries and emotional trauma have and always will have an impact on the team. Over the years, I have watched experienced doctors and paramedics, beating themselves up over patients that 'didn't make it', wondering what could have been done differently and going through step by step what had been done. Responses in weather conditions that are at times, quite frankly unbelievable – half a meter of snow on the roads, winds strong enough to literally blow over eight ton trucks, rain that seeps into your clothing, mists up your glasses and makes everything you handle just that much more slippery and difficult and then lastly, the mist, perhaps our biggest fear, because there is just no real way we can adequately protect our patients and ourselves from other vehicles on the road in these conditions. It is purely by



grace that none of us have been injured or killed whilst treating others at these accident scenes.

So why am I documenting this? The trauma, the emotional pain, the fear, the tiredness is all there for the team and often I wonder how we manage to keep coming back.

The simple answer to that question – the folks in and around Van Reenen and the exquisite beauty of the area. Being able to recover from the stresses of what we do is never easy, however, looking out over a field of wild flowers towards the Drakensberg, mingling with the local community, so many of whom have invited us into their homes for a meal or offered to donate a meal and drink for passengers of broken down busses, taking a walk in and around the smallest church in the world and just finding time to breathe again, makes the recovery possible. Many of the community have become close friends to members of the team and that friendship and camaraderie allows us to continue.

And so, although the team has received many accolades over the years for their selfless efforts, I would like to suggest that the real heroes out there, are the wonderful supportive communities along the N3. On behalf of the Community Medical Services team, a huge thank you to all of you for looking after us when we really needed to be looked after, for making your homes and establishments available and for your friendship!



'Education brings about opportunity, and in turn, inspiration.'
Bill Frist

SADD – South Africans Against Drunk Driving

Project Champion: Caro Smit
Years Funded : Two
Provinces : KwaZulu-Natal

South Africans Against Drunk Driving (SADD) NPO 055-255-works throughout South Africa in road safety. Education-based initiatives aimed at the youth and vulnerable road users such as cyclists form a large part of the educational focus of SADD.

The World Health Organisation (W.H.O) and United Nations had identified child road safety as its focus in 2015 in conjunction with the “Decade of Action for Road Safety”. At the Brasilia Declaration on road safety signed at the “Ministerial High Level Road Safety Conference” in Brasilia in November 2015; NGOs were asked to continue working on child pedestrian and cyclists' safety as a priority. In accordance with this international focus, SADD is continuing the “Youth Road Safety Project” with school children and implementing the cyclists' safety project.

To develop the project and material SADD is using the World Health Organisation's Best Practice manuals on alcohol/cyclists/pedestrian safety and other pertinent resources such as the YOURS (Youth for Road Safety) “Youth and Road Safety Action Kit”, as well as SADD's past materials that have been developed.

SADD has developed excellent relations with Sibongumbomvu Combined School in Cedara, as well as with many farmers and schools in this chosen zone. The “Youth & Cyclist Road Safety Project” is facilitated/co-ordinated by Caro Smit, an Alcohol and



Drug Educator and Counsellor, who has extensive experience in working with the youth. At the same time, she is also training and mentoring a local Zulu lady to take over from her in due course.

Children have been given reflective school backpacks to protect them on dark mornings and evenings when they walk to and from school.

Education-based initiatives aimed at the youth and vulnerable road users such as cyclists form a large part of the educational focus of SADD.



Angels in Motion

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

Angels in Motion (AIM) was established in 2010 when Sakkie Venter, from the BMW South Africa roadside assistance crew team, brought a family that had been involved in a collision on Van Reenen's Pass to Ladysmith for assistance. We saw a need to help victims, and in some cases surviving family members of road crashes and other tragedies by lending a hand in what is typically a very traumatic and confusing time. With nothing more than an absolute passion, compassion and empathy for people, AIM became that flicker of light and hope for relief during a difficult time.

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, amongst others.

Over the past seven 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 provided much-needed assistance for the peak Easter and Festive Season holiday periods. Thank you for enabling our passion to touch lives meaningfully.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A ROUTE PATROLLER

Patrol teams on the N3 Toll Route approach their work days with absolute dedication, ready for any eventuality.

02:40 Crash. Light vehicles diverted. Heavy vehicles stacked.

02:45 Crash Update. Recovery in progress. Light vehicles diverted. Heavy vehicles stacked.

04:50 Crash Update. Clean up in progress. Approach with caution. Light vehicles diverted. Heavy vehicles stacked.

06:35 Crash Update. Scene cleared. Road open. Traffic flow normal.

These short text messages tell a story of men in crisp uniforms who work tirelessly along the N3 Toll Route to keep the road safe for the thousands of vehicles travelling up and down the route daily. They are the crew of the N3TC Route Services teams who

provide an invaluable service to the N3 Toll Route customers. Their responsibilities are vast and numerous, all contributing towards N3 Toll Concession's vision to provide road users with safety, convenience and mobility.

The Route Services teams are responsible for responding to crashes, assisting with break downs, removal of objects or livestock from the road and monitoring the Route through daily patrols. The men in their blue uniforms with brightly coloured reflective strips are often the first to arrive on crash scenes where they will stay until the scene is cleared. They work closely with the other emergency services and play a crucial role throughout the emergency incident to ensure the crash scene is safe and to limit secondary crashes.

The Route patrollers all have basic first aid training. They have mechanical knowledge, training as fire fighters, advanced driving skills and knowledge of hazardous and highly volatile substances.

They understand the practicalities and logistics of keeping a road safe for its users. These men are good at their jobs, trained for almost any eventuality, highly disciplined and extremely dedicated to serve their fellow citizens. Boundless energy and solid people skills make them great at their jobs.

Fast forward to 07:30

It's a fresh autumn morning. Male voices and laughter drift through the air. The night shift crew is handing over to the group that's doing the day shift.



Route patrol teams are each responsible for an approximate 70km section of the 415km N3 Toll Route between Cedara in KwaZulu-Natal and Heidelberg in Gauteng. Each team sweeps their section of the Route at least twice a day. "This simply means that we drive the entire distance of our road section in both directions and scan for any problems that may need fixing," explains Willie van der Merwe, Specialist Incident Manager.

"My office looks slightly different to most others. It consists of a stretch of tar, usually four lanes and the furniture includes guardrails and road signs amongst others," beams Willie.

Driving with a route patroller on the N3 Toll Route, it is immediately apparent that they view a road quite differently to an average road user. Their eyes miss nothing. Continuously scanning the environment for possible dangers or problems which range from damage to the road surface, broken guard rails or road signs, broken down vehicles, obstructions, lines that may need painting, wildlife that may have been killed by traffic, pedestrians, unroadworthy vehicles and more. They know the section of road under their guardianship intimately and are quick to pick up any changes or concerns that may need attention.

It is not uncommon for a particular route patrol team to do around 1 000km in a day on just their section of the route. During 2015, the route patrol teams on the N3 Toll Route covered in excess of 1,78-million kilometres.

The job of a route patroller can often be stressful. "You never know what to expect when you start your work day. It is completely unpredictable. You may just have started to patrol your section of the route when you get called out to a crash scene. You never know what to anticipate and you are often exposed to dangerous situations," says Simon Mphuthi, Senior Route Patroller.

"Through our training and with a dose of optimism we are able to manage the unique stresses of our jobs," says van der Merwe.

"The hardest part of being a route patroller is to be on crash scenes where you experience first-hand the devastation that can be caused by negligent drivers. It is painful to see the hurt people, just like ourselves, experience on scenes where loved ones have been fatally injured, or the anxiety of someone trapped in a crushed vehicle, fighting to hold onto life," says Mphuthi.

"We have also lost some of our own colleagues in crashes on the Route. It brings our vulnerability sharply into focus. The fact that we drive clearly marked, bright yellow vehicles with emergency lights does not make us less exposed to danger. As any other road user, we too become victims of the carnage on our roads," stresses van der Merwe.

"That is why we have such a strong team spirit on our crew," concurs Sabelo Skosana, Junior Route Patroller. "We develop close bonds and connections; almost like a family. We know that we have to rely on each other. The discipline and camaraderie of our team members make us effective; and it helps to keep us safe too."

A Route patrol vehicle is fitted to give the best possible assistance to road users in need, to help keep people and crash scenes safe,



to fight veld fires and to deal with the most dangerous situations. Typically, a route patrol vehicle is fitted with cones, torches, wind meters, temperature meters, fire pumps and water, basic first aid kits, cleaning agents, mechanical brooms, blowers, spades, bolt cutters, mechanical equipment, compressors, tyre repair kits, traffic and warning signs, a fridge with drinking water, emergency blankets and teddy bears to hand-out to traumatized children on scenes.

"I am often surprised to see what we can fit into a vehicle and I am very proud to be driving such a well-kitted response vehicle which is excellently maintained and in good order. I feel safe and confident that I can provide the best possible service when it is needed," says Mphuthi.

Route patrollers need to be physically and mentally strong and fit. "You cannot do this job if you don't have the ability to stay calm under difficult circumstances, make clear decisions in crisis situations and be able to do a lot of physical work, from carrying traffic cones, waving emergency flags, lifting and moving goods and people, chasing livestock off the road and more. We have little need for gym work outs, as we are mostly naturally fit, and boy can we run? Not everyone can keep up with us when we're on the move," laughs van der Merwe.

Whether they run or drive, N3TC's route patrollers have no lack of dedication. A good day to them is when they have served people. "There is no better feeling than experiencing the gratitude of someone you have helped. It makes it all worthwhile," ends Skosana.

N3TC salutes you!

It is not uncommon for a particular route patrol team to do around 1000km in a day on just their section of the route.



ENVIRONMENT

Birdlife SA Nakekela Project

Project Champion:	Bonginkosi Ndaba
Project Facilitator :	Birdlife South Africa
Years Funded :	Seven
Provinces :	Free State and KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.birdlife.org.za

The Nakekela project touches the lives of over 55 learners between the ages of 7 and 18 from the village of Van Reenen. This project has grown substantially over the years as locals realise the benefits of the youth being involved in environmental activities that will expand their knowledge and understanding of the importance of caring for the environment for the benefit of future generations.

Bonginkosi is a passionate educator who has a heart for the young people of his village and is encouraged by the ongoing popularity and success of his project; and believes that it will help build these young people into responsible adults.

Working with young people is not always easy and can be heartbreaking at times too. Bonginkosi reports that he monitors

"I am trying by all means to meet their vision and ambitions. They are very keen to do things with their tiny hands and they show so much interest in nature and the environment; and they are always excited to learn about the next activity we are going to be doing." Bonginkosi Ndaba.



"Look at this little bird we found freezing on the tree next to the road; and we so wish birds also have warm houses like people." Siyabonga and Thabo.

the children closely. He makes sure that if any are absent or behaving out of character that he addresses their issues or concerns without delay. Sadly, some children miss outings or activities due to family concerns or lack of understanding of the need for environmental education by the children's relatives, making it difficult for Bonginkosi to encourage continued participation in the project.

Bonginkosi plans many varied and interesting activities for the Nakekela 'kids' during the year. These include ballroom lessons on a weekly basis, which culminate into a lively and wonderful celebration in the form of a ballroom competition that is held in June, Youth Month. The ballroom lessons have become an ongoing activity to develop talent and keep the young children of Van Reenen off the streets.

Other activities include litter collection and recycling, screening of environmental movies with the aim of raising awareness of environmental issues facing our country and the world; as well as sport activities, bird-watching, access to a library and natural clay activities where creative talents are nurtured.

Bonginkosi shared a wonderful story of two young boys, Siyabonga and Thabo, who were walking through the village on a very cold, winter's day. As young bird lovers, they were looking for birds while walking to the shop, and came across a Cape White-Eye that had been caught in the cold. They managed to rescue the bird and take it in a box to Bonginkosi. Bonginkosi took care of the bird for the night and the two young men were thrilled to release the bird, healthy and strong, the next day.

Midlands Conservancies Forum

Project Champion: Sarah Allan
Years Funded : Five
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : www.midlandsconservancies.org.za

The Midlands Conservancies Forum (MCF) is a collective of conservancies working together to address key environmental concerns in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. The conservancies individually select environmental projects that require attention in their respective areas and provide a motivation to the MCF committee, which awards funding as granted to the organisation by N3TC and other corporate donors; and monitors the progress of each conservancy. Below are a few highlights from this year's activities.

Lions Bush Conservancy has focused its efforts on clearing and treating an area of invasive alien plants on the Fort Nottingham Commonage adjacent to a neighbouring farm.

Balgowan, Curry's Post and Karkloof Conservancies have implemented invasive alien plant control projects. Winterskloof, World's View, Balgowan, Curry's Post, Beacon Hill, Karkloof, and Lions Bush have taken an educational stance this year by motivating school curriculum-based activities in their respective 'adopted' schools.



The Midlands Conservancies Forum aims to inspire, motivate and challenge people in the Midlands to value and conserve bio-resources through monitoring, education and publicity.



Report on Alien Invasive Plant (AIP) clearing in Fort Nottingham Reserve

by Roy Tabernor

The Fort Nottingham Reserve has benefitted greatly from the funds granted to the organisation by N3TC, which were channelled through Midlands Conservancies Forum.

The area cleared of AIP is within the Fort Nottingham Reserve, and is an important area as it borders a neighbouring farm. The herbicides purchased will allow for ongoing treatment, which we hope will lead to totally eradicating and clearing this area of Alien Invasive Plants.

The spraying of the Alien Invasive Plants has also provided temporary employment for a number of local people. This is an ongoing project of the Lions Bush Conservancy as there are many hectares of wattle, bug weed and bramble to clear.

The conservancies individually select environmental projects that require attention in their respective areas.



Duzi uMngeni Community Trust (DUCT) uMngeni River Project

Project Champion: Doug Burden
Years Funded : Two
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : www.duct.org.za

Following on the success of the River Walk project undertaken by DUCT in 2015 and funded, in part, by N3TC, the organisation received further funding in 2016 to address the decline in the quality of water in the uMngeni River.

DUCT reported that its efforts in completing the stated undertakings of this project have been delayed due to low river levels as a result of the ongoing drought.

DUCT has purchased the necessary equipment and supplies to conduct another monitoring and data gathering (miniSASS results) walk, which they are hoping will be completed during the rainy period of 2016. Liaison meetings with landowners and local school authorities continue and the miniSASS equipment will be provided to them once they have been taught how to use the equipment and upload the data onto the National miniSASS Database.



The problem

One of the success stories shared in the DUCT report was of the condition of the Lions River upstream of its confluence with the Mpofana River. The Lidgett Community was eager to get involved with the maintenance of the 'Litter Booms' and assisted with the monitoring of the river.



'Innovative Pickers'. The excited Group drawn from 'Pickers' on the Pietermaritzburg Landfill Site collected the bottles and assembled the 'Litter Booms' that were secured in the Lions River as well as the Indezi and Rietspruit Rivers.

Owl Box Project

Project Champion:	Tammy Caine
Years Funded :	One (2016 – first year of funding)
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.raptorrescue.org.za

In Pietermaritzburg in KwaZulu-Natal, a group of conservationists introduced The Owl Box Project as part of a research initiative on the urban ecology of owl species between the Raptor Rescue Rehabilitation Centre and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The Owl Box Project quickly drew wide support from local communities around Pietermaritzburg, Hillcrest, and the greater KwaZulu-Natal Midlands to Underberg. Various conservancy groups working within rural communities and townships in the region indicated an interest in educating residents and establishing owl box and owl release projects in their areas.

Based on previous success stories, N3TC granted funding to the project for specific projects in the Mpophomeni and Underberg communities.

Report by Tammy Caine

The final stage of the Owl Box Project in Mpophomeni was completed on the 30th of August when two young Barn Owls were released. This was a momentous occasion for the community coupled with mixed emotions as so many members had come to form an affectionate bond with the pair. No sooner had the owls been released and we were approached by several members of the community with requests about when the next pair of owls would arrive!

Several of the older ladies who were involved in the community vegetable garden asked if they could have owls in their vegetable gardens to control the rodents. Although our owls are not that easily persuaded to settle into particular gardens, we hope in time that the owls released there will settle and use the boxes provided for breeding, and perhaps their offspring will indeed provide a free pest control service to all who need it. More importantly, this proved to us that the education work we



have been doing in the community is paying off. Understanding the value of owls as pest control agents is very important, especially with the drive to move away from the destructive use of poisons and pesticides to more environmentally friendly approaches to getting rid of unwanted pests. We also had requests for more boxes to be installed in the community, and this too proves that the project has been embraced with great enthusiasm.

All in all, I would say the Owl Box Project in Mpophomeni has been a resounding success. The Enviro Champs have diligently completed all the educational materials, and presently Andile Nzuza is spending many hours going through all the worksheets to compile data from the questionnaires both the children and the educators have completed. It is going to be interesting to see how the children (and adults) have responded to the owls, specifically, and the project in general.

The first phase of the Owl Box Project in Underberg was undertaken on the 26th of August. Andile and I travelled to Underberg to present talks on owls to Thukeyane and Goxhill Schools. Andile presented these talks in Zulu, while I assisted with question time at the end. Both schools were enthusiastic about the project and have requested owl boxes to be installed. Education material was handed out to the teachers to work through with the learners.

Underberg Primary School was selected as the site for the owl release. After selecting a suitable site and identifying the appropriate person to supervise the project, we presented the talk on owls to the entire Underberg Primary School. We were informed towards the end of November that bees had taken up residence in the Barn Owl box. The main concern, however, was not the bees but that the Barn Owls, once released, did not have an external box to live in. So, we decided to return to Underberg in the second week of December and moved the box from the enclosure, with the owls nesting in the box, to a ledge that had been built just under the roof of the thatch 'lapa' that housed the cage. The move went smoothly and both birds remained settled in their box throughout.

Spotted Eagle Owl boxes have subsequently been installed at Thukeyane and Goxhill Schools in Underberg.





Wildlands Green Heroes Programme

Project Champion :	Simone Dale
Years Funded :	Four
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.wildlands.co.za

The Green Heroes Programme is a project initiated by Wildlands Community Trust that forms part of its Ambassador Programme. The project aims to nurture young leaders that show genuine interest in the environment by building long term relationships with the children and the schools they attend.

Ten Green Heroes from two primary schools, Myendane and Okhombe, were invited to participate in a World Environmental Day event in Bergville. The Heroes joined over 40 children

between six and twelve years of age from iMpandweni Primary School for the day's activities.

The event encouraged the participants to consider careers in environmental work when they grow up. Various examples of environmental careers were explained using Wildlands and a provincial conservation organisation as points of reference. The ten visiting Green Heroes were delighted to be part of the event as they thrived when co-facilitating the activities. It was evident that they remembered the lessons and knowledge gained from the Green Heroes Indaba held in 2015. Furthermore, as ambassadors of the Green Heroes programme they helped to promote and generate interest in the project.

"We are very pleased to be having such a gathering. This is the first time we have had something like this, apart from what we organise internally. We would also like to see some of our learners being part of the Green Heroes". Principal of iMpandweni Primary School



'Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.'
Margaret Mead

CHILD WELFARE

Maluti Child Care Project

Project Champion: Leandri Bester
Years Funded : Ten
Provinces : Free State

Over 3 100 children between one and 15 years of age continue to receive support from the Maluti Child Care Project (MCCP) in the communities surrounding Harrismith. Apart from providing each child with a daily meal, the MCCP supports the children with after school care, homework assistance, Social Welfare guidance and support; and basic scholastic needs.

A volunteer from each of the seven MCCP kitchens was given the opportunity to attend the Waste2Toys Workshop presented by Singakwenza (see report in the Legacy Projects section). The modules covered equipped the caregivers to design and create fun educational toys from everyday waste material. A variety of different toys were made including skittles, catchers, spades, skipping ropes and so much more that will brighten the children's days. The volunteers thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and are eager to apply their newly acquired skills.

Harrismith Primary School ran a very successful toy drive this year, which was enthusiastically supported by the learners and teachers alike. Numerous used and new toys were collected and generously donated to MCCP. The toys were then distributed to all the playrooms at the MCCP kitchens.



The MCCP has received the support of Chantelle Greyling, a registered dietician who works at the Harrismith Hospital. Chantelle has assisted the project by creating daily menu plans to cover the nutritional requirements for the different age groups that the kitchens serve. This has helped the MCCP to achieve its goal of providing a balanced and nutritional meal to every child each day.

As with any project trying to operate in the current economic climate, the challenges are enormous. From corporate and personal donors reducing their funding and contributions to the project, the efforts of the MCCP are further hampered as a result of criminal activity. The kitchens, located in remote areas, are easy targets for burglaries, which impacts negatively on the volunteers and the children they assist. The MCCP is working on securing the kitchens to limit damage to the kitchens and curb theft.

In celebration of Heritage Day, the volunteers encouraged the children to wear their traditional clothes when coming to collect their meals. Various songs and dances were performed of which the gumboot dance was a firm favourite. Open discussions were held explaining the different cultures that make up our rainbow nation.

Remedial education has been introduced to one of the kitchens, which aims to assist those children in their care with learning disabilities. The Volunteers assist these children with homework and extra lessons, which seems to be making a difference in helping them perform better in school.



Othandweni

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

Report by Clive Laing

We are pleased to say that all is running smoothly at Othandweni and after 13 years of operations we have seen a generation of youngsters pass through the orphanage; and a new generation is currently housed at our premises in Bruntville. The children that have left still keep in touch and those still living in the area are regular visitors and provide assistance with babysitting and other day-to-day duties at the orphanage. This is a credit to our housemother, Torgo, who has brought these children up through the different stages of their lives and has a wonderful relationship with them all.

Our core function has always been focused on the running of the orphanage but in recent times the Othandweni Crèche has been a wonderful addition to our outreach and provides a much needed service to the Bruntville community. The demand for this service is high but unfortunately our resources are limited. We would like to increase our capacity in the future with the installation of wooden cabins on the property.

We are very grateful to Rotary that has, for 13 years, provided assistance in the running of both the orphanage and crèche financially as well as in giving of their time to assist with the maintenance of the houses.



We are very sad at the passing away of Angus Anderson in July this year after a prolonged fight with cancer. Angus was one of the founders of Othandweni as a representative of Rotary and chairman of the management committee for many years. His wonderful people and organisational skills will be sorely missed by us all. He had a passion for Othandweni and provided us with his help and assistance until shortly before his death.

A big thank you to N3TC for your ongoing support of our Othandweni project. It is much appreciated.

N3TC was very sad to learn the news of Angus Anderson's passing. Angus was a passionate ambassador for Othandweni. Furthermore, he was instrumental in securing N3TC's funding over the years. We extend our condolences to Angus' loved ones as well as his Othandweni 'family'.



Free State Care in Action – After School Care Centre

Project Champion: Gerda Louw
Years Funded : Five
Province : Free State

Reading any of the reports from Free State Care in Action on the After School Care Centre (ASCC) in Harrismith leaves one with a sense of hope that children from disadvantaged and poverty stricken homes can receive love and support from their community; it just makes one desperately sad that the need is far greater than resources allow.

In the case of the ASCC, however, they are known for making a plan when all hope seems lost and for lending a hand in desperate times. The reports are personal accounts of life in Harrismith and some of the challenges faced by 'their' children.

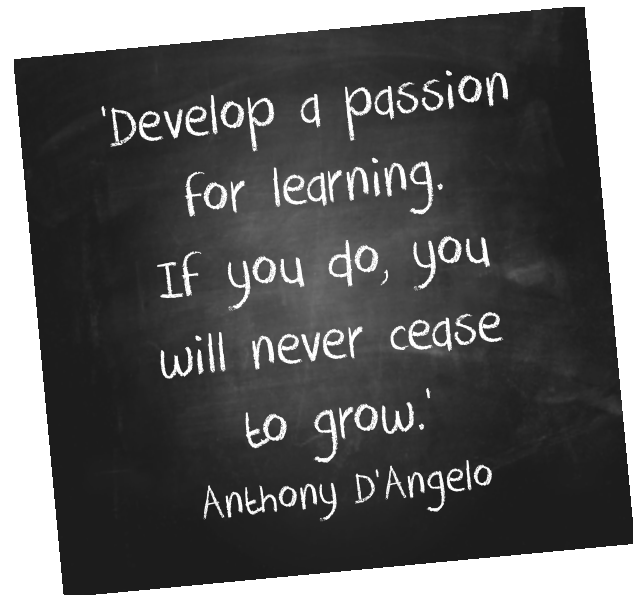
We are pleased to share this report on the ASCC written *by Gerda Louw*.

Had it not been for the funding received from N3TC, the ASCC 'haven' would not have been able to keep its doors open this year. Your "school fees" make a big, big difference.

The fact that the funding we receive from N3TC is readily available means that a need identified by the teachers employed at the ASCC such as stationery, school uniforms, shoes, etc. can be addressed immediately. This enables the children we assist at the ASCC to go to school with a feeling of self-worth and confidence.

We continue to provide the families with food parcels on a monthly basis, which remains a highlight in their lives and naturally helps to ease the pressure on an already very 'stretched' home with limited income.

We would like to thank Isabel Potgieter for assisting the ASCC with a monthly donation of 50kg of mealie meal from the local AFGRI branch, this has helped immensely.



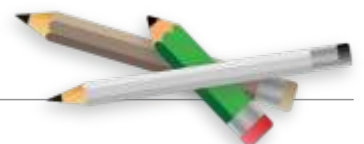
While we deal with some very sad stories every now and then, I am pleased to share some good news demonstrating that it is possible for children to overcome challenges and achieve. Some of these achievements, of which we are very proud, are:

- During the Eisteddfod the school choir, of which Debbie* is a member, was awarded an A; and Jackson* was awarded an A for Poetry;
- Brendon* and Jonathan* qualified for their yellow belt in karate;
- Jackson* was selected as a leader of the Voortrekkers and he received one of the highest accolades awarded by the Voortrekkers, 'Die Voorslag' Award; and
- The Grade 6 classes raised funds for the annual Grade 6 tour and the local old age home. Debbie* and Brendon* won a prize for selling the most tickets. They had the self-confidence to make plans to do it. What an achievement!

We cannot thank N3TC enough for your support of the After School Care Centre. Your funding keeps this project sustainable and you are making a significant difference in these children's lives.

**Children's names have been changed.*

In the case of the ASCC they are known for making a plan when all hope seems lost.



Topsy Orphaned and Vulnerable Children Project

Project Champion: Sarah du Toit
Years Funded : Three
Province : Mpumalanga
Website Address : www.topsy.org.za

The Topsy Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) programme is running well and proving to have a positive impact on children's lives from the communities surrounding Grootvlei.

The OVC programme focuses on teaching children life skills, which is often missing in many of the children's lives due to the death, or absence, of parents. Some children live in the care of guardians or stem from child-headed households. By equipping the children with life skills, the Topsy OVC programme aims to assist these children to become economically active and responsible adults in the future. Each holiday and life skills experience hopes to encourage children to become more aware of their creative potential and to harness it for their benefit. In this way, the children are encouraged to discover their talents and nurture them as potential employment opportunities for the future.

The highlights shared in the Topsy reports are numerous, so we have selected a few to share in this edition of *Touching Lives*.

A team from the Crossroads Church in Cincinnati, USA, visited Topsy to assist with repairs to housing and day care centres; and the establishment of vegetable gardens. It was a wonderful initiative and the communities were so grateful for their assistance.

The Topsy Winter blanket drive was responsible for keeping over 500 community members warm during the winter months. They were distributed between the Early Childhood Development centres and OVC programme.

The Programme has some wonderful plans for the near future, which include the possible purchase of a computer programme to improve numeracy and literacy amongst the learners attending the afterschool programme. The plan is to introduce a self-teaching programme called Reading Eggs that will allow

those children who have finished their tasks in the afterschool class to use the programme in the computer centre.

Topsy will be hosting Parent's Evenings every term for the Afterschool Class Learners, which should assist in encouraging parental or guardian support and involvement in their school activities. Certificates of Achievement will be awarded, which should further encourage the children to work hard and set their own goals.

Water Carrier makes life that little bit easier

Report by: Heleen Venter, Social Worker

Alinah lives with a disability. She uses a wheelchair to get around and experienced difficulty getting water from the nearest tap. She now pays her neighbour's son, Thabo, R300 per month to fetch her water every second day. Thabo walks 4.8km to fill six 20 litre containers. So let's do the maths. Thabo walks 72km a month to bring clean water to Alinah for her to wash, drink and do her washing. She was so grateful for the water carrier that Topsy provided to her as it makes Thabo's job that much easier.

Music is food for the soul

Report by: Sarah Du Toit, Development Manager

Our Holiday and Life Skills project offers disadvantaged children in the rural communities of Dipaleseng, Mpumalanga, a break from their everyday lives to participate in fun and memorable experiences. The beneficiaries of our OVC programme are invited to spend part of their school holidays participating in activities that they would otherwise not have the opportunity to experience. We typically use activities that will awaken the children's natural creativity and talents.

During the Easter school holidays the children were invited to spend the morning at the Topsy Sanctuary in Grootvlei to join in a Drumming Circle, sponsored by The Drum Café in Johannesburg (www.drumcafe.com). It was an opportunity for the children to learn to play drums and a variety of other percussion instruments. The morning started with a short lesson about the different types of drums played by the musicians leading the circle.

The children were mostly shy and reserved but the Drum Café musicians began performing and encouraged the children to join in and beat the small drums at their feet. After a while they started to relax and enjoy the experience; and smiles spread across the room as their little hands began to find the beat. They were naturals! The rhythm and energy in the room was tangible and despite all the excitement, the children were co-operative and followed instructions perfectly.

This was a first for most of the learners they had never been exposed to such an exhilarating experience.

"The whole exercise made me feel jubilant, thrilled and revived so I was excited that the same happened for the learners." Nyengi, After School Centre Teacher



Khanyisile N3TC Schools Trust

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

Reading the reports on the activities and projects undertaken by the Khanyisile Trust makes one realise that the Trust and Ansie, in particular, have become an essential part of Van Reenen community life. Her reports are almost diary accounts of life and the challenges of rural life in Van Reenen. Ansie takes each child, community member and every one of her projects to heart and makes them 'her own'. This is testament to eight years of working hard on building the trust of the community leaders, school staff and the children that she serves in these somewhat 'forgotten' communities.

Report by Ansie Jooste

Firstly, let me take this opportunity to thank N3TC for the funds awarded to The N3TC Khanyisile Community Trust. It's a tremendous honour and indeed a privilege to be part of, and serve, the communities associated with the work of the Khanyisile Trust. We are grateful to N3TC for the funding and support, enabling us to improve lives and meet real life needs in the communities we serve. **Thank You!**

Eboyeni Primary School

The Department Of Education renewed the Eboyeni Primary School lease for the 2016/2017 financial year and appointed two new staff members, namely Principal, Mrs Mchunu; and Educator, Miss Khoza. On my first visit to the school this year I found the educators very troubled and close to tears. There was no access to the kitchen as the key had broken off in the lock; the gas bottles for the kitchen were missing; grass on the premises was towering above the children's heads; and two female educators and 20 little learners had the fearful task of dealing with snakes on a daily basis.

The Khanyisile team jumped into action and the support of local farmers and community members soon had the school back in shape! Mr Campher (farmer) kindly provided staff and equipment to cut the grass and fix the back fence on the school grounds. The Trust replaced the lock on the kitchen door; after the tough challenge of breaking into the kitchen. Through word of mouth we found the two missing gas bottles at the previous principal's private residence!! They were returned to the school the next day ... empty. But pretty soon, the bottles were filled, and after all the hustle and bustle to get the school and kitchen

The story of Eboyeni Primary School was reported in previous issues of Touching Lives; and was included in a Touching Lives Board Tour in 2013. This school was the recipient of a wonderful new kitchen built in a refurbished cargo container in 2013. The school premises, however, had been neglected and educators and resources appointed to the school were limited. There were many concerns surrounding the possible closure of the school in 2015.



up and running, I was able to breathe a sigh of relief, Eboyeni was fully functional once again. Furthermore, I am delighted to report that the nightmare classroom – dilapidated structure - no longer presents a life threatening hazard on the school grounds. The local community made the decision to break it down.

Remington Primary School is situated on the Drakensberg Escarpment a little way off the N3 along Van Reenen's Pass. This was another rural school that experienced enormous challenges from limited access to water and no kitchen facilities to cook meals for the learners. Again, Ansie put her heart and soul into securing what was needed to provide a fully functional kitchen and water to the school's facilities. Another project successfully completed by Ansie in 2015.

Remington Primary School

More good news! Congratulations to Mr Makubo, who has officially been appointed Principal of Remington Primary School.

It really warmed my heart when I visited the school and spent some time with the cook and children in the new kitchen. Absolutely awesome to see the children being served warm meals from a clean and fully functional kitchen.

Gardens

I soldiered on with the school gardens in spite of the terrible drought. Hail and wind storms in February wreaked havoc in the area and our nursery (located at Sand River Primary School



'Replace an empty mind with an open one.'

reported on in 2014) suffered some structural damage. While we lost many seedlings in the storms, we managed to save the majority and donated 500 cabbage seedlings to the garden project in Harrismith, which on a recent visit were looking very healthy and should be ready for harvest very soon. To date, we have planted a combination of 12 000 seeds of spinach, tomato and eggplant. These seedlings should be ready to plant in the community gardens at the end of October and should, if all goes well, provide food for the communities for Christmas. The wind in Van Reenen is one of our greatest challenges in the nursery; and every now and then we must place our seed trays on the ground to prevent the wind from destroying the seedlings. While we wait for the seedlings to grow we are taking the time to clean and prepare the gardens in the community.



I have assisted with planting the garden at Sand River School, two gardens in Van Reenen Town and eight gardens in the Sand River Valley community.

We use the fresh produce from the gardens in the meals prepared for the children every day. Nothing goes to waste. Under normal circumstances we will put all organic waste in our compost heap to be used in the gardens, but the drought has meant that there is very little food for animals so we have made a special place for feeding the goats outside the school fences.



Arts and Crafts Vertiver Project

We cut our first bundle from our hail damaged Vertiver patch, and the ladies started the preparation and weaving. This has been a massive learning curve for all of us and we have been making notes on the do's and don'ts with Vertiver. In May we planted another 150 Vertiver plants and soon we will be able to cultivate our own supply.

Trans Drak MTB Challenge

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Tintwa Team for the R10 000 donation made to The N3TC Khanyisile Community Trust. While we are blessed to serve the community and riders with our Emergency Medical and Rescue skills on the weekend of the event, we are even more blessed to receive these funds that will be used productively and wisely for the benefit of our schools and the communities we serve.



When Ansie isn't spending her time working in the schools she is seen travelling up and down Van Reenen's Pass assisting with any crash, incident and fire that could impact on the flow of traffic in the Pass but more importantly she focuses on saving lives. Ansie says that she has been "kept on her toes this year working on cases from child birth to fires to snow cleanup operations". Ansie is an inspiration and her ability to, as the farmers would say 'maak 'n plan' ('make a plan') makes her the ideal person to be working with the schools in Van Reenen and surrounding communities. Thank you Ansie for your love, dedication and commitment to touching lives.

N3TC Duduza 'We Care' Programme

Project Champion: Praveen Sunderlall
Years Funded : Eight
Province : National

The N3TC Duduza 'We Care' Programme was initiated by Praveen Sunderlall (N3TC Manager – Road Incident Management System) in 2008.

Very often victims of motor vehicle accidents live with the haunting memories of a crash, long after their physical scars have healed. For children, this is a particularly distressing and frightening experience and can challenge their sense of security and comfort, well into adulthood. The Duduza Initiative gives these children some sense of comfort and security during this traumatic post-crash period.

Together with representatives from the Emergency Services working along the N3 Toll Route, N3TC employees visit various State Hospitals during peak traffic periods such as Easter and the Festive Season, handing out soft toys, blankets and other donated items to young patients in their care. Approximately sixteen thousand soft toys and six hundred blankets have been distributed to date.

"'Duduza' is a Zulu word meaning 'comfort', which is what N3TC hopes to bring to young accident victims when they hold their soft toys that N3TC has had specially made for them." Praveen Sunderlall



We are extremely proud to say that we have touched many lives. 'Duduza' is growing from strength to strength and its success is credited to the people who make it happen. Praveen Sunderlall

The success of the Duduza initiative would not have been possible without the support of our generous sponsors, partners and the Emergency Services along the N3 Toll Route. While N3TC contributes significantly to the project, we rely heavily on contributions, including manhours, from our partners to meet our vision of providing comfort to young accident victims while they are hospitalised.

N3TC is extremely grateful to everyone who has contributed to the project and helped to bring comfort and renewed hope to these vulnerable members of our society. Thank you!



N3TC Route Control Centre (RCC) Crochet Project

Project Champion: Annatjie van der Sandt
Years Funded : Two
Province : Free State

The RCC Crochet project was the brainchild of Annatjie van der Sandt, Route Control Centre Manager. Annatjie was looking for an innovative way to build team spirit and motivate the RCC staff to work together in the interests of the 'greater good'. Her report showcases just what a successful and heart-warming initiative it has been.

Report by Annatjie van der Sandt

The RCC team is extremely diverse and works under extremely challenging circumstances, dealing with many traumatic events and difficult issues on a day-to-day basis. Furthermore, communication and building team spirit can be difficult especially as the team works shifts. As manager of the Control Centre I felt that I needed to pioneer a way to keep the team motivated and focused on working together to achieve the Centre's desired outcomes of efficiency coupled with excellence in the provision of customer service.

I love to crochet and one day the idea dawned on me that I could share my love of crochet with the team. I don't know quite what I expected but I was pleasantly surprised at the team's positive response to the idea. And so our project was born.

"It was delightful to see the old ladies appreciate the blankets that we brought. It motivated us further to give in the spirit of Mandela Day. We hope to do more in the future." RCC Staff



I took wool and crochet needles from home and started to teach the ladies how to crochet granny block and combine them to make blankets. Some were familiar with the stitches but others were doing it for the first time. They persevered and pretty soon they were all producing blocks by the dozen. When I was convinced that the team was truly committed to our project I approached N3TC to assist with further funding for additional wool and needles. I am delighted to report that eight of the ten ladies are actively involved in crocheting blankets for their selected charity, an old age home in Intabazwe Township in Harrismith. In just over a year, the team has crocheted 43 blankets and they are not, as yet, ready to put their needles down!

In July this year, as part of the RCC's Mandela Day commitments, the team went out to Intabazwe to meet the local Pastor, Ps Mbele, and the Community Police Forum. We discovered that 22 elderly people are accommodated in the Intabazwe Community Centre. Sadly, they are homeless and the Community Centre is their makeshift home and sanctuary.

The RCC team decided to donate ten of their blankets to the elderly staying at the Community Centre; and have chosen to sell the remainder of their stock to generate further income for the project, in an effort to make it self-sustainable and to use as and when appropriate.

Another initiative that the RCC crochet ladies decided to get involved with was the N3TC Duduza 'We Care' Project. The team decided to crochet 'cuddle blankies' to go with the teddies that Praveen and the Duduza team hand out at State Hospitals during peak traffic periods. They have collectively produced 54 'cuddle blankies' that have been distributed by the Duduza team, and in some cases members of the RCC have joined them on their hospital visits.

We thank N3TC for the opportunity to help us grow this seed of an idea into a fully-fledged project that is touching lives in our community. It is very close to my heart and I know it is meaningful to the RCC staff. It has created such a wonderful spirit of co-operation and teamwork in the RCC.



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Treverton Schools Sports Festival

Project Champion:	Dave Purdon
Years Funded :	Seven
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.treverton.co.za

Report by Dave Purdon

The 2016 Treverton Co-ed Sports Festival attracted 700 participants from around South Africa and neighbouring countries. The Festival remains one of the top co-ed school sports events in the country.

Field Hockey continues to be the main sporting code at the Festival. It should be noted that Hockey was played non-stop from 7:30am to 9pm for three consecutive days.

We are pleased that the number of Netball teams grew and were very excited to have a development team from Howick join us this year. Their play was of a considerably high standard, resulting in the team being awarded 'Team of the Tournament' and a number of their players received individual recognition.

Treverton also hosted the KZN Rugby Development Team. They acquitted themselves well but unfortunately had a few injuries, which affected their last two fixtures. We are hoping to grow their participation in the Festival in 2017. With an increase in the number of School Sports Festivals taking place in April, we need to keep our Festival competitive by providing participants with a top quality event. We are hoping that in 2017 a number of new schools will be joining us. We will review the



The Festival remains one of the top co-ed school sports events in the country.



sporting codes on offer and look to add to the programme to attract more competitors.

While matches in Hockey, Netball and Rugby were taking place out on the field, coaching courses were offered to participating staff/coaches as well as umpire and referee development, which should further add to the quality of coaching and umpiring/refereeing at the schools and the Festival in the future.

It was pleasing to host the two development sides at the 2016 Sports Festival. The participants from both sporting codes showed much promise and it was great to see the coaches sharing knowledge and gaining experience during the Festival. The 2016 Festival was very competitive with most of the teams being well prepared and eager to perform well in each game.



Music Literacy Africa

Project Champion:	Helen Mennie
Years Funded :	Five
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.musicvoyage.co.za

Music Voyage and the work being done by Helen Mennie and her team is nothing short of inspirational. Music is the heartbeat of a soul and it is quite clear that with the work of Music Voyage in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands is setting the rhythm. We thank you Helen and your team of dedicated musicians for your love of, and commitment to, teaching Music.

Report by Helen Mennie

Music Voyage is moving into new and exciting areas and bringing music to life in classrooms. Katherine McClelland has started teaching class music in some of our schools and it is proving to be very successful. Thamisanqa Langa has been permanently added to the team and he is no stranger to our project, having facilitated music workshops in the Early Childhood Development (ECD) training programme we ran a few years back. Thami is fantastic at choral work and will be starting a couple of choirs as well as introducing choral singing into the schools.

Katherine has been adding Djembe drumming to her classes and together with Thami and Delisile, she has been training non-specialist teachers to actively teach music in their Life Skills classes. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the classes and the change in levels of self-confidence has been noticeable. It is very rewarding to be involving and impacting more children through these newly introduced class music sessions.

Music Voyage students were privileged to be invited as guests to join the Wind Orchestra of The Wykeham Collegiate who held an outstanding event in June to showcase the dedication and talent of their music department. Our musicians spent much time practicing the score and loved playing with the orchestra. It was true teamwork and our students were totally inspired and motivated. They felt like stars performing at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall, such a grand venue. As a result of the event, FNB donated funds to purchase the Djembe drums we have made such good use of since.

Two of our saxophone students took their Associated Board Royal School Music examinations in September; and we are



pleased to report that they passed their Grade 3 exams. These same students will now be prepared for their Grade 4 exams in 2017. We also have a plan to audition them for the Kwa-Zulu Natal Youth Wind Band, which will broaden their horizons hugely.

We continue to teach instruments to children in Nottingham Road and Bruntville. Dumisane Mnculwane continues to run the brass band in Bruntville (*a highlight on the Touching Lives Board Tour in 2014!*), at the Salvation Army Church. Pierre Frenzel, Wesley Lewis and Allan Travers continue to teach violin, saxophone and guitar.

Music Voyage is embarking on a new venture in starting up a choir and a marimba band. We have been given funds to purchase some lovely new marimbas and will be starting with those as soon as they arrive. We are sure we will get to performance level very quickly. We have found a venue in Cedara, at the new Drakondale Girls Choir School. Marimbas are big, take up space and not easy to transport, so we are very grateful for the venue. We are super excited about our 'soon to be' marimba band and know without doubt the children will LOVE playing them. To play them properly requires musicianship and performance skills as well as discipline, teamwork, tolerance and respect; skills that add to the good of humanity.

We are very excited to have been invited to be part of a fund raising music festival at Fordoun Hotel and Spa in 2017. We will be working with a few well known artists and accompanying them as well as performing our own pieces at the event.

The value of the work Music Voyage does is highlighted in one of Katherine's stories.

"I taught some body percussion rhythms in the classroom at Corrie Lynn School a few weeks ago. It was quite a complicated sequence and the children were very shy, but we persevered and most of the children could do most of it by the end of a few lessons. I moved onto teaching other concepts. A few weeks later some of the girls who had been battling with the percussion rhythms came to me at the end of a lesson and asked if they could show me something. They proceeded to perform the entire sequence with no mistakes and perfectly in time. What impressed me most, apart from it being performed beautifully, was that they had gone away and practised together, with no instruction to do so, and that they could perform it for me with confidence. It was wonderful! "

This is what makes it all worthwhile, to know the children love learning about music and to know Music Voyage is making a difference in their lives.

Music is the heartbeat of the soul.



DISABLED

Sunfield Home Howick

Project Champion: Cliff Freeman
Years Funded : Four
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : 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.

The home provides optimal and holistic care to over 110 permanent residents and a number of day residents from Howick and surrounds.

The organisation believes in giving back to the community through its own outreach programmes that touch the lives of over 70 children and 30 adults from disadvantaged communities in the Howick area.



The home provides optimal and holistic care to over 110 permanent residents.



Sunfield Home Fortuna

Project Champion: Brenda Gouws
Years Funded : Four
Province : Mpumalanga
Website : www.sunfieldfortuna.co.za

Excitement is high at Sunfield Home Fortuna following the award of the N3TC funding to build a workshop for the enterprise development component of the home's sustainability programme.

Construction of the workshop and new staff accommodation has commenced. Previously the staff was accommodated in old horse stables on the premises and the construction of the workshop created an opportunity for the new staff residence to be built at the same time. It is hoped that the workshop and new staff quarters will be completed and officially opened before the end of 2016.

While construction of the workshop has taken a huge focus this year, life at Sunfield Home Fortuna continued. A team from the home competed in a Special Olympics Floor Hockey game in Secunda in March 2016, which was a wonderful experience for

those residents who were selected to participate and attend the game.

As always it is wonderful to read about the Sunfield residents' performance at the annual Eisteddfod. There really is a talented group of residents at Sunfield Fortuna who were awarded 17 Double Gold, 55 Gold, nine Silver and three Bronze awards this year in song, choir, orchestra, poetry, reading, needlework, art and craft and choral choir. The crowning glory for Sunfield Fortuna was sharing the trophy for Speech Choral with West Rand. An all-round excellent performance.



Pevensey Place

Project Champion: Jan Niemand
Years Funded : One (2016 – first year of funding)
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : www.pevenseyplace.co.za

"Since I have come to Pevensey I have made new friends and I love working in the workshop." Resident

Pevensey Place has been a wonderful addition to the Disabled category of our Touching Lives programme. Pevensey Place is located in Underberg and has been actively involved in the N3TC Drak Challenge for many years hosting a wonderful spectator point on the first day of the Drak Challenge; furthermore, Pevensey is the recipient of much-needed funding from the event. The fit was perfect and so we embarked on getting to know the Pevensey team and their sustainability plans, we were pleasantly surprised.

Pevensey Place has completed the production of a professional video which will be used for its marketing efforts. It has already proven highly valuable and it is hoped will generate additional funds for the organisation. One example shared with us was



that the video had been used to market Pevensey at the annual Round Table International Conference; and it is anticipated that some material support will be forthcoming in the years ahead.

Agriculture on the Pevensey property is seen as a massive opportunity and forms the basis of the organisation's sustainability plans. Consultation with neighbouring farmers and others in the Underberg area has helped Pevensey to establish sustainable farming practices. Sheep farming is proving highly successful, especially with the drought conditions experienced at present, along with chicken farming which assists with the supply of eggs to the home and a highly successful nursery that sells plants to customers from the local community. Many, in fact most, residents are involved in running the institution based on their abilities, which gives each person a sense of belonging and accountability.

The annual fete held at Underberg School is responsible for generating a wonderful income for the residents and Pevensey; as it holds a reputation for selling wonderful plants, crafts and art at the fete.



Jan shared a lovely story with us about one of the residents, **Charles Higginson**.

With all the celebrations going on for the Queen of England's 90th birthday, Charles decided to send the Queen a home-made birthday card from Pevensey.

Imagine, however, Charles' surprise when the Queen responded to his lovely gift and sent him a special card of thanks. Charles was absolutely thrilled!



HIV and AIDS

Trucking Wellness

Project Champion:	Tertius Wessels
Years Funded :	Six
Provinces :	Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.truckingwellness.co.za

Southern Africa continues to bear a disproportionate share of the global burden of HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths, making the main aims of the project to:

- Improve the quality and methodologies of the behaviour-change communication material, focusing on HIV prevention and healthy lifestyles, to truck drivers.
- Improve the current HIV prevention services and Primary Health Care services that are acceptable, accessible and affordable.
- Increase the knowledge and skills of the healthcare practitioners needed to provide the required healthcare services to migrant population.
- Strengthen the referral systems to the most appropriate healthcare facilities for further investigations, diagnosis, treatment and care.

Services are provided at 21 Roadside Wellness Centres, as well as 15 Mobile Wellness Centres, along National Routes. There are six Roadside Wellness Centres along the N3, all of which have recently been revamped. N3TC has partnered in the establishment of two of these facilities, at Warden and Villiers.

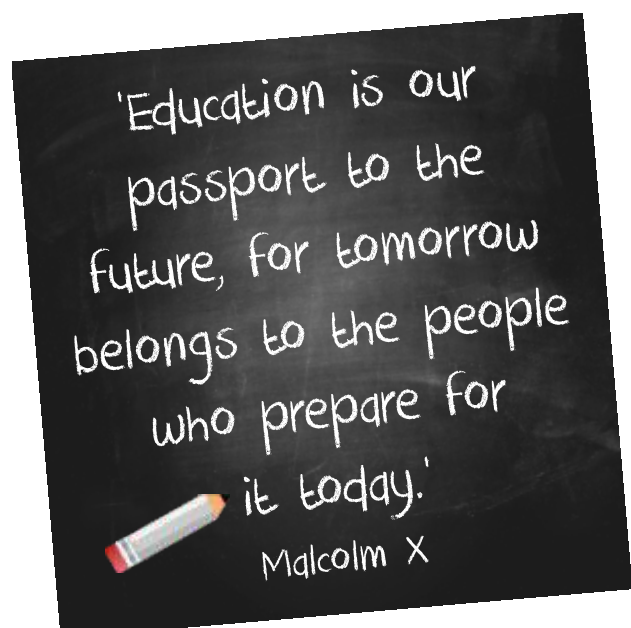
Monthly, some 900 patients are seen at the six Centres on the N3, and 800 training interventions are conducted.

Aimed at truck drivers and women at risk, these Centres operate mostly after hours and at night. These Centres



originally offered HIV/AIDS awareness and STI treatment; later on, however, these services were expanded to provide education, primary healthcare, food supplements, condom distribution, voluntary HIV testing as well as referral to appropriate treatment service providers. All these services are offered free of charge to drivers, sex workers, and the surrounding communities at truck stops in a confidential setting and at convenient times.

The Trucking Wellness programme has in the past five years made a major impact on the HIV prevention and infection rates, reducing from 17.58% in 2010 to 7.09% in 2014. A recent three-month testing period at the six N3 Centres confirmed a welcome further decline: of the 1289 patients tested, only 7 tested positive, some 3.64%.



SPONSORSHIPS

N3TC Drak Challenge

Project Champion:	Stu Berry
Years Funded :	Six
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.drak.co.za

Report by Stu Berry

The N3TC Drak Challenge delivers something different every year. Three years ago it was the flooding river, two years ago it was the low start; and this year, the major success was the fact that there was sufficient water to run the race from the normal start as opposed to the low-level start.

We believe that the organising committee's open-minded approach to the drought and the associated conditions, even though it negatively impacted the race entry numbers with only 525 pre-entries received, provided the event and its sponsors with positive media exposure. Paddlers were well informed and

knew that they were dealing with an honest event not scared of hiding the reality of the river's conditions. This transparency combined with changing the entry procedures to accommodate late entries can be regarded as a highlight outside of the actual paddling and river experience.

The lack of rain and the low water levels is the single biggest challenge for the event. The frustrating part is that it is something that nobody can do anything about – no amount of money or services can solve the issue. While the water level concern will always be apparent, it is what makes Drak so special – the unknown level of the river and the fact that it's never really the same no matter when a person paddles, makes for an interesting and different experience for the paddlers year after year.

When you paddle a river there are very little opportunities to improve the route itself – it's the river or nothing. What has developed nicely is the MTB race that has been linked with the event, and while operated separately both financially and as an



organisation, it has provided a good option for non-paddlers to experience the river environment; and ultimately has contributed to bringing more visitors to Underberg for the weekend.

N3TC's contribution to Sani Search Volunteers, allowing them to purchase much needed equipment not only for the Drak Challenge but for other mountain rescue operations was a highlight for all this year. That combined with the training camps offered by Martin Dreyer from his highly successful Change a Life Programme, proved to leave a lasting legacy as these organisations battle to secure funding. Thank you N3TC for being progressive and safety conscious.

We were delighted to host the 552 paddlers this year of which 492 finished the race, this is a wonderful achievement. Equally thrilling was the opportunity that the race provided to local organisations to benefit from the event. This year the N3TC Drak Challenge committee took great delight in handing over cheques to the following local organisations:



Charity Name	Brief description of the Charity	Financial Contribution
Underberg Primary School	Primary School	R30 000
Pevensey Place	Special needs facility	R10 000
Sani Round Table	Local chapter of Round Table	R30 000
Endangered Wildlife Trust		R10 000
Sani Marshall Club	Local volunteer organisation	R2 000
Wattle Clearing	Local skills development and employment project	R40 000
Sani Search Volunteers	Search and rescue volunteers	R30 000
Development Paddler Project	Development Paddlers	R30 000



The lack of rain and the water level is the single biggest challenge for the event.



Midmar Mile

Project Champion:	Wayne Riddin
Years Funded :	Nine
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.midmarmile.co.za

The aQuellé Midmar Mile received 12 078 entries this year and it is encouraging to note that 10 551 swimmers completed the Mile over the course of the weekend. This equated to an influx of visitors to the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands for the Midmar Mile weekend and the associated economic benefits for the local community would have been far-reaching.

N3TC's sponsorship of the Midmar Mile focuses on water safety, which is closely aligned to the road safety imperatives associated with all our sponsorships. Water safety involves intricate and necessary planning well in advance of the race. An integrated approach has been adopted for the event including the support of SAPS, Emergency Services and water safety devices that are all deployed and on standby for the duration of the weekend. An essential component of water safety is that of well trained, experienced and sufficient life guards available to assist and identify swimmers who may experience difficulties while swimming their respective races. The life guards are geared up in highly visible N3TC-branded swimwear to ensure that they can be seen by the swimmers.

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 weekend, this is known as the 8 Mile Club that collectively raises in excess of R1.5-million for the associated charities. One of these charities is Singakwenza, which has been participating in the 8 Mile Club for four years.



Another noteworthy organisation that receives funding from the Midmar Mile is the **Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation, South Africa**. It was wonderful to learn about the incredible work being done by this organisation. Below are a few highlights from one of the Foundation's activity reports submitted to N3TC.

The Foundation implemented a learn-to-swim programme at an underprivileged school, The Grange Primary School in Pietermaritzburg. The programme focuses on Grade R to Grade 3 learners with the aim of ensuring that each child is 'water safe' by the time they are promoted to Grade 4.

The Foundation has a highly successful learn-to-swim programme for the children of the Shakas Kraal community. There are 70 children that regularly attend Saturday lessons at the Princess Charlene Pool and are progressing well as young swimmers.

The Foundation is in the process of forming a swimming club to enable swimmers from all communities, privileged and underprivileged, the opportunity to compete at local, provincial and national levels.



The Midmar Mile team is committed to supporting and developing swimming as a sport. 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 Champion: Casper Kempen
 Years Funded : Seven
 Province : KwaZulu-Natal
 Website : www.ladysmithathleticsclub.co.za

The N3TC Arthur Cresswell Memorial Marathon was hosted by Ladysmith Athletics Club in April 2016. The Arthur Cresswell Memorial Marathon is made up of a 52km Ultra Marathon, a 21km Half Marathon and a 5km Fun Run. The three events collectively recorded 989 entries of which 916 runners finished their respective events.

The 2016 event yet again attracted a number of athletes looking to qualify for the Comrades Marathon and the organisers were applauded for offering a course and event that both challenges them and allowed them to achieve their goals. The committee's feedback highlights that the race ran well and no major injuries or safety issues were noted, which is always the biggest challenge for any event of this magnitude.

It can be expected that any event of this nature will experience an issue or two that will challenge the organisers. The main concern is the committee's ability to overcome these challenges on the day to ensure that the athletes have the best experience possible and to improve effectiveness in the following year, which the committee has already addressed.



The race report from Casper included correspondence and feedback from the athletes some of which we have included.

Dear Casper

Thank you for your prompt response. People cannot stop talking about the race. All your hard work paid off. I've given good reports about the race and most people want to do it next year. All that you said about the race was precise. I think for next year, it would be great if you can cater for more smaller shirts than the large ones, as most runners are small. The shirts are very beautiful. I will forward you my address when the shirts are ready. Have a great day. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Kind regards

Sandy Govender



Madeleine Zietsman Pieterse

11 April 2016

NO PAIN, NO GAIN....dis so baie waar!! Met baie pyn het ek darem gekwalifiseer vir Comrades 😊 Baie lekker wedloop!! Sal hom beslis weer doen as ek fikser is 😊



N3TC Meals on Wheels Cycle Event

Project Champion: Louis Harmse
Years Funded : Six
Province : Gauteng
Website : www.spectrumsport.co.za

Report by Louis Harmse

The relationship between N3TC, Spectrum Sport and Meals on Wheels is very special and to organise a race to benefit the poor is a gift from heaven.

Meals on Wheels is a non-profit organisation and makes use of the cycle race to promote and market the organisation; and to make the public aware of the needs of the underprivileged and vulnerable people that Meals on Wheels assists on a daily basis.

Sedaven, located approximately 10km west of Heidelberg, is the home of the Meals on Wheels cycle race. This venue provides outstanding facilities that are essential for hosting a race that caters for more than 800 cyclists. This includes accommodation, a venue to manage the registration process, clean toilets and ablution facilities for cyclists and supporters, a well-sized and managed parking area and, most of all, friendly volunteers.

On race day, as you turned into the Sedaven grounds, you could clearly see N3TC's colourful branding and hear the announcer promoting N3TC as the main sponsor and highlighting the work of Meals on Wheels.



Past years have taught us that we can expect stormy, windy weather on race day, something we have become used to. This weather makes the branded event jackets such a resounding success as the cyclists are eager to keep warm and wear the jackets to race in. This year was no different and as far as your eyes could see on the route, it was ORANGE, ORANGE and more ORANGE.

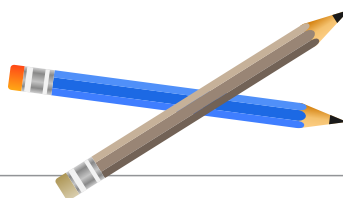
The race went off very well and we were most grateful for the support of Philip Hull and his Community Medical Services team, Think Bike, the local Traffic Authority and the Spectrum Sport appointed marshals who were spread out across the length of the route ensuring the safety of the cyclists, water point personnel and motorists. We were delighted that the Commissaire's race report stated that the race and route was safe – this is vitally important for future events.

Generally the race organisers were praised for hosting a 'wonderful, well organised and friendly' race. The beaded rings (made by Sunfield Home Balfour) and the relaxing N3TC Chill Zone at the finish were the highlights of the day. It has become a tradition to provide the cyclists with a free cup of coffee and muffin before the race to help keep them warm in the cooler, windy weather.

Thanks to the funds raised and tinned food collected at this year's race, meals can continue to be distributed to the vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Heidelberg and the surrounding communities. By joining hands, N3TC and Spectrum Sport have guaranteed that underprivileged people will not go to bed with empty stomachs.

The organising committee has decided to move the date for the 2017 event to 1 October in the hopes that the weather will be more suitable and conducive for the cyclists.

It is a privilege to work with an organisation like N3TC that shares Spectrum Sport's passion and vision to support the less fortunate members of our society. THANK YOU!



COMMUNITY EVENTS

SPCA 1000 Paws Walk

Project Champion:	Tess Fernandez
Years Funded :	Three
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.umngenispcsa.org.za

The 1000 Paws Walk for SPCA is the largest fundraising event for the Mooi River & District branch of the SPCA, which is the only animal welfare organisation operating in the region. The area covered by the branch is largely rural/agricultural and impoverished.

The SPCA works in the township of Bruntville, and serves people in distant rural communities with no access to guidance or medical care for their animals, both domestic and livestock. The SPCA undertakes both emergency and general outreach work for these communities.

The SPCA also addresses the issue of wildlife in need in the region. These animals live alongside human settlements, which create frequent problems of negative interaction, including wildlife being caught in snares, illegal hunting, etc. Rabies is widespread and has been found in cattle, dogs and wildlife, so the need to provide rabies vaccinations has become a vital part of their work.

The work of the Mooi River & District SPCA serves all people regardless of race, age and religion, below a certain income level living in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands region south of Estcourt, north of Howick, west of Greytown and east of Hlatikulu, including the township of Bruntville and outlying rural areas such as Middelrus, Hlatikulu and Kamberg. With the closure of the Estcourt SPCA, the branch is called on to handle calls in areas once covered by this society, which means that they are attending to animal emergencies over an extended area that is not officially their responsibility, including Bergville, Winterton, Loskop and Tugela Ferry.



The 1000 Paws Walk for SPCA is the largest and most significant fundraising event for this branch of the SPCA. No SPCA may fundraise beyond its area and there is very limited support from the local community because of high levels of unemployment and poverty. The SPCA faces a constant struggle to source funding for medical care (vets and medicines); our fieldwork vehicles (two bakkies sponsored by Lotto); our staff; kennels and cattery for rehoming or care of strays, plus day-to-day running costs, which are not covered by any sponsors such as Lotto. The 1000 Paws gives us the capacity to help the many animals in need in our area and assist rural and urban communities. We cannot thank N3TC enough for their support of this life-changing event.

In total 1091 people along with their precious 'fur-babies' lined up at the start at Hilton College to tackle either the 2km or 4km trails presented at this year's event. Apart from the two events the 1000 Paws Walk, the Hilton College grounds were abuzz with activities as the event has become a fun day for the family that includes many activities such as competitions, dog shows and live entertainment. It has fast become a highlight on the KwaZulu-Natal calendar.



'The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don't tell you what to see.'
Alexandra Trenfor

PAWS FOR THOUGHT



Donono's Story

by Tess Fernandez, PRO, uMngeni SPCA

uMngeni SPCA receives many animals in need of treatment and tender loving care; and none more than Donono and her puppies. This story aims to inspire, create awareness and educate people on the welfare of all animals. Donono is a cross breed female, approximately three years old. She was brought to our kennels with a litter of female puppies. Her owner had contacted us requesting that we remove the pups as he did not want them. He wanted the mother sterilised and returned.

Our Field Officer Phineas Makhaye responded to the call as he was working in the area. Donono comes from Maswasini which is between Kwa Haza and Mafakhatini. The homestead is up in the hills far removed from the main road, which links the area to Kwa Haza and Mafakhatini.

On arrival at our kennels we were horrified with her condition. She had six three-week old pups to feed. A decision was taken to keep just two pups with her, as she was not coping with the large litter. She weighed a mere 13kg at the time of her arrival. She was given an antibiotic and was dewormed. We put her on small meals and began supplementing the feeding of the pups.

Donono is an example of why we appeal for funding for our Outreach programmes. With adequate funding we can adequately cover areas that are off the beaten track and potentially spare them from possible abuse, but more importantly to enable our field workers to educate pet owners to prevent unintentional maltreatment. The condition of Donono was as a result of ignorance and not blatant neglect or cruelty. It did not occur to the owner that in order for her to feed six pups he needed to increase the quantity and frequency of her food. At the same time, she had a kennel with a blanket, was not chained and was free to wander around the property.

When she reached an acceptable weight condition and after she had weaned her two pups, Donono was sterilised. She was fortunate and has become our beacon of hope for other dogs and pet owners that we serve in our region. Sadly, the only way that we can assist animals in need in our communities is with continued financial support. Thank you for helping us to help Donono and other animals that face a similar plight.

A vet nurse who spent time at our clinic was interested in adopting Donono. She bonded with Donono and in return Donono responded to her positively. We discussed the possible adoption of Donono with her owner and brought to his attention that as he was quite frail it would be best for him to keep the sterilised male and consider giving Donono up for adoption. He agreed and was pleased that she had found a good home. Donono left our kennels with her new owner and is now thriving in her new environment.

Let's continue to educate and not lay blame, the key is to pass the lessons we have learnt down to our youth, so that they, in turn, will one day be the advocates for animal welfare and their rights as sentient beings.



Donono when she arrived at our kennels – emaciated and very under-nourished.



Donono looking healthy and happy with her gorgeous cuddly pups, Clara and Clarissa.

Greytown MTB Festival

Project Champion: Glen Meter
Years Funded : Seven
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : www.greytownmtb.co.za

Letter of thanks from Festival Committee

On behalf of the Greytown Mountain Bike Committee and all our members, we would like to once again extend our sincere appreciation to N3TC for the incredibly generous sponsorship made towards our 2016 Greytown Mountain Bike Festival. Without you as one of our main sponsors, the weekend could certainly not have taken place.

Thank you again to the N3TC team with whom we liaised and were so willing to help with the organisation of all the necessary marketing materials. The N3TC branding material was very



prominent at our start/finish area and thank you very much for supplying us with the N3TC branded arch. Once again the participants were very happy with the organisation of our event as well as the marking and setting of our courses.

We had a very successful weekend with not much change in our participant numbers from 2015.

Unfortunately the weather was a bit cold and miserable over the weekend with not too much rain. This may have had an influence on participants not wanting to make the trip out to Greytown. It would have been nicer if we had had proper rain as was the case in Durban. However, we were grateful for the bit of moisture that we did have and it made for cooler riding conditions.



Van Reenen Over the Edge MTB Race

Project Champion : Van Reenen/Swinburne Tourism
 Years Funded : Four
 Province : Free State
 Website : www.vanreenentourism.co.za

Fifty-two mountain bike riders took part in the eighth 'Over-the-Edge', 48-kilometre race on Saturday, 29 October 2016. The start was at the historic Green Lantern Inn in Van Reenen and the course took the riders to the pipeline pump station, from where they rode a long downhill section, following the old ox wagon route to Wyford Farm and the location of the first water point.

The route then returned to the N3, down the cattle path to Wag 'n Bietjie Farm to the second water point, manned by Old Mutual staff. This was followed by a steep uphill, reaching the beautiful, arched railway bridge (visible from the N3), across the line and then up to the original railway route (on the Besters Road) where the third water point was positioned. Downhill from there and then into the 'Black Hole of Van Reenen'. This is a two-hundred-metre, curved, disused railway tunnel with 'no light at the end of the tunnel' when passing from bright sunshine into the candle-illuminated darkness ... quite a highlight for the cyclists.

More downhill, veering off the Besters Road to the railway service track, eventually returning to Wag 'n Bietjie Farm. The downhill ride of 15 kilometres included approximately twenty exhilarating switchbacks was enjoyed by all. Crossing the river at the bottom of the Pass gave a number of cyclists the opportunity to take a cooling dip. Three entrants, nicknamed the 'Three Musketeers', enjoyed a prolonged immersion in the river before starting the home climb.



While the weather was not as hot as that experienced in 2015, the howling wind made even the downhill rides really hard work. For many entrants, Over-the-Edge is not about competing but enjoying the stunning escarpment vistas and 'just completing the course' is more than enough for many.

A scenic, winding route brought the cyclists back up to Wyford Farm for more refreshments. The long, steady climb continued from here, around the well-known Windy Corner (with a much-needed, fifth water point), and through Entokozweni Township to the finish at the Green Lantern.

While a number of entrants (including the overall winner for the second consecutive year, Gareth Cook) had entered the race in previous years, there were many first-time participants, including a group from Pretoria. There was general praise for the event, which was enjoyed by participants and their friends and families. The changes made to the route, especially changing the ox wagon route to a downhill stretch, were universally acclaimed.

The Van Reenen/Swinburne Tourism Association event also provided a 21-kilometre, scenic route, with just one small uphill section, and a carefully 'chaperoned' 10-kilometre route for children. It is an ideal opportunity for families to spend the day or the weekend enjoying some exercise, the outdoors and spectacular scenery.

An event of this nature would not be possible without the generous support of N3TC, the organisational skills of Lew and Maria Harris (for the seventh time!) and the facilities and support (courtesy of Bill and Gail Ross-Adams) at the Green Lantern Inn.



Royal Drak MTB Challenge

Project Champion:	Megan Bedingham
Years Funded :	Five
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.royaldrakmtb.co.za

Report by Megan Bedingham

Each year the Royal Drakensberg MTB Challenge highlights the wonders of the Drakensberg through a journey on exceptional single track that winds through the valleys and over the hills showcasing an area of outstanding beauty. Riders spend a few hours sweating the hills, cruising the descents and taking in the pristine scenery along the sweeping contours. Each person that crosses the finish line comments on the landscape, the quality of the trails and the general event organisation. The first Royal Drakensberg MTB Challenge was in May 2010 and each year the running becomes a little smoother, the race a little sleeker and the general organisation more and more efficient. This is superb riding territory!

Creating an event that continues to attract Mountain Bikers is a challenge given the huge amount of choice available to riders. We see multiple day-stage races becoming popular among the MTB crowd and since we are situated almost three hours from Durban and more than three and a half hours from Johannesburg, getting to our event requires folk to make a weekend away. The general economy seems to be slowing down and having spare disposable income to ride in the more remote destinations becomes a bigger consideration.

This year we added a new category – **Ride4Education**. This option has allowed riders to do more than enter but to become more involved in the greater mission of this event and that it to help improve the lives of the disadvantaged and vulnerable children in this rural space. Ride4Education riders each raised R2500 and were given a sponsored rider jersey and had access to the Ride4Education refreshment tent. This is an area where we believe there is potential for growth as more funds can be raised to ensure our school's tomorrow.

We see many folk return from one year to the next. We see our own children grow and progress through the races; from the Beginner's race to the Challenge and even moving onto the Extreme. We watch, with interest, as families gather and folks encourage their little people to keep peddling. Our 2011 winner returned with his wife and baby. He pedalled with the baby in a knapsack and they all completed the 10km together. Growing up and enjoying the cycle together. But most importantly being out in nature and taking it all in! This is wholesome living.

We are also inspired by the die-hards who set off on the 50km Extreme. Riding the Drakensberg is hard work and some just don't give up. They pedal tirelessly to get to the end! And, we always make sure there is something special for the final rider who crosses the line. Every year the race employs about 30 extra staff to act as marshals and support crew at the venue. In the week leading up to the event they all come in for training, and there is a real sense of excitement by the time race day

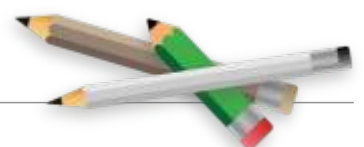


rolls around. The staff arrives early, before sun up, but they are so cheerful and enthusiastic. We got great feedback from the riders about how friendly and encouraging the marshals were. For a lot of these guys this is their first opportunity to work, and this exposure is really valuable for them. It gives them a foot in the door for future events, and places them on the employment radar if positions come up at the businesses in the area. (We keep their details on file and contact them to be considered for places when we are doing recruitment. We also put forward the names of the good ones to other businesses who are hiring).

Our sponsors are very generous in providing lunches and refreshments for the guys, so they are well looked after. This whole work experience is enormously positive, and we believe it serves as encouragement for them not to give up in their search for employment.

Royal Drakensberg Primary is a wonderful school making a very positive impact on the local community by helping raise levels of education. The school requires careful management and funds raised are wisely spent. Our two biggest expenses are teachers' salaries and learner transport. This event helps ensure that we are able to meet these large challenges and guarantees the future of these children as we continue to provide a quality education to them. Investing in the children really does help us build a positive and strong South Africa. We are helping create a society where educated adults can help grow an economy and essentially give back to their own families and in time their communities.

We watch, with interest, as families gather and folks encourage their little people to keep peddling.



Trans Drak 24-hour MTB Quest

Project Champion:	Gerrie Steenkamp
Years Funded :	Six
Province :	Free State and KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.transdrakensberg.co.za

The 2016 Trans Drak Mountain Bike Race received a record number of entrants in comparison with the previous five years' entry statistics. Participants expressed their satisfaction with the race organisation and even though the route was challenging and weather conditions were bad, most participants indicated that they would come back to do the race again, as well as recommend it to fellow mountain bikers.

The checkpoints were well organised with various community members playing a crucial role at these checkpoints. Gina's Guesthouse in Geluksberg, The Biltong Shop (Van Reenen's Pass) and The Green Lantern (Van Reenen village) are just some of the businesses in the community that assisted riders at the checkpoints. This event provides a great boost for local tourism and most of the guesthouses and accommodation venues in Van Reenen and Swinburne were fully booked for the event.



It is always heart-warming to see the camaraderie exhibited at the Trans Draak.



Very few challenges were experienced at this year's event, which is a highlight for the organising team. Weather conditions made it difficult for riders on the route, but most of them persevered and completed the race.

Planning for the 2017 Trans Drak MTB Event is already underway. For this event, the aim is to drive sponsorship to assist further with the logistical and financial costs of the event.

The 2016 event attracted just over 200 participants and the plan is to take this number to over 300 riders in 2017. Small route changes will be made in accordance with the feedback received from participants.

The race organisers are pleased with the event's impact on social media. The Trans Drak Facebook Page has seen significant growth over the past year with 'page likes' on Facebook increasing from 444 in July 2014 to 1,298 in March 2016. The images that were posted on the Event's Facebook page stimulated traffic to the page and the most 'liked' image had approximately 21,000 likes.

It is always heart-warming to see the camaraderie exhibited at events such as the Trans Drak.

One of the notable stories was that of a first-time female rider who conquered the Trans Drak 204km after falling into barbed wire while making her way along the route. The medical response team, under Ansie Jooste's supervision, 'patched' her up and she continued with her race and finally finished at 4am the next morning. What an incredible achievement!



Splashy Fen

Project Champion :	Stu Berry
Years Funded :	One (2016 – first year of funding)
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website Address :	www.splashyfen.co.za
Twitter Handle :	@splashyfen
Facebook Page :	Splashy Fen Festival
YouTube Channel :	Impi Concept Events
Instagram :	@splashyfenfest

The 2016 edition of Splashy Fen Music Festival was set to be a landmark event for the longest running music festival in South Africa. The festival underwent management changes, placing it in an unknown position operationally, and in the process had planned to undertake several changes as part of a revised approach to the Festival. Impi Concept Events, under the leadership of Stu Berry, was awarded the operating contract for 2016.

The 2016 edition of Splashy Fen reaffirmed the Festival's strong position in the South African music scene with 103 bands, 321 musicians, four stages and four days of music attracting close to 6 000 people to the beautiful Splashy Fen farm in Underberg.

One of the key outcomes of Splashy Fen was the change in the nature of the attendees compared with the preceding three to four years. In 2015, the average age attending Splashy Fen was 23, whereas in 2016, the average age was 32, with the oldest attendee this year being 72 years of age.

Splashy Cares

A brand new initiative put in place for 2016 in an effort to provide a lasting effect from the event in the Underberg was the Splashy Cares programme. This was initiated through N3TC's vision and investment in the event. The impact is highlighted below:

- **Event Spend** on services directly benefiting the Underberg Community was R597 000 of which R312 000 was spent on black-owned businesses and local labour; and
- **Economic Impact:** an estimated economic spend across purchases, accommodation and travel into the KwaSani Municipal district was recorded at approximately R3,7-million over the week of the Splashy Fen Festival.

Splashy Fen 2016 put significant effort into gaining the support of media across several platforms. A professional media consultant was employed to head up the media operations and must be commended for her new and fresh approach, and the

A massive thanks must go out to all the artists who embraced the revival of Splashy Fen so openly. It was a key part in the ethos change of Splashy. A noticeable change which added to the true South African feeling at the Festival was how the musicians represented a more culturally diverse South Africa. In 2015, the music lineup was 89% white musicians, whereas in 2016, the non-white musician representation was increased to 35%. Stu Berry



'Every child is an artist.
The problem is how to
remain an artist once
we grow up.'
Picasso

manner in which she facilitated all media requests across the various media platforms that supported Splashy Fen 2016. Media was allowed access to the central Media Centre where they could lock away personal and expensive items in lockers, make use of FREE internet services and charge their phones, cameras or laptops while they roamed the site. Many media choose to embrace the cool air inside the air-conditioned Media Centre, where they spent a few hours working each day, most of them compiling their Splashy Fen reports and sharing their encounters.

Overall, the organisers have achieved the goal of changing the perception and value of the Splashy Fen Festival. The 2016 event was recorded as safe, secure and one of the best in recent years.



ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Beads of Hope

Project Champion:	Jane MacKenzie
Years Funded :	Eleven
Provinces :	Free State and KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.beadsofhope.co.za

Van Reenen is a small community along the N3 Toll Route, above Van Reenen's Pass, between Harrismith and Ladysmith. Employment is limited due to there being no heavy duty industry and little in the way of labour intensive agriculture. For a while, labour was required in the area for the building of the Eskom Ingula Dam, however, this is no longer a requirement.

The few opportunities for full-time employment are from the local garage, The Green Lantern Inn, The Little Church and the other establishments offering accommodation in the area. The Beads of Hope Angel project is still one of the major players offering income earning opportunities to this community. The main source of income in the village is in the form of government grants, being child, old age pensions and HIV/Aids.

Beads of Hope has been involved in enabling the local residents to generate their own income through beadwork creations and other items for the corporate gift market, including the annual *Angels for Christmas* campaign. It has enabled people from the village to earn an income even if they were ill as they could work from home. New products such as beautifully beaded clutch bags, plaited lanyards, beaded "South Africa" keyrings and many more items are produced by the Van Reenen group and continue to bring additional income into these families and the Van Reenen community.

An ABCD workshop was held at Oban Guest farm during the course of 2016, hosted by Beads of Hope. The workshop was run by Janine Ward, a social worker and ABCD trainer with over 30 years' experience in the field of social work. What a pleasure it was to see people have that **'aha'** moment. Every part of the course touched a different part of their lives and allowed them to see themselves as individuals, and their own community, through a different lens. Initially it was difficult for some of the trainees to speak up, however, as the course continued it was a delight to watch each member becoming more involved by speaking up and making suggestions.

The exercises covered topics including, identifying your own value, your value within the community at large, appreciative enquiry, glass half full or half empty, the five sustainability assets (human, social, natural, physical and financial), ladder of inference (how we see others), financial training and so much more.

The last exercise was one where the community itself identified a project that they believe can be started, which could have a lasting impact on the children in their community. We look forward to reporting on community-led changes. To date the group has started a WhatsApp group, a FaceBook page called Van Reenen Transformers and everyone in the group has been assigned tasks relevant to their desired involvement.



Tsa Lapeng Designs

Project Champion: Rheola van den Bosch
Years Funded : Seven
Province : Free State
Website : www.rheolas.com

We are pleased to report that over 1 100 items were sold in the first nine months of 2016 to shops in towns and tourist destinations along the N3 Toll Route. Sewing training continues to give hope to people from the marginalised communities in Harrismith. We were thrilled to have had three young people join the training class between the ages of 17 and 26. All three are doing very well and are so talented. Anna, who is 21, has completed the fourth and final module of the training programme, and is ready to graduate.

Below are reports from some of the people involved in the Project:

Zeeneth Warsally ("I Love Sewing S.A.")

My school brings me the greatest joy, as I am passionate about sewing! I get to spend quality time with people from different walks of life and share an essential skill with them. It is a wonderful feeling when my students complete their sewing tasks and their faces light up! I enjoy the challenge of assisting the students to read, understand and cut patterns. It is an ongoing activity and they see progress with each lesson. I take pride in my lessons and find myself waiting for the next session to begin. It is a good feeling. My school is also building my confidence in myself, as I feel that I have achieved something of value, even if it is in the latter part of my life. It has renewed my spirit and I will continue to strive to do my best for myself and students, especially blessed by the Almighty.



I would like to thank Rheola and her team, as well as N3TC for making this opportunity available to people and thus also enhancing my sewing school's value.

Linda de Wet (Volunteer)

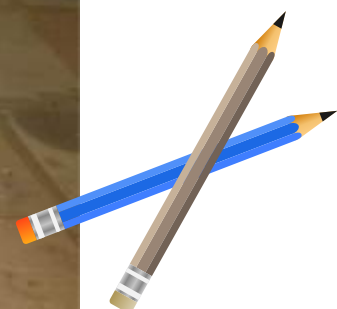
I am so pleased with the two ladies that I am training in Quilting. They give me such a lot of satisfaction and they make my day. It is heartwarming to see the progress these two have made, and what they have achieved.

Jabulile Cecilia Molefe

Thank you very much for all that you have done for us. It has been and is still a wonderful journey that we are enjoying with you. We are pleased to be part of the N3TC family and "Touching Lives Programme". We promise to do more and to work harder to achieve what we have set out to do. It is so good to work with Zeeneth and Linda and we enjoy their company. Soon we will have future Entrepreneurs who are learning so many skills. Thumbs up for them!



We have been so blessed to work with such wonderful people. Our training is going so well. God has blessed us abundantly. Thank you very much for the funding we have received, which helps us to continue.



Project Gateway

Project Champion: Di Milford
Years Funded : Four
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : www.projectgateway.co.za

One of the main highlights for 2016 has been the demand and subsequent increase in the number of Learners through our Gateway School of Fashion. A most exciting development was the fact that we were able to send fifteen people to the Durban July Fashion Competition. Even more exciting was the fact that two of our people were judged to be in the TOP 10. Brenda Waring was judged TOP 10 in the 'Couples' section and Ayanda Gumede in the 'Classic Outfit' section.

The Gateway School of Fashion Facilitators had this to say about their Durban July experience:

"We were so excited to be able to attend the Durban July – The most prestigious horse race of the year and to show off our 'learners' achievements. We had such a wonderful time – the first time any of us had been able to attend and we were blown away by all the excitement. This was amazing especially when two of our people achieved the Top 10".

Nomsie, a Gateway School of Fashion learner, added her voice:

"This is the first time I have ever been to the Durban July. I sat up till 3am the night before to ensure my outfit was completed and I just loved being the model and the designer. I love what I am learning at the Gateway School of Fashion".



Some very exciting news is the re-vamp of the Project Gateway's 'retail shop', Wearable, on our Gateway site. Mandi, our new marketing lady, has worked tirelessly on the re-vamp and we are hoping that this will encourage more people to visit the Gateway site and our Museum.

We have started the first course of the next stage of Paradigm Shift (Module 1). This is a nine lesson course that covers additional information on maintaining a successful business, as well as 'moral' training based on Biblical principles such as wisdom, character and created for work. These topics are proving informative and generating lots of debate!

Our challenge in all these ventures is always capacity (manpower and finances). However, we have managed to achieve the goals we set for this year except for the opening of a retail outlet in the United Kingdom. We are still negotiating on the best methodology for this so we can create a win-win situation for everyone.



'The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.'
Sydney Harris

Midlands Meander Emerging Artists

Project Champion:	Marian Evans
Years Funded :	Three
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.midlandsmeander.co.za

The new Midlands Meander Association 2016/17 guide has recently been produced; and the N3TC Emerging Artists, Impumelelo Beaders, Calson Ngwenya, Stanley Nxumalo, Eric Ncgobo, Muzi Ndlela and Nkosinathi Mabaso, are featured on the inside back cover with pictures and editorial.

We were delighted when an opportunity presented itself to highlight Emerging Artists & Crafters. Thomas Cook Germany celebrated its 175th anniversary this year and brought thirty top journalists and ten Thomas Cook management to Durban and the Midlands. Thompsons Africa arranged to bring half of the group for an afternoon visit and we hosted the remainder of the group the following morning.

The theme was 'A taste of the Midlands' which included a visit to the Capture Site and then on to Rawdons. Outside on the lawn at Rawdons we invited MMA members and emerging artists/crafters to show the international visitors what they could expect and taste in the Midlands. It was a great success to the extent that Thompsons Africa now has a regular Sunday tour into the area. The emerging artists' products gained entry to Germany in the form of placemats by Stanley and beads from Impumelelo Beaders.

Stanley Nxumalo: Weaver

Stanley has toned down colours and has a natural ability to weave animals out of his head...this talent must be grown. His sales are increasing.



Calson Mangena: Metalworker

Stanley, whilst still weaving on his frame with nails, has shown progress. He has not only toned down his colours in the place mats, he has now designed frogs and chameleons. We framed one of his frogs in order to show him a way to improve his product and earn extra money. He was so happy to see it and will now try and do his own framing in future. Stanley, who is a security guard, was at risk of losing his job, but is now employed on a full time basis and only works day shift, which makes his life much easier.

Calson Mangena: Metalworker

Calson paid 25% of his MMA fees in 2016. Should he continue growing his business, by July 2017 we may well see him paying his full membership fees and becoming a Midlands Meander Association member in his own right.

It is a pleasure to work with Calson. He constantly develops new products, works very hard, travels to markets and is a success in his own right. The business training he has received has honed his business skills.

Impumelelo Beaders

The Beaders – the collective – will also be paying 25% of their MMA fees this year. There has been a marked improvement in their confidence levels.

The ladies have really gained much more confidence in dealing with the public. This was an area seriously lacking last year which we are pleased to report has been addressed and improved by training

Eric Ncgobo: Sculptor

Unless his early products sell i.e. Mandela statue he does not have startup capital to begin setting up his own business. The challenge may be for us to work out a plan of action for him going forward in order that he may be self-sustaining within a specified period.

He has such a unique talent and is a gifted artist, but should Eric want to become self-sustaining, he would need significant funding for startup costs if he were to continue in bronze sculpture. Sam van den Berg and I are encouraging him to experiment with different mediums in order to develop new products.

Siyabonga Duma : Woodworker

Siyabonga would like to thank N3TC for the financial assistance, business training provided, as well as the encouragement and support he has been given over the past years.

Siyabonga fell ill at the beginning of the year, was hospitalised and diagnosed. He spent many months too ill to work but we are pleased to report that he is stable and back in his workshop. He has made a name for himself within the Mpophomeni community of making kitchen cupboards and although he let a number of clients down during the time of his illness I am impressed at the way in which he is dealing with each one on a continual basis. Siyabonga will be withdrawing from the

Emerging Artist/Crafter programme as his product does not now align with the Midlands Meander Association.

Muzi Ndlela: Artist

Muzi is new to the Programme. His art is unique, portrays the landscape of the Midlands and culture of the people. He describes his art as a window to a 'true' way living in our community which gives the viewer a township cultural experience through visual art.

Muzi was born in Mpophomeni in 1979. He attended primary school in Edendale and High School in Mpophomeni. All he wanted to do was draw. After school he was introduced to the Tatum Art Gallery where he met Mdiduzi Xakaza who introduced him to different art materials and as a result of this Muzi started painting. He attended art classes at the Tatum Art Gallery on a weekly basis for a number of years. Muzi then met Bonge Nkosi, an art collector and dealer, where he was introduced to African art. He travelled with her whilst buying and selling the work of South African artists and not only learnt business skills, but was introduced to new and different art forms and styles.

In 2005, he decided to launch out and sell his own art. In 2006 Zulu-Mpophomeni-Tourism Experience sponsored an art exhibition where he displayed his work. Another door was opened by the University of KwaZulu-Natal, who had a programme for 'not formally trained artists' where Muzi learnt lino cutting, print and screen-printing. He worked for a MMA member, ZULU-LULU Art House, at their studio where he learned to work in a different medium – ceramics.

Muzi has received an award at the Nivea Media Arts Awards and has been displaying his work each year since 2013 at The Hilton Arts Festival.



Impumelelo Readers

Nkosinathi Mabaso: Sculptor

Nkosinathi is also new to the Programme. Born in Howick in 1979, Nkosinathi used to play with clay on the farm where he grew up in Fort Nottingham. Mr Zuma, a farm worker, helped him put his work in a stove to fire it and try to sell the product via a local resident in Nottingham Road. He was advised to approach Ardmore Ceramics for a job.

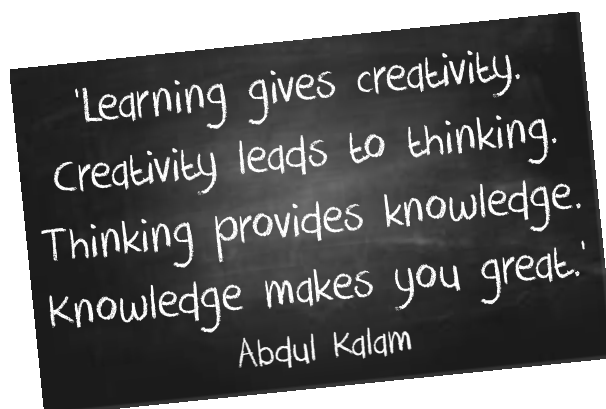
He worked at Ardmore Ceramics for nine years, then joined Michael Haigh, a sculptor and Midlands Meander member for five years, and is now working part time for Ardmore Ceramics.

He was recently offered a full time post at Ardmore Ceramics, which he turned down as his dream is to work for himself in the future.

He is developing his own range of ceramics and recently sold a sculpture of a bull at ZULU-LULU Art House during August 2016. Nkosinathi was thrilled!



Muzi Ndlela: Artist





Babanentse Co-Operative

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

Babanentse Primary Co-operative is a start-up textile establishment located in Bruntville- Mooi River. Babanentse expects to catch the interest of a regular, loyal customer base with its broad variety of clothing products. The company plans to build a strong market position in the town due to the lack of manufacturing companies in the area.

Our project has been recognised nationwide. We received a certificate that was issued at ICC in Durban and we received another certificate that the municipality issued to us, to show that they appreciate all the efforts we make.

We do alterations, attires and wedding gowns; and decorations and catering for weddings, funerals, parties and any other special occasions in the community.

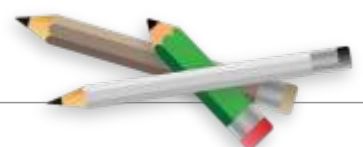
As Babanentse Co-operative, we would like to thank N3TC.

We are proud of you because of your help to make our company grow. Babanentse is a small company but N3TC has

given us money to buy the things that we didn't have like office equipment. This time we bought two sewing machines to add to our existing machines. Our old machines were starting to give problems in the quality of stitching because they were too old but now we have new ones that make our product better than before.

Our aim is to buy a big printer and a commercial embroidery machine to add to our existing production line and grow the company more. We would like to thank you for your support and hope next time you'll find big things in our company. Be patient and wait for more changes. Please continue helping us, we are very appreciative of your help. Thanks very much for your effort.

Our project has been recognised nationwide.



Senzakahle Primary Co-Operative

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

This project is based in KwaZulu-Natal and is located in Bruntville, Mooi River. It is 100% black female-owned and was registered in 2008 as a Co-Operative that produces textile-related products. Senzakahle specialises in a wide range of textile product such as bed linen including flat sheets, night frills, continental pillowcases, standard pillowcases, duvet covers, as well as table cloths, serviettes, scatter cushion covers and curtains.

Recently the project embarked on expanding its range to the production of gowns, jackets, night dresses and leggings, sold at affordable prices. Before a finished product is sold to consumers, it undergoes final inspection because the project strongly believes in customer satisfaction.

One of the major goals of this project is to continuously network with big sustainable companies in both the private and public sector; and ultimately to access reliable overseas markets. The project aims to cultivate loyalty to customers by supplying quality products at the agreed time. We believe in close interaction and communication with our customers and fully support Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment.

N3TC has played a huge role in helping us to achieve our goals to grow in the textile industry and become a prosperous company. Your funding has helped us to order machines, buy stock, pay for our expenses and hire more staff, giving them the opportunity to earn a living.

We have bought gown fabrics, jersey fabric, and cutting machines, issued a stipend for the volunteers, and paid all our expenses we had during the reporting period. Our aim is to expand to the larger site, give job opportunities to the people who are unemployed, and purchase more machines in order to manufacture a large number of products.

Volunteers and project employees also enjoy meeting each other on the working premises and also communicating with customers and prospective customers.

Our greatest challenges and concerns include the following:

- Access to our target market to generate sales;
- Insufficient space for our expanding product line; and
- Lack of knowledge in financial and business management.

We are grateful for everything that N3TC has done for our project and we wish you to know that we always consider the help that we get from you as our 'tickets to success'.



N3 Gateway Tourism Association

Project Co-Ordinator:	Niki Glen – General Manager
Board of Directors:	Malcolm Drummond – Chairperson Victor Mokoena– Vice Chairperson Isabel Potgieter Rosheila Thomas Chris Hearne Elisabeth Durham Thorsten Gopp
Years Funded :	Eight
Provinces :	Gauteng, Mpumalanga, Free State and KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.n3gateway.com

The N3 Gateway Tourism Association was formed in 2008. It was initiated by N3TC, which remains its primary funder. It is a registered Non-Profit Company that was formed to fulfil the role of marketing the N3 Corridor region as a world class travel destination to domestic and international tourists.

A highlight of the year has been the fulfilment of a long-held dream, to appoint a General Manager. Niki Glen will oversee the association's operations, which includes the implementation of its vision of being a model for sustainable route development, world-class marketing and transformation in the tourism sector.

The association is increasingly being recognised for innovation, collaboration and responsible tourism.

The vision is to help the tourism industry in transitioning to ensure that the benefits from tourism assets are reaped by a far broader cross-section of communities represented in the N3 corridor. In addition, providing much needed stimulus to entrepreneurial start-ups will contribute to a broadening of the 'customer experience' and will add significant value to the offerings of existing Gateway members.

From a marketing perspective, a highlight was the appointment of a new Marketing Manager, Lori Voss. Lori will be responsible for the co-ordination of the day-to-day marketing activities, along with the handling of bigger projects such as assisting in the revamp of N3 Gateway's website, local and trade show events co-ordination, conducting social media forums for its members, furthering ties with local and national tourism bodies, as well as expanding N3 Gateway's social media presence.

Together with Matthew Drew (Fundraising and Strategy Manager) and Rose Hall (Social Media Manager), Niki and Lori have put in place plans to fast-track the N3 Gateway's growth into a world-class tourism marketing organisation with a well-entrenched brand, while helping to create more sustainable tourism businesses along the Route.



Historically, the N3 Gateway defined itself as a route-marketing organisation, but has now aligned its strategy to a new era of route development, where economic development, using tourism as the vehicle, is recognised as an essential component of a sustainable route. The implementation of a series of key projects aims to bring about much-needed transformation within the tourism value chain.



In the run-up to the Getaway show in September, the N3 Gateway ran a competition which was launched in the N3 Gateway newsletter. Thirty members of the N3 Gateway's member associations provided prizes, valued at a total of R105 000, in return for additional advertorials and space on the N3 Gateway stand.



In parallel to the Getaway Show organisation, the team started engaging members in short workshops, the aim of which is to highlight best practice models that could contribute to the sustainable growth of member associations and establish common challenges amongst members and stakeholders.

The series of key projects aims to bring about a much-needed transformation within the tourism value chain.



The interactions to date confirm that the N3 Gateway has a strong member base with world class tourism products on offer.

There are a number of member associations that have implemented highly successful business models. At the same time, there are areas where capacity building is required to ensure that other N3 Gateway members can grow toward more sustainable businesses, thus contributing to the overall success of the Association.

Areas of capacity building include, amongst others, social media, marketing, winning itineraries, participation in trade shows and publications, responsible tourism implementation and project management support.

Another highlight was the first edition of the new *Top Itineraries Brochure* which is a foldable DL focused on the top eight itineraries for seven key regions along the N3 Gateway route. The selection of these itineraries was based on votes by the public from the annual Gauteng Getaway Show Competitions. The brochure directs readers to the N3 Gateway website for more detailed information. This fits in with the strategy to drive traffic to the website. Ten thousand copies have been produced and will be distributed.

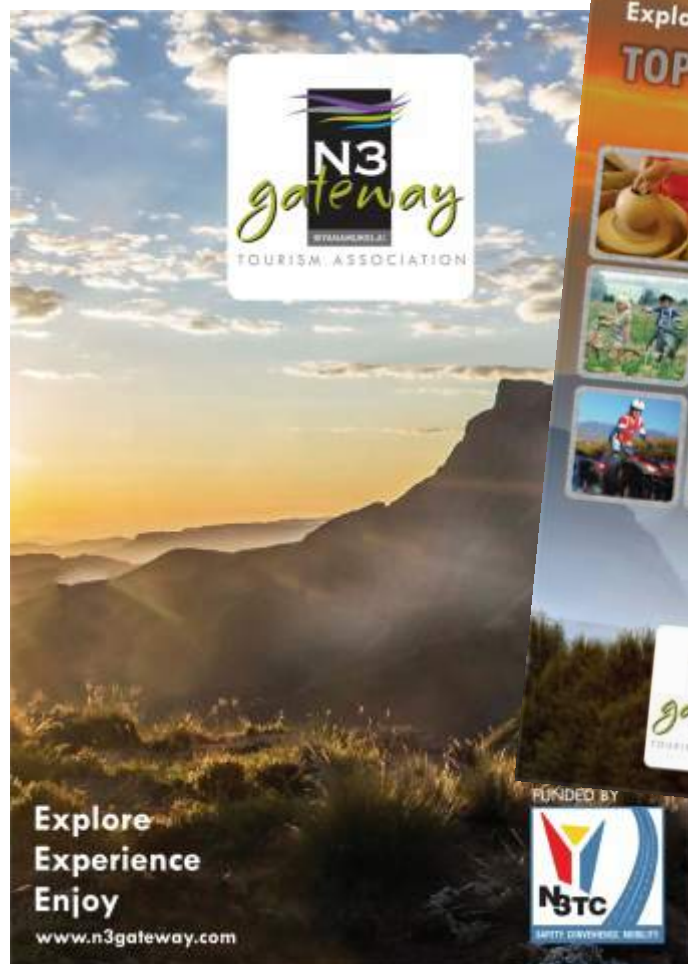
The N3 Gateway was invited by the National Department of Tourism (NDT) to participate in the first Route Development Framework workshop in Soweto in February. We gave extensive input both during and after

the workshop and this has led to an increasingly interesting discussion with the NDT. One of the sections in the framework is on funding for tourism routes and it suggests that the NDT is considering broadening its Tourism Incentive Programme to include funding for South African tourism routes.

Niki and Lori have joined the N3 Gateway at a time when some of the main priorities in terms of sustainability are transformation, job creation, enterprise development and the improved packaging and marketing of the wonderful offerings and outcomes that will no doubt result from the Revised N3 Gateway Strategy.

It is the objective of the N3 Gateway Tourism Association to work with every sector of the tourism industry and positively contribute towards the development and growth of tourism in South Africa, especially in communities that have previously been unable to take advantage of the socio-economic benefits that tourism generates.

In conclusion, tribute is paid to the role of Elsa Watson, the first N3 Gateway Marketing Manager and, in particular, the work of Andy Visser. Andy played a fundamental role in the formation of the N3 Gateway, and served with great distinction as its founding Chairman for a period of eight years.



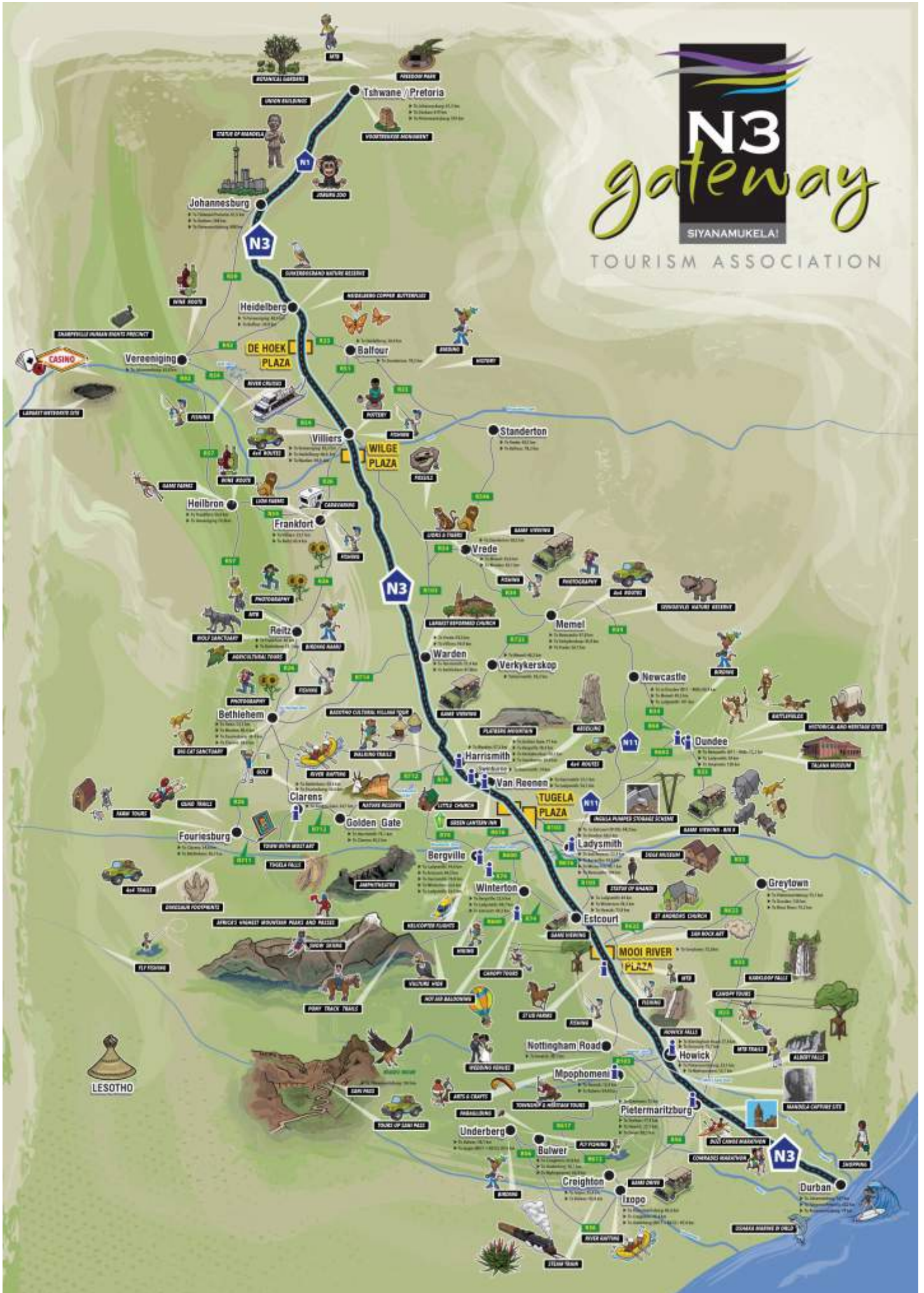
N3 Gateway has a strong member base with world class products on offer.



N3 gateway

SIYANAMUKELA!

TOURISM ASSOCIATION



Central Drakensberg Information Centre (CDIC)

Project Champion: Magda Hearne
Years Funded : Two
Province : KwaZulu-Natal
Website : www.cdic.co.za

March was especially busy this year having a long weekend and Easter separately. This ensured that all our accommodation venues were filled for an extended period twice in one month. Naturally all the visiting tourists need information and assistance while in the area and our 'visitor counter' shows an average of 140 visitors passed through our doors daily in March (only three less than the December average).

Having already had Easter in March, April was much quieter than usual except for the long weekend at the end of the month which is when the annual Music in the Mountains Music Festival takes place at the Drakensberg Boys Choir School. As one of our best tourism attractions, this festival always fills the Champagne Valley with music lovers from all over the country.

Added to this, the BMW motor cycle club also had their annual 'saamtrek' with over 800 motor bikes spending the weekend in the area with the majority visiting CDIC while here. It is an event like this that is really important to boost occupancy numbers at all the accommodation venues.

April saw us participating at the Cape Getaway Show in Cape Town. As a consumer tourism trade show, it affords us an opportunity to market not only the Drakensberg as a destination, but all the services offered by CDIC to a totally different audience residing in the Cape.

We also spent a day at the World Trade Market which took place just after the Getaway Show. This is a new platform for



local and overseas tour operators to ascertain what our industry in South Africa has to offer by way of itinerary options.

Due to our wonderful relationship with the local municipality, CDIC was able to attend Indaba in Durban, 'piggy backing' with our District Tourism Authority in Ladysmith. The greatest value for us going to Indaba is the networking opportunities, having so many key industry role players at the same place at the same time.

We were able to meet with Tourism KwaZulu-Natal as well as South African Tourism, both of whom we need to continue building strong relationships with as we are one of the leading players in the tourism industry here in the Drakensberg. The added advantage is being able to attend targeted short seminars put together specifically for the tourism industry, which gives added insight of where the industry is currently and industry trends.

It is unfortunate that May is always one of the least visited times by tourists, both local and from overseas, as it one of the most beautiful months of the year here in the Drakensberg. All the leaves on the trees are turning, donning their Autumn colours and with the weather stable after the summer storms, it is also an ideal time for hiking before the cold of winter sets in.



The period June to August this year took us by surprise. Whilst continually marketing our Drakensberg destination, it is never possible to measure the success or otherwise of the various initiatives undertaken. However, we must have done some things right because these three months saw an incredible increase in overseas tourists, primarily from Holland, visiting the area with the majority being self-drive families all needing information. We do believe that this increase can, in part, be ascribed to our overseas marketing trip in January and the follow up trip to our region in March by a group of Dutch tour operators.

It is always interesting to get feedback from such a trip and for these ladies the absolute highlight of their whole South African trip was the netball game we managed to organise between themselves and one of our local girls' high schools. This shows that it is not always the normal tourism offering that is necessarily what our modern traveler is seeking and we need to be ever vigilant in finding new activities and experiences to interest our inbound visitor.

In support of this, CDIC has now been responsible for organising a number of cultural visits to various Zulu homesteads conducted by one of the local guides that we have been mentoring for some years now.

It does now seem that the Drakensberg – particularly the Central and Northern part has finally been noticed and from the various reviews the numbers are set to increase substantially.

Having had very few heavy snow falls for the past few winters it was wonderful to see our mountains decked in a huge white blanket for a number of weeks in August. Snow has a magnetic effect on many South Africans and they certainly arrived in large numbers to see our winter wonderland. Beautiful snow covered mountains also appeal to our overseas guests who find it difficult to believe that this is actually possible in Africa.

The Central Drakensberg is a hugely popular December holiday destination for local tourists, but what was significant this year was the number of bicycles being transported on these vehicles and especially the number of children's bicycles that were evident. The significance of this is twofold, it means the whole family is involved in cycling, which is very encouraging; and parents are confident that there are sufficient places for the whole family to cycle safely in the Berg. While the bulk of the accommodation bookings had already been taken care of before the arrival of the families, CDIC's role as the primary information source in the region continued throughout and we had an average of 116 visitors to the office every day in



December and quite a number were overseas visitors, mainly younger couples who spent Christmas and New Year in our magnificent corner of the Drakensberg.

In November CDIC represented the local tourism association, The Drakensberg Experience, at the South African Tourism speed marketing road show which covers five Dutch cities where the local tour operators are invited to attend sessions with various tourism entities from South Africa. Only twenty 'spots' are allocated annually and we were very pleased and proud to have been allocated a place on the 2016 road show. It was an ideal opportunity to further create awareness and promote our magnificent destination.

The World Trade Market was held in London just after the road show so we, in partnership with our Okhahlamba Municipality, marketed the Drakensberg from our stand there. While we should never underestimate the importance of our local tourist market real growth in this sector will only be achieved by targeting the overseas market and while our currency has strengthened somewhat recently we are still a very affordable destination for inbound tourists from Europe, the British Isles and even America; one that offers, probably, the most diverse, cost effective holiday experience in the world.

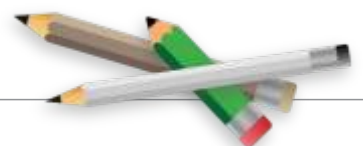
We feel privileged that even in these times of financial constraints N3TC has faith enough in CDIC, and what we are aiming to achieve, to continue funding us in 2016. The 'on line' booking phenomena is ever present, but we are finding larger groups prefer to book through a traditional booking service.

The majority of time is spent with tourists visiting our region for which, naturally, there is no financial recompense, but we continue to strive to give them all accurate, relevant information. We sincerely appreciate the trust placed in us by N3TC, acknowledging the important role CDIC is playing in the whole tourism network as we strive to grow tourism here in the Drakensberg and surrounding region.

In today's technological world, internet reviews and personal endorsements from travelers who have been to a particular holiday destination are of cardinal importance for the future growth of that whole tourism area.

We sincerely thank N3TC for its continued support and appreciate being part of the vision in which we strive to uplift all our local communities by facilitating employment opportunities.

*All the leaves on the trees are turning,
donning their Autumn colours and with the
weather stable after the summer storms, it
is also an ideal time for hiking before the cold
of winter sets in.*



Van Reenen Swinburne Community Based Tourism Project

Project Champion: Mbuso Ndaba
 Years Funded : Seven
 Provinces : Free State and KwaZulu-Natal
 Website : www.n3gateway.com

The Van Reenen/Swinburne Tourism Association takes its community support and involvement very seriously and we are fortunate in having Mbuso Ndaba as our Tourism Officer and Community Development Officer. Mbuso, with support from community members and association members, organised the annual Yenza Cultural Festival on 13 and 14 May 2016.

This event has grown in popularity, year by year, and we now receive support from Emnambithi Municipality (the loan of tables and chairs, portable toilets and other materials). A number of their officials attended the event this year. The Festival encourages cultural activity participation from Peacetown, Bluebank, Besters, Sandspruit, Van Reenen, Oaklands, Swinburne, Tintwa and Harrismith.

Activities on the Friday are for school children and consisted of competitions for traditional dancing, poetry, gospel choirs and urban dance. Approximately 350 children and teachers attended and participated with great energy and enjoyment. Trophies were presented to winning teams and individuals.

Saturday was for adults and the competitions consisted of hip hop, maskandi, poetry, isicathamiya, gospel choirs, traditional dance, urban dance, ballroom dancing and comedy. The Entokozweni Community Hall in Van Reenen was bursting at the seams with more than 500 people cramming the venue.



The noise level was deafening! Food and craft stalls rounded off the festivities. The day was a huge success and it looks as though we may have to provide larger accommodation in the form of a marquee next year.

The annual soccer and netball tournament were held in October 2016, with eight soccer teams and four netball teams competing against each other. As with previous years, the tournament was paired with an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign. Ladysmith Department of Health and LoveLife South Africa provided essential voluntary counseling and testing on the day.

Between all these activities, Mbuso provides relief support for Isabel Potgieter at the N3TC Route Help Centre, usually between two and six days a month. He also helps tourists here at Van Reenen with queries, activities and itineraries.

Community involvement is considered a major responsibility of Van Reenen/Swinburne Tourism Association (VRSTA) and

Mbuso plays a vital role in interacting with community members and assisting with various activities.

A meeting has also been held with Ladysmith Tourism Association (LTA) to discuss ways in which VRSTA can become more involved with LTA and possibly derive more support from the municipality.



Sunfield Fortuna Workshop Project

Project Champion: Brenda Gouws
Years Funded : One (2016 – first year of funding)
Province : Mpumalanga

Sunfield Fortuna serves the disabled community from all walks of life. Although it is based in Balfour, Mpumalanga, its 83 residents come from all over South Africa, including 45 disabled beneficiaries placed by Government who do not have family or any form of assistance. Most of them are from rural and previously disadvantaged groups.

The cellular tree project has been in operation for ten years now, manufacturing tree branches from fibre. These branches are attached to cellular signal towers, making them look like real trees. Sunfield works on orders from a factory in Midrand and have been producing orders for abroad as well, including Italy and France.

With this project, an income of up to R50 000 per month is generated for the Home, being of immense importance to its sustainability. It also provides jobs to twenty two members of the nearby Siyathemba community and to four strong residents, enhancing their sense of self-worth.

On one of their visits to Sunfield, mention was made to N3TC that the outbuilding in which the trees were being manufactured had been condemned as it was too dangerous. This was borne out by personal inspection and an application was invited for a new workshop. Brenda Gouws takes up the story:

“The fact that our funding application to N3TC for a Workshop was successful is undoubtedly on the top of the list of highlights and successes for many years to come.

With the funding and with the co-operation of the builder and his suppliers we could also manage to fulfil a lifelong dream in supplying our staff with decent accommodation as they have been living in old horse stables.



Because the Cellular tree project is contract based, we are seriously looking to start a woodwork class for the times the cellular trees are not in operations. This will also provide an income for the 22 workers in Siyathemba who do not receive an income when the project is not running and will also stimulate our stronger residents and become a sustainable income for the Home. We are busy with our research on what projects should be made and who our clientele will be and costings, etc.

The excitement is very high amongst residents and staff regarding the opening of the new Workshop and Staff sleeping quarters.”

Update from Brenda Gouws – December 2016

We were blessed with an amazing Festive Season but the 'cherry on top' for us was the receipt of a donation from N3TC to improve our water reservoir, which is a huge gift to our home because we had limited water supply to the home.

The new workshop and staff quarters should be completed towards the end of January 2017 and excitement is mounting.

Thank you once again to N3TC for assisting us in improving the lives of our disabled residents and making us feel important. You are always welcome at Sunfield Home Fortuna and when our residents hear that you are coming for visit it is as if they are waiting for 'family' to arrive.



Mpophomeni Conservation Group

Project Champion: Ntombenhle Mtambo
Years Funded : Two
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

The reputation of Mpophomeni Conservation Group (MCG) is spreading far and wide. Much of this is due to the print and social media presence created by Nikki Brighton. This is good when it creates income generating opportunities for those in the group with expertise, but unfortunately, some take up lots of time, absorbing knowledge without offering anything in return. There are many visitors to Ntombenhle Mtambo's garden now from NGOs and community groups. As she gets no funding, this garden needs to, and certainly should be able to - considering the large investment made - work as a business.

We now promote Fresh Vetkoek Fridays to the wider public – a garden tour and lunch for R50 on pre-determined days. Without doubt this will lead to other opportunities that Ntombenhle needs to take advantage of.

One very successful occasion, which fully compensated the facilitators, was the day participants at the Environmental Justice School run by groundWork spent a Saturday afternoon in Mpophomeni with us, learning and sharing. We had a great time! Lunch was fresh vetkoek with bean stew and just-picked salad which everyone thought was delicious. Walking around the garden, participants were so pleased to see butterflies, bees and dragonflies in the natural garden as Ntombenhle Mtambo explained the reasons for planting flowers, herbs and trees as well as veggies in a permaculture system.

One visitor was so impressed with the water that feeds our garden she asked to take a bottle home! Another told us that he uses the sap of the Aloe Maculata leaves to clean his hair and we discussed medicinal uses for other plants too. Everyone wondered why there are any dumping sites at all in



Mpophomeni when everyone could see how beautiful this space is now?

Then we wandered along the uMhlanga stream where Ayanda Lipheyana showed them how to do water testing. They loved the miniSASS activity and were really surprised at all the insects they found as they did not think there would be anything in the water. They were fascinated by the work of the Enviro Champs and really interested in the simple citizen science tools. In the evening we went down to Lucky's Tavern to sing, dance and tell stories with the locals. Amanda Ntombela, who was attending Environmental Justice School said everyone can't wait to come back to Mpophomeni. They are welcome anytime.

Amanda Ntombela continues to volunteer to help learners with homework after school on a voluntary basis. She is an exceptional teacher and keen to study for an Education Qualification in 2017. On Fridays or Saturdays, she hosts Mpop Kidz Club in the Community Garden or at her home. Many of the activities now focus on recycling due to the recycling centre. A few of the activities are highlighted here:

• Hike up Kwa Chief Hill

During the winter holidays, members of the Mpop Kidz Club headed up the hill for a mini-adventure lead by Amanda Ntombela and Mzwandile Mokoena. They were very curious about the



Cabbage Tree/umsenge, found lots of Aloe maculata/amahlahla in flower and Leonotis/utswala bezinyoni blossoms to suck. It was clear from the top just how low Midmar Dam water level is due to the drought. Children are always amazed to discover interesting and beautiful places right in their neighbourhood.

• uMhlanga Stream Clean Up

To celebrate Mandela Day, we invited our neighbours, the DUCT Enviro Champs, Mpop Kidz Clubs and Ethembeni to join us in cleaning up the uMhlanga Stream. This little stream, which was once full of reeds (hence the name) has become a dumping ground. It is filled with plastic and other rubbish now. The N3TC funded Recycling Centre will be created nearby, with the intention of offering residents an alternative to dumping in the stream. The challenge was on. Could we collect at least 67 bags? Melusi Dladla and his friend Nqubeko Mtshali declared **"This is the time to make a change,"** as they got to work. Some started at the bottom on Mandela Drive working their way up, while another group set to work from the top of the stream. By the end of the afternoon a mammoth 118 bags had been collected! All the volunteers enjoyed a fresh salad sandwich and fruit in Ntombenhle's Garden afterwards.

• Spring Talent Show

The Mpophomeni Theatre was packed as youngsters performed their dances, poems and sang. People turned up from as far away as Howick West and Pietermaritzburg to enjoy the show and the crowning of Miss Spring. Amanda Ntombela who organised the event and arranged sponsorship of refreshments was thrilled.

"It had the Kasi vibes, everyone in Mpophomeni has been talking about it. Even the local councillors thanked us for organising it."

We were very pleased to assist the Raptor Rescue Centre to implement the N3TC-funded Owl Box Project in Mpophomeni and it has long been Penz Malinga's dream to do so. Plenty of kids turned up to welcome the Barn Owls, who arrived on 30 August. Everyone had a turn to feel how soft they were and help in choosing their names. They are now called Gugu (Precious) and Simphiwe (Gift). These little owls have plenty of friends in Mpophomeni. 'izikhova ngabahlobo bethu' (Owls are our friends).



Mnandi Recipe Book

by Nikki Brighton

Lots of colour and fun at the *Mnandi* launch at the Midlands Literary Festival in Howick 28 August. Everyone thinks *Mnandi* is delicious! We sold freshly signed copies and had a special offer with an Isitofu and Wonderbag. Festival goers stopped to chat about low carbon cooking, local living, seasonal eating, foraging and the best way to use pumpkin leaves. Amanda Ntombela, Penelope Malinga, Sthembile Mbanjwa, Mbali Mlambo, Ntomeenhle Mtambo and Nikki Brighton manned the stand. Nikki did a powerpoint presentation on the book.

Tash at Ansteys Beach Backpackers, sent a courier to fetch her copies straight from the oven: **"Oh my word. Wow. So in love with the book! Seriously. I showed it to some of my staff and they got so excited - I cannot wait to try out some of the recipes! I'm also quite amazed at how many of the plants I've been pulling out and throwing away, thinking that they are weeds, when in fact they are super nutritious and edible. Amazing. Thanks again and well done to everyone concerned on a fantastic and brilliant effort! I feel so damn proud to say that I am South African!"**

"At last a book about Mpophomeni. It makes me proud to be from this township." Penz Malinga

"It is beautiful and will bring opportunities for Mpophomeni people." Sthembile Mbanjwa

"It is a good book. It will help boost the image of Mpophomeni and especially MCG. To you, I say, siyabonga." Nhlakanipho Nzimande

"This is it, ladies. We are doing it. Mpophomeni will be famous." Mbali Mlambo

The Mpophomeni Tourist Centre is selling *Mnandi* (and is very pleased at the opportunity) and there are now over 20 outlets in KZN, stocking the book on consignment. We are working on Gauteng and possibly Cape Town. Wonderbag are very interested in doing a special offer of a Wonderbag with a copy of *Mnandi* inside.



Mamello Support Group

Project Champion: Manana Moloi
Years Funded : Two
Province : Free State

Mamello Support Group was initially established as a hospice in 2008. In 2012, it was registered as a community nutrition and development centre. It operates out of a renovated beer hall in Intabazwe, Harrismith.

Beneficiaries are children referred by their schools, clinics, churches and NGOs, to whom meals and an educational development programme are provided. The aim is to provide the basic, immediate needs of the children, especially the poor, needy and vulnerable, in a safe environment.

In past years, N3TC has assisted with the renovation of the hall, provision of tables and chairs, a critically-needed toilet block, a vegetable garden, and a secure, walled-in play area. Over the last two years, the need was recognised for the Group to become more self-sustaining, and a business plan was drawn up for the extension of the tiny kitchen and development of a bakery, not only to assist with the provision of food to the children, but to operate as an income-producing business.

This model has now been implemented and tremendous strides made. The bakery is now fully operational and has every potential to increase its sales substantially. Whether or not because of the delicious products on offer, over the past year

the number of beneficiaries has increased dramatically from 350 to 732!

Manana Moloi, the remarkable founder of Mamello, is delighted that the services of an additional helper was approved by the Department of Social Development to ease the work pressure amongst the employees due to the increase in the number of beneficiaries. She notes that they were able to generate vegetable gardens to over 100 households for the past year only, making beneficiaries "extremely jubilant in curbing poverty".

Old Mutual Group Scheme donated a sum of money for school shoes and uniforms for deprived learners, as well as sanitary pads.

She concludes that the organisation is thankful for the successful help of donors and very proud of its achievements for the benefit of all its beneficiaries which show that *"we care, we love, together we can make a difference"*.

The aim is to provide the basic, immediate needs of the children, especially the poor.





SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Koos Radebe

Koos Radebe was born and brought up in the dusty streets of Qalabotja, Villiers, alongside the N3. Koos completed his B.Sc degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Johannesburg in 2008 (a recipient of a bursary from N3TC). He joined the N3TC staff in January 2009 as an Engineer in Training in the Transportation Department.

Koos was on a trajectory to achieve registration as a Professional Engineer, when he was offered a post at Eskom and resigned at the end of 2015. Much was our rejoicing when we received the following email from Koos in September 2016:

"I hope all is well at N3TC.

After hitting the ground running at Eskom (Medupi), my career took an interesting turn as an Engineer. Although I was appointed as the Contracts Manager, for the first six months I was introduced to complex processes, procedures and policies of mega projects at Eskom as an Assistant Resident Engineer, seconded to Parsons & Brinkerhoff (now WSP) for the construction of the Pump Station. In June 2016 I was identified and chosen as one of eight future leaders at Eskom, and put on a 16 months part-time programme at Eskom Park in Witbank.

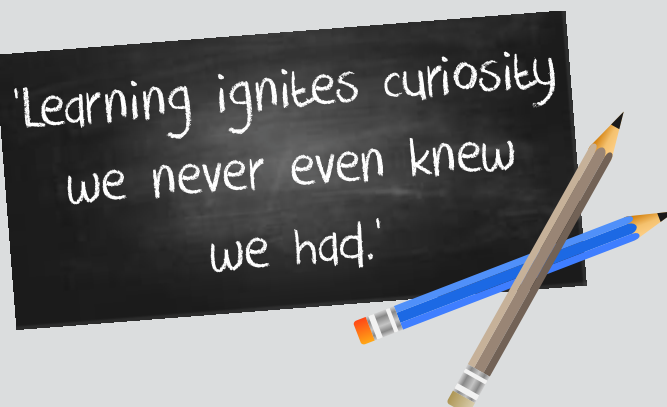
As I write this e-mail I have just received yet another piece of good news where I have been formally appointed as a Project Manager for the construction of Ash Dump Clarifiers at Medupi, a R300-million package of works to be constructed by Basil Read.

I would like to thank N3TC for my personal development, for building a strong solid foundation for my career and support given to me. Once again thanks for the opportunities and sacrifices that N3TC made for me, surely N3TC will forever be in my fond memories and it will always occupy a special place in my heart.

Regards,
Koos"

N3TC is extremely proud of Koos and will follow his future career with great interest.

His story is profoundly important in illustrating the life-changing (and country-changing) potential of skills development in South Africa.

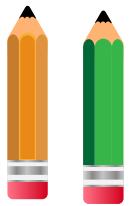


BURSARIES: TERTIARY

At the time of writing, N3TC is extremely mindful of the current crisis in tertiary education in our country.

Whilst being proud of the role it is playing in providing bursaries to the students profiled below, N3TC calls on all role players to join together as a matter of critical importance and utmost urgency to resolve the issues that challenge the very existence of our universities and, thereby, the future of our society.

The stories of our bursary students represent a microcosm of the successes, failures and challenges of university life. We applaud them all for their determination and courage.



Amkele Shembe

B.Sc. (Electrical Engineering) University of Pretoria

In his CV, Amkele describes himself as follows:

"I am a perfectionist who works with utmost diligence and has impeccable work ethic. I always have the drive and passion to learn new things every day. I can communicate well with people so I can work in teams. I also work incredibly well as an individual. I am a person who is very strong emotionally and can work well and produce excellence despite difficult circumstances. I am very confident and I have outstanding leadership qualities (which is why I was elected as Head Boy at my school and as Deputy Head Boy in the KZN Midlands Youth Choir). I am also very talented when it comes to cultural activities like singing, acting, musical instruments and debating".



Here is the story of his first year as an Electrical Engineering Student at the University of Pretoria:

I am Amkele Shembe.

I come from a small township called Imbali in Pietermaritzburg where I live with my father (who is unemployed), half sister and her two children (daughters). I went to Fezokuhle Primary school - which is a school that is near my house - and then later went to Alexandra High School. At Alexandra, I achieved honours for leadership and cultural affairs, as well as a lot of academic awards (Note: Amkele was top student and achieved an average of 77.33% in his final matric exams). And as I have already mentioned, I am now studying Electrical Engineering at the University of Pretoria.

What made me study this Engineering (specifically, Electrical Engineering) is the fact that Engineering is one of the only degrees (if not the only one) that is mostly based / mostly involves a lot of mathematics, a lot of Science related modules and a lot of programming. I really enjoy and I am very passionate about anything that concerns these three fields. I believe that when a person chooses a degree, it should, without a doubt, be something that they do not mind doing and something that is not a pain for them to study and spend time with. I would not mind spending my life as an Electrical Engineer also because of it being so practical and the fact that it involves a lot of communicating with people – which I am certainly very good at.

My main struggle this year was being away from home (Pietermaritzburg) to a completely new setting. A place which I had absolutely no experience about. However I overcame that by getting to know more and more people and making friends, especially those who I study the same degree with because that way I can even have study groups.

I would say that it is not people but my background that played a central role in shaping my ambitions. Coming from an underprivileged family, I was encouraged to excel and be the best that I can be not only for myself but also, to make my parents, and even my neighbourhood proud.

My short term goals are obviously to pass my modules well and maintain a good academic record. My long term goals of course are to find a good job so I can be able to build a home for my family and make my father proud. I would also like to find a way, in the future, to use my degree and the money that I will earn in a way that could empower my community or the young people there.

In order to do as best as I can, I keep the end result in mind. I remind myself of how passionate I am about getting my Engineering degree and how joyful I will be once I do. That then enables me to excel at all times. I also think of all the people that are currently proud of me and whom are always encouraging me such as my father.

N3TC has played a very vital role in my walk to success. My biggest fear about university was the fact that I knew I was not going to be able to afford it since my parents were both unemployed. Things got even worse when my mother passed away in my matric year. Having N3TC meant that I did not have to worry about the cost of my tuition, the cost of my textbooks and also, the cost of living in Pretoria. I believe that there was then a huge load that was lifted from my shoulders which thus enabled me to focus solely (without worries about fees) on my academics.

Antonia Tholakele Mkhabela

M.Ed (Environmental Education) Rhodes University

Readers of Touching Lives will already be familiar with Antonia, a dedicated Life Science educator and Deputy Principal at Shea O'Connor School in Nottingham Road.

Antonia has been studying towards a Masters of Education - Environmental Education - at Rhodes University since 2013. Her thesis was triggered by 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.

Antonia has made noticeable academic progress in 2016, having finished and submitted the second draft of her thesis. She is hoping that the third draft will be last one before final submission.

A highlight of her year was having two full-week sessions with her supervisor at the beginning of March. During these sessions, she received invaluable feedback and advice on her first draft.

Antonia candidly remarks that time management still remains a challenge for her (we are not surprised given her teaching load and responsibilities as Deputy Principal), but is resolute that she will complete her Masters this year. We wish her everything of the best as she sets out to achieve this milestone in her life.

Jennifer Russell

PhD (Science) University of Kwa-Zulu Natal

I am now well into the second year of my research project and 2016 has been a year of consolidation. Possibly I need to recapitulate what I am doing. The ingress of woody plants, specifically *Vachellia sieberiana* (or the paperbark thorn tree), into the high altitude grasslands of the Drakensberg escarpment is a cause of concern. Grasslands and open savannas are socioeconomically important. They provide grazing for a host of herbivores and are rich in



biodiversity. Woody plant ingress into these areas is associated with a loss of primary productivity and of biodiversity. My project investigates the effect of fire, frost and grass competition on *Vachellia sieberiana* along an altitudinal gradient, and Van Reenen's Pass provides an ideal opportunity to do just this. The objective is to suggest possible causes behind this phenomenon.

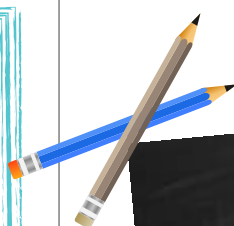
The field trials on Van Reenen's Pass are now well established and I have enjoyed showing the trial sites to visitors. My first visitor was a doctoral student from Iran, working on sustainability of communal rangelands in his home country. It was fascinating to spend several days with him: working on my own field sites, showcasing our magnificent province of KZN while we toured northern KZN to collect data from the several weather stations I monitor, learning about living and working in Iran... We also had much fun and hilarity as we grappled with cultural and language misunderstandings, drank lots of coffee and put up with teeming rain and scorching sun.

My second official visitor was none other than Con Roux of N3TC. I have to confess to being slightly apprehensive about his visit. Would I have enough of interest to show him? Needless to say, Con and I found much to talk about and he cheerfully knuckled down to some fieldwork as well. I also found Con's visit very encouraging. It is so easy to become bogged down with the minutiae of one's work and neglect to stand back to observe the bigger picture. I was able to tell myself: "**Hey, I AM doing something significant out here, after all!**"

Back on campus, my pot trials with simulated black frost continue to produce data and to stimulate further questions. One needs to be careful not to get side-tracked by interesting issues which don't really add value to the topic at hand. One of the biggest object lessons I have learnt over the two years is that people are unexpectedly generous: there are those who have been happy to help materially toward the project with no direct benefit to themselves; those who have offered me coffee or, of an evening, a glass of wine, as I thrash out the way forward; those who have just offered a friendly wave and a cheerful smile as I become a familiar part of the community; and, not least, N3TC with the renewal of my bursary.

My motivation for all this continues to be the hope that somehow I can make a difference. The complex linkages of all things in this world around us are fragile. The more we can understand these webs of interrelatedness, the more we stand amazed and attempt restore some of the damage we have done.

Once again, I thank N3TC for making possible my quest to make a difference and to find a way towards restoration.



'A child without education is like a bird without wings.'
Tibetan Proverb

Lunga Nontokozo Xulu

B.Sc. (Urban and Regional Planning) University of the Witwatersrand

My name is Lunga Nontokozo Xulu. I am currently a student at Witwatersrand University studying a Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning. In 2015 I was a student at Midlands Community College which is also sponsored by N3TC.



When I had to go to boarding school at Midlands Community College, I was a bit sceptical at first. But as the days and months progressed I grew as a person and became more involved with the school activities. I remember the time when we had group counselling and my fellow classmates were asked if they had applied for university. Their response was that they could not afford to pay for a CAO form because it was too expensive, and that they would rather apply to universities where the application is free.

This touched me and I couldn't sleep that day. I remember my friend mentioning the same thing so I took it to my hand to ask Rebecca (Project Director) to buy us material for a car wash. We managed to wash all the teacher's cars and were able to raise funds to help everyone that could not afford to pay for a CAO form.

I am currently doing a B.Sc. in Urban and Regional Planning. I had wanted to do a B.Sc in Industrial Engineering or a B.Sc. Civil Engineering, mainly because I stay in Vryheid where we experience water shortages and dams being dried out. I had planned to change that when I obtain this degree. What I also discovered was the high amount of accidents that happen at Vryheid due to trucks colliding with smaller vehicles because they do not have their own lane. I do not want to give up on my dream, so I have applied to change to the different degree next year.

I must say having my mother and sometimes my granny my only financial supporters have been difficult. I still remember when my mother had spent about R4000 to take me to Vaal University of Technology. The next day I got an e-mail saying I was accepted at Witwatersrand University and she said that she can't afford Wits although she wanted me to go there in the first place as it is one of the best institutes. By God's grace, after an interview with Con Roux, I got a call from sis Thandiwe from N3TC telling me that the company was willing to fund me. This came at a perfect time, I was very happy and humbled at the same time I couldn't stop crying. I was truly grateful.

As the days and months progressed, I grew as a person and became more involved with the school activities.



My time at Wits has been the most challenging and depressing months of my life. Through all of it my goal is to finish my desired degree in due time and with good results. I eventually found inner peace when I volunteered for an orphanage group in Hillbrow who are victims of sexual abuse. They have taught me so much and as a person I don't think I would have experienced any of this without N3TC. Thank you so much. Words could not describe how grateful I truly am. I have had the best experiences of my life and I hope to continue being a helpful person to others.

Thank you N3TC for fulfilling a young girls dream, I appreciate you.

Luyanda Sokhela

B.Sc. (Civil Engineering) UKZN, Howard College

My name is Luyanda Sokhela, born and bred in Pietermaritzburg in a place called Woodlands. I grew up in a family of 4, my parents, my younger sister and I.



In 2014, because my mom was so brave, God took her away from us and decided to make her an angel. Life has never been the same ever since, but we have learned to live with it. My parents have always managed to supply us with everything we needed but it became a little bit difficult when my mom was not around and a lot of things had to change and we had to adjust to a new lifestyle. I know she's in a better place now.

Ever since I was a kid I've always wanted to do Medicine. There was absolutely no doubt that I'd be a doctor when I grow up. Thing is, my mother would always tell me that medicine is just not for me, and I hated it when she said that because that's the only thing that I thought was perfect for me.

When my mother passed away, it really affected my school work. I remember just after it had happened, I had the worst Math and Science marks ever! In June when Protec Pmb took us for Job Experience at different companies corresponding to our career choices, they suggested that I visit RHDHV which is a Civil Engineering company because my marks were not good enough for medicine, and I'm glad they weren't.

I had the best time of my life during my Job Experience. After that week I wanted to do nothing else but Civil Engineering. Nothing was going to stop me, that's exactly what I wanted. I hate to say my mother was right, but medicine was really not for me. While the world fell in love with Chris Brown and Beyonce, I fell in love with bridges, construction and the idea of building a better place for future generations.

Life has its way of knocking us down, but God has His way of picking us up and making us stronger so we can make it through every trial in life. University has never been easy, I've failed multiple tests, I admit, but it was only because I was not putting in the effort. I miss home at times, but I know that's that it's only for the best. I make sure I never forget what I was taught at home and try my outmost best to make my family proud.

My family has always been there for me throughout high school, pushing me to be the best that I can be. They have played a huge role in my life and have moulded me into the person that I am today. They are always there for me and I know they would never leave me. They have allowed me to make my own career choices in life and have supported me throughout.

Protec Pietermaritzburg has also played a huge role in helping me choose my career and making it to where I am now. I attended a high school where there was no competition, where failing was ordinary and getting 60% would get you the DUX award. I had always been comfortable with my 60% until I went to Protec, where everyone else was aiming for nothing less than the best. That made me realise that you shouldn't be comfortable with being better than everyone else, but you should work to be better than you ever thought you could be.

This had a huge effect on my school work because I kept pushing and pushing to better myself, and even today, I still am. There are times where I feel like giving up because I keep trying and trying and I feel like my hard work is not paying off. There's nothing worse than pushing, and not getting results, but I guess that's part of life. My family has always been very spiritual and we have always been very religious. When I feel like giving up, I remind myself that there is a God who said He will never leave me nor forsake me. I tell myself that God is within me, I will not fail. No matter how many tests I fail, how sad or angry I get, once I speak to my God, everything falls into place.

A few of my biggest achievements were being one of the only students at my high school to make it to university and also being the Civil Engineering class's Representative.

If it was not for N3TC, I don't even want to imagine what I'd be doing right now. I never imagined being in University and not paying a cent for it. At times I even ask myself, why me? And you know the amazing thing is that I didn't even know about N3TC yet they felt the need to offer me funding. I will never forget the day of my interview, I thought they would roast me with questions and bombastic words to confuse me, but Con Roux was so understanding and so kind. The fact that he travelled all the way from Johannesburg just to interview me itself was enough for me. It is truly an honour to have received this bursary. N3TC has helped me better myself. They have become my motivation to work hard in school just so I can make them proud. It's the least I could do after all.

In future, I hope I maintain my good academic standing and continue making those around me proud. I declare that in the next four years to come I would have completed my degree. My degree means everything to me; I wouldn't change it for the world!

Thank you N3TC for making my dream come true!

I had always been comfortable with 60%, until I went to Protec, where everyone else was aiming for nothing less than the best.



Maria du Toit

B.Sc. (Quantitative Risk Management) North West University

Like all scholars, the BIG UNCERTAIN QUESTION of "What are you going to study?" haunted me on a daily basis. I prayed and asked for guidance regarding this matter. This is my future and this choice would determine my whole life.



In my matric year we had a presentation on BMI (Business Mathematics and Information). "If you can do mathematics and enjoy mathematics, apply". These words stuck with me. It just seemed right. I applied for the BMI course at the North West University and was accepted for B.Sc Quantitative Risk Management (one of the four legs of BMI that are only available to study at the NWU-pukke. "This was great!" I was also accepted at Wanda, one of the hostels on the Puk-campus.

I remember it as if it was yesterday. The day my parents brought me to NWU-Pukke. The lecturers and Head of the BMI centre, Prof Riaan de Jongh, informed us in the presentation hall that BMI is a very difficult and strict course. I remember as I left the building accompanied by my parents, my father asked me if I was sure about my choice on BMI. My answer was a simple "Yes".

So here I am today, a third year BMI-student. Life consists of struggles.....and that is basically why I am studying what I am, Risk Management. Life is full of risks, struggles, unpredicted events, you can't prevent them from happening BUT you can certainly MANAGE them.

That is how I take life on, it doesn't matter what kind of situation life throws at you, it is in the way you handle it that makes a difference.

BMI certainly is a study field that is academically really challenging, the degree of difficulty in this course increases drastically each year, but with hard work, dedication and determination you can be successful.

My family, with all of their support and guidance, have played a central role in shaping my ambitions. My father, has taught me that with a positive mind you can achieve anything you want. With this mind set I could conquer the Study field I am in. My friends support has given me a balanced view on life, and being a part of Wanda has given me the opportunities to expand my life experiences even more.

The future, I am sure, holds unexpected and exciting challenges. I applied for my Honours in 2017 and have been accepted, if I complete my degree successfully this year. At the end of 2017 after the completion on my Honours, I am going to apply for my Masters in BMI.

My father and mother motivate me to do my best and encourage me never to give up. Hardship also shapes all of us to become a better and stronger person.

The motto: "I want to do more than JUST LIVE" really motivates

me. I want to be a part of life one hundred percent, never letting any opportunity go by, always keeping my feet on the ground. My father is the sole provider in our family. I am not the only child, and as my younger sister is also at University, this puts a lot of financial stress upon my father and our family. N3TC has made it possible for me to be able to pursue my studies, and I cannot thank them enough for it.

This great opportunity has motivated me to study even harder and strive to become the best I can be, not only for myself, but for others as well.

Sifiso Kunene

B.Sc. (Civil Engineering) University of Kwa-Zulu Natal

I am Sifiso Musawenkosi Kunene. I am twenty one years old. I live in Pietermaritzburg but due to my studies I'm hardly ever at home. I am currently studying towards obtaining a BSc in civil engineering at the University of KwaZulu Natal Howard collage located in Durban. I am in my third year now and I can almost see the light at the end of the tunnel.



Since my early high school days I've always known I wanted to pursue a career in civil engineering and I was fortunate enough to go to a technical school where my love for civil grew immensely. By grade 10, I was a hundred percent sure about my career path. In matric no amount of career expeditions or text messages from business collages could change my mind, I knew exactly what I wanted the only problem was how I would get it. At the time I was living with four of my sisters, my nephew and mother who was the family's main and only source of income. During the start of 2014, I was lucky to be awarded a bursary by N3 Toll Concession to further my studies.

Knowing my fees would be taken care of, my only worry was doing my best and ensuring I managed to pass all of my modules. Although first year was tough, second year seemed to be much more difficult. Through hard work and perseverance, I survived and I am now a third year student and I'm almost done with my degree.

I encounter a number of problems on a day-to-day basis. Some I am able to resolve and some are just beyond myself or anyone's control. Staying with my family for all my life, I had become accustomed to coming home, there'll be food on the stove and all I had to worry myself about was purely my school work. Well that is no longer the case now. Staying away from home means I have more responsibilities that I have to deal with alone. I have very little time to do the things I enjoy doing such as sports. I spend most of my time studying and the little spare time left taking care of myself, cleaning, and cooking. Managing money for any student is an issue and the same goes for me. Trying to make sure that the money I get lasts me the whole month is rather a difficult task but doable. Before staying in Durban, I didn't realise how expensive food was until I had to start buying it with my own money. This has taught me a valuable lesson which, if someone told me about it verbal and I didn't experience it myself, would've taken for granted. I endure it all because I strongly believe that you reap what you

sow. I have had the privilege to be exposed to people who are older than I am and who have been down this path which I am currently walking. My next door neighbor is now a civil engineer and whenever I go home once a month, I draw inspiration from him and what he has become. It makes going back to Durban and leaving my family behind just a little bit easier because I know that someday I will be just like him if not greater. The people I work with at N3TC, whenever I go for my vacation work, help me realise how close I am towards reaching my goal of becoming an engineer. I have had the privilege of working with people such as Mpilo, Anesh Madanlal, and Christopher Kheswa who have taught me a lot in the short space of time I have spent with them. Their success fuels my desire to hopefully one day be as great and respected as they are.

My goal is not to imitate or copy anyone's career path. I believe that we are all destined for different things. My current goals right now are to finish my degree and start working. I want to continue learning and applying all the theory I've been taught at university. My long term goal is to be a part of major projects that change people's lives. I want to be able to give back not only in terms of money, but in terms of improving the quality of people's lives with the work that I do. I want to get a chance to work in all the fields of civil engineering whether it be buildings, bridges, roads or hydrology. I want to know a bit about everything and thereafter choose a field to specialise in.

What keeps me going is not only my list of goals and dreams but the success of my older sisters. I come from a family of graduates and this motivates me even more to keep on doing my best in all that I do. Being the last born at home and being the first one in my family's history to study towards a B.Sc. in engineering, everyone has high hopes and high expectations, all eyes are now on me and I don't intend letting them down.

Without N3TC I don't know where my life would be. They have played a major role in my life over the past years I have been with them. They have given me something which no one can ever take away from me which is an education and for that I am sincerely thankful.

Thandanani Mdakane

B.Ed. (Maths and Science) UNISA

I am from Emmaus in Bergville, near the Drakensberg in KwaZulu-Natal. I matriculated in 2010 and had always dreamt of becoming a Mechanical Engineer, having been fascinated by machines and engines from a young age and wanting to know how they work.

Unfortunately, my matric results were not that good but I was granted the opportunity to upgrade my Maths and Physical Science results by attending Midlands Community College in 2011. I improved my Maths by 30% and my Physical Science by 38%. I was recognised by the College as the Top Student in Physical Science and for Outstanding Effort in Physical Science. I was then confronted by a new challenge – my family could not afford to send me to university and, for the next two years, I was unsuccessful in obtaining funding to pursue my dream.



I was then presented with the opportunity to gain work experience, earn a small stipend and save what I could towards my university education. Since 2014 I have been working as a technician in the MCC School Mobile Science Laboratory Project. We deliver over 900 Physical Science experiments to Grades 10 – 12 learners in rural and poor schools every year and 2016 is the third year that I am working in the project. Over the years, I have learnt many things involved in working with learners and educators. This exposure has helped me to discover my passion for helping learners succeed in subjects such as Maths and Science. This was a new discovery for me and given the time that has passed and the difficulties and disappointments that I was forced to confront but I truly believe that teaching for me is now a calling. I have also been very fortunate to secure a bursary from N3TC which pays my tuition and study material to study for my Bachelor of Education Degree, majoring in Mathematics and Physical Science (Senior and FET Phases) through the University of South Africa while I continue to work in the Mobile Laboratory Project.

N3TC has assisted me as they support the College's Mobile Science Laboratory Project where I have been employed, and more personally by awarding me the bursary, allowing me to answer the call to become a teacher. My short term goal is to pass my 2016 final examinations with distinction and my long term goal is to complete my degree and become a qualified teacher and to go on to obtain a PhD in Physical Science Teaching.

Vusumuzi Mvelase

B.Sc. (Geography and Environmental Science) Rhodes University

This year at Rhodes has been quite eventful to say the least. The highlights for me have to be being part of Galela Amanzi, being elected as my residence's transformation rep, and the protests that happened at Rhodes against the rape-culture in the institution.

Being secretary for Galela Amanzi has been an amazing experience as it has become a great platform for networking and learning how societies work. It has also been a great way of making a difference in the area around Rhodes University as our society is dedicated to helping schools and local communities use water resources in a sustainable way by installing water tanks and giving workshops on sustainable water use and water testing. It has been quite fulfilling being part of such an organisation as the issue of water and its sustainable use is one that is close to my heart with the ongoing drought occurring in KZN.

Being Transformation Rep for my res means a lot to me. I am one of the first transformation reps in the history of my university and I am the first person to be transformation rep in my residence. It feels really good being part of history like this and I really appreciate the support I've received from my fellow students. The work is not easy as we have to engage our peers on sensitive issues such as racism, sexuality, rape and rape culture just to name a few. It is quite taxing having to deal with students who are sexist or homophobic and trying to change



their view of things, but I feel like I can make a difference and that is what drives me to put more effort into the things I do.

The protests that happened at Rhodes against rape culture were something that was quite close to my heart. It was quite an experience as I discovered that some of the people that I hold dear to my heart were victims. This rocked me to my core because it made the issue of rape and rape culture within the institution all the more real to me. One of the best things about being part of the protests was the fact that I was standing up for my friends and sending out a message to would be perpetrators that I will not stand for this and that RAPE IS WRONG.

On a personal level, this year has not been easy, I suffered a breakdown after being made to testify in the trial of my late friend. My breakdown happened because of the fact that I felt like we were being robbed of justice by the legal system. This had a big impact on my life, both personally and academically. I never truly realised how bad it was until one of my lecturers asked me to go for counselling. I decided to go and can say that it was the best decision I could have ever made for myself. I am now on the road to recovery.

The things I have experienced this semester have allowed me to grow and mature as an individual, my results weren't as good as I expected. My results combined with the things I have experienced this term have taught me to take better care of myself and my mental health as it has an impact on how well I do at school and on my health.

I also realised that my time management skills needed to be improved as it was one of the areas where I failed dismally and this affected my punctuality to lectures and group meetings.

I plan on treating the future as a new, clean slate where I can focus on my studies and my mental health. I also hope that I can find some closure and put the trial behind me and find peace in my life. I also hope that my academics improve with my mental state as I feel a little bit better mentally and health wise. I can only hope for the best as I have not done as well as I had hoped I would.

Amy Maharaj

M.Eng. (Pavement Engineering – Structured) University of Stellenbosch

I grew up in KZN and completed my undergraduate studies in the field of Engineering Geology at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal (UKZN). I graduated from UKZN with a degree of BSc Honours in Engineering Geology in 2008. Shortly after, I relocated to Pretoria and began studying towards a Master of Science degree. I graduated from the University of Pretoria with an MSc in Engineering Geology in 2013. Soon after obtaining the MSc degree, I began a second Master's degree in the field of Civil Engineering, with a main focus in pavement engineering at the University of Stellenbosch. I started working at N3TC in my second year of the M.Eng study programme and I have now been working at the company for nearly three years. Working at N3TC has given me a lot of



experience in the field of pavement engineering, which has had a significant impact on my knowledge and work experience.

As part of the requirements for the M.Eng programme, I have successfully completed eight modules and a research project in the form of a mini thesis. I have faced many challenges during the research component of the study, which has been stressful, however, I have finally submitted examination copies and plan to graduate in December 2016.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to N3TC for their generous sponsorship towards my studies and for giving me the opportunity to complete my studies while working. I am also grateful for the mentorship of Douglas Judd as well as the support and encouragement from my colleagues during the study period.

Hennie Wolhuter

Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management
(UNISA)

I can't believe how fast the time goes by. Almost two years after I started with my studies and I have been with N3TC for nearly three years. N3TC gave me the chance to further my studies and now I have my final exams at the end of January 2017.

From the first class I attended, I found human resources very interesting. The best part was psychology, just the way the human brain works and what motivates people. There are a lot of aspects in life that motivate people in daily life, whether it's a basic need like food and water or self-actualisation. Self-actualisation is what I work for, what we do today will have an influence in our lives in the future. This is different for every person. I guess what motivates me the most is to be a better version of myself. Yes, basic needs are important and we all have them, but to live day-to-day and just let the weeks and months go by is not an option.

In the short term I want to finish my post-graduate diploma in human resources. As far as the long term goes, I want to get my honours degree in human resources and maybe do some short courses if possible.

N3TC has played a huge role in helping me to get where I am today. They gave me the chance to study and gain valuable experience in the corporate world. Chances like this does not come along every day. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to expand my knowledge and to work for this amazing company.



Naasera Sheik

Information Technology Diploma
(UNISA)

N3TC has created a pathway of success for me.

In a rapidly changing world, where values, norms and attitudes are evolving to make room for open-minded and progressive thinking, it is welcoming to have the support of N3TC to pave a career path for me by assisting me with pursuing my studies.

The world is once again taking note of the most beneficial and important resource that it has to offer, which is, the human populace. Human beings turn the wheel of life and will continue to put their collective strength to the grindstone only if they are given the opportunities to study and prepare themselves for a changing world. Companies that do not offer opportunities for their staff members are lodged in a "doom-loop", forever turning around and around, chasing dreams that cannot be achieved due to under qualified or poorly-equipped individuals.

So we, as the staff of N3TC, are fortunate to have the support of our company when it comes to further studies and self-upliftment. They are a healthy backbone to the positive challenges and changes that I have encountered since embarking on my studies. Studying part-time and holding my own at work is a challenge, however, I am keen to meet it head-on as I feel fortunate and blessed to get this chance. They have given me the resources to invest in my future and more so, my future as a care-giver to my mother and daughter. I feel motivated and my self-esteem certainly receives a boost when I see my academic achievements. There are many hurdles in the path to my course completion, but life experiences have taught how to not give up.

I do not feel despondent when I do not achieve the goals I set for myself with my studies; instead, I trace my footsteps and give it another go! I am proud to be a part of the N3TC family.

Never let your head hang down. Never give up and sit down and grieve. Find another way. ~ Satchel Paige



We, as the staff of N3TC,
are fortunate to have the support
of our company when it comes to
further studies and self-upliftment.



N3TC STAFF MENTORING AND INTERNSHIP

Londeka Ximba

Bursary student perseveres to reach her dream

At 22, Londeka Ximba feels as if she has come full circle, from being a bursary beneficiary of N3 Toll Concession (N3TC) to successfully completing her Bsc Civil Engineering degree and now being employed by N3TC as a candidate engineer in transport and traffic management.

The road to this point was not always easy. "I was born asthmatic, and was constantly hospitalised as a child. At the age of 12, I put my foot down, and told my mother that I had had enough of hospitals and doctors. I started to slowly wean myself off the medication, and my hospital admissions gradually decreased, to the point where now, ten years later, I have not suffered an asthma attack in many years. Although I still own an asthma pump, I rarely use it. I am so grateful for this," says Londeka.

Through these health challenges and Londeka's journey from a small township school near Pietermaritzburg to matriculating with six distinctions from Marion High School in 2010, Londeka's family was a source of inspiration and motivation. "Both my parents encouraged me to work hard and further my education, and my siblings taught me how to relax and enjoy life," explains Londeka.

Londeka has a very close relationship with her father, Mr Thobsani Lawrence Mazibuko. "He was the one who introduced me to the wonders of maths and science, and encouraged me to consider engineering as a career. Had my dad had the same opportunities as I, he would have made a brilliant engineer," says Londeka.

But not only was her father key in guiding her to envisage a future in civil engineering, they also formed a special and lasting bond when Londeka was a young girl. "I didn't live with my father when I was a small child, but he visited often and spoilt us tremendously. One of my fondest memories of my early childhood was of my father coming around for a visit when I was sick and him saying to me, "You are not sick my child, you were just missing me." Seeing him and hearing his reassuring voice instantly made me feel better," continues Londeka.

Londeka's father affirms their bond. "My daughter is very special to me. We have much in common. I am also very proud to be called her father. She has always loved studying and has a drive to progress and succeed. Londeka is a bright girl and has always been good at tackling life and all its challenges. I always knew she would be able to endure the demands of

studying and working in a science field. She has got what it takes, and look at her now, my talented little girl holds an engineering degree – the first in our family," beams Mr Mazibuko.

Asked what his dreams are for Londeka, her father jokingly says, "I can't wait for her to own a house and for me to peacefully live with her in a little cottage in her back yard." On a more serious note, Mr Mazibuko wishes for her what most parents do for their children: "To live a full and successful life, be happy and to study further and perhaps one day be at the helm of her own company."

Londeka has her feet firmly planted on solid ground. She has a quiet strength about her and taps into her faith to overcome setbacks and challenges. "My mother taught me the value of inner strength and grounding myself in a belief system which guides my choices and actions," says Londeka.

She believes hard work always pays off and emphasises the importance of an education to create opportunities for yourself and give wings to your hopes and dreams for the future. "I have learned early on that you have to take responsibility for yourself, and make the best of every task and opportunity you are given. I always try to do things right and thoroughly the first time, and it always pays off," says Londeka.

Londeka was first introduced to N3TC as a matric pupil. "Rose Smuts, the project coordinator at PROTEC, the Programme for Technological Careers in Pietermaritzburg, put me into touch with N3TC after our matric results were released. I followed the PROTEC enrichment programme in maths and physical sciences, while I was at school, because I knew PROTEC students consistently achieve superb matric results which enable them to gain access to the best university faculties in the fields of engineering, medicine, actuarial science, forestry, information technology and agriculture. Attending PROTEC classes was an investment in my future," says Londeka. This investment paid off when Londeka not only achieved brilliant matric results, but also obtained a full bursary from N3TC to study civil engineering. "Throughout my academic career, I always hoped to get an opportunity to work for the company too. They really care about what they are doing, and for the people associated with them," says Londeka.

Now that she has bagged the job, Londeka is focused on learning as much as she can to grow her career, to contribute to the company, to help make the N3 Toll Route safe for everyone who uses it and "to play my part in maintaining a world class transport corridor," says Londeka.

She wants to obtain her registration as a professional engineer from the Engineering Council of South Africa, and hopes to help build infrastructure in South Africa which positively impacts on the well-being of her fellow countrymen. "And yes, I obviously want to have good times too, spend leisure hours with family and friends, get married, have a family and enjoy the finer things in life. After all, I am also just a girl," laughs Londeka.



"We at N3TC welcome you in our midst, Londeka. You are an inspiration and an asset. We hope to go some way in helping you achieve your dreams," says commercial manager, Con Roux, who has proudly walked the journey with her from their first meeting at PROTEC, through her student years, to now being colleagues.

Christopher Kheswa, Sphesihle Dladla, and Sizwe Mchunu

Ordinary men rising above challenges to acquire critical skills become extraordinary examples of perseverance and success in their communities

N3 Toll Concession (N3TC), as part of its Touching Lives Programme, has entered into a number of partnerships over the last decade to give effect to the company's commitment to be supportive of the growth and development of people, and to assist them to acquire skill sets which will stand these individuals, their families, communities and the company in good stead.

"As a business operating in South Africa, we believe that with education comes empowerment; and although, we are not able to address the lack of skills or the shortcomings in terms of access to tertiary education on a broad level, N3TC is geared to make a life-changing difference to a number of individuals and communities who call the N3 Corridor home," states Con Roux, Commercial Manager of N3TC.

"Skills development can be a complex minefield of challenges, but when you find the right formula for your business, aligned to your core functions, and in partnership with dedicated individuals who are willing to put in the time and effort to achieve results, your development programme has all the ingredients to becoming a resounding success," says Roux.

N3TC's skills development, bursary and training programme sets out to create broader economic and social development opportunities for members from vulnerable rural communities along the N3 Corridor. "Our skills development programme is closely linked to our business operations, and focuses on growing our skills base in Civil Engineering, Accounting, Environment Sciences, Maths, Science, Information Technology, Marketing and Tourism Development and Management," continues Roux.

"However, the success of N3TC's skills development programme is borne out by ordinary people achieving extraordinary things, such as some of our young engineers who are now coming through the ranks."

Christopher Kheswa is one of N3TC's first young engineers who has grown in stature since he joined the company's In-Service Training Programme in 2007, and then obtained a N3TC bursary in 2008 to pursue a tertiary qualification in civil engineering. Christopher now holds a Diploma in Civil Engineering and a Bachelors degree in Construction Management.

"Hailing from Estcourt in KwaZulu-Natal, I never thought I would end up in this career. Having been a recipient of an N3TC bursary has opened so many doors for me. I still work for the company, and now manage a number of road rehabilitation and construction projects on behalf of N3TC. I work under the mentorship of our resident engineer and technical manager, and have gained exceptional experience and knowledge of the challenges and complexities of construction management. Infrastructure development and maintenance, such as in the case of roads infrastructure, is a specialised field offering vast career options," says Christopher.



Christopher

"I have also mentored four young engineers who entered the company as part of its skills development programme. It is rewarding to impart my knowledge to these upcoming engineers. I always tell them to never consider their rural backgrounds as a disadvantage. With the right attitude you can turn anything into an advantage. When you start out, don't base your decisions on salary. Look for opportunities where you will receive training, the chance to develop and gain ample experience. You will soon be moulded into an independent and qualified professional with a myriad of opportunities opening up to you," ends Christopher.



Sphesihle

Sphesihle Dladla and Sizwe Mchunu are another two civil engineers who have benefited from N3TC's skills development programme. They have both completed their National Diploma's in engineering and internships with N3TC. Both are now shaping their careers with the company, and benefitting from Christopher Kheswa's mentorship.

Sphesihle entered N3TC's programme through the PROTEC Pietermaritzburg Academy, which is also supported by the company.



Sizwe

"As a child from a disadvantaged background, I always dreamt of being part of the solution and finding the right opportunities to construct a better life for myself and my family. Being part of N3TC has given me the opportunity to support my single mother and wheelchair-bound brother. But, even more than this, I have grown both as a person and professionally; and have gained priceless skills.

Under Christopher's careful mentorship, I have been involved in road rehabilitation projects where I was allowed to apply my knowledge and grow my experience. I can easily say that more than 90% of what I know today, I learned from Christopher. As an engineer, I know there are no short cuts along the road to success. You need to put in the hours, do the work, and follow specifications to achieve successful outcomes," says Sphesihle.

Sizwe Mchunu concurs. "I was in my second academic semester when my constant worries about my study bills made me rethink ways of funding my education. I decided to seek temporary work to pay for my studies," says Sizwe. "Having grown up in the Mooi River area, I thought of approaching N3 Toll Concession, the company managing the main transport artery to my hometown."

Not only did Sizwe get the job, but having already proved his tenacity and will to succeed, N3TC granted him a bursary to complete his studies.

"This was a turning point in my life," states Sizwe. "I was determined to turn challenges into opportunities and this opportunity gave me the confidence to pursue my dream." On completion of his National Diploma in Engineering, Sizwe amassed an incredible thirteen distinctions; and was not only appointed tutor to first year Applied Mechanics students, but won the best tutor award at the end of 2015.

Sizwe is now working on a number of road rehabilitation and construction projects for N3TC.

"I learn something new every day. The exposure I am getting through N3TC is invaluable. One of my biggest fears was always of making mistakes. Now I know how to manage risks and be confident in the decisions I make. Life is not always easy, but it is always worthwhile. The choice is in your hands," ends Sizwe.

Tips from Christopher, Sphehile and Sizwe to young students setting on their academic careers:

- Know what you want and where you want to go; and then connect with the right people
- Get ample information on your chosen field of study – read and do research all the time
- Push your boundaries
- Grab opportunities
- Put in the hours – fully commit yourself
- Value your training and experiences
- Remember where you come from, but be part of the solution to create a better future

Ramokete Joseph Lebewane

From electrical engineering to tourism addict

I'm the second born and the only boy in the family with two sisters. I was born in the small town of Vereeniging which is Sebokeng in Gauteng Province. I attended my primary at Elite Primary School and furthered my education at Aha-Thuto Secondary School in Orange Farm where I completed my matric in 2006.

I started my studying career at Sedibeng College doing Electrical Engineering until I reached my N3 when I realised it's not my passion. In 2009 I did my NC (V) Level 2 – 4 in tourism and furthered my tourism career by doing N4 – N6. I love helping and interacting with people and I love travelling. My parents, especially my dad, made me realise that I was born to be in a tourism field as I was involved in sports. I was forever on the road travelling the country.

When my mom would say that this time I will not be going anywhere, we would fight until my dad says I can go. I love interacting and learning the difference between cultures. In my life journey, I had various challenges such as financial

problems, as my parents were not able to pay for my fees. I had to apply for a government bursary and by God's grace I got it! I could then partly pay for my fees. I used my talent in sports and being talkative at the school where I ended up being selected to be one of the SRC members. Luckily school fees were exempted due to serving on the SRC board and that is how I paid for my studying career.

People who played a central role in my life would be my mom, dad and my sister as they are the role models in my life. My sister struggled more than me, but at the end she got the qualification that she wanted, so that's one of the things that encouraged me to push and move forward in life. She forever tells me I should know what I want in life and grab it with both hands. I have to work hard for my future and shouldn't rely on others. As for my Dad, he always told me I have to make him proud as I am the only son in the family. My dad's family used to tell me how hard my dad struggled in life to get what I have today, so I told myself that I want to make my family and my dad proud as that was my goal. My Mom was my spiritual inspiration as she always tells me, even today, you should believe I asked God to help you in everything you are doing. I realised the three of them had the same vision for my life, which is to work hard and be what I want to be.

My short term goal is to see myself reaching that life-time goal my family has for me being what I want to be in life. My long term goal is to have my B-Tech and Masters in Tourism and build my own tourism company and help young people to believe in their dreams, know what they want and build their lives towards their dream.

The love and faith that my family has towards me, that's the thing that makes me to do my best. The key to my success is believing in myself, working hard and I told myself nothing is impossible.

N3TC has given me a great opportunity by granting me the chance to do what I like to do helping people, being with different kinds of people and their different cultures in the Route Help Centre in Harrismith. Working here has showed and proved to me that in life we have different kinds of people and as a human being, how one should interact with them according to their preference.

It's an honour and privilege to have a manager like Mrs Isabel Potgieter who teaches and guides you through your internship programme with an open heart and gives you all the training that you need. I believe that she is a blessing in my life as she never lost faith in me and I'm happy to be part of the N3TC family.

I'm grateful for what N3TC has done for me in my life. By giving me this opportunity I hope they keep on doing the great job they are doing on helping people.



*'Technology is just a tool.
In terms of getting the kids
working together and motivating them,
the teacher is the most important.'*
Bill Gates

COMMUNITY SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

St Mary's Interactive Learning Experience (S.M.I.L.E.)

Project Champion: Nicky Lyle
Years Funded : Two
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

This year we have again implemented S.M.I.L.E.'s CAPS English Teacher Training and Support Programme in select schools along the N3TC corridor between Howick and Mooi River. We made a conscious effort to consider all schools in which to work in 2016, regardless of size. Small rural or 'farm' schools, often with combined grades in one classroom, can also become pockets of excellence and an example to other schools in the area.

When a teacher is able to teach English confidently, using good techniques, every day, in every lesson, the results are seen across all other subject areas. English is the language of teaching and learning of all subjects from Grade 4 onwards. In small rural schools, the teacher often teaches all subjects to all grades. Thus the impact of skills development in the teaching of English as a First Additional Language is enhanced. Meeting the needs of each specific teacher with the support of workshops, demonstration lessons and observation lessons enables the teacher to grow in confidence and motivation.

Furthermore, the support given to the teacher in the form of quality material from which to work to meet the needs of the CAPS Syllabus is invaluable. Over the course of the year we have been helping teachers to get the best out of their S.M.I.L.E. Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) so that in 2017 they will no longer need our support. The Touching Lives team, in partnership with Chateau Gateaux and the Michaelhouse Community Partnership, have generously bought sets of books for teachers in schools where there has been a need.

In 2016 my colleague, Natalie Snowden, and I have been fortunate to work in six primary schools and four high schools supporting and motivating 24 teachers across three phases from Grades 4 to 12.

Bucklands Primary is a farm school of approximately 100 learners on the Peattie's Lake road in the Karkloof. The Principal teaches Grades 4 and 5 in a combined class. The Grades 6 and 7 learners are also taught together in a combined class. The buildings at this little school are in poor condition and learners walk great distances to school. The teachers travel from Pietermaritzburg in a lift club every day.

Teaching in combined classes is challenging and requires the teacher to be organised and efficient. Our support began with the delivery of a set of Learner Books and a Teacher Guide. There was great excitement from teachers and learners the day they received these books. This was followed by a Workshop for the two English teachers on the requirements of the CAPS



syllabus and how our S.M.I.L.E. LTSM meets these requirements.

Teachers have been given several Demonstration lessons in various skills areas to realistically show them how to teach in the most effective way possible in their own classroom with their own learners. We found the Grade 4 learners to be well below the required standard and they experienced great difficulty understanding us. Mime and actions were used to explain words. These learners should be taught all subjects in English, yet it was really obvious that this is not happening at Bucklands.

It was also evident that group work is not practised and learners battled to share their ideas with each other. Although the Grade 6/7 class has fared better, learners still struggle to read and pronounce words in English. Our advice to teachers over several visits to give Demonstration lessons has been to help the learners by only teaching in English and to be prepared with lesson plans for their lesson every day. By consistently teaching in English the learners will improve.

Although progress at Bucklands has been slow, there have been signs of improvement in both teachers and learners. Natalie has observed both teachers teaching their respective classes and was happy to report that one teacher in particular had taken so much from our S.M.I.L.E. Demonstrations and applied this in her own teaching. She glowed with pride after Natalie praised her for a job well done.

There has also been a noticeable improvement in the use of positive reinforcement of the learners at this school which enables learners to relax and enjoy the lesson thus providing an environment conducive to learning.

Curry's Post Primary, Lions River Primary and Middlefield Primary in Hidcote are also 'farm' schools facing similar challenges as Bucklands Primary. Learners from the neighbouring farms are taught in combined grade classes. Teachers and learners find the Grade 4 year very challenging

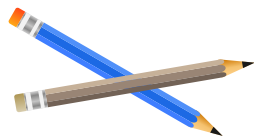
with the change from 'mother tongue' instruction to teaching and learning in English.

All of these schools are now using our Learner Books in all grades from Grade 4 to 7, providing valuable continuity for the learner across the Intermediate and Senior phases. Teachers have quality material from which to teach their learners every day. Emphasis has been placed on how best to use our material to plan and teach every day in Workshops and Demonstration lessons.

In particular, meticulous planning using a mind map for every lesson has been stressed for these combined grade classes where learners in the same room are likely to be learning different things at the same time. An effective system of classroom management has been demonstrated to teachers in order for them to manage the pace of the lesson. Observation of teachers after several Demonstrations has been rewarding for Natalie as she sees the techniques she has demonstrated to teachers being put into practice.

Particular mention must be made of the Principal of Lion's River Primary, Slondile Mhlongo, a dynamic young woman who is passionate about making a difference in the quality of education her school provides for the community and their young generation. Slondile teaches approximately 40 learners from Grades 4 to 7 in a single classroom. The Foundation Phase learners are taught adjacent to these learners in a partitioned off section. The room is a hubbub of learning with visual aids covering the walls. It is truly an example to other schools in the area.

Jabula Primary School in Lidgetton and **Esiphethwini Sendiza Primary** in Nottingham Road are the two larger primary schools we are working with this year. In these schools we are working with approximately 150 learners and their two English teachers per school in Grades 4 to 7. The four English teachers vary in age, experience and ability. All, however, have committed to improving their teaching skills which has made it a



In particular, meticulous planning using a mind map for every lesson has been stressed.



pleasure to work with them this year. All teachers have attended CAPS Workshops and received several Demonstration lessons. These have been followed by Observation lessons to establish where the teacher needs further support.

Esiphethwini Sendiza have 75 Grade 7 learners in a single class and are taught by an excellent teacher, Mr Dumisani Mnculwane. Dumisani is a proactive teacher with lots of experience. The reality of 75 learners in one classroom makes for challenging teaching. Dumisani is grateful for the support he has been given to make a difference in his teaching. Quality material to use every day has freed him to focus on the skill he is teaching and give his learners the opportunity to practise this skill.

Our work at **Asibemunye High** began in 2014. This school is a large high school with close to 1000 learners in the heart of Mpophomeni. In 2015 we were fortunate to be able to continue to work there in Grades 8 and 9 with funding from N3TC. In 2016 we are now assisting their Grade 10 and 11 teachers, Mrs Ingrid Stead and Miss Thabisile Hlengwa. Although they have both been teaching at the school for a number of years they are receiving our support for the first time.

Learners at Asibemunye High are now using our material from Grades 8 to 12, providing them with valuable continuity. Early in the year I visited Thabisile and Ingrid to assist with term planning and discuss forthcoming demonstration lessons with their learners. Imagine my delight when I heard that Sebe Dlamini with whom I had worked in 2015 was now Head of Grade 8 and shared her English teaching of Grades 8 and 9 with two other teachers under her wing. We now affectionately call Sebe an 'Old Smiler'! It was wonderful to experience Sebe's growth over the course of the year and now see her helping other teachers at Asibemunye.

We refer to the Principal of **Shea O Connor Combined**, Mr Nicholas Velile Nxumalo, as an 'Old Smiler'. He was a teacher on the S.M.I.L.E. Programme at his previous school in the 1990s. He is not satisfied with the level 2 results which his learners at Shea O Connor are currently achieving and expressed his desire to have the learners return to level one which was the case when he was teaching English there. He is grateful for our support and at a meeting voiced his concerns that they do not have sufficient funds for our LTSM in every grade. They were using Interactive English in Grades 8, 10 and 12 only. N3TC has now provided them with a set of Grade 7 and 11 Learner Books and they have used their own

funds to purchase a set of Grade 9 Learner Books. It is rewarding to see a school determined to help themselves. Nicholas is an efficient and committed Principal.

My work with his two English teachers in the High school began with a workshop early in the year which was also attended by teachers from neighbouring schools. This has been followed over the course of the year by three Demonstration lessons to both English teachers in the high school, to their respective classes. The learners at Shea O Connor are polite and respectful. There is good discipline at the school. It has been a pleasure teaching there this year.

The biggest frustration has been the number of learners in the Grade 11 class. A large group of 79 learners are taught together in the hall as the school does not have another classroom to split the group into two smaller classes. Teaching such a large group of learners sitting in rows is challenging.

I have started working with two new High Schools. **Eminyezaneni Secondary** is in Bruntville, Mooi River and **Mconjwana Secondary** is above Mpophomeni in the Vulindlela Rural district. Both these high schools are large with over 200 Grade 8 learners in each school.

Teachers at these two schools have been a pleasure to work with this year. They have responded positively to Demonstration lessons in various skills areas. One enthusiastic teacher commented that I had inspired him to teach differently from the very next day.

Support from the Touching Lives team at N3TC has given us the opportunity to promote excellence in ten community schools from Mpophomeni to Mooi River with the aim of positively transforming the lives of 24 teachers and their 1880 learners. Thank you to the Touching Lives team for believing in our work.

Nakekela Environmental Project

Project Champion:	Bonginkosi Ndaba
Years Funded :	Three
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal

Bonginkosi heads up the Nakekela Environmental Project in Van Reenen. He is as passionate and committed about his community as he is about the environment. We congratulate him on his determination to complete his Environmental Educators course in the near future. Here is a personal reflection of his journey.

2016 has been the best year for me because I have gained so much in the field of environmental education. In fact, I am an extra person!

When I started this course, it became clear to me that this is not actually about being paid for doing a good job as an Environmental Educator, but I understood that my responsibility is to work hard for our environment, to save and protect it, to ensure safety for the community and the environment. That is the reason why I chose to study environmental education.

Sometimes the road to the success is not easy no matter how much you enjoy something but that is the way it should be. Since I started studying my Environmental Educators course in 2014, I always felt so happy and I enjoyed it so much because this is the course of my dreams. Like any other course there are



Bonginkosi receiving his award from Roger Wanless, Chairman of BirdLife South Africa

challenges, but that has not stopped me. Instead the challenges have encouraged me to do even better in my studies.

I have completed four modules now. The most important thing is that in each module I have gained experience and knowledge about what is happening in the environment and in the world as a whole. The knowledge that I have gained from these modules helps me a lot with the Nakekela Project, because in the beginning I was just working on my basic knowledge and understanding of the environment. Now I know how to deal with anything environment related in a good way.

Even though I am not finished with my studies, I am still working hard to finish them successfully as some modules have been sent back to me to elaborate on and add more information and I am working on completing them well. This does not mean that I am not doing well in my studies. In fact, I am doing well as the need to establish more detail and correct my modules encourages me to work even harder to reach my dreams.

I want to use all the knowledge that I have gained during the EETDP to build Nakekela and take it to the next level. I think in the next few years, people like me will change the world by encouraging changed behaviour and attitudes amongst people.

Being the person I am now is because of N3TC and BirdLifeSA, my sponsors, who care about the development of people. I really have learnt to be true to myself, to be confident, concerned, responsible, to be a nature lover and to respect others and the environment. Through this course, I have experienced so much and learnt many new things, especially in the field of environmental studies. Every step of my way I would like to give credit to N3TC and BirdLifeSA for playing such a significant role in my life because they are always so good to me. I know that without them my dream would have been kept on hold but they have always stood behind me and backed me up. This is not only building my future but this is about developing me to impact positively on my community. Thank you so much again.

I really have learnt to be true to myself, to be confident, concerned, responsible.

iThemba Projects

Project Champion: Stu Walker
Years Funded : Three
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

We are incredibly thankful for N3TC's partnership with the Asidlale teacher mentoring programme. This is allowing us to saturate the Zayeka community of Sweetwaters with quality ECD and creating a culture where stimulating and interacting with children is the norm. We believe this is the best way to impact the community. As research has shown. ECD has the best return on investment when it comes to producing productive members of society and lowering HIV prevalence in young girls.

Thanks to N3TC's partnership, we've been able to continue mentoring three teachers and have added a fourth crèche this past quarter. One of the most rewarding things that happened this past quarter is that some of our teachers who have been mentored a while in our programme were able to lead one of our training workshops. In the past we have had teachers take leadership at Hlanganani (come together) teas, which are teacher support group meetings. However, up to this point, we haven't had teachers from our programme leading the skills-development workshops. This past quarter we had several teachers, including Gretta from Sbukosezwe crèche (which N3TC helps fund), teach the skills-based workshop.

Seeing teachers who have come through the programme, now



confident enough in their skills to pass on their knowledge to others, was very rewarding. We see this as very important for sustainability. If local teachers are fully equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to provide quality ECD, and can pass it on to others, then iThemba will be able to expand and move on to work in other areas of Sweetwaters.

It's inspiring for us to see how, with just a little bit of mentoring and encouragement, teachers are able to do so much more with what little they have. One of the teachers we mentor was commenting to us recently, "Before you came, I didn't know what to do with my children. Now, I wake up and I have a plan. My mind is always busy planning what is next!" Since we know that inspired, motivated teachers make a huge impact on student outcomes, this kind of comment gives us the energy to keep going!

Summerhill School of Equine Management Excellence

Project Champion: Leigh Adams
Years Funded : Six
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

Wherever you go in the world, the buzzword is education. Nowhere is it more critical than it is in South Africa, and nowhere is it appreciated more than at Summerhill.

Well over two decades ago, we embarked on our programme of upliftment for our people, and we see benefits everyday of our working lives. For some time there have been three learning institutions at Summerhill, namely: a crèche; preparatory school; and life skills mentoring class. The mentoring class has seen the award of over 40 overseas scholarships to people who had never ventured too far from the boundaries of Mooi River in their lives. These are the "home runs" that get us up in the mornings.

And that's what prompted the development of our School of Management Excellence. As the first institution of its kind in the southern hemisphere, its inception fills a void in the needs of the equine industry involving billions of dollars in investment, but woefully short on educational opportunities this facility delivers.

Now the reality it always promised to be, in its final manifestation, the School has exceeded our highest expectations. There is simply no other facility quite like it, anywhere.





The forty-seater lecture theatre is equipped to connect students with the world, and has all the technological aids you would expect from the best universities. The School is now a registered Training provider with CEEPSEA and CATHSSETA. 2016 is the sixth year that the School of Equine Management Excellence has run its Stud Management course. The last five years have produced outstanding graduates that have gone on to achieve excellent results within both the Thoroughbred Industry and Equine Industry at large. It's always such an exciting time when a new class of students arrives at SOE, ready to put their heart and soul into learning more about their passion that is the horse. When we are given the opportunity to use funding to be able to help someone be a part of this wonderful learning process, it makes the meeting of the new students even more exciting.

As always we are incredibly grateful to N3TC for their wonderful sponsorship of the School. We rely on such sponsorships to be able to carry on giving students the opportunity to learn and improve themselves within our industry.

In 2016 we decided to use the funding from N3TC to help sponsor the bursary of Beauty Ndlovu. Beauty is a most deserving candidate, who hails from Mooi River. She did not disappoint and worked exceptionally hard at her studies and all her practical work. At the end of her course, Beauty earned herself one of the Childwick Trust Scholarships to study a Diploma course at the National Stud in the UK. These scholarships are awarded to the top students who place at the top both in the theory and the practical aspects of their work. In 2015, N3TC funding was put towards a most deserved young man named Eric Motlou. Eric also won a Childwick Scholarship to the National Stud, and exceeded all our expectations by winning the Top Student award at the National Stud – an Excellent result! The School of excellence has now produced four out of the last five Top Students at the National Stud. Big shoes for Beauty to fill, but we have no doubt that she will give it her all.



Bruntville Primary School Computer Training Project

Project Champion:	Protus Sokhela
Years Funded :	Two
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal

This project saw thirty six teachers at Bruntville Primary trained in basic computer skills by an external Training Academy. Each participant was offered a manual with a list of aspects to be covered.

The training was well attended by teachers who were yearning to gain computer skills to enable them to do their work efficiently. There was visible commitment from all who attended the course. Teachers, who had previously written all their documents by hand, became confident through computer literacy.

We thank N3TC for making it possible for our teachers to gain these skills. We had computers, but they were not being used by teachers as they did not know how to use them. The knowledge gained will help run the school effectively, save time (using formulas to calculate) and comply with the requirement of the Department of Education to have all documents typed and emailed.

Teachers have requested that the training period be extended to give them enough time to practice the skills gained. They also felt that if the teachers could be asked before-hand what skills they want to be covered, the training could be more teacher-specific and better meet their needs.



Siphilswwe Day Care

Project Champion: Veronica Cronje
Years Funded : One (2016 first year of funding)
Province : Gauteng

N3TC's sponsorship enabled Lusa Community Chest to facilitate the Gr8Start Early Childhood Development Programme at Siphilswwe Day Care Centre at Sedaven, Heidelberg.

Effective teaching requires education and care to be integrated; with learning, development, and experiences for children inter-related. Well-developed ECD programmes, such as Gr8Start, provides this integrated learning.

The programme explores activities that equip teachers to stimulate, develop and test the social, emotional and physical intelligence of young children. It enables teachers to monitor and evaluate motor development, hearing and listening skills, eye movements and visual processes as well as the gross motor and fine motor skills in pre-school children to prepare for and ensure school readiness.

In addition the programme assists the early childhood educators to change educational practice, beliefs, understanding, and attitudes with regards to the vital role they play in developing well balanced, school-ready children by creating an environment conducive to learning.

The facilitation of the Gr8Start Programme occurs over 3 days as a hands-on, practical and interactive course during which early childhood educators are upskilled with the tools and techniques required to implement and manage an effective ECD programme.

The educators are taught how to use recyclable materials to prepare teaching aids and testing instruments for use in their lessons as well as to enhance their classroom environment to create a stimulating surrounding that awakens creativity and learning. They are also taught ways to show the children how to use recyclables for their learning activities such as skipping ropes, aprons and so forth.

The teachers each receive their own learner manual and a basic start-up kit of materials required to create all the essential teaching and evaluation aids.

What the Educators had to say about the Gr8Start Programme:
"The Gr8Start Training has enabled us to set targets and do short and long term planning within different themes to keep it interesting. We have learned how to be more creative without lots of money.

We feel motivated, empowered and skilled. We will be able to teach happy children. My attitude towards the children will change. I will be able to identify problems in the children because I can now see them as different and unique human beings." Sindile

"I have experienced respect and love from the presenter and this will help me to develop and handle the children with love and respect. I know also how to solve problems." Selina

"We feel like we were blank, without colour and it felt dark but this training brought colour to our world to see all the light and colour in what we can do. We are so happy! We hope to see more of Lusa Community Chest and N3TC. Thank you NT3C" Eva.

Alpine Heath Hospitality Management Programme

Project Champion: Shirley Huxtable
Years Funded : Three
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

The year has seen the fruition of one of the sponsorships entered into in 2014, and the continuation of two other sponsorships, for very deserving candidates to undertake the Hospitality Management Programme through the International Hotel School.

Lungile Khoza

Lungile started her employment at Alpine Heath Resort in 2004, when she was employed as a chambermaid to clean the chalets. Whilst working as a chambermaid in 2012 and 2013, in her spare time, Lungile did training in the Food & Beverage department, and made herself available to assist in this department during busy periods on the Resort. She saw this as a way to upskill herself and thereby broaden her horizons and future work prospects.



In 2014, the Resort went into partnership with N3TC, and was able to secure two sponsorships for Resort employees from the local villages to be sponsored for a tertiary qualification through the International Hotel School. The offer was made available to all staff of the Resort who resided in one of the local villages. Lungile jumped at this chance, and was successful in her interview, being accepted as a two-year student.

The day that Lungile received the news that she had been accepted, she was like a child being presented with a plethora of presents under the tree on Christmas morning!! Her excitement and enthusiasm did not wane at all during the two-year period of her course. Whilst she experienced some



challenges to begin with in terms of the online component of the course, through hard work and determination she was able to crack all her online assignments and passed her various exams with flying colours.

During the two year period, Lungile had exposure to all departments in the Resort, covering Food & Beverage, Front Office, Housekeeping, Kitchen, Maintenance and Entertainment. During the last few months, she requested to specialise in Front Office, and at the end of her studies in July 2016, due to her capability, determination and passion shown through the duration of her course, she was offered the full time position of Night Manager from mid-July 2016.

Without the opportunity that N3TC offered to Lungile in 2014, she would never have been able to achieve the position of Night Manager at the Resort. The position has allowed her to provide a higher income for her household, consisting of eight people, which includes her three boys and her sister's children. Lungile also buys food for her neighbours children, as both of the parents are currently unemployed.

In Lungile's words: ***"Thank you N3TC for everything. I have learnt a lot and am proud of what I am doing. I am looking forward to my new job, and learning more."***

Sizwe 'Speedy' Maphalala

Speedy went into his final year of his three-year Professional Cookery course in July 2016. He was accepted onto the course at the same time as Lungile in 2014.

Speedy started working at Alpine Heath in July 2012, as a casual cleaner. He worked on various Fixed Term Contracts, assisting during the busy periods. In June 2013 he was appointed as a flexi-perm employee in the kitchen, mainly filling the duties of cleaner and pot wash.



These tasks did not keep Speedy busy for long, and he started taking an interest in terms of food preparation. He was moved into preparing staff meals and again, he kept pushing for knowledge in terms of food preparation for buffets and a la carte menu's.

When the opportunity presented itself in 2014, Speedy applied in a flash. During his interview with the International Hotel School, he expressed a desire to learn all there was to know about cooking, and being able to prepare a meal for guests. He was successful in his application, and was accepted onto the course in July 2014.

With the exception of two months spent in Stock Control, Speedy has spent all of his time in the kitchen, moving between cold kitchen, hot kitchen, pizzeria, buffet chef and pastry section. He has not lost any of his willingness to learn, and when he has time on his hands, can be found in the pastry section experimenting with new ways of doing things. His scones are a firm favourite, and a number of staff volunteer to do 'quality control' on the end product!

The biggest challenge that Speedy has faced in the past two

years is finding a balance between his working hours and his school work. The kitchen hours can be very long at times, especially when the Resort is busy, and at a stage his online submissions were not being done timeously. When this was identified, a 3rd year trainee was placed as a mentor to Speedy to assist him in terms of time management. This has proved to be very successful, and Speedy is going full steam ahead again!

Makhosini Dlamini

Makhosini is the newest addition to the sponsorship project, being accepted onto his course in July 2015.

Makhosini was employed by the Resort in September 2013 on a flexi-perm contract in the Maintenance department, as a general service employee. In 2015 he was awarded the 2014 'Employee of the Year Award', due to his outstanding work performance and attitude.



Due to the above, he was considered, and accepted, into the International Hotel School management programme. During the year that has passed, Makhosini has worked in Kitchen, Food & Beverage, Entertainment, Maintenance and Housekeeping. The biggest challenge that Makhosini has faced over the year has been a faulty laptop. This has been remedied by making company workstations available for him to submit his work on.

The sponsorship received from N3TC has made a big difference in the lives of the above three employees. Without this funding, none of them would have had the opportunity to complete any form of tertiary education. On completion of their various courses, the certification received will improve their possibility of employment in a higher paying position, in an area where unemployment far outweighs available employment opportunities.

The hope is to add another employee onto the sponsorship programme for the July 2017 intake with the International Hotel School.

Educator Skills Development in Environmental Learning

Project Champion:	Janet Snow
Years Funded :	Six
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal

The Educator Skills Development Course conducted in 2016 focused on Teaching about Water for Grade 5 and 6 (Intermediate Phase) and Grade 7 (Senior Phase) in the Natural Science and Social Science. The full course is conducted by Environment Learning and Teaching together with Treverton Schools. Teachers from specific schools in the Colenso, Winterton to Nottingham Road area were invited to attend. A representative from the Crane Foundation attended the course too.

The training is conducted under the banner of Fundisa for Change (a national teacher training collaboration). Teachers who complete all the requirements of the course will receive



Continued Professional Teacher Development points (endorsed by the South Africa Council of Education) and a certificate from Rhodes University. To receive these certificates the teachers are required to attend all the contact sessions and complete Portfolio of Evidence (PoE) assignments that are submitted for moderation by Rhodes University. These assignments focus on progression in the curriculum, lessons plans, proof of teaching and assessment practices.

All participants (100%) submitted their PoEs for the first assessment round. It must be noted here, that this is the only group which has managed to achieve such a high submission rate. Other Fundisa for Change training programmes conducted in South Africa have noted a very low percentage rate (less than 25%) of submitted PoEs after their courses.

The high submission rate for the Educators' Skills Development course supported by N3TC is attributed to the continual support given post the training sessions. Teachers have visited Janet Snow in her office on a regular basis in order to obtain advice on their assignments and teaching practices. This has led to the unofficial development of a Professional Learning Centre/Group.

JANET SNOW

by Nikki Brighton

There are surely not many schools that are fortunate enough to have a Nature Reserve right in their grounds. Even fewer have the good fortune to have one of the first women to receive professional status from the Game Rangers Association of Africa, to champion its cause. Janet Snow is Environmental Manager at Treverton School in Mooi River.

The 270 hectare Treverton Wildlife Area was farmland when Janet and some teachers had the dream to transform it. "There were cows and invasive plants everywhere" she recalls. "We could use it for camping and outdoor activities, but I thought there were many learning opportunities that we were missing by not rehabilitating the area which included such a variety of ecosystems."

In 1999 the area was game fenced, with the whole school and community getting involved. The Grade 10 class mapped the area, including the small indigenous forest on the adjacent municipal owned land, and presented a proposal to the Mooi River Council to protect it. Neighbouring farmers donated the first animals while, the Grade 10 class built bomas for the first animals that were introduced, the Grade seven's got to work on protecting the wetland areas. Alien invasive vegetation clearing is ongoing, but wildflowers are coming back on the hillsides, the rocky outcrops team with insect life.

Sibusiso Zondi, an intern who helps Janet with these tasks while he is studying for his Diploma in Natural Resource Management, has observed how much Janet knows about the natural world and her curiosity and determination to find out more. "When I am struggling to find the name of a plant, Janet doesn't give up if we can't find it in the books. We work together



until we get it. If she does not know the answer to a question, she will do research and find it. She always encourages me to solve problems on my own first. Janet is a great mentor, inspiring and willing to share information."

Janet lives on the banks of the Mooi River with her husband Tim, three beautiful pointers and a cat named Found. This is a wonderful spot to raise kids, and fortunately, is not too far from Treverton where her three sons all went to school. During holidays, her boys would head off along the Mooi River for hours on end, camping, fishing and exploring, only returning

home when they were hungry, or heard their dad playing the bagpipes to summon them. "I believe people need wilderness. I was fortunate to grow up in a rural area where we would disappear on our horses for hours and spent most of our time outdoors," says Janet, "so I really encouraged our boys to just live their own lives." Nowadays, we have to be a bit more creative about finding opportunities to be immersed in nature, but Janet is determined to give as many people as possible that chance.

In 1999, she thought that as she was spending so much time at Treverton doing the daily school run, she might as well do something useful. "I am here" she told them, "can you use me?" Janet then started working on the school environmental programme a couple of days a week, assisting them to earn their WESSA Eco-Schools International Green Flag status. Next, Janet founded Environment Learning and Teaching, an organisation that focuses on learning and teaching practices related to the environment. You learn while you teach and teach while you learn. The Treverton Post Matric students are fortunate to have Janet as a mentor to guide them through the process of researching, designing and developing action-based environmental lessons that they present to rural schools in the area. "The youthful enthusiasm and interaction between the post matric students and the learners who are so keen to learn, is wonderful to observe and gives one a great sense of hope for the future."

There are learning opportunities everywhere. Asking questions makes life so much more interesting. Believing that educators are the backbone of the country and should get better support for what they do, led her to start the Educator Skills Development in Environmental Learning Programme to empower teachers to become more confident in teaching environmental content in class. Over the years the programme has grown and changed, but the one constant that keeps Janet passionate is the appreciation of how dedicated most teachers are, and the fun they have learning and teaching together. "So many teachers go the extra mile to empower and motivate each other. I hope that I can help them to ensure that every learner becomes the best possible person they can be – in all aspects

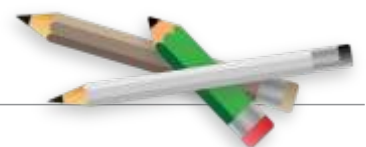


of life." Antonia Mkhabela, Life Sciences Teacher at Shea O'Connor Combined School completed the course a few years ago. "The course developed my confidence and this in turn made learners develop interest in the subject. One of my major insights was to get to know learners better. By analyzing their results, I was able to understand what they are struggling with which enabled me to plan lessons according to their capabilities and learning styles. Janet has been a big influence for us teachers."

Janet has not followed a straight path through life. She has detoured wherever she saw an opportunity to contribute and, with determination, has overcome obstacles along the way. Her route has connected her to many communities who influence her life as much as she does theirs. Janet and Tim like to escape to the Drakensberg where they conduct surveys of game bird species, watch wildlife (with a slab of dark chocolate in hand) or explore other natural places in KZN. Janet loves the diversity of South Africa and meeting people who have a unique approach to life. "There are so many people who do amazing work for others or for the country as a whole. I love how innovative South Africans are – the cloth of our country is made up of so many different threads to create a very interesting pattern."

Janet is quietly working out how to achieve the most from her time on earth, without having a negative impact on others or on the planet. With the celebrity worship that pervades our society, it becomes harder and harder to recognise who is contributing positively to our world

"When I am struggling to find the name of a plant, Janet doesn't give up if we can't find it in the books. We work together until we get it."



TOP-UP BURSARIES: BASIC EDUCATION

Drakensberg Boys Choir School

Project Champion: Brad Glasspoole
 Years Funded : Six
 Province : KwaZulu-Natal
 Website : www.dbchoir.com

Set in a UNESCO World Heritage Site under the majestic uKhahlamba Drakensberg mountain range is a rather unique school. The Champagne Valley of the Central KwaZulu-Natal Drakensberg, with Winterton as the closest town to the school, plays host to the world famous Drakensberg Boys Choir. Based on the Vienna Boys Choir model, with a little farming thrown into the mix. The Tungay family allocated a portion of their farm to the school and in 1966 the farmhouse was extended to include a dormitory, dining room, kitchen and a classroom. Although retaining the "farm school" feel, facilities have been substantially upgraded. The 600 seater Ken Mackenzie Auditorium on the School's campus plays host to over 34 Wednesday concerts a year and the annual "Music in the Mountains" and "Christmas in the Berg" music festivals. The Drakensberg Boys Choir School currently consists of approximately hundred and ten boys, from Grade 4 to Grade 9, who have been selected through auditions held across South Africa and neighbouring countries.

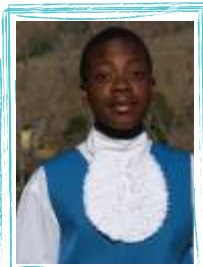
The Drakensberg Boys' Choir School is one of the few South African schools whose fame extends around the world having travelled to the Netherlands in 2016 and over 36 other countries over its 50 years as South Africa's singing ambassadors. This school offers a unique educational opportunity for boys; it stimulates a boy's spirit of adventure and exploration in the physical surroundings of the school while nurturing the development of the mind and expression in innate musical talent.

Musically talented boys from all walks of life in southern Africa are welcome to audition for a place in the Drakensberg Boys Choir School. Information can be found at www.dbchoir.com or by telephone on 036 4681012.



What is clear though is that wealth does not necessarily equal talent and the support of donors such as N3TC in partnering on the School's Bursary programme opens this unique educational experience to a number of exceptionally talented boys who would not otherwise have been in a position to have their musical talent nurtured in such a positive way:

Benjamin Samasuwo, Grade 6, is from Pretoria. Ben is showing steady academic progress and has received his concert status this year. He is a little reserved, is eager to please and shows good behaviour all around. Ben looks like he will develop into a good leader and influence his peers positively.



Sean Morrick, Grade 7, is from Alberton. He is doing well academically with an 80% average. He is a very conscientious worker with a pleasant nature. Sean is diligent, a quick learner and a valuable member of the choir. We anticipate him touring Japan next year as a member of the DBC International choir. Sean has a keen interest in environmental matters and has initiated a club for environmental difficulties.



Chisakula Kaputa, Grade 8, is an insightful child who is eager to learn about the world and has a good general knowledge. He has a mature EQ, a 'wicked' sense of humour and gets on well with his peers. His parents are originally from Zambia, but have been resident in South Africa for some time, currently living in Gauteng.



Ntakaso Mbuli, Grade 7, is from Gauteng. Ntakaso, although a new boy, is a hard worker and is currently in the top three of his grade with an 80% average. He believes in himself and received Concert Status this year.



Odi Mokomo, Grade 8, is from Gauteng. Odi is a strong soloist in the 'African' performance repertoire of the choir. His passion is music and that is what he focusses on. He was part of the international choir that toured the Netherlands this year. He shows good leadership qualities, is insightful and has strong values for what is right and wrong.



Sihle Manonyane, Grade 8, is from Mpumalanga. Sihle, being a new boy, achieved his Concert Status in record time this year and was part of the international choir that toured the Netherlands this year. Sihle is a natural born leader. He is an insightful child and has compassion for others. He has an advanced EQ, listens to others attentively and is a very good athlete.



Thando Myesa, Grade 9, is from Hilton in KwaZulu-Natal. Thando's mother tragically passed away two years ago. He has received his academic colours, is a music leader and a prefect. Thando recently toured with the international choir to the Netherlands where he performed as a soloist. Thando has strong principles and will stand up for what he believes in.



Harrismith Primary School

Project Champion: Lizel de Beer
 Years Funded : Three
 Province : Free State
 Website : www.harrismithps.co.za

Harrismith Primary School lies at the foot of Platberg Mountain. When you stop at Harrismith, at the Bergview Complex, the view over the mountain is magnificent. Pupils at Harrismith Primary have the privilege of attending school in these beautiful surroundings.

It is a multi-cultural school with great opportunities. Our pupils who have completed their school career are doing extremely well. We are currently very proud to be able to say that the doctor attending the Paralympics Team is an ex-pupil and Dux of our school. Many good rugby players like Richardt Strauss, Andries Strauss and as far back as Gary Fyvie, were pupils at the school. Our learners have the opportunity to take part in Tennis, Cricket, Netball, Hockey, Rugby and Athletics. Harrismith Primary School has a magnificent choir and many talented pupils who do extremely well, annually, at the Eisteddfod. We take part in National and International exams in Mathematics, Science and Home Language and do well in these too.



We have a well-equipped Hostel for the pupils from Harrismith and the surrounding areas. All our sports facilities are on our school grounds which add to the security of our learners. It is truly a wonderful place for children to develop.

Harrismith Primary School had a wonderful year with N3TC in 2016. We showed that we care deeply for our learners and, with your help, we were able to provide food and a home for five learners.

They are **Thabiso Monareng, Tsepiso Monareng, Fezile Zwane, Bonga Zwane** and **Themba Twala**. They have all excelled as children. Themba is in grade 8 this year and is not part of the program anymore.

We have kept the others on the programme for 2016 because of the extent they have benefited from being in the hostel, especially from not having to walk far to school in the cold of a Harrismith winter morning.

Fezile, who is in Grade 7 and is a very polite and cheerful girl, says this has "made her life really easy", while Bonga's teacher says the hostel has given Bonga direction and structure in her life. Tebogo's teacher agrees, saying the stability and discipline of the hostel is very good for Tebogo.

Kelly Ann Theron has been brought into the program in Themba's place. She is a six year old girl in Grade 1 whose sister is already in our school and hostel. She does not have transport to come to school every day. She feels safe and secure in the hostel and her school career has benefited. She is doing very well in her new surroundings, and loves having friends and being able to eat nice food.

Therefore we would like to thank N3TC for your wonderful contribution and we will keep on loving and caring for our learners. Tsepiso sums it up when he says he just wants to give you all a big hug.

KwaZamokuhle School for the Disabled

Project Champion: Peta Diack
 Years Funded : Eight
 Province : KwaZulu-Natal

The top-up bursary fund is used for pupils who are no longer pupils at Kwazamokuhle School ie. they have gone onto High Schools (either Adelaide Tambo Special School in Johannesburg or Open Air School in Durban) The funds are managed by the Kwazamokuhle CBR Project based at Kwazamokuhle School on the outskirts of Estcourt in KZN. The highlight for Peta as coordinator of the bursary fund is always to hear from Kwanele's sister, Nontobeko and from Siyanda's mother. They are both so aware of the tremendous help that the N3TC funding gives their children and they are always so appreciative. They both visit Kwazamokuhle every term to bring the last term's school report. We are then able to discuss any problems and plan further.

Kwanele Dlamini is a young man who is as determined as ever to make a



success of his life and does not see his disability as a barrier. In the last discussion with him he said "I will continue to stand for challenges as it is part of life" He says that "school is really great" and although he is struggling with Maths and Economics, he is achieving top marks in Business Studies.

Kwanele is still having problems with assistance over weekends and after school with his basic needs like toileting and feeding but he has lots of friends who help him and one can understand him being popular as he has such a gregarious but humble personality. In his spare time he listens to music on his phone and watches movies on his laptop.

Siyanda Dumakude has gained in confidence and his English is improving. He has been appointed Dorm Captain and now wears a white badge on his tie for this leadership position. He continues to be a member of the school choir and wears a red badge for this. He is extremely proud of these badges.



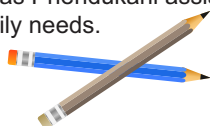
Extra Maths lessons were arranged for Siyanda for the July holiday. Mr Qaphela Dlamini, a past pupil from Kwazamokuhle School and now himself a teacher was able to go to Siyanda's home to tutor him in the areas of Maths that he is struggling with.

Siyanda was fortunate to receive a larger new electric wheelchair from Operation Jumpstart (an organisation in KZN that funds wheelchairs for children/adults in need). His old wheelchair has been repaired and is to be used as a backup wheelchair for either Siyanda or Kwanele if their electric wheelchairs are broken.



Wendy Hlongwane is still schooling at Adelaide Tambo and although she is not academic, she excels in wheelchair tennis and has again been on tour representing Gauteng in the national championship.

Phendukani Mvelase has adapted well with the transition to high school. The contact person for Phendukani is Ms Mkhaya who is also his mentor. She is a Psychometrist in the Ladysmith District Office of the Department of Education. Ms Mkhaya assists Phendukani with his arrangements to and from school and is the link with his family as his social problems continue to be a barrier for him. Phendukani's English has improved greatly since he started at Adelaide Tambo School. This is due to the English lessons that Kwanele Dlamini is giving him after school. This is an amazing testimony of how friendship can work both ways as Phendukani assists Kwanele with his feeding and other daily needs.



"He is extremely proud of these badges."

New Horizon College

Project Champion:	Eugene Maree
Years Funded :	One (2016 first year of funding)
Province :	Free State
Website :	www.nhc.co.za

N3TC provides financial assistance for seven Pre- and Primary School learners at New Horizon College in Harrismith. The majority of these learners stay at Hope House that N3TC used to fund under the child welfare category of Touching Lives. A decision was made rather to invest in the children's education as a means of potentially breaking the shackles of poverty and hardship that these young children have experienced in their lives. It has created the opportunity for them, as orphans, to enjoy an ordinary life with children from varied backgrounds and circumstances.

The endeavour is certainly not without its challenges. The greatest concern is the children's apparent inability to communicate effectively in English, and the fact that homework is either not done properly, or at all. This is evident in their results. The feasibility of investing in a tutor that can assist the children with homework after school is being investigated.

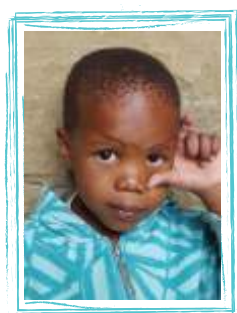
Lebohlang Sithole is in Grade 2. He is a quiet boy who struggles academically despite extra help in the class. He also struggles socially. He loves to colour and draw pictures.

Zandile Msimanga is in Grade 2. She is a quiet, shy girl, possibly due to poor communication skills and a lack of self-confidence. She needs a lot of help with her school work and battles on her own.



Sesi Thabalala is in Grade RR. The Principal has seen her grow into a strong, independent little girl who can adapt easily in different situations. She loves school and benefits from the stimulation. Her English language skills have improved markedly and she expresses herself clearly.

Kananelo Majake is in Grade RRR. This is his first year at school. He enjoys coming to school daily and is always very positive and willing to work in group activities. He is trying his best, with a lot of encouragement and attention he can achieve a lot. His teacher says it is a great pleasure to have him as part of the school.



Paballo Moloi is also in Grade RRR. He is a very positive child who loves to work in group activities and is willing to do all activities. He is a small boy, yet will not give up on completing an activity, no matter how demanding. His teacher reports that she looks forward to help build the foundation for his future.

Katleho Mofokeng lives with his grandmother and is in Grade 6. She survives on a government pension and yet somehow managed to send Katleho to New Horizon. Katleho has excellent manners and is very helpful. He is an avid cross country runner

and has represented his province for three years in a row. He even achieved a podium finish at the National championships. At the end of 2015, Katleho was awarded the prestigious "Sportsman of the Year" award, an honour that is normally only achieved by Grade 7 learners!

Gift Mokoena is in Grade 5 and is a very talented sportsman. He has achieved Northern Free State colours for gymnastics, Free State rope skipping colours, and plays for the College Senior Soccer team although he is only ten.

PROTEC

Project Champion:	Rose Smuts
Years Funded :	Six
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal
Website :	www.protecpmb.co.za

2016 has been a wonderfully busy and successful year! All Saturday School sessions and Vacation School activities which were scheduled, have been held as planned. Attendance by students for both of these aspects of our programme, has been excellent – averaging 92% so far, for the year to date. Our Tutors have been well prepared and punctual, and all lessons and workshops have been jam-packed with student centred tasks – be they speech making, experiments, problems to solve or small projects.

We have successfully completed eighteen Saturday School sessions; two 1-week Vacation Schools; the Grade 10 Personal development Camp; SAICE Bridge Building Workshop; Vula Winter School for the Matrics; Matric Career Day; Matric attendance at UKZN and DUT Open Days; Matric Career Guidance Assessments and feed-back Interviews; Taryn G Study Options Workshop; Anna Martyn Workplace Preparedness Workshop; Matric Work Experience Week; Grades 10 – 12 Life Science Workshops; Workshops for Parents in Study options for their Children; and a Xolani Zondi "Acceptable teenage behaviour in the Home and at School" Workshop.

An ever-increasing concern is that many of our students are so impoverished that we have had to commence subsidising (or paying for) their travel costs to and from PROTEC Saturday School, Vac School and Work Experience Week hosts. Any student with an excellent attendance record and fine school results is able to apply for this type of assistance. In addition, poor students are being assisted with University Application fees (R 200 each). We continue to search for better, more secure premises in, or near to, the Pietermaritzburg CBD.

Masibonge Ngcobo lives with her parents in Bisley, Pietermaritzburg. Both parents are teachers, and her dream is to study something to do with engineering one day!



Masibonge



Onke



Kwanele

Onke Madlanga joined PROTEC Pmb last year. She has maintained her good results on the whole. She lives with her parents in Dambuza; her Mom is a dressmaker and her Father, a mechanical operator. Her dream is to follow an engineering career.

Kwanele Khumalo has a sister who is a post-PROTEC Pmb student who is now studying Hydrology at University of Zululand. His mother is a teacher, and Father, a Traffic Officer. The family lives in Panorama, Pmb. His level of academic achievement is slightly lower than last year, but this often occurs when students move from Grade 9 to 10. He is a hard worker and we expect his marks to stabilise

Thobiswa Shongwe lives with her parents in Eastwood, Pmb. Her mother is a machinist and her father, a factory foreman (mechanical). She is making steady progress and we expect her marks to improve. Thobiswa hopes to study forensic science one day

Anele Dladla is a hard working student who lives with her Mother and extended family in Azalea, Edendale. Her results continue to be very pleasing – she hopes to study Civil Engineering or Biochemistry in 2018!

Asanda Jali lives with her unemployed mother in Imbali, Edendale. Her family are very poor. Her results are pleasing and she is eager to improve in all subjects. She hopes to be a teacher one day!

Sibusiso Dlamini lives with his Mother and cousin in Imbali, Edendale. His mother is a cleaner. He is extremely hard working and always gives of his best. He hopes to study marine engineering in 2017.

Pinky Ndawonde was one of our top matric students at PROTEC Pmb in 2016. We are delighted that she has received a bursary from N3TC to study civil engineering in 2017.



Thobiswa



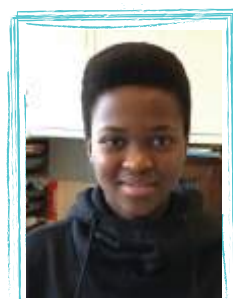
Anele



Asanda



Sibusiso



Pinky

All lessons and workshops have been jam-packed with student-centred tasks.



Royal Drak Primary School

Project Champion: Megan Bedingham
Years Funded : Four
Province : KwaZulu-Natal

The highlight of this small school is that it continues to grow children in a healthy way taking into account their individual differences and abilities. The dedicated team of teachers with their incredible organisation and drive ensure that these children receive the best that we can give them. It is a happy space and the greatest achievement is that these children all want to be at school.

Finding the right teachers and keeping them is the School's greatest challenge. As we enter 2017 we will be looking for new members to join our team. The isolation of this area makes this a big task but we remain committed to providing a quality education and so we will persevere as we move forward.

In terms of upcoming plans, the more one chats to educational experts, the more one realizes how important it is to begin stimulating children at an early age. Grade R and formal schooling is just too late. We will investigate the possibility of growing our pre-school to include children turning 3 years. The earlier the children begin, the greater the success with formal learning later on.

In these rural areas, we think we need to be doing more.

Royal Drakensberg PRIMARY SCHOOL

Asiphe Radebe Grade 1

I like playing with Lego and building helicopters

When I get home from school I play with my special soccer toys

My favourite subject at school is Maths, especially bonds to 20

I dislike mud and when other children hit

One day I hope to be a helicopter pilot so that I can rescue people.

My dream for our country is to keep South Africa clean and put plastic in the bin

In my free time I like to build Lego helicopters



Royal Drakensberg PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ayanda Dlamini Grade 3

I like playing cars with my brother at home

When I get home from school I change into home clothes and do my homework


My dream for our country is to see all children be able to go to school

I dislike eating cheese

One day I hope to work on computer

In my free time I play hide and seek with my brother outside

My favourite subject at school is English because it is fun and easy



Royal Drakensberg PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bandle Miya Grade 1

I like pretending to be a scuba diver and drawing sea animals

When I get home from school I watch TV and play with my friends


My favourite subject at school is art

I dislike snakes

One day I hope to be a scuba diver so that I can see animals under the sea

My dream for our country is to be a super hero and help people

In my free time I like to draw pictures and write stories



Royal Drakensberg PRIMARY SCHOOL

Esihle Nkosi Grade 2

My dream for our country is that everyone will look after the land and each other

I dislike ants because they can pinch me

When I get home from school I do my homework and look after my baby brother

One day I hope to be a helicopter pilot because then I can fly my friends around

In my free time I like to help my dad

My favourite subject at school is maths

I like play on motorbikes



Royal Drakensberg PRIMARY SCHOOL

Fortunate Khumalo Grade 4

I dislike running and cross country

When I get home from school I fetch water and do my homework

I like reading books and drawing

In my free time I like to play soccer or read

My favourite subject at school is maths because I find numbers fascinating

One day I hope to be an electrician or a soccer player

My dream for our country is to have a clean environment and for everyone to be able to study



Royal Drakensberg PRIMARY SCHOOL

Katleho Lekhula Grade 2

My dream for our country is that everyone can live happily together without fighting

In my free time I like to play soccer with my friends

When I get home from school I do my homework and look after my baby brother

One day I hope to be a doctor so I can fix broken bones

I dislike snakes

I like to swim

My favourite thing to do at school is free play, I especially like playing snakes and ladders



Royal Drakensberg PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sisanda Malinga Grade 2

I dislike vegetables, especially carrots

When I get home from school I do my homework and then I play outside


In my free time I like to skip with my skipping rope

My favourite subject at school is theme work, I love learning about birds.

My dream for our country is for everyone to be happy and have enough money

I like to eat noodles

One day I hope to be a doctor so I can help people



Royal Drakensberg PRIMARY SCHOOL

Sizwe Khumalo Grade 4

I like food and cooking. I also enjoy sport

In my free time I like to watch TV and draw pictures

When I get home from school I do my homework and play soccer with my friends

My favourite subject at school is English because we get to make up stories for creative writing

One day I hope to be a doctor or a dentist

My dream for our country is for everyone to get along



Royal Drakensberg PRIMARY SCHOOL

S'lindelokuhle Hlatshwayo Grade 3

I like playing touch rugby at school

When I get home from school I watch TV

In my free time I play hide and seek with my friends

My favourite subject at school is Handwriting because I get to do beautiful handwriting

My dream for our country is to have friendly people everywhere

I dislike people that are unkind

One day I hope to be a vet so I can help sick animals



Royal Drakensberg PRIMARY SCHOOL

S'yabonga Mthethwa Grade 2

I dislike playing too much because it gets boring

When I get home from school I do my homework and then I eat

In my free time I play with my special ball

My favourite subject at school is sport, especially cross country

One day I hope to be a vet and make animals feel better

I like to help my granny and make her happy




The earlier the children begin, the greater the success with formal learning later on.



St David's School

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

St. David's catchment area covers Greytown, the township of Enhlalakahle, and the rural areas stretching from Seven Oaks, Rietvlei and Muden, to Keate's Drift and Tugela Ferry, Ahrens, Eshane, Kranskop, Ntunjambili and Matimatolo. The excellent reputation of our school attracts many scholars from these outlying areas, and the distances travelled add to the cost of schooling. The majority of our pupils come from the previously disadvantaged community.

Not all our parents/guardians are well educated: some are farm workers, truck drivers, taxi drivers, domestic workers and old-age pensioners. Many of our children come from single parent families, and, sadly, we also have many whose parents are deceased and who are being taken care of and educated by relatives.

Each year we grant bursaries to deserving learners, on the basis of financial need, scholastic ability and academic achievement, or effort, as well as on their general behaviour and attitude. The Top-Up Bursaries are used to assist learners on the basis of financial need, provided that those learners try their best and demonstrate good behaviour and a positive attitude. Important qualities are a giving nature and a sense of responsibility.

Our goal is to provide high quality education with high standards in all areas. N3TC's assistance with top-up bursaries enables us to educate children whose parents or guardians could not otherwise afford the kind of independent education which we offer, as we continue to serve our local community. The unfailing determination and commitment displayed by those who have done so much with so little to nurture and develop the school over the last twenty-four years is indicative of the way your contribution will be valued and the security of your investment.

Donna Norton, Grade 3, is a delightful and happy little girl with good manners. She is also very helpful and caring. Her brother Cameron was diagnosed with Perthes' Disease sixteen months ago and has to wear a custom-made brace from hip to toe, which necessitates the use of crutches. Donna has dedicated a great deal of time and effort looking after him at school and at home, making sure that he has everything he needs and is comfortable. Donna struggled academically in Grade 1 but after repeating the grade there is much improvement. She loves Art and Mathematics. Her Grade 2 teacher is very pleased with her progress.

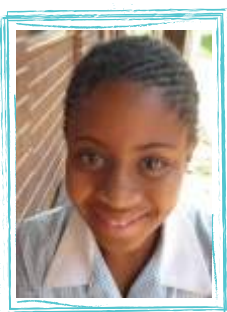


Awande & Anele Ntshingila, Grade 4, are twins and the youngest members of a large family of academics. They are very responsible, competitive and determined. Awande has a lovely sense of humour. He is good at sports and was awarded



the Junior Achiever Cup at the Interhouse Athletics. The twins are insightful, affectionate and an asset to St. David's. Anele, especially, produces work of a consistently high standard and her brother Awande is fast closing the gap between them.

Sinenhlanhla Lerolle, Grade 5, is a lovely, polite, well-mannered pupil. She is reliable, works well and is intelligent. Sine's 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. Sine's brother also schooled at St. David's and is now in Grade 8 at the High School. His father is also responsible for his fees. 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.



Victor Mpfu, Grade 6, is a delightful learner, polite and well-spoken. 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% History, 79% Social Sciences, 78% Geography and 74% Maths. Victor's mother is a humble and well-mannered person. She greatly appreciates any support we can give her with school fees. She teaches her son respect, good behaviour and the value of always trying to do his best.



Aphiwe Khanyile, Grade 6, 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 is the breadwinner; his father was employed part-time but is in hospital and unable to work.



Asanda Mbatha, Grade 7, 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. 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.



Aphiwe Shange, Grade 7, is friendly, outgoing, with a pleasant manner and always gives of her best. Aphiwe's mother died when she was small. Her father is a hospital orderly in Durban and sent Aphiwe to live with her sister at Tugela Ferry. He struggles to pay her school fees. 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, Grade 7, 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. His mother has taught him good manners and respect. In the mid-year exams his aggregate was 70%. He is a member of the soccer team and he also broke the record for the U12 400m at the Interhouse Athletics this year.



Treverton Schools

Project Champion:	Dr Kate Brown
Years Funded :	Six
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal

Five Top-Up bursaries were awarded to Treverton School in 2016. Two pupils at Treverton College, Aimee Jooste (Grade 12) and Savannah Binder (Grade 12) and two pupils from Treverton Preparatory, Snakho Ngubane (Grade 6) and Owami Mthembu (Grade 6) received bursaries, and the fifth was shared by two siblings, Jasmine (Grade 10) and Tristan (Grade 6) Shaw. These bursaries were awarded at the discretion of the College and Prep Headmasters, Mr Dave Cato and Mr Mark Chaperon, respectively, to pupils who make a significant contribution to Treverton and require financial assistance to enable them to continue their education at Treverton.

SNAKHO NGUBANE is in Grade 6 this year. He was enrolled as a Grade R pupil in 2010 and has been at Treverton as a day scholar since then.

Snakho's progress through the Prep has continued to be 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 all year and has been a committed team member to his team's performances on both the cricket, hockey and soccer fields this year. Snakho's dad is very appreciative of all that his son has been offered at the school and is a regular supporter on the side of his son's sports fields during matches.

TRISTAN SHAW began his schooling at Treverton Prep in Grade R (2010) as a day scholar and has been enrolled as a boarder for the last two years. He has made tremendous progress academically and emotionally during his time with us and is a good ambassador for our school.

Tristan's commitment to his studies has characterised his Grade 6 year and he is making steady academic progress.

Tristan's love for the outdoors is apparent and Treverton has afforded him many opportunities to develop this, through the Environmental Education programme. He has had a significant role to play in the success of the school's cricket and rugby teams this year.

OWAMI MTHEMBU was first enrolled at Treverton Prep in 2008 into our Grade 000 class. She grew up in Mooi River and attended the school as a day scholar until the end of 2014. Her mom is an educator based in Pietermaritzburg. In order to ensure a stable, organised school week, her mom enrolled Owami as a weekly boarder from the start of 2015. Her mom has found it financially challenging to keep her daughter at Treverton, but has made sacrifices in order to do so. Owami is a delightful young lady and her scholastic record has shown steady progress through the years. She contributes enthusiastically in all areas of school life, in the classroom, in the dormitory, on the sports field and on excursions.



JASMINE SHAW is in Grade 10. She is a boarder in Lind House and a committed pupil both in the classroom and when participating in sports or cultural activities.

Jasmine's favourite subject at school is Visual Arts and she is rapidly developing her observational and expressive skills. One of her art pieces was displayed at an IEB Schools Art Exhibition at Kearsney College earlier this year.



She was a member of the cast of the school play, *Peter Pan*, and she helped to sew her own costume. Jasmine has also been given a coveted position on the Tech Crew, who assist the Drama Department with sound and light requirements for assemblies, concerts, plays and other events. She has also been a passionate dancer since Grade 2 and is now close to completing her level seven ballet for the American academy of dance. She began dancing on pointe last year, and is becoming a strong and graceful ballerina.

Jasmine played a vital role as the goal-keeper for the U16 A hockey team, and she has also participated in water polo, rock-climbing and basketball.

Jasmine regularly participates in Treverton College's SCA (Students' Christian Association) and is involved in leading children's ministry at a local church in Mooi River. She has a wide circle of friends at school and is described by her dorm's House-mother as "showing a gentle, caring attitude to her peers and taking the time to help younger pupils".

SAVANNAH BINDER is in Grade 12 this year. She has been at Treverton College since the start of her Grade 11 year, and is a dedicated and studious pupil with a keen sense of humour and a ready smile for her teachers and peers.

She excels academically, scoring A and B symbols in most of her subjects and getting her name onto the Headmaster's Academic Merit list last term, and Savannah achieved her Full Colours in Academics at the end of 2015.

Savannah is an enthusiastic horse-rider and spends many hours down at the Treverton Equestrian Centre, riding the school horses and improving her skills. She also regularly helps at horse shows hosted by the Treverton Equestrian Centre and has earned service hours there, which will count towards her Service Award. This award is part of the Outdoor Education Programme at Treverton and gives recognition to pupils who participate and contribute in a range of activities.

AIMEE JOOSTE is also in Grade 12, and has been at Treverton College since Grade 9. In that time, she has grown into a well-rounded and poised young lady who contributes in many areas of school life.

Aimee applies herself well to her academic work and has achieved above the grade-average this year, which put her name onto the Headmaster's Academic Merit list. Aimee is particularly passionate about Visual Art and spends a lot of her quiet time drawing.

Aimee also enjoys team sports and has played 1st team netball and soccer this year. She has recently been awarded her Half Colours for Netball.

Aimee displays strong leadership skills and trustworthiness as a Grade 11 prefect in her dormitory. She guides and supports her Grade 11 peers and also mentors a Grade 9 pupil. She has many close friends, due to her ability to encourage her peers, in her own special way, to achieve their goals and aspirations.

Savannah and Aimee have truly made the most of their opportunities to grow and excel in all areas of life at Treverton College. They have now written their final IEB Matric Examinations and left us to take the world by storm. Jasmine, Tristan, Snakho and Owami will continue to benefit from what Treverton can offer them and, in turn, to give back to their school in many ways. Treverton School has benefited from having these six pupils remain a part of our student body, with the financial assistance provided by the N3TC Top-Up bursaries, and we hope the four younger pupils will be with us until they complete their Matric in years to come.



Underberg Primary School

Project Champion:	Michael Corlett
Years Funded :	One (2016 first year of funding)
Province :	KwaZulu-Natal

When applying for top-up bursary funding for his school, headmaster Michael Corlett wrote:

"I am in no doubt that N3TC would have received hundreds of applications for funding, and would ask "why us?" The answer is a complex, yet at the same time, a simple one. Without assistance this school will collapse, and without a school, the community will follow.

Although a "small" school in numbers, our school is an integral and important part of the community, and the only state Primary School in Underberg. Our aim and vision for the school includes the community and outreach therein, and we pride ourselves at helping all sectors of the community.

Being classified as a deep rural school, one needs to understand that many in the community are the poorest of the poor, regardless of colour or creed. With this in mind, we have embarked on a visionary three-tier plan to help 1) children within our school to develop 2) children from other surrounding farm schools within the community; and 3) the teachers and care givers so that they are empowered to help develop the community further.

This is evident in our "Mastery Unit" a unique and flagship unit designed and running to help children overcome barriers in various fields.

At the end of the day, our request is a simple and honest one. Here at Underberg Primary we wish to become a beacon of excellence within the community and ensure we offer quality education to children from all walks of life. Many of our children live and travel great distance to get to school: come from homes of single parents (even child-led homes) and parents whose work is menial and /or even seasonal. Without help, these children would be most unlikely to have a quality education.

I hope and pray that your consideration into this request for the children proposed by us is a positive one, as it will change the lives of these children forever, and for that we would thank you." We are delighted that in his latest report, Michael is now able to write:

"It is incredible to see how such a gesture from N3TC has affected the lives of the five families that benefited from the Top-up Scheme. Because of this, we at Underberg School have committed and dedicated parental support and pupils who appreciate what they have been rewarded with. Every one of the parents broke down in tears of joy in my office when they received the news that they would be benefiting from the N3TC Programme.

The families and pupils involved have most certainly benefited. Every one of the parents have in some way or another helped in the school environs, either by helping with fundraising, being involved in committees, or simply being able to come and watch their child in sport or cultural activities. I cannot emphasize the importance and benefit of this scheme to those children and the school as a whole."

Mbalenhle Nxele lives about 45km's from school and is up at five to get here on time and gets back home after dark. He is cared for by his grandparents. This boy is very bright and shows promise. He has grown in leaps and bounds. He could not read before coming to Underberg School, and now reads with expression. Boy, you should see him smile. In fact I have yet to see him not smile. It is infectious. He is really a fine example of how the Scheme has benefited his family. He has made every effort to appreciate what has been given to him. He would also benefit by staying in our hostel.



Siyanda Molefe is a hard working young boy in Grade 2. He is a most polite and pleasant boy who tries hard in all areas of school life. He has made an excellent start to the year and has showed fantastic growth as the year has progressed. He has an enquiring mind, polite manners and love for mathematics. I can envisage him as an accountant one day. His Grandmother (no parents) is the domestic worker at the Congregational Church near our school. She lives in the quarters behind the church and receives a minimum wage. So how Siyanda has worked this year, shows again how appreciative this child is and how aware he is of the opportunity he now has. His Gran is very supportive.



Asandile Mdladla is in Grade 5 and has worked hard since he started here. He lives far away and used to stay in the hostel, but had to leave as his family could not afford it. Sadly, he has missed quite a bit of school due to illness. He has, by nature, given of his best, and is a quiet boy who never makes a fuss. He is one of those children who is always first to put his hand up, offer to help and gets the job done. The parental support from these parents has been new this year and has been as a result of the N3TC Top-up Scheme.



Rufaro Nyathi is an above average achiever who needs a stable environment to enable her to reach her full potential. Here is **Your** (N3TC Top-up Scheme) shining light and should be used as a good example for the rest of the world to see how your programme has influenced a child. She will be a leader in her own right in years to come and with guidance could actually be someone that N3TC would interview for a position in years to come. I can see Rufaro as being Head Girl of her school when she gets to High School and if her name is not one of prominence when she gets into the working world, I will be surprised. Her mother is an extremely supportive parent and most appreciative. The Hostel would, however, be most beneficial for this child.



Cameron Lincoln. From a parental point of view this child is by far the most deserving for N3TC Top-up Scheme assistance as the mother is a widow and currently holds two jobs to ensure his education. She is very supportive in all aspects of school life, is the Secretary of the school Board, assists with transport with every sporting event, helps with all fundraising events, and even comes in once a week to cover books in our school library. If we had a "parent of the year" award, Mrs Lincoln would receive it every year. Cameron is a hard working pupil but has yet to reach his true potential. The fact that he has this assistance has enabled a better way of life for him and his mother and he will realise his true potential when he gets to High School. He has the ability and potential to do exceptionally well with 21st century ideas. I can see him being a planner or developer of new technology for the world ahead.



In conclusion this to me was probably one of the hardest exercises to do, as I could easily add another fifty pupils to this list. We at Underberg Primary are doing everything possible to deliver quality education for children of parents who are financially strapped.

Villiers Combined School

Project Champion:	Wilna Malherbe
Years Funded :	Five
Province :	Free State

We are very proud of all our N3TC learners and their achievements during this reporting period. Your funding is providing the opportunity of quality schooling for these learners and offering them the opportunity to enjoy school life to the fullest and become the adults that they are destined to be.



Eppie and Kopano

Eppie Kwebu (grade 10) and **Kopano Sebiloane** (grade 12) are both members of the SRC, have developed as exemplary leaders and are respected by learners and teachers alike.

Kananelo Sebiloane is the younger sister of Kopana. She is a diligent learner and is working very hard to pass grade 8 end of this year.



Kananelo

Thabang Mokoena is a born athlete and excels in sport events. For athletics he was selected for the East Free State team to compete in the high jump event. He played rugby, tennis and is part of the cricket team of the school.



Thabang

Clifford Swanepoel is also in grade 10 and played tennis for the High School boys' team. He was part of a group of learners of the school that have never been to the coast. These learners went on a five day tour to the southern coast during the long weekend in August.



Clifford

Tisetso Mokatla is in grade 12 and currently preparing for the final exams. We are expecting a Bachelors' pass from her.



Tisetso

Johanna van der Ross is in grade 10 and currently holds third position in the "Top Five" of her class. She also played netball for the first team of the school.



Johanna

Tumelo Sephaphati is the youngest of our group of N3TC bursary holders and in grade 5. He participated in athletics and plays cricket for the Primary School cricket team.



Tumelo

Leandri du Plessis is a grade 6 learner who enjoys school very much especially the practical tasks as can be seen on the photograph where she is putting finishing touches to her Natural Science & Technology assignment.



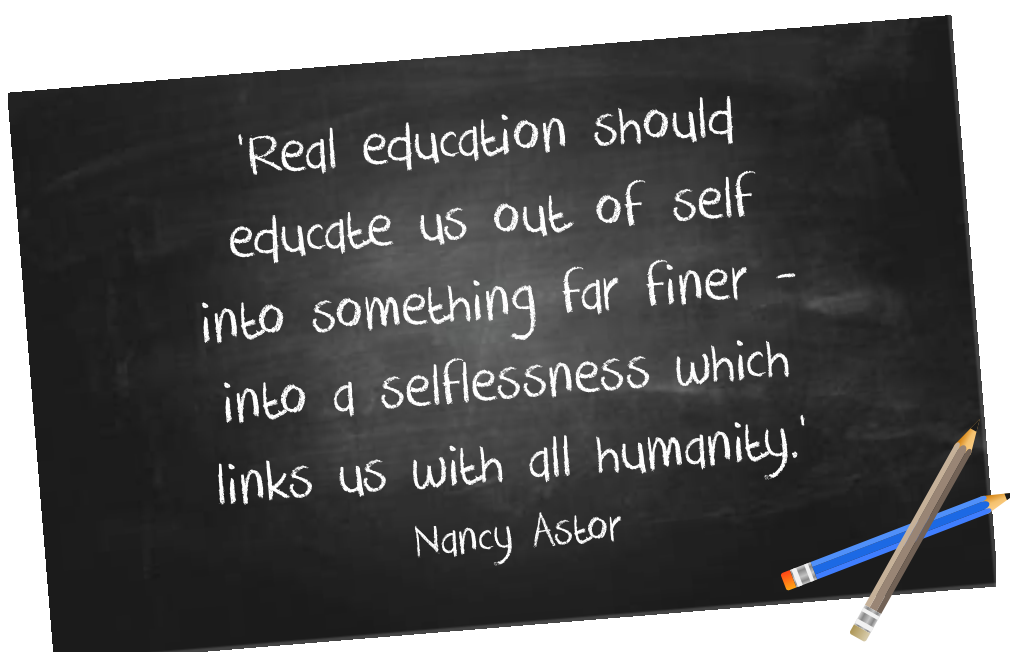
Leandri

Arnold Löhman is also a grade 10 learner and member of the SRC. He holds the number one position in the "Top Five" of his class. Earlier this year he entered a creative writing competition hosted by the AVK and his essay was selected to be published. He is invited to the gala event later this year where the overall winner will be announced.



Arnold

Please be assured that N3TC's contribution to Vifliers Combined School is much appreciated and it is making a difference in the lives of these children!



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
- ER24
- Imperial Road Safety
- Europcar
- Road Accident Fund
- Trucking Wellness
- Driver Wellness Optometrists
- Chemical and Allied Industry Association (CAIA)
- Sasol
- Alimdaad Foundation



Thank you.

