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Compiled and Produced In-House by N3TC

## It takes a village to raise a child.

African Proverb

Collective. Community. Unified. Integrated.

A unified approach to touching lives with integrity and meaning to ensure the significance of all sectors of society while aspiring to achieve viable communities for the future.



The N3 Toll Route is the conduit connecting villages, communities, towns and provinces along the N3 Corridor, making it an integrated 'global' village. N3TC's Touching Lives programme is our authentic commitment to the communities in which we operate.

We acknowledge every person, with admiration and respect, who has contributed in any way towards the Touching Lives programme.

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## Contributors

... We start where we ended in 2017

"Now is the time to lend a hand. Now is the time for each of us to say 'send me'. Now is the time for all of us to work together."

Cyril Ramaphosa (paraphrasing "Thuma Mina' by Hugh Masekela)

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'It takes a village to raise a child', a well-known African proverb, means that it takes a community of different people interacting with children for a child to experience and grow in a safe environment. For N3TC, we know this to be true as it affirms our belief in supporting sustainable projects that secure a legacy for future generations.

Raising the children of our beloved country is a shared responsibility - a collective effort. We all have a part to play and through N3TC's Touching Lives Programme, we have earnestly sought to establish a proverbial village, touching the lives of many ...children, their families and communities.

This edition of Touching Lives celebrates the passion, commitment, and dedication of a collective of 'villagers' along the N3 Corridor, and further afield. Those whose kindness has established the platform of sustainability, central to life in their communities; and their generosity in paying it forward to those they meet along the way making it an integrated excursion of touching lives meaningfully.

The N3TC Touching Lives programme aims to shape sustainable projects for the future. As we enter our 20th year of operation, we recognise that our village is dynamic with an underlying ethos of working together to build sustainable communities for the future. Many have continued to travel this journey with us and, sadly, a few have taken an alternate path but, through it all, we have seen lives change, communities grow and projects flourish.

N3TC's unchanging conviction is that education remains the cornerstone of addressing the needs of the Corridor as a whole. If it takes a village to raise a child, the obvious implication is that success lies within the community. Nowhere is this more important than in education. Education, in all its forms, is an essential platform for building a better future, not only for the learners and students of today but for generations to come.

We are absolutely thrilled about the "village" highlighted in the pages to follow, whose growth and development it has been our privilege to support for the last nineteen years. We know that we will continue to see lives changed and dreams fulfilled, far into the future.

As for today, we ask you to join us on our journey where we hope you will be inspired as part of our village raising children of various guises and ages.



When we are alone, we are DISABLED.

When we are in a village, we are more than ABLE.

**Brenda Gouws, Sunfield Fortuna** 





NSTC recognises the extreme importance of tourism to socio economic development and has invested heavily in the tourism arena through the NS

Gatevay initiative.

The annual Touching Lives Tour took place from 8 to 9 November 2018. The purpose of the Tour was clear – to enable N3TC's directors and shareholders to appraise themselves, first hand, with outstanding community initiatives supported by N3TC through its Touching Lives programme.

The Tour also served a converse purpose – to enable the project champions to meet N3TC's highest decision makers and take heart from their commitment to the upliftment of the people of the N3 Corridor.

For the first time it was decided to visit projects in the Underberg area. Underberg has crept into N3TC's heart because of the community-mindedness of the wonderful people in this beautiful part of our country.

First up was the Underberg Pre-primary School. The welcome was warm and the cake extra scrumptious after the long journey. More than anything, the School is a happy place, where children laugh and learn through play. The School has high ideals, most notably to compare favourably with the best schools in the country and to





provide the best possible foundation for the children entrusted to their care. As with everything else in Underberg, the community takes a keen interest – reflected in the pristine facilities and countless small touches.

Next was the Underberg Mastery Community Project, an outreach initiative of the Underberg Mastery Unit. The Unit is a Special Needs Education Support facility that has been operating for seven years, providing an extensive range of services required for Remedial Education, as well as an internship programme for hands-on teacher training. The Unit's offering has been extended into the rural community, and the Tour group was privileged to witness the significant inroads the Unit is making at Goxhill School in the facets of teacher training, in-service training, mentorship and support, classroom based education and special needs support.

N3TC recognises the extreme importance of tourism to socio economic development and has invested heavily in the tourism arena through the N3 Gateway initiative. Thus, when the opportunity arose to explore the gem of Southern Drakensberg tourism, the Sani Pass, the group jumped at the chance. In the company of extremely knowledgeable guides, the trip up the Pass,



"The Touching Lives tour of 2018 has brought the immense importance of our CSI program, the dedication and commitment of our N3TC team and the real difference that we are making, home to me. I feel privileged to have seen a small part of the efforts of all the people whose projects we support and the efforts of Con, Thandi and Isabel. One's own humanity and belief in the power of the human spirit and compassion is restored.

Mich Nieuwoudt, Chief
Investment Officer, GAIA









that of course included a visit to the highest pub in Africa, was a memorable highlight that comes highly recommended.

The evening was spent at one of the Southern Drakensberg's excellent country manors. One of the founders of the N3TC Drak Challenge joined the group for dinner to explain just how important the race is to the whole Underberg community, particularly from an economic impact point of view. We celebrated the growth of the event and the expansion of the event in the form of a weekend of activities - the "FNB Drak Adventure".



After a hearty breakfast the next morning, the group left for Pevensey Place, a residential facility, situated on a farm outside Underberg that provides life-long care to cerebral palsied and similarly affected adults. The group revelled in meeting the residents, who experience a harmonious and safe lifestyle in a healthy environment. Pevensey residents are very much a part of the broader community and took great pride in demonstrating their craft skills. They also treated us to a tasting of the pancakes they make to raise funds at community events. Many of the residents love swimming and a number even participate in the Midmar Mile!

The last project to be visited was in Mpophomeni Township, Howick – Funda Nenja. This programme's primary objective is to develop children into caring, respectful and responsible individuals. The programme is unique in the sense that it encompasses animal welfare as a tool to teach compassion and good values. The Tour



group was treated to dog training classes at Zamuthule School and was thrilled to see the remarkable change brought about by Funda Nenja.

After briefings on N3TC's very extensive road safety and public liaison initiatives, the



"The N3TC Board tour was, again, an extraordinary way to see that the N3TC team's value add is not only limited to efficiently managing the toll route, but being a social anchor point that extends past its contractual obligation. Your commitment has done much in connecting and reinforcing the moral and social fabric that makes up the communities along the N3 Toll Route. We at Fikile Projects extend our gratitude toward yourselves and beneficiaries in taking continual leaps in building a better tomorrow today." Fikile H.B. Ndlovu, **Fikile Projects** 



Tour ended, as it had begun, at Pietermaritzburg Airport. The Tour is an annual highlight for the N3TC team, an opportunity to bring the stories on paper to life. To showcase what motivates the team to continuously strive to do more ... support, assist, mentor, encourage, motivate and touch.

The deep interest of our directors and shareholder representatives is a unique aspect of the Touching Lives programme. We thank the Board members and shareholder representatives for their support and for taking time to touch lives with the N3TC team. It may have only been a glimpse into our world, but the memories will last a lifetime.



### This is some of their feedback:

"Thank you for a well organised and informative trip and an extra special thank you and appreciation to Con and Thandiwe (such friendly and engaging hosts!). It really was a privilege to see the work being done at the four projects we visited physically and the presentation by Richard on the Drak Challenge. The most striking impression for me was the passion and dedication of those we met, these projects would not be the shining lights they are without the pure grit and determination of the selfless people driving this work. We met employees who go above and beyond and a number of volunteers who give of their time and skill for no reward but to give back! Inspiring!"

## Tania Swanepoel, ESG Advisor AIIM

"This is a big heartfelt thank you for a truly amazing N3TC Touching Lives tour. Aside from your wonderful hosting and care taken of us all, I was blown away again with how much of an impact we are making with our CSI investments along the N3TC route. I really think N3TC is adding a different dimension in not only providing much needed funding, but in finding those partners who make that investment so much more by their passion, energy, commitment and going the extra mile. It's the multiplier effect in action. I think that N3TC's real care comes through so strongly and I have come away from the tour with my heart touched by the experience. Keep up the excellent work!"

## Sarah de Villiers, CFA, Joint Portfolio Manager: Development Equity Fund, Futuregrowth

"The 2018 Touching Lives tour was an excellent trip. What we have seen and observed is acknowledged with gratitude. A major highlight is the contribution made by N3TC to the Education Sector, especially the Foundation Phase. I value the training tools created by the Underberg Mastery project to enhance the production of knowledge at community schools, as evidenced by radically enhanced reading and literacy skills (being fundamental to all subjects including maths and science). As far as social development is concerned, Pevensey place is a home for cerebral palsy adults, most of whom have no other family. Community involvement in Pevensey is critical to its sustainability and this involvement is fully supported by N3TC's efforts."

## Prof John Maluleke, Infra Africa Investment Holdings







Do what you can, where you are, with what you have!

One teacher, one textbook, many learners.

Daniela Browne, SMILE

# VULA MATHS AND SCIENCE PROGRAMME

PROJECT CHAMPION: LLOYD SMUTS

YEARS FUNDED: EIGHT

PROVINCE:
KWAZULU-NATAL

The beneficiavies were exposed to a wide vange of opportunities and possibilities by having their own laptops.

N3TC's funding awarded to the Vula Maths and Science programme ensured that two of the Project's important components namely, the acquisition of laptops for teachers attending the Vula Mathematics Academy and the Grade 12 Mathematics and Physical Science Week, were realised.

"It is clear that both components of the Vula Maths and Science Programme funded by N3TC, one for teachers and the other for learners, are vitally important change-agents which steer many of the beneficiaries onto paths of self-improvement and success. We will therefore continue to offer both of these important initiatives for as long as we are able to do so." Lloyd Smuts The Vula Mathematics Academy (VuMA) is a technology-based response to the Mathematics teaching crisis at township and rural schools in the greater Midlands area of KwaZulu-Natal. The funds spent on laptop computers ensured that the recipients of these could participate fully in the teaching and learning activities which made up an eleven-week, in-residence programme at VuMA.

The beneficiaries were exposed to a wide range of opportunities and possibilities by having their own laptops. The laptops became

The beneficiaries were exposed to a wide range of opportunities and possibilities by having their own laptops. The laptops became the means by which they were able to electronically accumulate a vast array of teaching resources and take them back to their schools on completion of their time spent at VuMA.

The Vula Mathematics Academy (VuMA) continues to change the lives of the teachers, and ultimately the learners that they teach, after spending a full term in residence in Vula Lodge at Hilton

College.

Since 2014, when VuMA opened, a total of 132 Mathematics teachers have passed through the Academy.

Of these, three have been promoted to senior subject adviser positions within the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, four have been promoted to Principal posts and four are no longer teaching. The remainder, however, continue to use their laptops, skills and insights gained to teach Mathematics to more than 25 000 learners in KwaZulu-Natal.

As an example, Sandile Sikhosane continues to teach in a remote rural school beyond Himeville, in the foothills of the Drakensberg. Sandile uses his VuMA laptop so effectively and efficiently that VuMA employs him to tutor other teachers and learners during school holiday workshops at Hilton College.

Sandile has been hugely empowered by his attendance at VuMA and he is proof of the extent to which one can determine one's own destiny.





Independent research conducted by Dr Sharon Grussendorff into the VuMA programme showed that teachers who attended VuMA were achieving better Grade 12 Mathematics results when compared with those of the teachers who had not yet attended VuMA. The best results were achieved by those teachers who were fully using the laptops and teaching strategies they had learned while at VuMA.

The **Grade 12 Mathematics and Science Week** is an eagerly anticipated event on PROTEC Pietermaritzburg's annual calendar. During the week, the beneficiaries receive concentrated teaching in both subjects from the best teachers at Hilton College.

Although being only one contributor to the successes of the PROTEC students, the annual Vula Grade 12 Mathematics and Science Week is an important factor to the students' success in their final matric examinations.

Provision is made for practical work in the school laboratories, of limited access to the learners at their township and rural schools, which improves understanding of scientific concepts.

The PROTEC group is comfortably accommodated and well fed, which makes a significant difference in their ability to learn. This







contributed to the enthusiastic responses received from the learners at the end of the week! Some of the comments received are highlighted below:

"This has been the best week in my Grade 12 year. I am motivated as the teachers also gave us lots of advice on how to approach the coming exams."

"The food was so nice. We were able to study effectively because we were not hungry."

"We have had issues with our Physical Science teacher, so I am truly grateful for the opportunity I was given to be part of the Vula Programme."

Thank you very much. This was a lifetime experience which opened my eyes and shifted how I saw life. I really felt special during this week."

"I enjoyed being around positive minded, punctual people and observing the learning techniques at one of the best schools in the country."

"This week has made me realise that I need to put much more effort into my studies and dedicate more of my time to actually practising Maths and Science instead of just skimming through past papers."

"Being in an environment full of people who are just as hungry for education as I am 24/7 is really an inspiration and the hospitality was superb."



Sandile Sikhosana eats, sleeps and breathes mathematics.

Actually, he dreams maths too. "Often interesting questions for exam papers come to me in my dreams and then all I have to do in the morning is write them down," he recounts. Sandile is absolutely determined to improve the quality of maths teaching in South Africa and is doing everything he can to make this a reality.

Sandile is the Mathematics, Computer and Technology teacher at Mazwendoda High School in rural Impendle. Surrounded by rolling green hills, with little traffic on the road besides cows and the occasional pedestrian, this is a pleasant and peaceful place to live. Sandile maintains, "The sense of community is great here. Ubuntu is strong, people assist one another and there is little crime." Students come from as far afield as Durban and Newcastle to attend Mazwendoda School – clearly not drawn by the nightlife – but by this remarkable teacher. This contributes to the local economy as learners board with neighbouring families and soon come to love the calm rhythms of country life.

While at high school, Sandile would often teach the class when the teacher was absent, his love of the subject evident from an early





age. Even though he passed maths with distinction in Matric, there was no opportunity to further his studies and he worked as a door operator for a taxi driver for a couple of years. "In between trips I would teach maths at the rank. Learners would sit and wait for me on the pavement and we would do some work, before I had to go off again." This cemented his reputation as the Maths Guru of Impendle. In 2009 Mr Tseledi, principal of Mazwendoda School and a maths teacher himself, invited Sandile to assist with the formal teaching of this subject. Despite the small stipend attached to this post he grabbed the opportunity and registered for his Bachelor of Education degree.

Sandile gets to school at 6am, in time for his Grade 12 extra lesson before the school day starts. Then from 4pm, the Grade 11's have their extra lessons. After supper, a little TV and a short nap, youngsters who live near his home arrive for tutoring from 9pm until 11pm! He certainly crams as much maths as humanly possible into every day. Not even the weekends are exempt from his enthusiasm. Saturdays he heads into Pietermaritzburg to assist with teacher training at the FET College. On Sunday afternoons, Sandile holds classes in Impendle town for learners from other schools in the district - mentoring some really good students, to be









Sandile believes that a strong grounding in maths with make all the difference to organisational skills and creatively solving many of the issues we face.

able to help others in their areas. Impendle is very spread out and it is difficult for them to travel far," he explains.

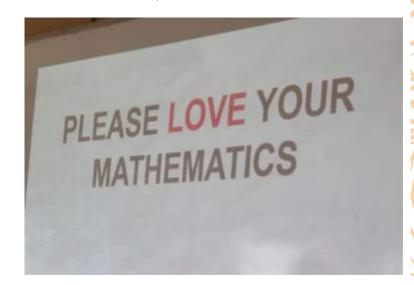
During school holidays, Vula Maths Outreach Project hires him to hold teacher workshops in Zululand and other regions, or he assists with the Vula teacher upgrade programme and manages the Vula maths website – uploading past exam papers and info posters. Sandile has thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Vula programme which encouraged him to use technology in his lessons and save a lot of preparation time.

Sandile has observed how much time students spend on social media on their phones, so rather than trying to distract them from this, he started a maths Facebook page and uses What's App groups to encourage learners to discuss problems and ask questions. His own children also enjoy maths and science, so they often do maths puzzles together or play cards – building skills while having fun.

"I am determined to improve the quality of maths and technology in rural areas, I want to develop an environment and system that assists our students to shine in maths abilities. Maths is all about problem solving, something which is needed at this time," he explains passionately. "Our country has a shortage of well qualified graduates in the science fields. There is much potential for growth and development."

Sandile believes that a strong grounding in maths with make all the difference to organisational skills and creatively solving many of the issues we face. "Love your Maths, become friends with your text books and put some time into it every single day," he encourages his new class of 2019. "If you are confused, ask – it is the only way to improve. We are aiming for 100% pass rate in Maths this year so that you can all make your dreams come true."

Sandile is doing his best to make sure South Africa thrives – led by maths masters from Impendle.





# UNDERBERG PRIMARY MASTERY UNIT COMMUNITY PROJECT

PROJECT CHAMPION: CHERYL TAYLOR

> YEARS FUNDED: THREE

PROVINCE:
KWAZULU-NATAL

We aim to build strong bonds of trust and dependability...

This project involves many aspects associated with Early Childhood Development, including teaching and learning of language and emotional intelligence; along with special needs education and the development of English literacy skills in Underberg community schools.

Underberg Primary School interns are the project facilitators and they attend many training courses either run by outside professionals, commercial groups or members of the Mastery training team. In turn, care givers at Family Literacy Project, as well as the teachers in the schools in which we work, are also trained. This extensive base of new information and skills then filters through to the broader community that is empowered by this newly acquired knowledge. There has been an improvement in the command of oral English and English reading, which grows









confidence and improves communication and a feeling of positivity in being able to interact with others in English.

"The goals of our project are to provide support, resources and training for the development of English literacy skills and special needs education within the rural schools of our community. In so doing, we aim to build strong bonds of trust and dependability as we strive towards providing growth opportunities for all." Cheryl Taylor

The funds provided by N3TC have undoubtedly enabled the programme to achieve success this year. Below are some wonderful comments from the interns when asked what impact the project has had.

"This project helps teachers, interns, children and the whole community. I have learned so much"

"The small group teaching and learning gives the children confidence."

"This programme exposes the children to more English than they would otherwise get."

"I have learned that all children CAN learn, They just need extra time and someone to sit with them and show them properly."

"I feel like a parent to these children because I can teach them so much more in a small group. The excitement when they see me is fantastic."

"We are here to teach English but it gives us opportunities to teach life skills and emotional intelligence too."

# KZN CRANE FOUNDATION EDUCATION PROGRAMME

PROJECT CHAMPION: SANDY STEWART KIM SCHOLTZ

> YEARS FUNDED: EIGHT

PROVINCE: KWAZULU-NATAL

... encouraping discussions around important values such as faithfulness, courage and loyalty ...

The KZN Crane Foundation (KZNCF) Education team has undergone a few changes in the past year. This change has proved beneficial to the project and the educators continue to make significant progress in the Midlands region and beyond.

Jenny Stipcich, who led this project for a number of years, has retired and relocated to McGregor in the Cape. N3TC applauds Jenny for the incredible work she has done over the years – her mentorship, guidance and love for teaching has permeated through every aspect of this project and has formed a foundation upon which, we believe, the environmental efforts of the KZNCF can grow and benefit future generations.

In the classrooms the KZNCF educators use the cranes as a wonderful tool to teach valuable life lessons. They are telling crane

stories while encouraging discussions around important values such as faithfulness, courage and loyalty. Using methods such as song and dance, painting and playing games the educators expose learners to new and exciting ideas while teaching valuable lessons about conservation. This is particularly important for children who come from under-resourced schools and communities where ill health, unemployment and poverty are often the norm. N3TC's funding is making a considerable impact on the lives of these children and their community by affording them an opportunity to be part of our project.

The financial support from N3TC has enabled the KZNCF to extend the Education Programme to more schools in the Midlands area, resulting in an impartation of valuable information to learners and their communities about Crane species and the importance of saving their habitats.

The project is playing a vital role in achieving some of the

Millennium Goals through Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) for the benefit of future generations that will enjoy seeing Cranes in their natural habitat, and the downstream benefits of wetlands and grasslands to the country as a whole.

By understanding the link between cranes in the wild and clean water, wetlands and grasslands from a young age, learners will realise their responsibility to protect wetlands, water sources and grasslands These issues are addressed in the education programme and there is no doubt that the beneficiaries will add value to their communities.

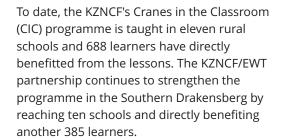
"N3TC's funding is helping us raise future ambassadors for the environment. In this way we are helping to shape children's perceptions and behaviour towards the environment and nature and changing their lives for the better."

Sandy Stewart





Using methods such as song and dance, painting and playing games the educators expose learners to new and exciting ideas while teaching valuable lessons about conservation.



Continuous assessment is the basis for improvement and the KZNCF holds regular

meetings and mentoring sessions to discuss the highlights and challenges experienced in the schools, workshops and public events. Together with the assessments done at the end of the CIC programme in each school, the KZNCF uses this knowledge to adapt or modify its programmes so that they are responsive to respective community needs.

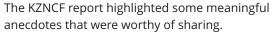
N3TC's funding has contributed to the mentorship of two new education officers this year. The development of education officers is important as it shows personal and professional growth. This contributes to the day-to-day running of the project as they take on



increasing responsibility for their future wellbeing and lifelong learning. This contributes to the success of the project because it provides trust and certainty that the project is in good



hands and will be a success. This is reflected in the education officers' growing confidence in initiating ideas and activities that will improve the programme. Ongoing mentorship of the education officers remains a priority for the KZNCF as they employ collaborative relationships with other NGOs in the community.



**Nduduzo Khoza** an education officer employed by the KZNCF got married to his lovely wife in June 2018. He believes that it has been a great joy to be part of the project as he has been able to afford the Lobola and the wedding.

**Lindelani Mafu** an education officer employed by the KZNCF has obtained his motor vehicle driving license. He was able to do this as a result of his role in the project and its impact on his life.



## SAM-LYN EDU-CENTRE LITERACY PROGRAMME

PROJECT CHAMPION: LES AND HAZEL STANLEY

YEARS FUNDED: FOUR

PROVINCE: KWAZULU-NATAL

The onpoint empowerment of the Principal and staff continues...

An email received from Les and Hazel Stanley stands as a moving demonstration of a community project led by two passionate, dedicated and determined teachers. We have chosen to share this in its entirety as an accurate reflection of the impact of this project in Weenen, KwaZulu-Natal.

"Earlier this year we made the decision to move from Weenen to Pietermaritzburg as our son-in-law had been appointed as the Principal of Selborne Primary in East London; and he and our daughter asked us to rent their home in Pietermartizburg from them. After careful thought and part-time job offers received close to their home, we decided to make the move. Initially, Les took up the job offer and Hazel remained in Weenen to continue to run the Sam-Lyn Centre until such time as she was able to re-distribute the materials.

However, after a visit from one of the local farmer's wives, Hannali du Plooy, our plans changed. Hannali felt that we could not give up the work at the Centre and offered to step in and work alongside Yolanda Sibisi. We do believe that this was undoubtedly Divine intervention as we were also not happy that the work happening at the Centre would have to stop.

Hannali is now well ensconced at the Centre which Hazel continues to project manage as well as visit and support schools. A condition







of Hazel's employment in Pietermaritzburg is that she be afforded the time to continue to visit Weenen on a regular basis. Only last week, a new school was added to our list and we are delighted to have Mkholombe School on board as well.

Due to all these factors, as well as the pre -school that is running exceedingly successfully on our property, we decided to take our house off the market and the Centre and Pre-school are running 'flat out' as before.

### In a nutshell:

- Sam-Lyn Edu-Centre is forging ahead and offering all of the services as usual to the children from Ferdinand Primary and others. Hazel Stanley is overseeing and project managing -including regular visits – from Pietermaritzburg. Yolanda Sibisi and Hannali du Plooy manage the day-to-day activities in the Centre.
- The ongoing empowerment of the Principal and staff at Kopleegte Primary, where the library was established earlier in the year, continues.
- The pre-school under the professional eye of Tracey Usher-Jones continues to flourish. Next year Grade RR and Grade R years will be offered and enrolment is increasing daily. With the Stanley's having moved out of their home in Weenen, another room in the house has been given to the pre-school.
- Plans are afoot to assist Mkholombe Primary in establishing their library as well as taking in some of their pupils for English literacy upgrading.

Many and continued blessings.

Les and Hazel

Directors"



PROJECT CHAMPION: LES AND HAZEL STANLEY

YEARS FUNDED: FOUR

PROVINCE: KWAZULU-NATAL

We were heartened to receive this letter from SamLyn Centre, highlighting just how much a village can raise a child ... the N3TC Touching Lives programme is touching lives meaningfully and leaving a legacy that will benefit future generations.

Hi Thandi, Con and the N3TC Team,

We are exceedingly excited and overwhelmed and we felt it only appropriate that we share our feelings with you.

About five years ago when Hazel was Acting Principal at Weenen Primary the school's cleaner was Jabulani Ndawonde. Hazel was introduced to his son, Sbu, who was living with his dad, in the school cleaners' quarters and attending another school. Hazel immediately saw the potential in this young boy and told Jabulani that he ought to bring Sbu to Weenen Primary where she believed that she would be able to guide, monitor and assess his progress and ensure that he achieve his potential.

Sbu changed schools and attended Sam-Lyn Centre over the past five years and has not "missed a beat". He has worked through the Readers are Leaders Programme and has committed himself to absolutely EVERYTHING on offer at the Centre.

Sbu is now in Grade 7 and we felt that on the basis of what he has achieved, the kind of young man he has developed into and his father's desire for his boy to have better than he had, we felt he ought to be offered the very best possible chance at High School to achieve still further.

An approach to the Principal of Estcourt High School was met with a very positive response and an application was duly submitted.

We are thrilled! Sbu has been accepted into Grade 8 at Estcourt High. He achieved 62% for Maths and 84% for English First Language in the Admission Test administered by the school. We are beyond excited as Sbu will be attending EHS from 2019 - ON MERIT!

So why are we telling you all of this? Sam-Lyn Edu Centre funded almost solely by N3TC has ensured that this boy has a future. This boy's father remains a school cleaner, but on Hazel's advice he has saved enough to cover the fees for his son's schooling.

BUT, none of this would have been possible without the support we have received from yourselves over the years.

Thank you so very much and may God continue to bless you all abundantly.

Many and continued blessings. Les and Hazel Stanley



## MIDLANDS MEANDER EDUCATION PROJECT

PROJECT CHAMPION: DENNIS BAILEY

> YEARS FUNDED: THIRTEEN

PROVINCE:
KWAZULU-NATAL

It has become a highly vepavoled organisation ...

The Midlands Meander Education Project (MMEP) is one of the first projects to receive N3TC funding as part of our Touching Lives programme.

The MMEP is a true representation of sustainable and meaningful community involvement. It has been a significant 'villager' in the N3 Corridor and has helped raise many children! It has become a highly regarded organisation that has evolved from a community-run project into a formidable NGO. N3TC is particularly proud of its involvement in the MMEP and considers it a privilege to have been part of making a meaningful difference in the KZN Midlands.

"Increasingly MMEP is aware of how it's very presence, facilitated by N3TC funds, increases accountability in 17 schools within reach of the Midlands Meander." **Dennis Bailey** 

According to the most recent MMEP report, absent teachers have been and still are a source of real concern, to communities surrounding Midlands schools and the Department of Education; along with unacceptable standards of educator engagement with learners. Increasingly MMEP is choosing not to respond to poor service delivery but rather to add value to ongoing work of more







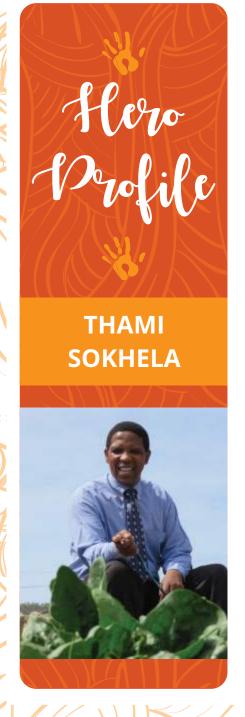
dedicated educators at schools striving to succeed despite isolation and being under resourced.

Increasingly, MMEP Bugs are serving as community advocates for change in practice and better resourcing at the schools they support.

MMEP has been working in schools within the reach of the Midlands Meander for long enough to now see many emerging as matriculants and graduates. Anecdotal evidence suggests that its impact has been significant.

**Vusi Mvelasi,** well known to N3TC, is one such graduate who despite hardships and limited resources has emerged from Rhodes as an N3TC bursary graduate. Worthy of note is that Vusi struggled through a tragedy while studying which left him emotionally and psychologically vulnerable. Having dealt with these deep issues he has emerged as a confident and emotionally intelligent man. N3TC played a significant role in Vusi's life and he places enormous value on the resources that enabled him to navigate this path to maturity. Consequently, MMEP is beginning to explore the possibility of an internship programme that will prepare matriculants and graduates for work.

MMEP has negotiated concessions with UNISA and UKZN for postgraduate fee concessions for MMEP interns studying a Diploma in Education. The idea being that MMEP interns would accompany MMEP Bugs into the very schools they came from to gain experience and coaching in classroom techniques.



Most teachers in their fifties are feeling weary and starting to think about retirement. Not Thamsanqa (Thami) Sokhela.

After 27 years at Shea O'Connor School in Nottingham Road (18 years as principal), he chose to move to crowded Bruntville Primary, in the heart of the township. "Many families were moved there from farms, but still sent their kids to our school, paying a lot for transport. It made sense to have a school close to where they lived with as good an education as they would get at Shea O'Connor. I thought to myself - I have 13 years left to achieve this." That is exactly what he set out to do, and within just a few years, the changes are remarkable.

"I knew I couldn't do anything on my own, I had to make the rest of the staff see my vision. Clearly, these have been stressful years, with his hands full, but now Thami is relaxed. The parents are happy, and the learners clearly adore their 'Thisha Omkhulu".

Thami grew up in Lake View, just over the hill from Bruntville Primary, which was just one building back then. A happy rural existence, walking through the grassland to attend school.

Once qualified as a teacher, he joined the staff at Shea O'Connor (then known as Nottingham Road Combined), meeting local farmer Shea O'Connor (after whom the school is now named). In those days, Black children were only taught until Standard 5 (Grade 7). Mr O'Connor fought this, and each year introduced one more grade paying half the money required to run the school, with the Government contributing the rest. "We built the classrooms ourselves. The learners mixed the mortar and we would hand Mr O'Connor the bricks to lay," remembers Thami.

Mr O'Connor used his connections to secure donations to help improve the school. "He instilled in me this idea of asking for help. I was determined that this rural school would not be looked down upon as many others were." Shea O'Connor School is widely regarded as an excellent school.









On arrival at Bruntville Primary, Thami was unhappy with the state of affairs. He set to work - scrapping school fees, insisting English was spoken and ensuring the teachers became computer literate. He sourced donations to create a computer room for the learners. Now he just had to convince the teachers! A computer skills course offered by Midlands Community College, funded by N3TC, has ensured that despite their initial reluctance, teachers are loving their new IT skills.

Thami is concerned about the Eno Effect – the fizz and excitement when something starts, that subsides over time. "I have to keep pushing, at the same time being careful not to tread on toes," he says thoughtfully. While he has improved the feeding scheme, he wants to upgrade the school garden to provide not only fresh food, but inspiration for all the learners to start gardens at their homes. "Growing food is important and close to my heart. Currently, in partnership with local farmers, we have managed to enroll six learners at Weston Agricultural College. We must produce people who can stand on their own."

For his last few years as a principal, he is planning to move back to his family home. Then his daily commute to school will once again be a walk over the hills, greeting bright-eyed youngsters with high fives and waving to satisfied parents.



As we share, so shall we prosper.

Gerrie Steenkamp, Khanyisile



The learners have been deliphted with the acquisition of new playpround equipment.

N3TC funding awarded to St David's School in 2018 continued to contribute towards educational and infrastructure improvements to make life at school even better for its learners, parents, visitors and teachers.

This year, the school used N3TC's funding to purchase new sets of readers for the Junior Primary; and the school's small library is improving with the addition of new books too. A welcome and highly valued contribution to building the school's educational resources.

The learners, however, have been delighted with the acquisition of new playground equipment. A Jungle Gym has been installed for the younger learners; and an obstacle course for the older children is being planned.

As part of the St David's report, they shared a moving story of Michael\* (name changed). We felt it worthy to share.

**Michael's** story is an example of St. David's caring environment. His Grade 1 teacher noticed that he was not walking or running as he should be and seemed to be in pain. Michael was diagnosed with Perthes' Disease and had to wear a custom-made brace from hip to toe, which necessitated the use of crutches.

In Grade 2 he was still wearing the brace. Nonetheless, he adapted to his situation and put on a brave face, despite the fact that he could not join in sports or break dance (his favourite activity). His classmates were happy to lend a helping hand, especially his very







caring sister who was in the same class, and the boys took turns to accompany him to the toilet to make sure he didn't fall.

His father left the family home four years ago, moved to another province and only sees the children during school holidays. He contributes very little and their mother was battling to keep up with the fees and tried to pay the arrears which the father refused to pay.

As the children's mother values the quality of education at St. David's, she was reluctant to move the children to a lower-fee public school. Eventually she told us that her financial situation was forcing her to move both children.

However, the school was so full that they could not even be accommodated there. Michael's sister, aware of their financial predicament and, in an effort to help, bought and sold sweets, putting the tiny profit towards her fees.

Thanks to N3TC we have been able to offer a top-up bursary to this family for the last few years to alleviate their financial pressure. Both children are happy and doing well.

## FREE STATE ECO SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

PROJECT CHAMPION: DELANA EKSTEEN

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR: REATLEGILE LEKALAKALA

YEARS FUNDED: FOUR

PROVINCE: FREE STATE

... challenges local learners to engage in environmental projects ...

The Free State Eco Schools Programme, funded by N3TC, has challenged local learners to engage in environmental projects and contribute towards providing tangible environmental solutions.

It has made it possible for WESSA to combine learning with hands-on experience for an all-inclusive participatory approach. Learners, educators, staff and the community are encouraged to work together to improve life in the Villiers community as they collectively work towards a sustainable future.

At the same time, the project enables learners to effectively recognise and articulate their learning and achievements against local context. This increases self-esteem, improves motivation and keeps learners interested in learning.







## MIDLANDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PROJECT CHAMPION: MARGARET JOHNSON

YEARS FUNDED: SIX

PROVINCE:
KWAZULU-NATAL

... hopes to contribute
to increasing the pass
rate at previously
disadvantaged schools

The Mobile Science Laboratory Project provides an opportunity for under-resourced schools to participate in curriculum-aligned practical, physical science experiments.

Six laboratory technicians deliver the programme in line with a comprehensive year plan to ensure that six practical lessons are covered for each grade at the 49 full-time project schools.

The Mobile Science Laboratory Project has achieved great results this year, reaching:

- 49 schools throughout the school year;
- 16 schools on Saturday mornings;
- 10 schools during the July and October school holidays; and
- Six (6) schools on a support basis when time allows.

The long-term change that Midlands Community College hopes to achieve with the Mobile Science Laboratory Project is to contribute to increasing the pass rate at previously disadvantaged schools, especially in physical science, resulting in a greater number of Grade 12 learners having access to further study opportunities and secure employment.

In August, the College hosted a Science Olympiad. Eighteen schools participated in the event, each represented by two Grade 12 learners. Participants were challenged to perform new experiments that they had never done before as well as experiments that they had been taught during the course of the year.

"It was a day to celebrate the wonders of science. Thank you N3TC for supporting the day and supplying the impressive trophies for the winners!" Margaret Johnson











"The Mobile Science Laboratory has been an eyeopener for the entire Midlands Community College project team. It is only when you are in the 'thick of things' that you can fully appreciate the challenges that are faced by the vast majority of our schools. A project of this nature, which operates at the coal face of education in South Africa, brings to light the critical lack of resources and skills, especially in the sciences, needed to ensure that all children are afforded the same opportunities." Margaret Johnson



## ESIPHETHWINI SENDIZA PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROJECT CHAMPION: JON BATES

> YEARS FUNDED: FIVE

PROVINCE: KWAZULU-NATAL

Esiphethwini Sendiza Primary School boasts a fully equipped and functional Media Education Centre, where no less than 35 computers are used at any given time for teaching. This is the result of N3TC's funding awarded to the school in 2018

The facility has benefitted the school enormously. Enthusiasm and morale amongst teachers and pupils is high and the Centre is well utilised. It has contributed to raising the profile of the school locally that enrolments in certain grades have had to be capped to help keep numbers manageable.

N3TC funding has enabled Esiphethwini to lift itself to a new level as rural Midlands school. The infrastructure improvements funded in the past, have resulted in a marked difference in the pride that teachers, governing body and pupils take in the school. Simple things like litter collection and clean toilets are visible evidence of this change in mindset.

"Thanks to N3TC taking a leadership role in supporting Esiphethwini, we have seen other entities keen to support the school. Reading Grannies teach English, Eskort Meats deliver a good protein rich meal every Wednesday; and Ballid Security donate monitoring of alarms and a rapid response service." Jon Bates





PROJECT CHAMPION: CATHY DERMAN

YEARS FUNDED: FOUR

PROVINCE: KWAZULU-NATAL N3TC's continued funding of the Curry's Post Primary School (CPPS) Science Centre incorporates the presentation of curriculum-based science workshops for educators from schools within the Lions River circuit in the KZN Midlands.

The workshops are facilitated by Jill Cadle, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education (DoE) science subject adviser making them relevant, appropriate and highly sought after amongst teachers.

All participating schools receive science kits at the workshops to facilitate ongoing learning and improvement of resources amongst the 22 schools in the circuit.

"One of the teachers, Ms Nene from Isiphethu Primary, arrived for the workshop not feeling too well. She said that she was on sick leave but said she could not miss the workshop because they have been so helpful to her teaching." **Cathy Derman** 







## CRYSTAL SPRINGS PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROJECT CHAMPION: MRS THEMBI NGUBANE

YEARS FUNDED: THREE

PROVINCE: KWAZULU-NATAL N3TC continued to fund infrastructure developments at Crystal Springs Primary School.

The school now boasts a covered area that acts as a hall for various activities. To ensure that the school utilised N3TC's funding effectively, a new palisade gate has been installed to improve the school's security.

The funding has brought about positive change in school culture and ethos. This has been greatly influenced by the structural appearance and care of the school. The covered structure has contributed to improving discipline as learners are able to sit under the shelter when waiting for their transport or to be protected from rain and sunlight.

"Teachers are very happy. They find it easy to monitor the learners when they are seated unlike when they used to play all over the grounds." **Thembi Ngubane** 



## SHEA O'CONNOR E-LEARNING PROJECT

PROJECT CHAMPION: JON BATES

YEARS FUNDED: ONE

PROVINCE: KWAZULU-NATAL



Shea O' Connor Combined School is a leading government school in the Nottingham Road and Mooi River area.

The main objectives of the school have focused greatly on increasing the learner pass rate in mathematics and science; increasing the number of learners taking these subjects at a higher grade level; and increasing the number of learners receiving admission to university to pursue studies in scientific fields.

N3TC is proud to have partnered with the school in making the achievement of these objectives possible. Significantly, it has funded the appointment of Mr Vincent Mfekayi to act as a mathematics and science revision/ stand-in teacher, as well as a Zulu language interface. In addition to his other duties at a grade 11 and 12 level, Mr Mfekayi takes grade 9 and 10 learners for extra lessons in mathematics. He has been an invaluable support to the school and has played a critical role in encouraging grade 9 and 10 students to continue with mathematics and science at a higher grade level. It is extremely encouraging to note the number of learners who have enrolled at this level for 2019, with the objective of pursuing tertiary education in the scientific fields.

Another school partner is the Michaelhouse Community Development Trust, which has funded the installation of the Ligbron mathematics and science E-Learning system for grades 11 and 12. Since the installation of this technologically driven system, a distinct improvement has been identified in meeting the school's objectives.

Mr Nxumalo the Headmaster recently wrote "Vincent has been very helpful to the school. I have no words to express how helpful he is. He took over the Ligbron Project as teachers for both mathematics and science are absent. He ensures that learners attend special afternoon classes. He prints lesson notes for learners. He teaches grade 9 maths on Saturdays. He does a lot. However, I am ensuring that he does not get overloaded".

N3TC is excited about its involvement at the school and prospects for the future. Certainly, the opportunity has been created for learners to go on to achieve their dreams in the exciting world of science, despite their rural, disadvantaged circumstances.



"When young people ask me how I got the job I have now, I always tell them to start by volunteering," advises Yolanda Sibisi, "you need to grab opportunities that come along and make the most of them." Yolanda has certainly done this.

Growing up in Ezitendeni township in Weenen, she was shy and mostly watched the other children playing from the side lines. When she did participate, *amagendo* was one of her favourite games. "We put 10 peach pips in a hollow in the ground, threw one in the air and before it landed, had to take another out of the hole, until they were all on the side. It was a Maths game really, teaching us counting."

She felt fortunate to attend Weenen Primêr where English was taught as the first language. "This really helped a lot, because with good English you can connect with others in the community." As was the case for many of her peers, financial issues made it impossible to study as a teacher, despite her wishes. So, when she heard that veteran educationist Les Stanley was running a course for those interested in teaching, she didn't hesitate. Yolanda participated with enthusiasm and was soon volunteering in local schools. Her willingness to assist had been noticed and when an opportunity (with a small stipend) came up as a teacher's aide at Weenen Primêr, she was the ideal candidate. Her ability to deal with children with difficulties and respectfully enforce discipline meant she was soon assisting in the Foundation Phase – which is her real passion.

The Stanleys, who were firm friends by now, opened Sam-Lyn Edu Centre to assist local learners improve English and computer skills. Yolanda volunteered to help. "Yolanda's dedication, love of children and delightful sense of humour means she is adored by all who know her," smiles Hazel Stanley, "She has never missed a beat."

Now, not only does Yolanda ensure Sam-Lyn runs smoothly in the afternoons, she also assists at the Paddock Pre-School during the mornings. Last year, Yolanda enrolled for a formal ECD teaching qualification. Her commitment illustrated by the fact that on Saturdays, when she needed to attend classes in Pietermaritzburg,











she made a plan to catch a 4am lift with the newspaper delivery man to get there on time!

Yolanda is determined to open her own pre-school in Ezitendeni, so that little children can walk to school rather than use expensive transport. Her patient and kind mum works at a local creche, so together they would be a formidable team offering good early childhood development in the township. No doubt their classes will incorporate traditional games like *amagendo*, *umasgalobhe* and clapping that teach hand-eye coordination, as well the things she has learnt at Sam-Lyn, Paddock Pre-Primary and through her diploma. Has she thought of a name for her school yet? "Not really, but it will be something bubbly and fizzy!"

"I'm just Weenen," she laughs, "I love the quiet, the community, I'm not leaving." She would like to visit the seaside though – but only for a couple of days. Weenen is where Yolanda's heart is.





The report below has been incorporated in full as supplied. It is a comprehensive overview and reflection on Drakensberg Boys Choir School being a village raising a musical family!

Worldwide there are many schools with choirs, but the Drakensberg Boys Choir School is unique and one of only a few of its kind, globally: a boarding school using choral music as a significant vehicle for holistic education. Put rather simply, it is a 'choir with a school' rather than a school choir.

Its home is in a world heritage site, the majestic uKhahlamba Drakensberg Park in KwaZulu-Natal which has a very strong link to the N3 Toll Route, being its main access, either from Gauteng, the Free State or the KwaZulu-Natal coast.

In most schools the honour of representing the respective 'A' teams is reserved for those children in the higher grades. A choir is made up of a number of (equal) parts; soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Another 'unique' at the Drakensberg Boys Choir is use of tenor and bass (broken) voices, seldom done in boy's choirs which inherently perform (SSA) soprano, soprano, alto repertoire. This gives the Choir a richer sound with a far greater repertoire choice and allows the 'older' boys to remain at the School until the end of Grade 9. The Drakensberg Boys Choir is the 'A' team. Once a boy has

achieved concert status, the right to wear the concert Blues (the distinct blue waist coats and white jabots), he is in the 'A' team, irrespective of whether in Grade 4 or 9. The Choir sound would simply not be possible without a good mix of the four different voice parts.

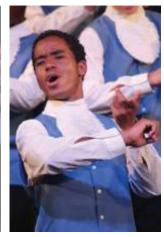
Another fact is that wealth does not necessarily equal talent and many of the boys at Drakensberg Boys Choir School are reliant on outside funding. The school fees, in comparison to many independent schools in South Africa, are rather modest, but for many talented boys' families this is simply too much. It is only through the support of funders, like N3TC, that these boys will have the opportunity to attend the Drakensberg Boys Choir School and receive an education focussing on their innate musical talent. 2018 was a watershed year for the Drakensberg Boys Choir as it challenged the world by competing at the World Choir Games held in Tshwane, South Africa. The Choir has not performed in choir competitions for decades as it was seen as a 'professional' choir. This was an opportunity for South Africa's singing ambassadors to challenge their status internationally and they did not disappoint. The most hotly contended category in The Champions Competition is C24 - Scenic Pop / Show Choirs. The Drakensberg Boys Choir won this category with a score of 95.50, receiving Gold and raising the trophy as World Champions.

All six boys supported financially by N3TC competed at the World Choir Games. The win is therefore greater than the effort of the Choir. It is a win for N3TC as without the talent of these boys on stage the results may well have been different.

In the interests of protecting the identities of the six boys funded by N3TC, we have been requested not to publish individual reports on the boys.

N3TC receives regular updates and reports on the boys' achievements and regards its involvement in Drakensberg Boys Choir School as a privilege and honour.









"N3TC's funding is firstly, a generous lump-sum which we can count on receiving as long as we keep to our side of the donor funding contract. This may not seem to be important – but it really is! Knowing that a certain amount of funding will arrive if our reporting is accurate, allows us to plan and secure the best Tutors and outside facilitators in advance. In this way, everything on our Year Planner can be scheduled on time, and our students derive maximum benefit." Rose Smuts

This forward planning and reliance on funding is essentially the success of PROTEC Pietermatizburg and the reason N3TC continues

to support its efforts in helping marginalised learners achieve the best possible results in their matric exams. This year, N3TC is supporting eight PROTEC Pmb students of which two are in Grades 8 and 9; two in Grade 10; two in Grade 11 and two in Grade 12. This spread of funding learners across the five grades ensures that N3TC's funding provides ongoing and continuous support to achieve the desired outcome.

PROTEC Pmb currently has at least 24 accomplished foresters working for both MONDI and SAPPI, and a number of other wood related companies throughout South Africa. Two past students are currently working on their PhD and MSc degrees in Forestry (Hlengiwe Ndlovu - SAPPI, and Nonkululeko Ntinga - MONDI).





PROTEC Pmb currently has at least 24 accomplished foresters working for both MONDI and SAPPI, and a number of other wood related companies throughout South Africa.

## From Mpolweni to NMMU, George ... the amazing story of Mhleli Ngcobo

This is the success story of Mhleli Ngcobo, an 18 year old young man from the rural area of Mpolweni, near New Hanover, KZN.

Mhleli became a PROTEC Pmb student in his Grade 10 year when he was accepted into its Saturday and Vacation School Programmes.

Although many of his school marks were low, he showed promise in Mathematics. In Grade 10 he had achieved a C (60%) for Maths and an E (42%) for Physical Science - his dream at that stage, was to be a Land Surveyor or Forester. However, his low science results would have disqualified him from both careers.

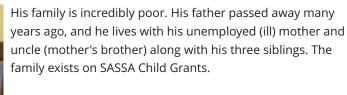
Mhleli committed to studying at PROTEC Pmb Academy, and achieved excellent attendance. His Science marks started to improve as his understanding of Chemistry and Physics developed. In Grade 12 he was assessed in PROTEC Pmb's Myers-Briggs Career Profiling to be on the right track for a science-based career, and he decided to go all out to study Forestry. He applied for every bursary in this field and was finally interviewed by MONDI Forests. Two PROTEC students were shortlisted for the MONDI Traineeship and Bursary programme, but sadly, Mhleli did not make it to the final round of interviews. He was devastated.



Mhleli testing soils before planting







PROTEC Pmb did not charge Mhleli the normal commitment fee (R200pa) and also paid all of his taxi fares for Saturday and Vacation School in his matric year - such was its belief in him that he would get a good pass!

And then the impossible happened ... the student MONDI had awarded the Traineeship and Bursary to did not perform adequately in his final examinations.

Mhleli, on the other hand, had managed to attain a good C symbol in Mathematics and 63% in Physical Science, as well as 77% in Life Sciences.

MONDI agreed to re-assess Mhleli along with other top candidates and in the end offered the Forestry Traineeship and Bursary to Mhleli. Mhleli was overjoyed!

Mhleli was soon sent on his MONDI Forestry Traineeship to Kwabonambi, Northern Zululand. His traineeship involved working alongside qualified foresters for the year, learning all about tree planting and harvesting, nursery and cloning techniques, firefighting and getting his Driver's License. In addition to being accommodated with full board, he received a small stipend to cover his living costs and transport.

The terms of his traineeship meant that if he excelled during this traineeship and was successful in gaining his license, he would qualify to be sent to the NMMU Forestry Faculty at Saarsveld, George in 2018.

The great news is that Mhleli was successful and is now a student at NMMU in George, studying Forestry!





## Gee net 'n bietjie van jou tyd aan 'n gestremde en ontvang liefde.

## Christie van Loggerenberg, Pevensey Place

Give a little time to the disabled and receive love



The families of the studens who are funded, have also been impacted preatly.

"N3TC's funding has made a remarkable difference in the lives of the student's and in the communities they come from.

Children from KwaZamokuhle Special School have seen that they can have a future if they work to the best of their abilities. This has allowed the children to dream of what they want to be when they leave school, some more ambitious than others, with the knowledge that there is a possibility of them achieving their dreams. The families of the students who are funded have also been impacted greatly. There is an overall sense of relief and gratitude that their children are receiving an education and that the financial burden has been lifted. The reality that most of these children would not have continued their education without the bursary weighs heavily on the minds of all those involved."

Peta Diack

N3TC's continued support of KwaZamokuhle School has left an indelible mark on the lives of those in the school, those associated with it as well as the N3TC team that regularly visits the school. Touching the lives of young people ... and some not so young in age ... that would otherwise be marginalised or forgotten brings incredible meaning to life along the N3 Toll Route. It is N3TC's belief that every child has a role to play in building a society that enables growth, making the N3 Corridor a place where everyone feels accepted and part of a global 'village'. N3TC has funded three remarkable students in 2018. Their stories are shared below.

## Siyanda Dumkakude

Siyanda is now in Grade 10 at Open Air School in Durban. His mother, Nonthobeko, visits regularly keeping the school updated on his progress. Nonthobeko has completed her studies in Admin Management and is doing her internship at Mobeni High School.

Siyanda has grown in confidence and is an active member of the school choir. He is also a regular participant in the school Bible Study group. What is amazing is that Siyanda is learning to swim! The therapists at Open Air Sch

group. What is amazing is that Siyanda is learning to swim! The therapists at Open Air School use pool noodles and floatation devices to support him in the water. He

expressed that he "never expected to learn how to swim and it is a wonderful feeling".

Siyanda is certainly making the most of the opportunities afforded him.

## Mbongaleni Khoza

Mbongaleni is a new student to the N3TC bursary fund this year. He was in grade 7 in KwaZamokuhle Special School in 2017. Due to the fact that he turned 19 in 2017 he was not accepted into the High School. His aim was to start his own business and, as he has an aptitude for computers, it was decided that the school would apply for him at Protech Business and Computer College.



Mbongaleni started a Basic Computer Literacy course in June and has done so well that the college is willing to provide him with extra courses, free of charge. He is extremely grateful for the opportunity to study further as this will allow him to either start his own business or find employment. Mbongaleni has also received a laptop on which he practices what he has learned and will be able to use in his future endeavours.

## Lungelo Majola

Lungelo is currently in grade 6 at KwaZamokuhle Special School. Due to the severity of his physical limitations it was decided to apply for him at Open Air School in Durban as it has better facilities for children with physical impairments than other high schools. The hope was that he could get into Open Air for grade 7 and automatically qualify for enrolment into their high school. In May,



Lungelo and his mother went to Durban for the two-week assessment period and came back full of hope. Unfortunately, Lungelo's application to Open Air was unsuccessful as his grasp of the English Language was inadequate for learning. This has been heart breaking for Lungelo, however he understands their decision and is grateful for the experience. He is now driven to improve his English so that he can be assessed again.



How do you choose between a career as a professional basketball player and a teacher? You do as Qaphela Dlamini has done – become an excellent teacher and a brilliant sports coach!

When Qaphela was four years old, he lost the use of his legs. Undeterred, he crawled around the mealie fields helping his mother to plant seeds in rural Enyazane in Loskop. As luck would have it, a social worker (who knew about KwaZamokuhle School for the Disabled) was visiting her sister nearby, spotted him and asked why he wasn't at school? He had accepted the fact that going to school would be impossible, so it was with real delight that he joined the grade one class in 1995. "He was such a clever boy," remembers Mrs Hadebe, who still teaches at the school, "always near the top of his class." He also loved sport, and whereas previously he played soccer on his knees with the other kids, he was now introduced to the world of wheelchair sport. He excelled at basketball and soccer, loved javelin, shot-put and hokka.

In Grade 8, he moved to the mainstream school in the area – amaHlubi High. While he was fortunate to find accommodation close by, so as not to have to hire special transport to attend, he remembers the challenge the muddy dirt roads posed for his wheelchair. "My white shirt was often splattered. Many times I got stuck and people passing by had to help me, especially my friends Lindelani and Michael." amaHlubi High was magnificent in adapting to his needs, building ramps to give him access to class and ensuring the other learners did not discriminate against him. In a deep rural area where myths and superstitions around disabilities abound, this was remarkable. For years, his mother had had to suffer the neighbours whispering about a curse on her family, as well as cope with extreme poverty and a challenging child.

He was named captain of the KwaZulu-Natal provincial team in the Wheelchair Basketball under 23's in Grade 11. After Matric, he was stuck back at home in the hills for lack of finances. Wiser now, he didn't crawl around planting mealies, he sat in his wheelchair helping to shuck the kernels from the cob instead. When one of the teachers at KwaZamokuhle retired, he was invited to fill her post temporarily and grabbed the opportunity.





Then in 2009, he had a big decision to make. "I was offered a contract by Discovery Eagles Club to play full time Wheelchair Basketball in Johannesburg. However, my middle name is Professor, so I decided I must live up to that." He was accepted at the University of Zululand to study for a teaching degree. A natural leader, he made a big impact while at the University – ensuring there were access ramps, that every disabled student had a laptop and introducing disabled sports. He graduated proudly in 2013, the first in his family to get a degree, silencing the critics in the community.

Qaphela is now employed full time at KwaZamokuhle as the Maths and Computer Science teacher, which he loves. Naturally, he spends as much time as he can coaching sport and his Young Dynamics excel in every competition. During weekends, he invites youngsters from the surrounding community to come to school and play with the disabled learners. "They have fun, ask many questions and soon understand that you cannot get a disability by touching someone. I am proud that, in this area, no one discriminates against disabled people anymore."

Qaphela has enrolled for his master's degree on an N3TC bursary, and once qualified, plans to join the Department of Education. "I need to ensure that better decisions are made at that level. No one can say they understand the issues unless they are disabled. I must use my skills to make South African education better for all learners. Everyone has the right to have a good time."

Qaphela constantly reflects on all those who have helped him in life and believes it is very important to help others. Watch out! Qaphela! This man is going places fast.



N3TC's funding awarded to Harrismith Primary School has afforded eight learners the opportunity to stay in the school's hostel, eliminating the stress of travelling to school over long distances, attending school on empty stomachs and limited parental support or assistance with their school work.

All these children are either orphaned or stem from single parent homes. This means that the top up bursaries give these vulnerable children a hope for a future.

All eight learners are performing well at school, participate in a number of extra mural activities and some have excelled on the sports field. One learner, in fact, travelled to the Netherlands recently after being selected to play for the Northern Free State hockey team.





# Kubiza umphakathi ukukhulisa ingane ngenhlonipho iboniswe indlela efanele

(It takes a community to raise a child through respect, rolemodels and mentorship)

Bonginkosi Ndaba, BirdLifeSA Nakekela Project



When Baksteen hears the rattle of keys at 6am he dashes down the driveway.
Baksteen loves Die Koshuis. Baksteen's companion, Rina Cronje, loves the Harrismith Primary Koshuis (Hostel) just as much. They both live just across the road.

Rina has been the Matron of the Hostel since 2014. Born and raised in rural Warden, she spent her school years at the local boarding establishment which gives her a unique understanding of how the children in her care feel – especially at the beginning of each school year when adjusting is tough.

She married a farmer from Verkykerskop, which was far away from schools. The sensible option was for her children to board, but she just couldn't bear being separated all week. "My husband was afraid I would cry until I died, so he agreed to move into town. We have lived over the road from the school for 21 years."

With characteristic enthusiasm Rina immersed herself in school life. This means she knows everyone and everything about this country school and loves the lifestyle and community of Harrismith. "Ons loop a lang pad saam," she laughs. Her son, who is now a teacher at Harrismith High School, agrees, "I am staying until there is just one brick standing, dis 'n baie mooi dorp", he says. Family is everything to Rina and she is very grateful to have her tribe nearby. "Ons is 'n groot happy family. Ons lag saam, baklei saam, doen alles saam." They enjoy watch rugby matches together, although, as they support three different teams, things can get quite heated! Baksteen stays out of it.

In 2014, Rina was appointed as Hostel Matron and does her absolute best to create a home away from home atmosphere. "I am their week-day mother, I want them to be able to talk to me about anything." Besides making sure that supper is never the same for six weeks, that tea is always served in pots with cups and saucers and decorating the dormitories with pretty curtains and hand painted murals, Rina is the person who dishes out warm hugs at







the end of a tough school day. She also knits gloves for those who have cold fingers.

Some of the children in her care come from challenging circumstances. Rina uses all her community contacts to ensure that everyone has lovely linen for their beds, new shoes when they grow out of their old ones, all their toiletry needs are taken care of and are able to participate in school activities without worry. In the afternoons, she helps with homework and projects (don't tell the teacher, she warns!), dishes out medicine if someone is not feeling well, jokes with the kids playing pool and makes sure

everyone is happy. "Tannie Rina is the best. She is my favourite person. She is kind and funny. Baksteen loves her a lot too," smiles one of the girls in her care.

During the holidays, she does a little redecorating so there are always nice surprises when the boarders return. "My heart must be full, and my hands must be busy" she laughs, "I enjoy sewing and craft projects, cooking and eating. Her husband, Pieter, watches cooking shows, describes the dishes to her and they make them together – adding their own twists.

Occasionally, someone phones Rina to tell her that their daughter is in tears and she pops over the road in the late evening to comfort them. Naturally, Baksteen follows close at her heels to offer cuddles and licks. It's the end of a very satisfying day for Rina and she sleeps well knowing she has done her very best for the children in Die Koshuis.



The staff feels very

Jeeply the joy of service

and support...

N3TC's Top-Up Bursaries Programme has played a significant role in St David's School's ability to provide support to young children whose parents have been faced with financial difficulties. This year, N3TC's programme has supported nine families, securing the ongoing education of young children in a centre of excellence that prides itself of providing outstanding, independent primary school education.

"Thanks to the generous donations of N3TC towards top-up bursaries over the years, parents have been able to keep their children at St. David's, their school of choice, in order to receive quality, independent education, which otherwise they would not be able to afford. The staff feels very deeply the joy of service and support to others when the school is in a position to assist deserving learners whose parents cannot cope with our annual fee increases on top of the rising cost of living. It gives the parents peace of mind and makes the beneficiaries feel valued." Janet Klapprott

We share some of their stories below:

Sinenhlanhla Lerolle has been a N3TC top-up bursary beneficiary since Grade 4 and is now in her final year at St David's. Sine is friendly, helpful and polite. She benefits from attending a small school and from being in a small class. She is an independent, self-assured child who applies herself in her school work. Sine has a very difficult life, but she survives despite very trying home circumstances. Her father lives near Durban and sees very little of Sine and her brother, although he does keep in touch. He wants them to benefit from a good education, which he himself did not have in rural Lesotho. He does not want them to eke out a living from hawking clothes on the streets, which he has been forced to do. He can barely afford to pay school fees at the reduced rates he has been given in the past. If he is ill he has no income as he cannot even go out to sell his wares.

Sine's grandmother, who is elderly and frail, looks after the family as best she can, as their mother has mental health issues and is totally incapable of caring for her. They survive on assistance from extended family members, grants and hand-outs. Sine attended the annual three-day camp this year, which her father would not

have been able to pay for without the extra funding.

The Ntshingila Twins are the youngest members of a large family of academics and their parents are intent on giving all their children the best education that they can afford. Their parents both teach at a distant rural school where they stay during the week. The twins live in town with an older sister





whilst another sister is studying at university (both old scholars). They are responsible, determined and an asset to St. David's.

Anele wrote, "Thank you for giving me and my brother a bursary. My Dad is very grateful for all the money you have invested in the family. My sister is studying for Honours in Science at the University of Johannesburg. St. David's is a great school with wonderful staff. On behalf of all the children who have bursaries we'd like to say THANK YOU N3TC!"

Nothando Masikane has a sweet disposition and a gentle heart. She is always the first in line when it comes to helping in the classroom.

Academically, Nothando is alert, eager to learn, a neat worker and completes tasks given to her timeously. She asks questions and takes part in class discussions. She sets a high standard for herself and always tries her best. She loves reading and enjoys telling a story. She is a mature young lady with a bright academic future.



Nothando's two older brothers were both at St. David's and are continuing their secondary and tertiary education. The family lives in a rural area, which results in transport expenses adding to the cost of education. Mrs. Masikane came to the school office especially to bring thank you letters. She wrote, "May I kindly pass words of thanks to the school as well as the N3 Toll Company for awarding the bursaries to Nothando and Anele. Your help and kindness has been greatly appreciated."





"Children that have a strong foundation for learning can continue their educational journeys with confidence. They are more likely to stay in school and they are set on a path where finding work and being able to contribute to their families will be a reality." Megan Bedingham

N3TC supported ten Royal Drak Primary School learners with top-up bursaries in the 2018 school year. These children were spread across the grades from Grade RRR to Grade 5, ensuring continued and sustained support for their families and securing their ability to attend this outstanding school in the heart of the Amazizi community.

## Raising a child and building a Community ... Idah Khumalo

Idah Khumalo is an example of how N3TC has made a big impact on our local Amazizi community by funding a child's education.

Fortunate was born into a loving family that has struggled to provide for her education. Her dad is an electrician at Drakensville Resort and her mom is uneducated. The family was overjoyed when N3TC assisted Idah with a top-up bursary and the opportunity to attend Royal Drakensberg Primary School where she received an outstanding education, and developed an enthusiasm to learn, explore and navigate possibilities for her future. Her parents have not been in a financial position to offer her siblings a better education and through N3TC's funding, Idah has been able to assist her siblings by teaching them shapes, colours, body parts and so much more in English; and she has helped them to learn good manners and etiquette. She also assists her mother with translating her letters into English when needed.

Idah left Royal Drak Primary after completing grade 5 last year where she was top student, followed closely by another student. Her time at the school has stood her in good stead as she now attends Bonjaneni.

Learners who come from Royal Drakensberg Primary School tend to help other children in the community schools as they explain to them and help them understand English lessons, questions and books. The teachers at their new village schools make learners from Royal Drak Primary group leaders in their new schools as they have a brilliant foundation and are able to mentor others effectively. Most former Royal Drak Primary learners are in top positions academically in community schools.



Two children who started their educational journeys at Royal Drakensberg Primary participated in the World Choir Games held in Pretoria over the July school holidays. Both children were part of choirs that won their categories! These two children still come home to their rural families and inspire others: Samkelo Mdakane -Drakensberg Boys' Choir School - Scenic Pop / Show Choir

Olwethu Khumalo – St John's D.S.G. – Music of Spirit and Faith





A chance encounter in the Impendle Library changed a few lives. That's the sort of thing that happens in small country towns.

Keen reader Zandile Sikhakhane was delighted when a library opened in the main street of Impendle where she has lived all her life. Before that there were just no books around and accessing the internet was an expensive and labour-intensive activity. As luck would have it, Samantha Rose who lived nearby, and Zandile started a conversation one day amongst the bookshelves, shared contact details, and soon became collaborators in community development. "Zandile struck me as someone with vision, who is proud of her heritage and community and believes in herself," recalls Sam.

When she finished school, Zandile was not able to study teaching due to financial constraints. Instead she volunteered at a creche near her home, knowing that she would learn and be around kids which she loved, even though she wouldn't be earning any money. This she did for five years. "Many people in the area think you are crazy to volunteer. They would rather just sit at home than work for nothing. But you are not going to get anywhere sitting in your house. I learned a lot in those years."

Samantha had been working on building a tourism initiative in Impendle, where there are few income generating possibilities, and was thinking about introducing self-sufficiency education in the local schools to help protect the natural environment. Impendle is an extremely beautiful place with lots of wetlands amongst the rolling hills. "I thought this was a very good idea, because I like to learn new things," says Zandile with her usual enthusiasm, "I was happy to join her team." Together they visited schools, often riding two up on Sam's motorbike along the dusty roads. They conducted lessons on alternative energy, natural building and organic gardening and permaculture. "We wanted to raise people's consciousness about living sustainably, eating better and looking after their surroundings. I quickly fell in love with permaculture."

When she became pregnant, Zandile needed to build her own home. After watching how her neighbours did it, she set about making mud bricks from the soil on her site and almost single-









handedly erected a cosy dwelling with views across a wetland. Unfortunately, around this time, funding for their project dried up and Samantha left the area. Zandile continued to visit her schools, stretching a small grant from N3TC as far as it could possibly go.

She feels sad that many local women make their living digging blocks of wetland peat to sell as building material. "They say they are feeding their families, and unless I can give them a job, they will carry on. Our precious wetlands are being destroyed and they have no idea how important they are for the water supply of millions of people downstream. I wish to start an environmental NGO right here in Impendle, hiring the young people who have good training to all work together to make a big impact."

Despite the snow that regularly blankets Impendle, the fierce storms that destroy homes and schools and the wind that whips across the fields, Zandile is undeterred. She continues to plant gardens, encourage her community not to dump rubbish in the rivers, inspire youngsters to care about snakes and solar cooking, and walks her beloved dog, Lotheni, in the grasslands as often as she can. Zandile is the change she hopes to see in the world.





Decide what you want to do, and know that you can make it happen.

**Praveen Sunderlall, N3TC** 



It is often said that you cannot continue to do things the same way and expect different results. This applies to everything in life. In order to see change or have an effect, one needs to approach things in another way.

In today's fast-paced society, education is the one constant and vital tool to achieve success and address the challenges we may face. The knowledge gained through continuous development opens doors to opportunities and prospects, both professionally and personally.

For these reasons, N3TC promotes a culture of lifelong learning. Staff is encouraged to further their studies, bursaries are granted to deserving students, and opportunities for further development and training are offered and provided to community projects.

By virtue of this approach, N3TC is helping to shape and influence lives and contributing to building stronger communities.

We are often left in awe of the manner in which many individuals have grasped opportunities and how many lives have been changed. The sense of achievement when all the hard work is done, exams have been written, assignments submitted and the results are made known is both inspiring and humbling. It was heart-warming to read the report of one student who contrasted his journey to that of a glass either half-full or half-empty which, regardless of the way it may have been perceived, has now been filled to overflowing through the support he has received from N3TC.

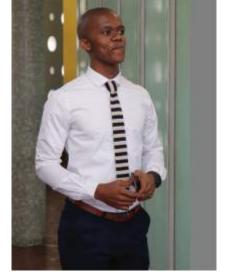
In response to a need identified in 2017, a network for N3TC-funded students has been established, resulting in the students becoming more connected and able to encourage, motivate and share experiences with one another; and building a strong foundation of support for the future. This is the result N3TC wishes to see. When students feel equipped, empowered and included in even the smallest of things, we are rewarded in the largest of ways.

N3TC has absolute conviction that a culture of learning and continued development is of critical importance in 'raising a child'.

N3TC feels great pride every time a Bursary student dons a black cap and gown, receives a warm handshake, and their journey towards a future is ignited with possibilities.







The past four years have made me realise how difficult it can be to achieve your goals and reach your dreams.

I started studying towards my Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree in 2014. I am only a few months away from finishing my degree and graduating as a Civil Engineer.

The feeling of finally realising a childhood dreams makes this period for me that much more significant and filled with a variety of emotions. A part of me fears the unknown world of work that lies ahead. I constantly go back and forth asking myself, "will I be able to cope? what is expected of me? will I know what is expected of me?." These are the type of questions I frequently ask people that were in my shoes a few years ago. The other part of me is happy, excited and proud of where and how far I have come. I still remember the day I was awarded my bursary and how my family was so proud, I can only imagine how they must feel about my achievement now.

I have come from very humble beginnings and had my fair share of ups and downs throughout the past four years. I had to change, not only my approach towards my school work, but also to the amount of responsibility that was laid on my shoulders. Looking back at how much each obstacle and challenge has shaped me into the person that I am today, I wouldn't change a single thing.

Through the support of my family and N3 Toll Concession, I have been able to grow and experience things which I never would have imagined. I am smarter, more responsible, determined and most of all, educated and wiser. All these are treats which no one can ever take away from me.





Imagine growing up in a community where the norm is that if you're lucky enough to complete your matric, you find a job and that's just about it for the rest of your life.

This put so much pressure on my parents and I. Deep down we knew that we had to break the chain and change this narrative. Going to University had always been one of my goals, but I never really asked myself how I was going to pay for my fees, bearing in mind that my dad is a single parent and has three other kids to support . This really stressed me out during my final year in high school because only then did it click that my dad might not be able to afford to pay my varsity fees.

The story of how I received my bursary is one that still leaves me in disbelief to this day! It was honestly Gods grace! Just a few days into the new year (2016), I was accepted to study a BSc in Civil Engineering at UKZN, but the excitement did not last long because, once again, the question of where funding would come from popped up. I had applied for many bursaries, but I never received a reply.

But one morning I received a life changing call informing me that I had to come for a bursary interview. Fair enough, but the funny thing was that I never applied for this bursary. I repeat, this was definitely Gods grace!

Having the N3TC team travel all the way from Johannesburg to interview me was beyond amazing! What an amazing company, such supportive people! N3TC has supported me not just financially, but the relationship the team has built with me, as a bursary candidate, is one I never thought possible!

My degree has taught me so much about all the different sectors of Civil Engineering like Transport Engineering, Water Engineering, Structural Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering, and much more. I am now certain that Structural

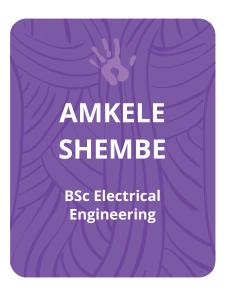
Engineering is what I'd like to do for the rest of my life, and all this was made possible by N3TC.

Throughout the three years I've spent in UKZN I have been given the opportunity to stand as the class representative for two years. I also had the opportunity to join Enactus UKZN, and I am currently the Campus Research and Development Officer. I've also been honoured enough to become a WomEng volunteer. My life has changed enormously in these years that I've been part of the N3TC Bursary Fund.

What motivates me to do the best I can is my 'WHY'. There are so many people who have impacted my life, including PROTEC Pmb and N3TC, and the reason, my 'WHY', I work so hard is so I can give back to these people one day, and impact even more lives not just economically, but socially and environmentally. I believe the future is bright and my long term goals include completing my degree, starting my own business and starting an NPO that motivates young black girls to become businesswoman from a young age.

I will forever be grateful for the opportunity I was offered by N3TC!







I am an ambitious young man who comes from a township in Pietermaritzburg called Imbali, who is an aspiring Electrical Engineering student.

I was raised in a family that only consisted of me, my mother and father, whom were both unemployed for most of my life. Unfortunately, however, my mother passed away in my matric year. It is obviously these unfortunate circumstances that always motivate me to constantly do the best that I can.

If I would be asked to honestly list my interests and the things that I love doing, and loved doing in high school, I would have to mention my undying passion for mathematics, physical science and the subjects and topics which are derived from it and, also, programming. Those were my favourite subjects in high school and I was even considered a big nerd by my family as I would much rather be seated in front of my screen doing some programming than watching television. It is these passions that led me to choosing my current field of study.

I have a very big passion for giving back and as premature as it may seem considering I have a long way to go yet, I would like to become a lecturer one day. Specifically in the spirit of giving back to the youth that will come after me and offer them opportunities or a push in the direction of becoming Electrical Engineers. I have noticed that I really enjoy teaching. I have tutored quite a few students for a very long time, even from high school, explaining concepts to my fellow students was a thing that I really enjoyed and I was apparently very good at it. This is for me, a long term goal as I would have to attain a Master's Degree first, however, it is a goal that I hope to reach.

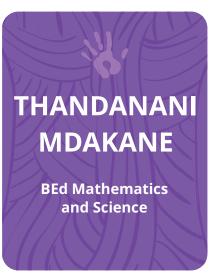
My short term goals obviously include getting a few distinctions where I can and attaining this degree as soon as possible!

Personally, I struggle a lot with time management. I have noticed, though, that It is usually caused by too much routine because your mind ends up getting tired of waking up to do

the same thing over and over again every day. As a result, I joined the University choir to help keep me on my toes and my mind fresh.

N3TC has played an integral role in helping me achieve these dreams by taking the financial stress off of my and my father's shoulders; helping me to focus solely on academics without the financial stress that most of the youth with the same ambition as myself, are facing. It is a great privilege to have N3TC in my corner and I am forever grateful.







I am currently studying a Bachelor of Education (Senior & FET Phase) majoring in Physical Science and Mathematics through UNISA. I'm also a Physical Science teacher assistant at Midlands Community College.

N3TC has completely shaped my life for the better in a way I couldn't have ever imagined by giving me such a lifelong opportunity to further my studies. An opportunity that will better my life and the lives of those who, like me, are passionate and curious about the mechanics of the universe.

It is, however, not an easy journey but one that requires perseverance. Working as a teacher assistant has been an advantage for my studies since I get to experience what I study in action. However, it has also come with great challenges. One of the biggest challenges I face is that of balancing my studies and my work. I spend a lot of hours in the classroom helping the students and the only time I have to catch up with my studies is at night. This has worked for me and I look to have an even more efficient plan moving forward.

I receive a lot of support from everyone at Midlands Community College. From the students to the aunties in the kitchen show an interest in my studies and progress. This motivates me and keeps me focused.

I have had the privilege of learning from an educator who has been in the field for almost 20 years. I can say with confidence that she has been pivotal to my diligence and has greatly influenced my career in a positive way. I have also always been motivated by my passion about subjects that involve Physical Science and Mathematics and I look forward to sharing my knowledge when I become an educator.

At the moment I am focused on completing my degree as best as I can. In the future I will be focused on studying further to ultimately become one of the best in the field.

N3TC will always be part of my life. I cannot compare it to anything I have ever had and I am truly grateful. I am working diligently to graduate in time.







I am from a township, Imbali, in Pietermaritzburg and I am currently studying at the University of the Witwatersrand doing my second year in Electrical Engineering.

The reason I chose Electrical Engineering is because it involves a lot of programming and computer science. Of particular interest to me is Artificial intelligence. It is slowly but surely becoming a big deal and when it fully comes to life I don't want to be left out. People and companies can benefit largely from it.

Being in varsity comes with a lot of challenges. You sometimes feel like you are losing yourself. To overcome that feeling, you need to remember who you are and where you come from. You should also make sure you have a strong support system; it may be your family or even close friends. My family has played a huge role in shaping me into the person that I am today, they keep me grounded; and my friends keep me sane! Bottling up is never a good idea, so I have learnt to reach out.

My short-term goals include finishing my degree and taking care of my mental health (I prioritise my mental health). My long-term goals include me venturing out into the industry and sharing the knowledge I acquired in varsity with the rest of the world.

The fact that I know how great I can be, motivates me to get up every morning and put in the hard work. Investing in yourself is one of the greatest returns you could ever make. This year has been a roller-coaster one for me, but if there is one key success that I have achieved, is that my project for Microprocessors got displayed at the school's annual open day!

N3TC has played a very huge role by investing in my dreams. It is the reason I'm able to pursue my studies, and for that, I will forever be grateful.





This has been the best thing I have done with my life. I really looked at this year as being about finding myself, and think I now have greater faith in myself and I have discovered what I can achieve as an individual.

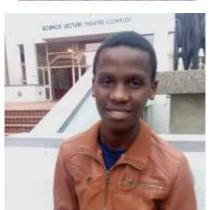
If I were to describe my studies in one word it would be 'refreshing'! It's like drinking a glass of cold water on a hot summer's day. I have started learning things about myself that I never knew and understanding how things are done in the real world of work. I have also noticed how much my writing and my English have improved and I am very proud of my achievements.

N3TC has been very helpful and understanding while I have tackled my studies and balanced my work life. I have been allowed to make use of the Internet when doing my Assignments and school work, which has helped me so much. I have also been given the opportunity to practice what I am learning when I relieve at the switchboard.

Possibly the biggest challenge for me is working full time and studying but I am happy because I am learning and improving myself academically. Studies are harder and very different to school and I have developed a number of good study habits during this time.

I am hoping that I will pass this course well, as my dream is to pursue obtaining my degree in Education.





I was born in Ladysmith and grew up in Mooi River (Town View), where I am still living with my mother and two siblings. I am the youngest.

I am currently doing my second year at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, studying towards my BSc Civil Engineering. I never knew that I was going to study civil engineering when I was younger. I knew about it because of my brother but I was drawn to it by an engineer at RHDHV, Nqobile Zondo. He would come teach physics on Saturdays at my high school in my matric year. What made me apply was the trip to see the reservoir he had designed was then under construction.

I liked the idea of building something that will continue to help people even after you have long retired. I never looked at structures in the same way. Seeing a bridge and thinking that someone built this a long time ago and it is still standing and functional always amazed me. I wanted to be able to do that, to one day design a stadium or a new international airport that will be there for generations even after I am long gone. N3TC has provided me with the opportunity to be able to do that and I am forever grateful.

My first year of university was very challenging, I took some lessons from it and went to second year with them. We always have a lesson to learn in every situation, that is how I have started to view challenges. I struggled to maintain balance amongst my modules, but attending workshops has helped me significantly. I am doing better in my second year and although it is much more challenging than the first year, I am better equiped to deal with challenges.

I was starting to lose hope in my dream to study further, I did not get replies from the places I had asked for funding, but N3TC came to my rescue! It has changed my life and that of my family significantly. Receiving the N3TC bursary is the best thing that has ever happened to me. It meant that I would be able to study civil engineering and one day buy my mother her dream house when I finish studying. I would like to be able to give people chances like N3TC did for me and be part of something that is greater than myself in future.

My short term goal is to maintain the balance amongst my modules and pass my second year, possibly get at least one merit for one of my modules. My long term goal is to graduate as a civil engineer in 2020, and to work on getting my Pr Eng. by 2023.







Is the glass half empty or half full? A question posed in many philosophy discussion forums, an idea to determine attitude from perspective.

Thokozani Nxumalo more commonly known as TK comes from Bruntville Mooi River, a brother of two sisters, one older one younger and a son to a proud father and a content mother. My family has had its fair share of financial struggles and challenges, 'a glass half empty'. In whatever the situation, one thing was always a family priority and that is a quality education. Realising how education can empower not only an individual but a community, a nation at large. I was fortunate enough through bursaries and sponsorships to attend good schools, arguably the best in their respective specialties, 'a glass half full'.

I became a pupil at Weston Agricultural College in 2012 where I first developed an interest in agriculture. With the aid of readily available facilities and informative staff, I explored the seemingly endless opportunities in the discipline. Agriculture is one of the most important sectors for the economy of Mooi River, employing thousands, educating and training many to produce food as a means of mitigating potential food insecurity in our community. This influenced my interest in studying agriculture, to also be able to be a part of this important sector.

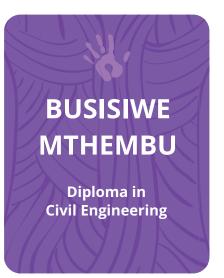
The challenges I have faced on my journey to tertiary education were mainly having the learning resources necessary to learn as bursaries and sponsorships covered tuition fees only. I remember going through High School without a calculator till grade 10 (wasn't all that necessary but would've been nice to have one) and being limited in terms of sports participation due to lack of relevant equipment and funding for tours which was also not that necessary.

Attending University and studying agriculture was my dream but we could barely afford the tuition fees never mind accommodation and living expenses. Thankfully, in my second year N3TC came to my rescue and salvaged what was fast becoming a dying dream; by offering not only to fund my studies for the academic year of 2018 but to cover all the

outstanding fees from my previous year of study. What a privilege - N3TC funding me, a student who did not even meet the requirements of its bursary scheme.

Is the glass half full or half empty? Whichever way you perceive it, N3TC has filled my glass. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the company and its staff for their generosity and humility, Thank you.







I was born in a small town near Bloemfontein called, Excelsior.

After spending the first six years of my life there, I had to move to Qwaqwa to live with my grandmother, where I resided for a period of six years before moving to another small town called Villiers. Not only is this the reason I often refer to myself as an ordinary small town girl, it is one of the things that shaped the love I have for travelling. My family is just as ordinary, we are a small family of five. I have a brother and a sister and I'm the last of three.

Growing up, I was always surrounded by girls and together we spoke a lot about the future. What I realised from these conversations of ours was that we had all succumbed to the stereotypes placed by society on females. The careers we considered following because some jobs 'are just not for females'. So we all dreamt of becoming Doctors; Nurses; Teachers and so forth. However, I have always been someone who believed in my instincts, in following my intuition. I believe what shapes us as human beings is not what society says, but rather what we instill in ourselves. How we perceive things in life should be key. The idea of becoming a doctor had dwelled so much in me that it grew with me until it no longer made sense. Many believe that at high school level, one starts to view life differently and the same happened with me. Most things that used to matter just did not anymore, I found myself having new dreams, new goals.

I finished my high school in 2017 and January was expectantly a very busy month for me as it was for all my former matriculants with the desire to further their studies. One day, my friend and I went to the library to make copies of our documents and there we met one of the girls we know and she told us of a library committee assisting matriculants with applications for funding for universities and with any problem one might have relating to higher education. So we decided to go and listen. It was there that I met Mr Makhubo, a teacher at one of the two high schools in our town, Retshidisitswe Secondary School, but I had attended at Qalabotjha Secondary School. He looked at my results and asked me what I wanted to do and I replied; "Anything that is

related to Science". I replied so vaguely because I had not quite narrowed down the exact direction I wanted my life to take, only a head start.

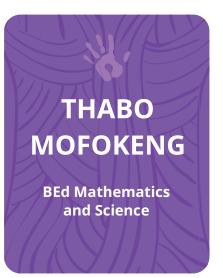
He then asked me what I think of Engineering, specifically Civil Engineering and I told him that it is one of those career paths I never paid attention to because I had always been taught that it's a career that only males can handle. He opened my eyes and said that the only problem was perception and had been shifted a long while back. He told me to go home and research Civil Engineering and to come back with a an open mind.

When I got home, I followed his instructions and found Civil Engineering very fascinating. I found myself believing that I could do it and the more I looked at previous projects done by professional Civil Engineers, I found myself actually falling in love with it.

After much consideration, I went back to Mr Makhubo and I said; "Sir, I can see myself pursuing Civil Engineering but I have a problem, I have no funding". He told me about N3TC and a bursary opportunity from the company.

So I am today studying Civil Engineering because of N3TC and Mr Makhubo and the encouragement of my family. I hope to one day obtain my Degree and Masters in Civil Engineering; and perhaps a PhD as well! I am thankful to N3TC for the opportunity given to me.







I was born and grew up in the rural community of Bosjespruit near Qalabotjha (Villiers).

I attended Phomello Primary School and went on to matriculate at Retshedisitswe Secondary School (2005). For most of my school years I would walk more than 10 kilometres a day to school. It was not an easy journey as I lost both my parents when I was in Grade 10.

I have always wanted to pursue my studies in Electrical Engineering and Agriculture (Biotechnology) as I was exposed to them before during my secondary school years. But things did not go according to plan.

Mr. Makhubu, my mentor, approached me to tutor a Grade 12 pupil at his school in Mathematics and Science. Since then, I have visited different schools and saw the positive impact of my tutoring on the learners' results in Mathematics and Science. What I learned while tutoring is that teaching is not an easy job at all, but it is an interesting job and you learn lot. I love making a positive contribution to the lives of learners.

Being a teacher means you must have a love and joy of making difference in the community. This is what I like about teaching. We give learners hope and insight to view the world differently; and equipping learners with the skills to reach their potential. Teaching is not a job, it is a calling; and while I was tutoring I saw my calling come to the fore in making a difference and changing lives. That is why I have chosen a career in teaching.

My greatest struggle is studying long distance with no one teaching me. Mr Masilo (Principal at Evungwini Secondary School) told me that I have to work hard to get what I want and he is my inspiration. He said to me that no matter what, in the end I will receive the blessing, it's just a matter of time and I must not give up.

My short term goal is to focus on my education and learning new skills. My long term goal is to change lives. Teaching Mathematics and Science all day and seeing the change in the community motivates me. This year I was blessed to receive a bursary from N3TC to study towards my Bachelor Degree in Education, majoring in Mathematics and Science. I am very happy, N3TC has changed my life ...







2018 has been a year of great experiences and many challenges.

I am currently busy with my Masters' degree in Quantitative Risk Management in Business Mathematics and Informatics (BMI). My Masters' is a one-year programme and has been a wonderful experience so far. Below are a few highlights:

- I had the privilege of working with two other BMI students on a project for the Trade Research Focus area of the Faculty of Economic Sciences at North-West University's Potchefstroom Campus. The project was based on improving the current SAS programme, Decision Support Model (DSM), by revising the coding and ensuring quicker process flows and improved organisation.
- The BMI Centre sends all Masters students into the
  workplace where we have to conduct an Industry Directed
  Research Project. I have had the privileged of gaining
  experience at Standard Bank (Johannesburg) in its Group
  Internal Audit (GIA) division. The project I have been
  assigned to is titled: 'The development of a data-informed
  business-unit framework'. I wish I could expand on this
  but the project is confidential.

In addition to these the two projects, I have six modules to complete, of which I have only one to complete before the end of the year. This is quite an achievement.

It has been an interesting journey. A quote I live by nowadays is: "If something comes easy, it won't be worth it; but if something is hard it definitely will be worth it in the end".

I am looking forward to what the future has in store for me. I can't thank N3TC enough for giving me this opportunity. I could never have achieved all this if N3TC hadn't supported me. N3TC, I salute you. THANK YOU!

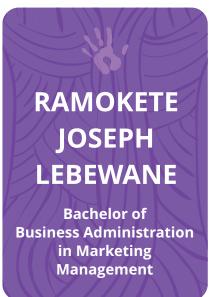


Trees, the essence of life and such an integral part of our lives. Like trees humans start from little beginnings – unsteady on little legs – unsteady on little roots.

Then both grow into strong beings with the trees giving shade and life. Something we all need to treasure and protect.

Magda and Chris Hearne, CDIC

## STAFF BURSARY PROGRAMME





I have two sisters, a son and a disabled nephew and I am the second born in the family.

I was born in Sebokeng, Vereeniging and attended primary school at Elite Primary School and Aha-Thuto Secondary School in Orange Farm where I completed my matric in 2006.

I am currently employed as a tourism intern at N3TC. I am enjoying my internship because I am dealing with different people and helping them with their travel choices. It's what I love and I am passionate about the work I do.

I wanted to study a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Marketing Management as I realised I needed this knowledge, particularly for the job I am doing at the N3TC Route Help Centre in Harrismith. I believe marketing qualifications will make it easier for me to market N3TC and N3 Gateway. I believe I can do this as nothing is impossible as long as I put in the effort.

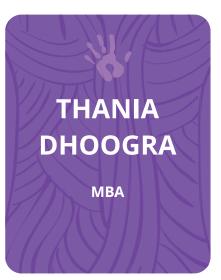
My short term goal is to to obtain my BBA in Marketing and contribute more to the company, to the world at large and helping my son and little sister to get a good education.

The key to my success is believing in myself even though it's not easy at times, working hard, my belief that nothing is impossible and a positive attitude.

N3TC has given me a great opportunity to do what I love and grooming me to be the best in the industry.

It has been an honour and privilege to have a manager like Isabel Potgieter who has taught and guided me through my internship with an open heart. She has given me all the training I need and I believe she is a blessing in my life as she never loses faith in me.

I'm grateful to N3TC for me giving me this opportunity. N3TC is one of a kind!





It's been a lifelong goal of mine, thus far, to pursue the completion of an MBA, and after much deliberation and consultation, I decided that the time was right for me to embark on the next step in my personal and career development.

Following in-depth research into suitable programmes, I opted for the one offered by the University of Reading's Henley Business School, as it is one of the most prominent programmes globally, as well as being the best fit to match the needs of my busy corporate and social calendars through its flexible MBA programme, which is designed with individuals such as myself in mind.

I enrolled into the programme with the aim to develop an improved set of management skills and empower myself with additional toolkits to assist in employing these skills in the ongoing performance of my current position, and also, in furthering my career advancement.

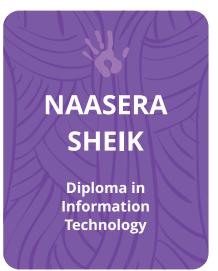
The MBA covers a wide variety of topics, from understanding Operational Processes and Systems, Analysing Financial Information, and Understanding the dynamics of Human Resources to Strategy, International Business, Marketing, Leadership and Research Skills. Underpinning it all is a Personal Development Module, which guides the learner through reflective practices aiding in holistic development and self-realisation.

Thus far, the Operations, Finance and HR modules have proven invaluable in the insights I have gained and I am eager to uncover the rest of the learnings that lie ahead.

It has been a challenging but stimulating six months, with a major climb ahead in the form of Stage 1 examinations, and I am raring to go.

The best outcome I hope to achieve from this programme, is the exchanging of my insights and those of my peers, faculty, alumni and mentors on the programme; allowing me to become a more effective leader, executive and more importantly, mentor and coach.







"Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work" - Thomas Alva Edison

Hard work hasn't killed anyone, it just makes one stronger. And with that I embraced my final year of studies at Unisa.

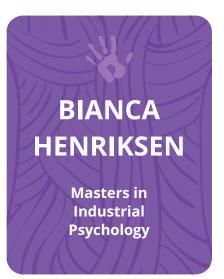
With three modules to go before I complete my Diploma in Information Technology, the pressure has intensified, with limited time available to complete my practical assessments and study.

All I know is that I have to work hard to complete what I started. I must honour the bursary opportunity that N3TC has awarded me and accomplish my goal. The challenges are aplenty, time being the dominant challenge, and I struggle to keep a clear head, yet I must persevere.

Discipline, more especially, self-discipline, is a major requirement in any student's life and serves as a platform for success. I would advise anyone who plans to further their studies while maintaining a full-time job, to align themselves with self-discipline, and form a routine early on in their studies so they don't struggle too much in times of pressure.

I can hardly believe that I have come this far, with 27 modules behind me. Still, the three that lie ahead seem to tower above those that I have completed.

It has been an uplifting experience, studying and struggling, with many lessons learnt along the way. I try to use those lessons to lighten the tasks as I move along. And all the while, I hear the echo of motivational speaker and author, Jim Rohn's words, "We must all suffer one of two things: the pain of discipline or the pain of regret or disappointment".





As a little girl, I dreamed of becoming a vet or an architect but when it came time to register at university, Human Resource Management (HR) stuck out for me.

My mother worked in HR when I was growing up and watching her take charge of situations and plan the company's amazing events was where I wanted to be one day. When I actually began studying I realised that Industrial and Organisational psychology was my future. Learning how individuals think within the workplace, the effects of ergonomics, and looking after people while meeting strategic organisational goals became an important concept in my mind.

As I come closer to the end of my master's year, reflecting back on the last nine months leaves me in awe of how far I have come, as well as inspired through all that I have learnt. This year has been a tough one with many tears, as well as laughs. My passion for wellbeing and learning new concepts has grown as my master's dissertation races nearer to completion with the research committee approving and ethically clearing my study, which now allows me the backing needed to collect my data and finish my study in April, far ahead of the recommended schedule. I have also taken every opportunity to remove the stress of this year, in particular, through art.

N3TC has continued to give me invaluable experiences and opportunities as the HR Intern. I have been involved in activities exceeding my wildest dreams and the company's openness to teaching, guiding, and involving me along the way has been phenomenal. I have put the knowledge I learn in my classes into practice and after completing the master's programme, I plan to sit for the Board exam to become a registered Industrial Psychologist.

The idea of doing what I love with people of unique experiences and backgrounds excites me to finish my masters to the best of my ability and make a significant contribution to society and the working world one day soon.





The sum is greater than the value of the individual inputs.

1+1>2!

Lloyd Smuts, Vula

# PRIMARY SCHOOL ICDL Computer Training

PROJECT CHAMPION:
PROTUS SOKHELE
(School Prinicpal)
MCC CHAMPION:
Rebecca Wakeford
(Midlands Community College)

YEARS FUNDED: FOUR

PROVINCE: KWAZULU-NATAL

The teachers have started producing quality, typed question papers and reports...

Midlands Community College (MCC) has been awarded funding to introduce International Computer's Driving Licence (ICDL) Computer Training to Bruntville Primary School, Mooi River. The report below is a reflection of MCC's evaluation of the 2018 programme.

Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) are capable of expanding access to quality education, educational resources and provide teachers with new skills. Nevertheless, a majority of rural public schools have limited ICTs, mainly due to their geographical landscape, lack of service delivery and poverty.

N3TC's funding of this project continues to bridge this ICT gap at Bruntville Primary School.

"We are reaching out and making an impact in the school that benefits teachers and the learners; and improves the working relationship among staff." **Rebecca Wakeford** 

Mr. Sokhela, in an interview with MCC, commented that before the introduction of MCC's ICDL project, the teachers knew nothing



about computers. He went on to say that every exam script and every work submission was handwritten, teachers could not use Excel to do calculations nor did they know how to use emails for easy communication.

"After the project was introduced, there was a huge change in attitude amongst the teachers. At first the thought of using a computer was daunting and they had no interest in it, but all that has changed."

Protus Sokhela

The teachers have since started producing quality, typed question papers and reports; they communicate via email; and are producing accurate marks in spreadsheets. Staff members are more invested and attentive to their work; and Mr Sokhela mentioned that he finds teachers working in the school computer room, something he never thought he would see.

Miss Ngcobo, a teacher at Bruntville Primary School and beneficiary of the project said that the project has had a huge impact in the quality of work she produces as well as on her teaching. She shared that, before the project, teachers would handwrite lesson plans and question papers. The challenge with this was that they ended up with loose pieces of paper that sometimes got lost and made teaching and producing quality work 'a bit of a mission'.

"Now we are able to type our work and neatly place it in folders in a USB, something we did not know even existed." **Miss Ngcobo** 

The ICDL course has been challenging for some of the educators, but they are gaining much needed knowledge and are comfortable with not passing a challenging exam. They know that they are registered with the ICDL, and can therefore come to Midlands Community College and retake the exam at any time they feel confident enough to attempt the exam again.

"We are grateful to the number of committed educators who sacrificed their vacation time for their training. We have listened to what the educators have said and taken note of the parts of the course that they enjoy and interact best with." **Rebecca Wakeford** 



... with a focus on preparing South Africans to become employed or self-employed ...

At the beginning of 2018, N3TC embarked on a new skills development journey with LFP Training, an organisation providing differentiated training solutions, via its accredited FET College specialising in learners with disabilities.

The team at LFP comprises of industry experts and combines years of experience with a passion for transformation, education and making a difference.

Through this project, two students, Vernene Arendse and Cindy Martin, are currently completing a one-year National Certificate qualification in Best Business Practice. The course consists of 121 credits, seeking to embed the six key literacies required by business organisations, namely: numeracy; literacy; entrepreneurial; financial; technological; and cognitive, with a focus on preparing South Africans to become employed or self-employed.

The students are faring very well and the report from LFP is encouraging. Vernene takes initiative in completing his assignments by asking questions, and has shown a strong detail-oriented approach to all the work he is given. Cindy takes great pride in her work and exceeds the expectations of her lecturers.

LFP creates an encouraging and compassionate environment and the students look out for one another.

Through partnerships with organisations like LFP, N3TC is hopeful that the extent of our support to students with disabilities will be enhanced.



Teachers loving learning, creating a nurturing space where children love to be... so they love to learn, leave with the capacity to learn...means a brighter future, brighter tomorrow, bringing hope.

Megan Bedingham, Royal Drak

## TREVERTON Educators' Skills Development in Environmental Training

PROJECT CHAMPION: JANET SNOW

YEARS FUNDED: EIGHT

PROVINCE:
KWAZULU-NATAL

The extent of support and contribution that Treverton's Educator Skills programme makes to building teachers' capacity and resources is evidence of the School's genuine concern and desire to make a difference to the calibre of teaching and learning in schools in KwaZulu-Natal.

During the various workshops and training sessions, teachers describe their different and often difficult teaching contexts. Each situation is unique and specific to the school and community. However, these open discussions about their experiences allow teachers to understand that their situations are neither unique nor isolated.

"It is easy to see how teachers could become despondent and demotivated." **Janet Snow** 

The teachers' evaluations of the course indicate that they find the *Fundisa for Change* programme not only informative for their teaching practices but motivational. The ability to 'wake up the teacher in me' should not be underestimated.

In the past Treverton advocated that the Educator Skills
Development project was planned to assist the teachers to become
confident and competent in teaching environmental components
of the curriculum. Based on the feedback, Treverton will be
including inspiring the teachers and teaching in general.

Inspired, motivated, confident and competent teachers will have a great influence on education in general.

We thank N3TC for assisting us to motivate and inspire teachers in the region.



# S.M.I.L.E. Classroom Teacher Training and Support Programme

PROJECT CHAMPION: DANIELA BROWNE

YEARS FUNDED: FOUR

PROVINCE:
FREE STATE and
KWAZULU-NATAL

Eight High Schools from the Estcourt, Ladysmith and Harrismith Districts participated in S.M.I.L.E.'s English Home Language Pilot Programme funded by the N3TC.

In 2016 the National Education Department introduced a new Literature Catalogue for the FET Phase (Grades 10 to 12). This meant that new novels, dramas and poems are taught in High Schools. The new genres were introduced incrementally – Grade 11 in 2016, Grade 12 in 2017 and Grade 12 in 2018.







This has been extremely difficult for the teachers – especially teachers teaching Grades 10, 11 and 12. For many teachers the intricate themes, concepts and sheer volume of reading required with genres such as Life and Times of Dorian Gray, Life of Pi, Things Fall Apart, Lighthouse Keepers Wife, Hamlet, and Macbeth have proven to be very challenging. Poetry which is compulsory is avoided by most teachers and left to the last minute.

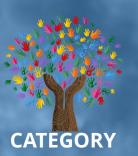
The need for support and guidance with the new Literature genres was requested by Districts, Curriculum Advisors, schools and teachers in many Provinces and the Estcourt and Ladysmith Districts were no exception.

N3TC funded four workshops – two per district – in 2018, which have proven highly beneficial and appreciated by teachers and schools alike.

"On behalf of Windsor and our Cluster we express our sincere thanks and gratitude for the informative and dynamic workshop you conducted yesterday, we really appreciated all your efforts ... you have contributed such valuable information to educators that which the Department of Education could not assist educators in."

Ms Nitha Dookhu HOD Windsor Secondary and Ladysmith Cluster Co-ordinator





## Road Safety



Together everyone achieves more!

**Eugene Maree, New Horizon College** 

# SOUTH AFRICANS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING (SADD) Howick Road

PROJECT CHAMPION: CARO SMIT

**Safety Project** 

YEARS FUNDED: THREE

PROVINCE: KWAZULU-NATAL

"NGO's in South Africa are under extreme financial constraints.

"The funding received from N3TC was very welcome and essential to SADDs continued existence. It also showed us N3TC is invested in road safety and appreciative of SADDs work, which acts as an incentive to our staff to keep on working in the road safety arena." **Caro Smit** 

In South Africa we tend to speak only about people who have been killed in crashes and forget about those who have been maimed, paralysed or severely injured, which often throws them and their families into poverty and despair. Approximately 150 000 people are injured annually on our roads and their stories are seldom shared.

Crash victims visited by the SADD team in hospitals for Mandela Day were so appreciative of the organisation's support and for the road safety information packs they received. A simple act of generosity and care goes a long way in a person's rehabilitation after a crash.

"It was very painful to see many people who had become disabled because they had not buckled up or were involved in very unnecessary crashes." **Caro Smit** 

Through continued interventions and awareness programmes, it appears that Traffic Authorities are becoming more aware of the need to spend more time on prevention measures like seatbelt use in front and back seats, roadworthiness of vehicles, unsafe passing and drinking then driving.



SADD's programme of providing visibility bags to members of the community and crash victims ensures that road safety messages are taken back into the community.

At the same time, N3TC's funding has been used to improve the safety of cyclists commuting between work, home and other

routine daily activities. SADD provides helmets, visibility bags, cycling safety pamphlets and road safety information to cyclists, which is contributing to greater awareness and understanding of road safety matters and safe cycling principles.

The SADD programme is extensive in its approach to create awareness of road safety concerns; educating communities on road safety principles – safe walking, cycling and driving; and supporting crash victims. The reach is extensive and the hope is that all these efforts will help make South Africa's roads safer.





# COMMUNITY MEDICAL SERVICES PROJECT CHAMPION: PHILIP HULL

YEARS FUNDED:

**FOURTEEN** 

**PROVINCE:** 

**FREE STATE and** 

**KWAZULU-NATAL** 

This team is a shining example of how a 'village takes cave of its children'.

Community Medical Services (CMS) has become a core component of the N3TC 'family'. This group of incredible volunteers give up their holidays, long weekends and family time to take care of motorists travelling along the N3 Toll Route to their holiday destinations and are deserving of enormous accolades.

This team is a shining example of how a 'village takes care of its children'. Despite high traffic volumes and intense pressure at crash scenes, breakdowns and other incidents along Van Reenen's Pass, their response to motorists' calls for help is not only prompt but offered with a smile and a compassionate hand of friendship. Philip Hull's reports are always a window into the world of the CMS team and seldom convey the true extent of the trauma they encounter from time to time. Below are extracts from the project's reports submitted in 2018.

### June to August 2018

"A fairly quiet Youth Day weekend was experienced by the team, which was expected due to the holiday being on a Saturday and



therefore not a long weekend. An increase in the number of taxis and busses, predominately southbound at the start of the weekend were noticed, presumably transporting passengers to various Youth Day events in KwaZulu-Natal, followed by the return trip northwards on Sunday afternoon and evening. The team assisted at one medical incident when one of the passengers in a taxi started vomiting and fainted. Treatment on scene was followed by transport to Ladysmith Provincial Hospital for further observation.

"The Women's Day weekend surprised us. Volumes of traffic moving south to the coast at the start of the long weekend was less than we expected. However, the returning traffic volumes far exceeded the volumes we had noticed earlier. The team responded to three accidents and assisted with scene safety at two heavy vehicle obstructions. One accident involving a light and a heavy vehicle unfortunately resulted in one fatality. Numerous cans and bottles of opened and unopened alcohol were found in the light vehicle. Whether this was a contributing factor is open to speculation.

"Unexpectedly, the following weekend brought the threat of snow

to the Van Reenens area. We received notification of this possibility from the Weather Bureau late on Thursday evening, after which we mobilised two of our 4x4's to assist. We responded to two accidents, both caused by extremely slippery conditions, fortunately without any critical injuries.

"Members of the team were also present at the memorial service of the late Annie Grant-Smith, a Van Reenen icon and dear friend to the CMS team, who had passed earlier in the month."

## **September to December 2018**

"A quieter than expected Heritage Day long weekend was experienced by the two CMS teams based at Van Reenen's Pass from the 21st of September to the 25th of September 2018. The team responded to three accidents and four obstructions on the N3 as well as seven incidents on



Despite high traffic volumes and intense pressure at crash scenes, breakdowns and other incidents along Van Reenen's Pass, their response to motorists' calls for help is not only prompt but offered with a smile and a compassionate hand of friendship.

alternative routes. A call from a local farmer requesting medical assistance was also responded to with thankfully not too serious outcomes.

"The team provided medical support at the 2018 Meals on Wheels Cycle event, which is always a wonderful occasion. An ambulance and four roving response cars were dispatched on the day and apart from a couple of minor incidents, the day went well. This is one of those events where we can join with other like-minded medical services that are prepared to commit their time and resources to charity events without compensation. I would like to convey a vote

of thanks to my CMS team, Netcare 911 and Destination Medical for their continued support of this event.

"And then the long haul of the Festive Season at Van Reenen's was upon us! Various CMS team members were active along the Route between the 5th of December and the 6th of January 2019. Wet weather combined with inappropriate speeds resulted in a number of accidents during the early part of December and from a road safety perspective, these incidents are totally avoidable. Many drivers simply do not adjust speed to conditions, and whether it is wet roads, misty conditions, heavy volumes of traffic and sometimes all of these combined, there appears quite often to be a total lack of awareness around the dangers of such factors.

"A couple of the accidents may also have resulted due to non-legal tyres, however at the majority of accidents, the vehicle tyres appeared in a good condition.

"Once again, I would firstly like to thank the members of my team for their passion, support and dedication to the CMS activities during 2018. We are working hard on funding for our new Help Centre and I am aware that temporary accommodation is never ideal, but we will get back to our 'own home' soon.



"I would also like to thank KZN RTI, Free State RTI, SAPS, BMW Road Service and the various towing entities, all of which contribute to safety along the N3 Toll Route.

"And finally, another huge thank you to the local residents in and around Van Reenen's who have embraced and supported the team for many years and have made our time along the Route that much more enjoyable and definitely more bearable during the harder, more emotional times."

While the CMS team is always humble in its approach, N3TC is exceptionally proud of this partnership. The team works hand-in-hand with local authorities, N3TC Route Services and the Route Control Centre, making it possible for effective and efficient response to incidents.

N3TC applauds this team of heroes!





Not every guy that lurks under a bridge is a troll. Some are angels – like Nick Dollman.

Back in the day, Nick was inspired by the TV programme Rescue 911 to volunteer at the Sandton Fire Department. "I had no idea until I saw that show that this sort of thing was an actual job," he remembers. "I was thrilled!" Nick had trained as an electrical engineer, but soon completed a Basic Ambulance Course and began to follow his passion for saving lives, with electrical work on the side to pay the bills.

Over the years, Nick has specialised in motor vehicle rescue, with his absolute dedication earning him many awards. He first became involved with Community Medical Services and N3TC in 2004, and quickly became a valued collegue. Since 2010, Nick has run the rescue team on the Warden to Heidelberg stretch of the N3.

During busy traffic periods like Easter, school holidays or the Comrades Marathon, his well-trained and multi-skilled crew make sure that help arrives as quickly as possible, supplementing the few overstretched paramedics that operate in the area. This takes a lot of effort, preparation and sometimes sacrifice, and between them the team clocked 100 man days of voluntary work on the road last year. Nick believes that building strong relationships is a vital part of his work, "we know all the tow truck guys, the traffic cops, the









road assistance crew and Warden Fire Department. They are there all the time, coping with these dramas. We need to fit in seamlessly to ensure that we add real value."

Philip Hull of Community Medical Services is full of praise for Nick's efforts. "He has developed both the manpower and resources for this operation and now offers a world class medical and rescue option on that section of the N3. During the Festive Season, he secured the services of a fully equipped medical helicopter which proved highly beneficial to our response times and our ability to give patients the best possible care." Nick is quick to acknowledge the team members who live and work hundreds of miles away, their families and sponsors. "Without all this support we would not have been able to grow and offer such a valuable free service."

Besides attending to road accident victims, the team assists the community wherever they can because medical facilities in the area are limited - attending to farm incidents, children with epilepsy or teenagers that have driven into a ditch in the snow. "Sometimes the local police arrive outside our motel in the middle of the night and turn on the sirens to let us know they have a patient that needs urgent care – right there, on the pavement."

These tough guys rescue kittens from drains and carry handmade teddy bears in their cars for children in distress, they stop if they spot someone with a flat tyre or offer water to passengers of a stranded bus. Everyone in South Africa is going somewhere on the road – rich or poor, in taxis or SUVs – everyone has access to the same incredible care should the wheels come off. "We all enjoy helping people. I like to think that we make a difference in people's lives. We don't expect a thank you, but sometimes we find that our breakfast bill at the roadside café has been paid anonymously, which is an awesome surprise."

Nick has spent many of his birthdays (mid-December) under a bridge on the side of the road, waiting for a call to help. So next time you spot an emergency vehicle, why not acknowledge their presence with a friendly toot – or a wave if you are a passenger? You never know when you might need an angel.





This shaving of knowledge has influenced the adults of the community.

The BirdLifeSA Nakekela Project has been inspiring young children for nine years. It has become a source of 'being' for many who have grown into knowledgeable, responsible and contributing young adults of Van Reenen village.

Initially, a small tourism-related project aimed at educating children on the value of the environment and a clean village as a tourist destination, the Nakekela Project has grown into a comprehensive, well-structured programme that has far reaching benefits beyond the Van Reenen community today. Its influence will reach well beyond this generation thanks to the efforts of a dedicated educator – Bonginkosi Ndaba , who helped initiate the project, supported by his peers and the Van Reenen community at large. Bonginkosi is the driving force behind Nakekela and his love for teaching, education and the environment are captured in the success of the programme.

N3TC's funding provides Bonginkosi with the peace and freedom to connect with nature and create opportunities for the children of Van Reenen to truly understand and respect their environment.

"There are things that children had previously perceived as useless because they had never been taught about them, but now they have learnt to love and appreciate them; and to protect them as part of nature." **Bonginkosi Ndaba** 

The children are encouraged to respect their surroundings by looking after a number of aspects of nature and in this way they are protecting the natural resources of the Van Reenen area. Bonginkosi reports that the Van Reenen village and surrounding areas have totally changed because these young people understand the importance of conservation.

Change is never easy, and it certainly wasn't for Bonginkosi and the Nakekela team. At first, parents did not understand the purpose of

the Nakekela project but, slowly, as their children took part in the project, parents began to understand the benefits. Once children become involved in the project they share their learning with their parents. This sharing of knowledge has influenced the adults of the community and brought about a change in attitude and a keen desire to contribute towards the conservation efforts in the village.

"Consequently, there is now a good relationship between our community and the environment in terms of nature conservation and sustainability." Bonginkosi Ndaba

To demonstrate the impact of the project, Bonginkosi shared a recent story:

"A few boys from the Nakekela project came to report that there were young boys killing pigeons in our area. When I heard about this, I





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immediately tried to find out where they were from because such behaviour is not allowed in Van Reenen. Luckily, I managed to catch those boys with the help of the Nakekela team and realised that these boys were not locals.

Once I explained the value of conservation and that killing pigeons in Van Reenen is not allowed, the problem has disappeared. I was so glad to see that the Nakekela team really cares, takes pride and is encouraged to report their concerns."

At the heart of the Nakekela Project is a desire to educate children



in the best way possible. Bonginkosi has adapted his lessons and activities to ensure that they are practical, effective and simple to ensure lifelong learning and impact. For instance, excursions, environmental movies and interactive educational materials and tools are the foundation of the Nakekela Project, all brought about through N3TC's funding.

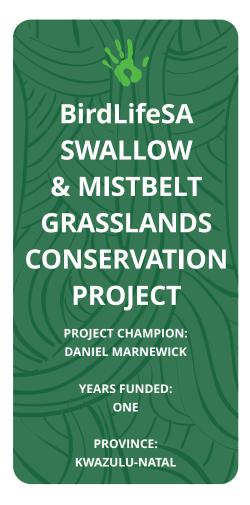
The BirdLifeSA Nakekela Project is a prime example of a small village raising responsible children for the benefit of conserving today's heritage and environment for future generations.











The Scallou Project is showing positive outcomes in the protection of these birds...

Although new to the N3TC Touching Lives Programme, the BirdLifeSA Blue Swallow Project is already well established and showing positive outcomes in the protection of the Blue Swallow and its associated habitat.

South Africans have a strong emotional connection to nature and this is no different for the team and beneficiaries involved in this project. The landowners, beneficiaries of the project, care deeply for the birds and biodiversity on their properties, but may not necessarily know how to approach protecting and managing it. For this reason, N3TC's funding is crucial as it allows the project team to collaborate with landowners and help guide them towards building a legacy of conservation that will live far beyond their lifetime.

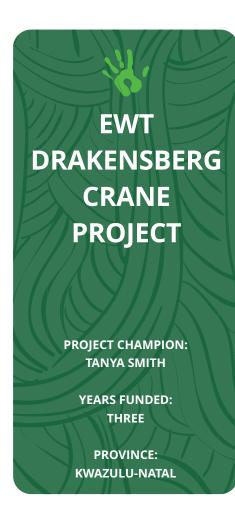
N3TC's funding is assisting the project team to secure the formal protection of critical biodiversity areas and natural habitat on three properties in the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands. The change in protection status of these properties will continue to protect South Africa's natural heritage long into the future.





Tillietudlem is a beautiful piece of mistbelt grassland located near Impendle in the KZN Midlands. Facilitated by BirdLife South Africa, the owner, Chris Wilkinson, cautiously committed to a short to medium term conservation contract for the property over five years ago. He has since agreed to full declaration of Tillietudlem as a Nature Reserve - which BirdLife South Africa-Conservation Outcomes partnership continues to facilitate. This will contribute over 1,900 hectares to the conserved mistbelt grassland estate in KZN and will aid the conservation of the threatened crane species, Blue Swallow and oribi.





In 2018, the team completed the 25th consecutive annual aerial survey for evanes.

N3TC's Touching Lives programme is significant for so many because we commit to supporting and partnering with deserving centres of excellence for the long term.

This, we believe, provides stability and continuity to secure the sustainability of the projects we fund, and the EWT Drakensberg Crane Project is a prime example of this.

"Our integrated approach to conservation, where socio-economic development, people's livelihoods, education and skills development are integral to the success of conservation, takes time and commitment – both of which are afforded to us through N3TC's support." **Tanya**Smith

Through the efforts of the EWT project team, landowners are making a long term commitment to conserving critical habitats like wetlands and grasslands. The EWT is able to match that commitment and demonstrate that there is support for the custodians of this natural heritage as a result of its funders, like N3TC.

The EWT Drakensberg Crane Project has been able to work with nearly 50 farmers in four key catchments within the Drakensberg







region, namely the Mooi, Umngeni, Umzimkulu and Umzimvubu Rivers. This engagement and partnership with landowners has resulted in the formal, long term protection of over 25 000ha of wetlands and grasslands, with a further nearly 5 000ha due to be formally proclaimed as protected areas in the coming year. This year the team completed the 25th consecutive annual aerial survey for cranes in KwaZulu-Natal. This is an incredible achievement as it makes this survey one of the longest running aerial surveys for cranes in the world. Quite incredibly, 400 Wattled Cranes were recorded, the highest number ever recorded.

N3TC's funding supports a dedicated team, including Field Officers responsible for working with farmers to better manage our natural heritage and EcoRangers who work with schools and communities to improve human wellbeing and increase awareness of the environment.



PROJECT CHAMPION: BRADLEY GIBBONS

YEARS FUNDED: FIVE

PROVINCE: FREE STATE

A total of 14 landowners have committed to the initiative...

The partnership between EWT and BirdLife SA in the Wilge Stewardship Project continues to reap rewards for the protection of the Sungazer and the grasslands biome in the Free State and Mpumalanga.

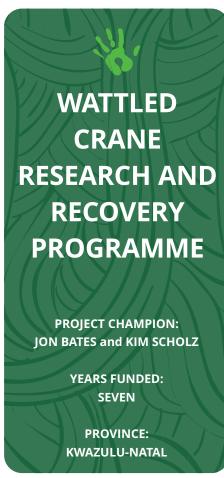
A total of 14 landowners have committed to the Biodiversity Stewardship initiative and the team has been undertaking all the necessary processes for the declaration process. A further eight landowners are expected to join the initiative in the near future.











Having funded the KZN Crane Foundation's (KZNCF) Wattled Crane Rearing Project since 2014, we are pleased to report that 2018 marked the realisation of the project's objective.

The objective being to build the intellectual property and protocols to rear Wattled Cranes from hatching and release them into the wild.

Although three Wattled Cranes were raised, in isolation in 2015/16, as an initial pilot programme, they were released into a zoo population. This year another three cranes were reared, of which one sadly died by accidental injury and two were released into the wild in July and August

respectively. To date both cranes are doing well and existing on their own.

Because the Wattled Crane Rearing and Research program is carried out in isolation the community does not get exposed to it

other than via the KZN Crane Foundation's Educational Officers (reported under Education) who carry the message to thousands of rural schoolchildren.

"The message is that we are working at saving critically endangered Wattle Cranes. These birds are entirely dependent on wetlands which in turn need to be protected and nurtured." **Jon Bates** 

The collaboration between Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) and Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife and KZNCF means that the wild birds are monitored with trackers. This has proven invaluable when trying to understand the movements of the flocks and integration of the reared chicks into the flocks.

This project has proven that consistency and perseverance pay off. N3TC is exceptionally proud of its association with the KZNCF and believe that the programme will make a significant impact on Wattled Crane population growth in the years ahead.









Kubalulekile ukuba sibambisane sonke ekukhulisweni kwezingane.

Uma izingane sizifundise ngemvelo nokunakekelwa kwayo,

loku kuyinto ingane ezokhula nayo.

Lindelani Mafu, KZN Crane Foundation

We need to work together in raising kids.

Environmental education is essential in the child's holistic development.



PROJECT CHAMPION: GERDA LOUW

> YEARS FUNDED: SEVEN

> > PROVINCE: FREE STATE

... currently supporting 31 children from Grades

1 to 7 ...

Free State Care in Action (FSCA), Harrismith, is possibly one of the most unique projects in the Touching Lives Programme.

This project helps disadvantaged families in Harrismith by providing care and support to children through an after-school support centre.

"Thanks to N3TC, by far the largest source of income to the project, FSCA is able to secure the short to medium term sustainability of the project, which provides continuous change in the quality of life of our beneficiaries." **Gerda Louw** 

The team involved in the after school programme is empowered to directly address the physical and emotional needs of the children; and continues to see an improvement in the children's physical, mental and emotional health.









Of significance is that N3TC's funding and continued support has helped raise awareness of the After School Care Centre within the Harrismith community.

This has brought about further support from the Harrismith business community, with many now actively involved in providing resources to complement the funding received from N3TC. For example, one business purchases the items for the monthly food parcels, distributed to 20 local families, and others contribute to the running costs of the centre that may exceed that of the budgeted N3TC funds.

Currently, FSCA is supporting 31 children from Grades 1 to 7 with the following:

- Daily meals;
- Monthly food parcels consisting of non-perishable food, fresh meat, fresh vegetables and fruit, toiletries and household detergents;
- Assistance with homework;
- Supply of school and sports clothes, and school supplies; and
- Emotional support.

The 20 households, direct beneficiaries of FSCA's efforts, are severely impacted by poverty, resulting in poor living conditions. Parents are not able to provide for their children's daily needs of food, clothes, and mental development support, not to mention any added extras such as school excursions, camps or sporting events. This is where FSCA makes the greatest impact as their support provides for these additional 'extras' that help the children to feel included and part of the whole educational experience.

It goes without saying, that if the After School Care Centre was not available to these families, a number of the children would have been removed from their homes and placed in the child welfare system.

"I would like to thank N3TC again for your involvement in this project. Thank you for keeping the doors open and making such a big difference in the lives of the children and their families." **Gerda Louw** 



Faces split into smiles as children spot Natasha Rossouw. "Hallo Tannie" they say and wind little arms around her waist, "How was your day?" she responds with a hug.

Clearly the aftercare, that Free State Care in Action (FSCA) hosts, offers much more than a meal and help with homework for the less fortunate children of Harrismith. Natasha is one of the dedicated FSCA helpers who have put a lot of effort into assisting children in need, since 1989. It's like a big family gathering every afternoon. As one little girl said "Ek is mal oor nasorg. Tannie Natasha is kwaai en oulik en cute."

Part of Natasha's childhood was spent in Harrismith with her father, and she enjoyed a few months at this very same aftercare centre making lifelong friends. As an adult she left for a while but soon returned. "There is something about Harrismith – you stick with it. There must be a very good reason to move away." Probably it is the incredibly strong community – something which is very evident in the support locals give to FSCA.

Part of Natasha's job is to ensure that there are meals for 31 children every day. She draws up a roster of those who are keen to cook, sends a reminder SMS the day before, then arranges collection and serves up something different and delicious after school each day. "There is so much variety. Sometimes it is fresh vetkoek with mince, on other days full farm style meals with a pudding, and occasionally we even get pizza," she says with obvious delight, "we are blessed with these generous people, ordinary people who go out of their way to do something extraordinary for the kids." Local businesses contribute food and clothing for regular parcels that the youngsters take home.

After lunch, it is homework time – and there is a lot of it these days. Although Natasha did not follow the advice of her guidance counsellor at school who said she was best suited to a career as a primary school teacher, she is now doing just that with the Grade 5-7 learners. While Maths is a lot harder than it was when she was at school, it is her favourite subject, and the handbook makes it easy. She is thrilled when she explains something and suddenly sees eyes light up when they understand. If they are quick, there is time











to play on the jungle gym before one of the helpers drives them home.

When the term ends, life gets very quiet. "I miss them so much! I have to switch the TV on just to have some happy noise around me!" laughs Natasha. These children are very fortunate to have a second mother like Natasha, who is never too tired to hear about their day, makes sure they go on school trips and always remembers their birthdays.



PROJECT CHAMPION: ANSIE JOOSTE

YEARS FUNDED: TEN

PROVINCE:
FREE STATEand
KWAZULU-NATAL

... many children are better able to move into adulthood thanks to the efforts of Khanyisile.

N3TC has been part of the Khanyisile Community Trust since inception.

It is a programme that took on a life of its own thanks to the passionate efforts of Ansie Jooste and, more recently, Gerrie Steenkamp.

Khanyisile provides support in various forms to the schools located within the hills and valleys of Van Reenen's Pass. Without the passion, commitment and tenacity of the Khanysile team, many of these schools would have fallen victim to the poverty of lack of resources, limited infrastructure and poorly maintained facilities, and perhaps would have stopped functioning as educational centres for local children.

Ansie and Gerrie are incredibly humble in their approach and take little credit for the way in which they contribute towards raising the children of Van Reenen. N3TC is certain that many children who have benefited from the support of Khanysile over the years are better able to move into adulthood thanks to the efforts of Khanyisile and the positive contributions made to their school life. Ansie always speaks about her Khanyisile 'toolbox'. Over the years, she has learnt many skills as part of her commitment to solving problems on the go. She has added many a 'tool' to the toolbox over the years including building skills, roofing, window repairs, electrical repairs and horticulture, to name a few!

This year's reports have been no less interesting with Ansie repairing every possible thing she could with the support of a few trusted helpers at the schools.

"With the colder weather not wanting to budge, I had to deal with a few copper water pipe bursts at the schools. This being a skill that I didn't have at the time, I made a few desperate phone calls and thanks to some over the phone tutorials I managed to repair them all. Another skill that I have added to Khanyisile's toolbox." **Ansie Jooste**.









In keeping with the original intent of the Khanysile project, Ansie uses her medical skills as a highly qualified paramedic to continue to monitor the wellbeing of the children that are part of Khanyisile's programme. While the process can become pretty much routine in weighing and measuring the children every term; Ansie has decided to make it more meaningful and spends a lot of time chatting with each child. This has become a time of getting to know every child more personally; and Ansie quickly determines any specific interventions that will improve their welfare.



Life is challenging in many places on the planet. Sand River Valley is one of them.

Despite the difficulties, 70 year old Gogo Shabalala is in high spirits. Each morning she wakes early to cook pap served with milk fresh from her cows, for the many grandchildren who live with her. Then she sets off for a good walk across the hills to work. Her job is supervising the nursery and garden set up by Khanyisile at Sand River Valley Primary School.

One might imagine that growing food would come naturally to this community, so far from shops, but it doesn't. Here it is very hot,

very cold, very dry and very windy – not ideal gardening conditions. "We only planted potatoes when I was young," Gogo remembers. "Beans and mealies can't grow in this area. Only in 2012 did I learn about gardening like this. I love it and want to help everyone to make a garden." Now there is plenty of spinach to make her

favourite dish *isijabane* and in autumn, plump butternuts for *isijingi* too.

Each season, Gogo plants thousands of seeds – beetroot, spinach, cabbage, pumpkins, tomatoes and onions. The well-tended seedlings are distributed to other schools in the area and to community members who are keen to grow their own food. The garden at Sand River Valley Primary School bursts with produce that is used every day to supplement the government feeding scheme. Principal, Thembi Shezi, is delighted. "This food makes a big difference to our school. Mrs Shabalala is amazing, she is not







lazy, she is dedicated and never gets sick." Gogo concurs, "I still have strength to work, so I must

not just sit. When I am stressed I just go into the garden and then I feel better."

Gogo Shabalala grew up with her grandparents, learning to weave *icansi* from grass, which plants to use as medicine, and built her own sturdy home from natural materials found locally. All useful skills, but she accepts that not everyone is interested in learning them and feels proud of the other things that her children and grandchildren have learnt and shared with her.

Her new-found love of gardening means she has fresh food and

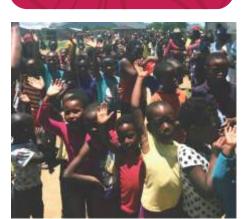
extra money to buy school uniforms. Illustrating that a willingness to try new things, a sunny disposition and positive attitude can mean triumph even under challenging conditions. Go Gogo!



PROJECT CHAMPION: LEANDRI BESTER

> YEARS FUNDED: TWELVE

> > PROVINCE: FREE STATE



The Maluti Child Care Project has withstood many a challenge, yet the project remains fully functional and continues to support more and more children from outlying rural areas surrounding Harrismith.

Run purely on volunteerism and a genuine passion to make a difference, we acknowledge all those who have contributed to its ongoing success, past and present.

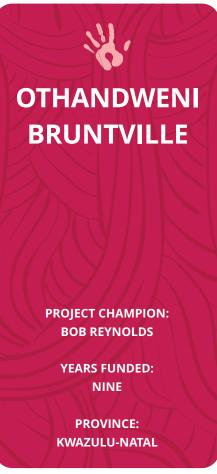
Currently 28 volunteers work in the seven Maluti Child Care kitchens where they prepare nutritional meals every day, except weekends. Approximately 2 180 children receive meals daily.

These kitchens have become a place of security and support, far more than a drop-in facility for a welcome meal. Additional services and facilities such as libraries, after school care, and social welfare support are part of the overall Maluti Child Care offering.

To compensate the volunteers for their time, a small monthly stipend is paid to thank them for their commitment to supporting their community's children, demonstrating that a little can go a long way.

"Despite the difficult economic conditions, Maluti Child Care has persevered and ensured the wellbeing of the ever increasing number of children who are in desperate need of assistance. This would not have been achieved without our donor's unfailing, valuable support and loyalty." **Leandri Bester** 

The Maluti Child Care project is a collaborative effort that combines the best of local business support and community involvement. It is yet another exceptional example of a village raising a child.





Othandweni serves the Bruntville community in meeting the needs of children who have been orphaned.

Apart from providing loving care to the children accommodated at the foster home, the Othandweni Crèche provides parents with affordable childcare, giving them peace of mind while at work, and the children enjoy a loving educational environment.

Othandweni owns two houses in Bruntville and N3TC's funding helps meet the expenses involved in running and maintaining the foster home and crèche.

"Without N3TC's funding we would not meet the day-to-day expenses or the ongoing maintenance of both facilities. Thank you N3TC for helping us remain sustainable!" **Bob Reynolds** 



Umuntu umntu ngabantu. Cecilia Molefe, Tsa Lapeng

A person is a person through other people



PROJECT CHAMPION: THEMBI DAWU TSHUMA

YEARS FUNDED: FIVE

PROVINCE:
MPUMALANGA and
FREE STATE

Topsy assists these communities by enhancing the holistic cave provided at local ECD centres.

N3TC's funding awarded to the Topsy Foundation extends beyond the boundaries of Grootvlei to the outlying communities within the Dipaleseng Municipality.

The Foundation's initiatives help alleviate the effects of poverty and inadequate nutritional support of families living in these marginalised communities.

Many of the beneficiaries served by Topsy are unemployed and depend on grants, child support, old age, or disability, making Topsy's food garden project an essential component of sustainable living.

Topsy assists these communities by enhancing the holistic care provided at local ECD centres through the establishment of food gardens at the crèches. To complement these efforts, Topsy has motivated the staff at the ECD centres to encourage parents or guardians to start vegetable gardens at their homes. In this way Topsy has been able to increase the likelihood that a child receives nutritional meals at the centre as well as at home. This, amongst other factors, has led to an increase in the number of beneficiaries in the vegetable gardens project.

This project helps the unnoticed and unseen parents and caregivers feel valued as they are able to take ownership of their household's fresh produce and not depend on someone making their gardens or providing them with hand-outs.

The project supports over 160 families reaching more than 500 beneficiaries making their mark on supporting the district in raising healthy children.









PROJECT CHAMPION: PRAVEEN SUNDERLALL

YEARS FUNDED: TEN

PROVINCE: ROUTE

... to bring comfort to young victims through the help of a soft toy ...

Victims of motor vehicle crashes live with the haunting memory and the physical and emotional scars of the accident that changed their lives.

Having witnessed so many lives impacted in this way, N3TC's RIMS Manager, Praveen Sunderlall, initiated the N3TC Duduza 'We Care' Initiative ten years ago. It was Praveen's heartfelt desire to bring comfort to young victims through the help of a soft toy specially made for this purpose. In Praveen's mind it was all about showing compassion and care at a traumatic time that would make the difference in the overall healing of young crash victims.

"For children involved in crashes it is a particularly distressing and frightening experience and can challenge their sense of security and comfort, well into adulthood." **Praveen Sunderlall** 

N3TC, along with local emergency services of Friends of Duduza along the N3 Toll Route, make regular visits to state hospitals and orphanages engaging with, supporting, encouraging and bringing a smile to many.

Approximately 25 000 Duduza teddy bears, countless Easter Eggs and milkshakes and hundreds of blankets have helped bring comfort to over 7 000 children in a decade. The ongoing effect and impact is insurmountable!

This was made possible through the generous contributions of fellow sponsors, partners and many Emergency Services personnel along the N3 Toll Route.

N3TC applauds everyone who has helped bring a smile and loving comfort to the children of the N3 Corridor 'village'.





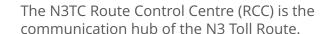




PROJECT CHAMPION: ANNATJIE VAN DER SANDT

YEARS FUNDED: FOUR

PROVINCE: FREE STATE



It is a hive of activity filled with the constant buzz of anticipation and chatter as the team deals with the many incidents related to managing the Route.

There are those quieter times, however, when a lull in the traffic 'storm' dies down, typically during night shift, and the team can take a metaphoric breath. It is in those times when Annatjie van der Sandt, RCC Manager, felt that her team needed something relaxing and meaningful to work on to pass the time and build a collaborative team culture.

After four years, the crochet project is going strong and the team is doing their bit for the N3 Toll Route village through their collective efforts and incredible creations. The project has built a team that teaches each other the art of crochet, men included, and this has made a significant difference to the RCC team dynamics while they contribute to bringing warmth and comfort to the children along the Route.

This year, the team has been hard at work creating beanies and hats that have been distributed through the Duduza Iniative.

"It is such a pleasure to be part of this crochet project. Thank you N3TC for your support it is appreciated." **Annatjie van der Sandt** 











Noma bungaba bude kangakanani ubusuku kodwa kogcina ngokusa. Tanya Smith

However long the night, dawn will break.

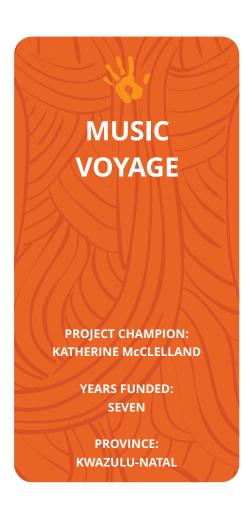




### Legong le ojwa lesale metsi.

#### Reatlegile Lekalakala, Free State Eco Schools

It is easier to bend a twig when it is young.



Belonging to a group that is successful is extremely motivating. The echo of drums and the rumba of the marimbas are heard echoing through the rolling hills of the KwaZulu-Natal Midlands thanks to the efforts of the Music Voyage team and their passion for 'making music' in the village regions of the Midlands.

Music Voyage is an inspiring and effective model for creating a love of music, culture and performing arts in young children. It is quite evident from the Music Voyage reports and many visits to their music lessons that the love of music is growing in the Midlands. Music Voyage receives funding from N3TC to employ the services of music teachers in various musical disciplines which helps to build ensembles and opportunities for the children to perform to





receptive and delighted audiences. Furthermore, N3TC's funding supports the essential running costs of the project that include music exam entry fees, training materials, transport and administrative costs, all of which are necessary to ensure the smooth running of the project.

Music Voyage is contributing to the all-round development of the Midlands children – supporting their education while building other life skills that positively contribute to their life journey.

On an educational level the children learn to play an instrument and read the universal language of music that crosses many boundaries. They gain cognitive skills coupled with discipline and team work that overflow into their daily lives at school and home. At the same time, Music Voyage students are learning skills that improve their opportunities for employment or further learning at the end of their school careers.

Through the many avenues offered by Music Voyage, their students are able to participate in concerts and functions alongside other students from different social backgrounds, both within the KZN Midlands and further afield. This crosses cultural boundaries and provides travel opportunities for students to other parts of the country.



Last year we reported on the Music Voyage Marimba band's attendance at the International Marimba Festival as observers. This year they attended as competitors! The Festival's judges' comments were encouraging: "Well done!! Nice rumba clave feel giving space and groove. Lots of effort and commitment. Lively performance. Good variation in middle section. Well done."

"Belonging to a group that is successful is extremely motivating. The children learn trust, accountability, time management, organisation and many other transferable skills." **Katherine McClelland** 

Of key importance is the family's pride that stems from the children's musical achievements, which leads to further encouragement and social status within their communities. Much healing happens through music and many of the Music Voyage students continue to attend lessons and perform despite great difficulties.

The Music Voyage project is much more than learning music or playing an instrument. It enables a young person to develop and take responsibility for his or her life and equips them to become positive contributors and influencers in their communities.

The Music Voyage achievements are numerous and varied, below are a few highlights.

"Some of our recorder children took part in the Eisteddfod held in Pietermaritzburg and achieved wonderful results; and a number of





children will be doing their Trinity College London music exams later this year.

"We have also been able to facilitate music lessons and drumming workshops in the Midlands schools in Karkloof, Dargle, Lions River, Lidgetton, Fort Nottingham, Nottingham Road, Bruntville, Howick and Mpophomeni." Katherine McClelland



South Africa's singing ambassadors are part of a global community, integral to its support base and long term sustainability.

Brad Glasspoole, DBCS



# FUNDA NENJA A township dog training initiative

PROJECT CHAMPION: ADRIENNE OLIVIER

YEARS FUNDED: TWO

PROVINCE:
KWAZULU-NATAL

Everyone has something to contribute.

Nikki Brighton

Dog training coupled with social welfare services, counselling and community support are but a few services offered by the Funda Nenja outreach programme in the Mpophomeni community.

The dog training programme is essential in ensuring that the dog population of Mpophomeni is healthy. The Funda Nenja Youth programme has greater and far reaching impact in helping the youth to overcome their challenges.





N3TC's funding has contributed to the employment of two highly skilled Funda Nenja staff members, an Education Officer and Social Worker. Their contribution to the project is already achieving wonderful results and contributing to the welfare of many Funda Nenja families.

For example, the Education Officer's home visits ensure that the entire family is trained in animal welfare, not only the child who attends the weekly dog school training programme.

Mpophomeni, like many other communities in South Africa, is faced with many challenges. The youth in particular struggle with a number of issues that often materialise in misconduct or bad behaviour. The Funda Nenja Social Worker has helped many of the Mpophomeni youth deal with anger, teenage pregnancies, depression and stress.

The Mpophomeni community's needs are great but Funda Nenja has recognised a keen desire to build strong young adults that can take the lead in strengthening the Mpophomeni community and making it a great place where everyone enjoys a healthy lifestyle.



When Themba Memela first heard about Funda Nenja, he couldn't believe his luck.

"Dogs are my favourite animals in the whole world," he recalls, "so I decided to take my old dog Xoki and have a look." They were hooked from day one, with Themba pleased to find like-minded animal lovers in his neighbourhood and Xoki enjoying learning new tricks. Many people in Mpophomeni are afraid of dogs, so when Themba told his teacher that he wanted to work at the SPCA when he grew up, his classmates roared with laughter.

Funda Nenja Dog Training Initiative meets on Friday afternoons, and Xoki would be waiting when Themba got home, ready to go. "Even though he was old, he learnt so fast. He could 'stay' for a very long time!" Soon Themba and Xoki were good enough to join the Demo Team, which travelled to shows around the country to showcase their skills. "What fun experiences to go to Durban and Jo'burg and meet many different people. This gave me confidence and I thought I could do anything I wanted to, if I kept learning." When Xoki died, rather than get a new dog to work with, Themba became a trainer for Funda Nenja, helping others to develop their connection with their dog, learn proper care and handling techniques, discipline and respect for other humans.







After he finished school, Themba was offered his dream job at the local boarding kennels. Here he exercises the dogs and is always called on to help with difficult or slightly aggressive dogs as he is unafraid and soon calms them down. While he has always loved horses, he didn't think he would ever get a chance to ride. Now he has weekly lessons and regularly competes in show-jumping and cross country events on Ziggy.

Despite being busy at the kennels, he still volunteers on Friday afternoons. He is impressed that Funda Nenja now includes a social worker to look after the children's needs. "If you want the dogs to be happy, the children must be happy. If the kids suffer, their dogs will too." Over the past years he has seen such positive changes in the township. "I used to get sad seeing dogs with no shelter lying in the rain. Now everyone understands the importance of providing shelter." Another improvement he has observed is in sterilisation. No longer are there endless unwanted puppies, and fewer dogs fighting.

A few years ago, an emigrating family left their dog Tarmorine at the kennels, asking them to find a new home for her. Themba played with this dog for four months and loved her, so was very pleased to adopt her. Tarmorine enjoys afternoon walks down to the river near their home every day but does not like children so can't attend Funda Nenja classes. She doesn't like rats either and swiftly kills any she sees. Providing the perfect eco-friendly protection for Themba's veggie garden!

Themba is adamant that one day there will be no hungry dogs in Mpophomeni and every dog will have a loving home. He is determined to do all he can to make this happen. Lucky Mpophomeni. Lucky dogs.

# TREVERTON SCHOOLS Annual Sports Tournament

PROJECT CHAMPION: DAVID PURDON

> YEARS FUNDED: NINE

PROVINCE:
KWAZULU-NATAL

Treverton started a basketball outreach propramme with a local school in Bruntville.

The 2018 Treverton Co-ed Sports Festival attracted 660 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 remains the main and most popular sporting code being played non-stop from 8am – 7pm for three consecutive days.







Treverton again hosted the KZN Rugby development side. While they acquitted themselves well, the team unfortunately had a few injuries which affected the last two fixtures. Treverton aims to grow the development aspect of the 2019 Festival by including two Hockey sides; and has already identified a local Midlands school to partner with for this purpose.

As a spin-off of the Festival, through N3TC's funding, Treverton started a basketball outreach programme two years ago, partnering with a local school in Bruntville, Mooi River. Once a week Treverton staff and pupils head into Bruntville to teach basketball and enjoy some fun with the Bruntville children. It is an opportunity for growth and teaching necessary sport and life skills.

"Without funding from N3TC these teams would not be able to participate in the Festival and Treverton would not be able to reach out to the Bruntville community, which is marginalised in so many ways."

David Purdon





We each have our competencies and capabilities, sharing them with your communities facilitates all.

By helping your brother's boat across the river, you too get to the other side.

Janet Snow, Treverton



... they deserve to live in an environment that caters to their needs ...

Pevensey Place is located on the outskirts of Underberg on a commercial farm, nestled in the shade of oak trees.

It is the haven for many disabled adult residents where they live, work and play.

A visit to Pevensey Place is always a delight, met with beautiful smiles and warm hugs, always a heart-warming and exhilarating time spent with incredibly special people.

N3TC's funding of Pevensey Place has helped five residents to continue to live at Pevensey and benefit from its safe and secure environment. In all these cases, and many others, either the residents' families cannot afford to contribute to their costs or they have been orphaned. Irrespective of their circumstances, they deserve to live in an environment that caters to their needs by ensuring their dignity remains intact and the support and care they require is at their disposal. N3TC's funding has helped Pevensey Place to continue to make a difference in their lives.

Pevensey Place draws its funding from numerous sources apart from the fees paid by some residents' or their families. These include the Pevensey Place annual fete along with donations from Round Table; the N3TC Drak Challenge, Splashy Fen, joBerg2c, Sani2C and other local events. Local schools and residents also run volunteer programmes at Pevensey Place, which further helps with the upkeep and maintenance of the premises and allows the staff to better support the residents.





The residents of Pevensey Place put together their own monthly newsletter. Below are some excerpts:

"On the 1st of March this year some pupils from Grace College in Hilton came to visit us. They painted our dining room doors and brought some Chelsea buns for us to have with our tea. We played cricket in the garden with them and it was such a pleasure having them around."

"On a Tuesday this year I went to stay with Aunt and Uncle. We flew to East London to be with my Grandparents for the weekend. The first day we were there we went to the beach and I picked shells and made sand castles. I had a lot of fun with my family."

"On Good Friday I was at Pevensey and we went to Church. Then on the Saturday we had a special visit from Trish Anderson who brought some nice goodies for each of us who could not go home for the holidays. On the Sunday we had an Easter egg hunt. Some of the eggs were hanging on the wash line!! We had a lovely weekend."

"Pevensey Place is very active in the Underberg community as most of the residents attend local churches on Sundays, which enables them to interact with the local community. They also visit the village of Underberg and socialise with the local community in the shops. All essential to their quality of life." Jan Niemand





Inhlonipho iqala ekhaya.

Jonas Mnguni, Maluti Child Care

Charity begins at home.





The contribution of Trucking Wellness to the N3 Corridor is making a significant difference to the overall improvement in truck driver health and wellness.

The trucking community plays a vital role in the country's economy. Truck drivers, however, work long hours under trying circumstances and have limited access to health care services. While they keep the country moving, their health and wellbeing is often neglected. This is where Trucking Wellness plays a vital role in supporting drivers when they are able to stop and rest at the truck stops along the N3 Toll Route.

The Trucking Wellness team, however, never seems to stop! N3TC's funding to the project complements the income it receives from the Department of Health and other crucial funders, enabling Trucking Wellness to continue to provide excellent healthcare support to truck drivers.

"N3TC's funding helps us to focus on our vision and achieve our goals."

Tertius Wessels

Through the financial contribution of N3TC, Trucking Wellness has been able to continuously improve the operations at its N3 Wellness clinics and expand its services to reach the communities located in close proximity to the Clinics. This has an impact on the general health and well-being of outlying, rural communities along the N3 Corridor.

Efforts to ensure that staff is well trained and equipped with the correct and appropriate qualifications are at the forefront of Trucking Wellness' success. This year, 11 Trucking Wellness nursing staff obtained their dispensing licenses and a further three nurses have submitted their applications to the Department of Health. Of key importance is the purchase of primary health medication as well as kits for HIV testing, cholesterol and glucose screening, all of which are essential to the services offered by the N3 Wellness Clinics.

The number of patients that the centres serve, despite its impressive appearance, is a concern for the general health of the people the clinics serve. Idealistically, wouldn't it be good if the clinics were empty and people were thriving, only requiring medical intervention 'once in a while'. However, that is not the reality and the Trucking Wellness statistics indicate a desperate need for better access to healthcare.

In a mere three-month period, N3 Wellness clinics tested a total of 1 029 clients of which 656 were from the community and surrounding areas. Primary healthcare services were provided to 2 290 patients of which 495 were members of the community.

Trucking Wellness is doing exceptional work in the communities along the Route. The need is great but collectively we are making a difference.

Trucking Wellness attended the 22nd International AIDS Conference 2018 - Amsterdam **Breaking Barriers Building** Bridges. More than 15 000 researchers, activists and policy makers from more than 160 countries met in Amsterdam for the Conference. Delegates from the NBCRFLI Trucking Wellness programme attended the event and showcased their programme at the exhibition. The Conference was marked by a moving opening ceremony coupled with various speakers hoping to rejuvenate and inspire those working in the HIV and AIDS sector.







Discovering exceptional, hidden and talented people along the Midlands

Meander and exposing that talent to help them realise their value and worth
thereby building their confidence to become self-sustaining business owners.

Marian Evans, Midlands Meander

## N3TC MEALS ON WHEELS CYCLE CHALLENGE

PROJECT CHAMPION: LOUIS HARMSE

> YEARS FUNDED: EIGHT

> > PROVINCE: GAUTENG

The Meals on Wheels Cycle Challenge has become a sought after qualifying race in South Africa.

The 2018 event saw a participant growth of almost 20%, predominantly as a result of the beautiful mountains and scenery where it takes place and the reputation it has gained as a well organised event.

"The event is far more than a cycle race, it has become a family day out in nature coupled with cycling for a good cause." **Louis Harmse** 

Although the wind was challenging at times, everyone appreciated the sunshine and well managed water points and many promised to come back next year.

This year's event was expanded with the introduction of a challenging trail run. Although the trail run started small, many of the participants predict that it will grow and quickly!

One runner mentioned: "This is such a beautiful route. I will definitely come every year. The event was inspiring and lifted my spirits."

This year Sedaven's Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centre managed the Trail Run water points and local residents were invited to participate. This adds a wonderful new component to the beneficiaries of this event being the very young and the aged.







Some of the income from the trail run will benefit local ECDs as well as the Pathfinder Association that focuses on developing young leaders.

Apart from increasing their beneficiary reach to over 25 ECD centres, the Meals on Wheels Cycle and Trail Running Challenge supports three regional Meals on Wheels organisations, adding more than a R100 000 towards their annual budget. This enables Meals on Wheels to reach thousands of people in the Heidelberg area and beyond; many of whom are the grandparents to children being raised in these communities.

By supporting the efforts of Pathfinder and its youth development programme, the race has extended its reach to almost 900 cyclists and runners who experienced the event and the benefits of being active in nature.

Some beneficiaries shared their stories:

"Everyday a little boy, aged 5, will wait at his gate for us to deliver food to the family. When he sees us coming he will run to his mommy and shout "Mommy the food is here. Can we eat now?"



Some of the community members will come together and tell us how grateful they are for the food and some of them will start to sing. It brings tears to our eyes every time.

We start delivering food around 9 o'clock in the morning and come back about 12:30 in the afternoon. We want to thank N3TC for their Meals on Wheels Cycle Challenge sponsorship; it is helping us to make a difference in so many people's lives." Meals on Wheels Employee

"The Meals on Wheels race is one of our major fundraisers for the year. It helps us raise much needed funds for our local church and these funds ultimately benefit families in dire need. This year was the biggest race ever and we want to thank the organisers and sponsors for making this opportunity a reality. What a sight to see so many cyclists participating for a good cause." **Event Food Stall Organiser** 

"Because of N3TC we not only benefit from the race but also from training provided by Lusa. We have grown so much and we can see the difference in our children. We now send school ready children to Grade 1. We are empowered. Thank you so much N3TC for the Meals on Wheels race and the training." Principal of SITHEMBILE Day Care Centre

More than 60 volunteers help organise the race, the cornerstone of its success. "We have become like family and our team has grown because of the trail run. We are so grateful to N3TC for this partnership." **Louis Harmse** 





Splashy Fen is an institution! It is an event known to people in South Africa and around the world. It is an event like no other and one that people 'trek' to from far and wide to experience something unique and special.

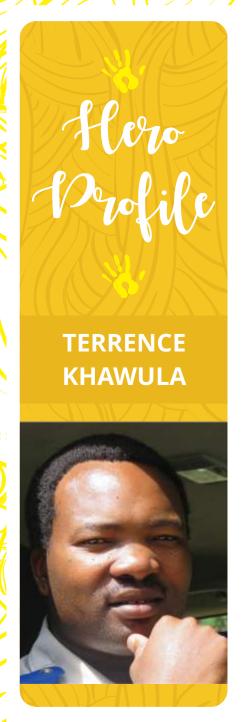
N3TC's contribution to Splashy Fen is specific and targeted through the N3TC Splashy Cares programme, the event's CSI initiative. It has been used to empower local community members by improving their skills set through focused training initiative, resulting in improved services at the festival and reducing the need for sourcing services from the 'city'. In addition, funds have been used to cover the costs for bands and artists from along the N3 Toll Route to perform at Splashy Fen, specifically around the Maskandi genre of music.

The impact of these initiatives funded by N3TC is already reaping rewards. Two local service providers have had their annual turnover increase by 23% and 21% respectively through the efforts of the N3TC Splashy Cares programme. Furthermore, it has contributed to building a music culture and broadening the musical experience and interest of Splashy Fen attendees. The opportunity for an artist to perform at Splashy Fen has far reaching benefits for their musical career; and N3TC is affording this opportunity to many a local artist who otherwise would not have had a chance to experience the level of awareness, professional production and energy that comes with Splashy Fen.

In the past three years since Impi Concept Events has handled the organisation and the funding from N3TC and other partners, Splashy Fen has experienced an increase in attendance from 2 500 people to a sold out 8 000 in 2018. The event has affected

significant change in the local community, and a recent KZN Tourism economic impact study showed a R45-55-million spend in the province because of Splashy Fen, highlighting that the event has become an economic influencer.





Cycling 15kms to school each morning along country roads gave Terrence Khawula plenty of time to think.

His parents were farm workers and he needed to supplement their income as soon as he was able. Along with other boys on the farm, he became a caddie at the Underberg Country Club on weekends. Here he met local landowners and built relationships that have lasted a lifetime. "It was good to be able to take meat home to make curry with the money I earned. This was a treat for our family as our diet was mainly potatoes, maize meal, spinach and milk."

In 1990, he began to sell firewood at the annual Splashy Fen Festival. During every spare moment, for weeks before the festival, he would cut and bundle invasive wattle ready for sale, then hawk it around the campsites. "My eyes were so big seeing all these different people gathering in one place!" In 1994 he watched Ladysmith Black Mambazo play and from then on, Terrence and his team would sell their wood all day and as the sun set, sit down and enjoy the music. By now Terrence was an expert on the Splashy scene and spotted another opportunity – in security. After matric he joined Berg Protection and became the Security Manager at Splashy for five years, still managing to enjoy some of the music while ensuring that revellers were safe.

Along the way, he spent a couple of years in Johannesburg, but found life too fast for his taste. "Here in Underberg people care about me and I am able to make a real contribution to my community." 2009 was a big year in his life - he married his childhood sweetheart, and now business partner, Patricia - and applied for a post with the local traffic department. With all his experience, local knowledge and gentle manner he was perfect for the job and has become a familiar face on the roads in the area.

Patricia ran a successful stall selling vetkoek at Splashy and together they observed that the standard of cleaning was not up to scratch. So, what did this enterprising pair do? Started a cleaning company of course! Beginning with just 15 unemployed people from their church who they knew were trustworthy, their operation has grown each year and now employs 35 people part time. Recycling is a large part of the clean-up, with bottles, cans, plastic and cardboard going to the local recycling centre. "I am trying to









train people's minds that we can make a living from recycling," he says earnestly. "People used to tease me and ask, 'how many condoms did you collect at Splashy?' but now they can see there is money in this business." Next, he is thinking of a plan to turn all the food waste into compost.

Underberg is a hub of exceptional events and festivals. "Everyone here loves Splashy Fen because it brings so many people who spend a lot of money in our town," smiles Terrence, who constantly sees opportunities to create jobs and change lives in his community. Pat Loos is the latest division of their company and provides portable toilets for smaller events. Their clean up and tent erection crews offer great service to participants of Sani2C, Drak Challenge, and the Glencairn Trail Run. Next, he wants to be the go-to toilet guy for all the big events and has recently purchased a 'honeysucker' sewage truck to add to his service.

While days are spent manning roadblocks and educating drivers, his evenings are spent answering emails, preparing quotes and planning. Somewhere he even manages to fit in studying for a BA in Disaster and Event Management.

Is Terrence thinking about the next opportunity? Yes he is, but on the golf course now.



Over 600 paddlers lined up for the 2018 N3TC Drak Challenge in the heart of the Southern Berg, anticipating yet another challenging but exhilarating journey down the Umzimkhulu River. They were not disappointed!

The N3TC Drak Challenge is best described as a community event – owned, managed and organised. All profits are invested back into the greater Underberg community, contributing to and affecting the lives of many people and the environment.

Local charities, apart from being part of the weekend's activities, benefit through much needed funding that the event is able to provide at the end of the weekend. Projects such as wattle clearing, safety courses, equipment and paddler development are but a few of the contributions made to the Underberg community.











Some of the impacts are immediately felt and others are invested for the longer term but the evidence is clear that the N3TC Drak Challenge is an economic contributor to the Southern Drakensberg's economy.

As with any event operating in the current economic climate, entry fees are not able to cover the extensive costs of staging community events that drive community upliftment. Sponsorship is key to their success.

While over 60 volunteers put their time, passion and commitment into the 2018 Drak Challenge, N3TC's funding worked hard to make it all happen; collectively, this contributed to the race organising committee's ability to raise funds and contribute to local community initiatives, schools and institutions.

"Without N3TC's funding, the event could neither contribute nor make a meaningful impact on raising the Underberg 'village' children as it does." **Stu Berry** 



It is N3TC's experience that the community events it supports through the Touching Lives programme are inspired by the passion and motivation of local community heroes. The Trans Drak MTB Quest is no different.

This event has grown substantially over the years with more than 160 riders participating this year. It appeals to a unique MTB community that loves extreme sports and gets a thrill from endurance cycling and pushing themselves to new personal goals and physical limits.

The event, however, requires extensive preparation. Gerrie Steenkamp and his team spend many hours working on the route that will challenge a cyclist but ensure their safety. It is crucial to





provide excellent tracks and routes to ensure that riders return but more importantly promote the race. In addition, the event employs twenty-five people to assist with the setup, catering and the cleaning at the race village, which is essential to the riders and supporters experience.

The Trans Drak route covers more than 200km and the enormous task of clearing and building tracks has created the opportunity to reach out to, and work alongside, people from local farms and communities.

Three young unemployed men eagerly helped with building tracks for the event this year; and in doing so, they have become experts

in track building and are in the process of starting a 'track building' business to cater for the different sporting events in the region. To see these opportunities unfold in our local communities is inspiring.

Gerrie tells the story of Joseph Dlamini, founder of the Yarona Fitness Club and his dream to engage the youth to participate in sport. He registered a club as a Non Profitable Organisation and the youth are encouraged to join at affordable rates. This initiative has ignited enthusiasm amongst the youth and is impacting the entire region.





## ROYAL DRAK MTB & TRAIL RUN

PROJECT CHAMPION: MEGAN BEDINGHAM

YEARS FUNDED: SEVEN

PROVINCE: KWAZULU-NATAL

According to Megan and Loretta, N3TC has been instrumental in ensuring the success of the Royal Drak MTB & Trail Run event.

N3TC's funding has helped the team from Royal Drak Primary School present a professional, first-class event that raises essential funding for the running of the school. This has meant that riders and runners experience the Berg in the best way possible while enjoying the outdoors and having an exceptional day of fun. This year N3TC's Chill Zone added further value to the riders and runners experience, which contributed to the exceptional hospitality associated with the event.

The professional manner in which the event is managed goes hand in hand with the way in which this school is run.

"Quality is our key driver and N3TC helps us portray our school in this light through the event. A quality education benefits the children in this area and having a well-run, well-orchestrated and professional event means people are happy to buy in and support the cause, which is the school." **Loretta Mecklenborg** 

A Trail Running component was added to this year's event. This has helped build a strong connection with development runners in the area who received free entries into this year's event. This further

contributed to more local support for, and at, the event and awareness of the school.



The event, furthermore, brings the local hospitality sector and businesses in the area together, working towards a common cause. This has helped grow the community and contributed to the lives of the children of the Northern Drakensberg 'village', who are the ultimate winners.

Fund raising community events have far reaching impacts, very often going unseen but the beneficiaries will truly understand as the affect will be felt personally. Royal Drakensberg Primary School teacher Idah Khumalo shares her thoughts ...

"My name is Idah Khumalo. I grew up in a village called Amazizi in the Drakensberg Mountains. I really enjoy working at the Royal Drakensberg Primary School (RDP) which is a small school situated in Northern Drakensberg.

"I have worked at RDP for over ten years and I have really treasured my time at the school. During the ten years of my teaching I have experienced some challenges, but the learnings have made everything worthwhile. Having to work with different types of people who have absolutely different backgrounds to me was one of the challenges but has turned out to be a good experience.

"Teachers come and go, young vibrant teachers who are still building up their experience. It is always good to get to know new people especially those who know their job. I really appreciate the knowledge that is constantly being given to us by different teachers that I get to work with in our school.

"In a school full of young children, as teachers we need to keep on helping each other and working together in order to build up a happier environment, so listening to each other is very important.

"After everything there is nothing that brings me joy than seeing the children that used to be in our school during their foundation phase doing their best and excelling in their school work in the school that they are currently in. Seeing them makes me so proud and motivated to keep on doing my best in investing in their bright future." Idah Khumalo



# OLD MUTUAL joBerg2c

PROJECT CHAMPION: CRAIG WAPNICK

> YEARS FUNDED: SEVEN

PROVINCE:

ROUTE - Gauteng,

Mpumalanga, Free State and

KwaZulu-Natal

From the N3TC drOp'ngo2c Supporters Tour to investing in the development of the event that has been inspired by a big vision and previously undiscovered communities, N3TC plays a massive role in supporting the Old Mutual joBerg2c.

The event contributes over R4.5-million to the communities along the event's route each year and N3TC's contribution adds significantly to this.

The Old Mutual joBerg2c is arguably South Africa's true community event that showcases some of the country's best tourism destinations and a truly unique MTB route the country has to offer. The event is, for most schools and institutions on the joBerg2c route, the biggest fund raiser of the year and many of the community schools rely purely on the event to fund additional teachers and school infrastructure projects. It tells a wonderful, enlightening and heartfelt story of South Africa.

The community inspired model of the Old Mutual joBerg2c is about allowing communities to work for their funding, it is not about giving hand outs rather the event seeks to provide opportunities for communities to contribute towards an internationally recognised event that demonstrates true South African hospitality.









N3TC's contribution to the drOp'ngo2c Supporters Tour adds significant value to the riders' experiences as their loved ones and supporters can witness them in action coupled with outstanding opportunities to see some of the unseen tourism gems along the way.

## 1000 PAWS uMngeni SPCA

PROJECT CHAMPION:
GEOFF CALMEYER

YEARS FUNDED: FIVE

PROVINCE: KWAZULU-NATAL

The 1000 Paws Walk event is far larger than one imagines.

It is a one-day walk where hundreds of people bring their four-legged furry friends and children to participate in a potentially life altering occasion. It involves raffles, school inter-class fund-raising competitions (rewarded with pizza parties and educational talks), individual sponsorships and many competitions.

"The funding we receive from N3TC makes it all possible and enables the project to be rolled out to maximum effect, reaching the maximum number of people." **Geoff Calmeyer** 

The event organisers are all passionate about animals, especially the welfare of animals in need. They spend almost a year working tirelessly, for no financial reward, to make this annual event bigger and better every year. The ultimate goal being to ensure that the maximum amount can be raised to be shared equally between the three participating branches of the SPCA: Pietermaritzburg, Umngeni-Howick and Mooi River & District.

The Midlands area is supported by the three participating SPCA branches covering an area that is largely rural and very poor. Unemployment is high. Travelling distances are far. People are unable to afford or access veterinary care for their animals, be it











domestic pets, guard dogs or livestock. The SPCA helps these animal owners to understand and access basic animal care and advice.

Through the 1000 Paws event the SPCA branches are able to increase their outreach across a wider area. More animal welfare cases can be handled, more people can be educated and more animals of all types helped. Very important to the cause is that more sterilisations can be carried out by veterinarians across the area.

"A major point of pride for us and an indication of the impact of the SPCA's work is that members of these communities are asking for SPCA assistance with animal welfare cases rather than taking matters into their own hands or ignoring the problem. This is a very positive sign that attitudes are changing and word about the work of the SPCA is spreading and being supported." Geoff Calmeyer

Gaynor Lawson, Chairperson of Mooi River & District SPCA shared her thoughts. "I am so impressed by the inclusive nature of the 1000 Paws event. On the day, there were stalls and displays by other animal welfare groups and organisations, including local township kids-and-their-dogs outreach projects such as the Bruntville Dog Project, Funda Nenja as well as the Boston Terrier Rescue group. Ezemvelo KZN had displays about trapping, snares and poaching to highlight their work. This year's event made me realise that animal welfare has many faces, all of which are able to work together under the auspices of the 1000 Paws event to help increase awareness and thereby fund many varied animal projects, from township kids and their dogs to our wildlife to dogs needing new homes. It is amazing."





As we share, so shall we prosper.

Ansie Jooste, Khanyisile



Enterprise Development is truly effective when all parties are equally invested.

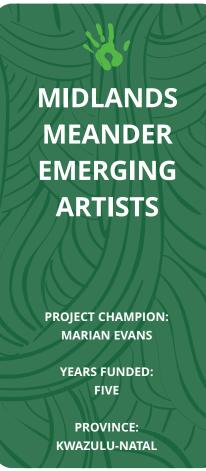
It's a process of working together to achieve the desired commercial and developmental goals to generate household incomes, stimulate community spend and promote economic growth.

These factors drive N3TC's Enterprise Development category.

N3TC doesn't believe in giving a 'hand out'; but in partnering with projects to secure a sustainable future and ensure long term success.

We are delighted to present the report on a growing category in the Touching Lives programme; a growth that is significant by design as we have effectively transitioned a number of projects from relying and surviving on donations to embracing opportunities to generate an income and safeguard their sustainability.





### "N3TC funding has breathed new life into the project!" Marian Evans

N3TC's contribution to the Emerging Artists & Crafters project of the Midland Meander has helped the Association achieve a number of its goals. From assisting the artists and crafters to become members of the Midlands Meander Association (MMA), to the ambitious development of an Info Centre and Artist & Crafter Gallery at the Nelson Mandela Capture Site.

"It is a dream realised." Marian Evans

A decision was made by the MMA board in 2016 to move the MMA offices to the Nelson Mandela Capture Site and maintain the Midmar Resort office for the Education Project. This has been an enlightening move for MMA as they have witnessed the influx of South African and International visitors to the site; a good sign that the tourism industry is alive and vibrant despite the economic climate.

Thanks to N3TC's funding, the Emerging Artists and Crafter products are profiled in the various MMA marketing channels such as the annual MMA Guide, website and social media platforms; furthermore, they have access to all the business training





opportunities that the MMA is able to co-ordinate. While this is all good for building their profiles and supporting some of the project's commercial requirements, the MMA felt it was necessary to establish an outlet for showcasing their pieces and driving potential sales; and N3TC helped them 'seize the opportunity'.

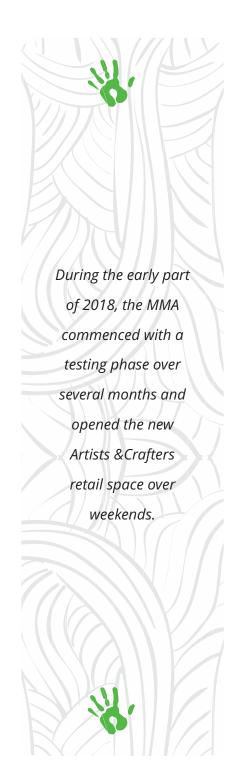
During the early part of 2018, the MMA commenced with a testing phase over several months and opened the new Artists & Crafters retail space over weekends - Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It proved that there was interest in the products and the team quickly discovered that there were a number of requests for Zulu dolls, which are now being made by Khanya Themba.

The MMA has intentionally brought Co-Operatives into the project to reach more families and open economic doors to a further six regions within the Midlands area.

The MMA has many more goals attached to this project, key of which is the sustainability and self sufficiency of the gallery. We are certain this will become a reality sooner rather than later.

This year's artists and crafters come from various areas of the Midlands and include the following:

- Themba Creations from Middelrus:
- Khanya Themba from Howick;



- Siyaphambili Disabled Association from Bruntville;
- Eric Ncgobo from Lidgetton;
- Stanley Nxumalo from Mount West; and
- Alson Zuma from Fort Nottingham.

**THEMBA CREATIONS** (Co-Operative): This community-based initiative in the rural farming community of Middelrus consists of four ladies who have been mentored by a lady from Zambia who will return home in November 2018 and is in the process of handing the project over to them. Their mentor has been very strict about maintaining the quality of each product – excellence is her minimum requirement. Products were sold at a monthly Saturday market at the Engen1-Stop in Mooi River and bi-monthly at the Rosetta market. Sales were low, and their despondency was evident until they joined the MMA Emerging Artists & Crafters project.

**KHANYA THEMBA** (Co-Operative): These enterprising Zulu ladies create beautiful, individually hand-crafted products and save the environment one plastic bag at a time. The four ladies have been working from their mentor's home with no outlet for their products. The project has gone way beyond their wildest dreams and they are not just teachable, but exceptionally willing to create new products as the need arises.

**SIYAPHAMBILI Disabled Association** (Co-Operative): Previously funded by N3TC as part of the Mooi River Tourism Node





Development, this group of weavers produces outstanding products. The Mpofana Municipality promised to fund the group's travel to and from meetings and shows. Unfortunately, the transport has not been reliable, and the men have had to wait up to six hours for transport, making it incredibly difficult for them to participate in the programme.

**STANLEY NXUMALO:** Stanley sells his South African flags and placemats from Linga Lapa (MMA member). He faithfully makes his product and enjoys being part of a group of artists.

**ERIC NCGOBO:** Seeds sown over the years with Eric's work are about to produce a harvest. We have had interest in his bronze products. He has started using resin and has made two items already.

**ALSON ZUMA:** Alson Zuma does outstanding work and is truly a hidden gem. He does Bushmen and Zulu rock art and exceptional wood carvings. His music box is in the form of a storyboard – wonderful work. He has been producing commissions over the years and places like Mala Mala have some of his artwork. He tells us that he is 'the one' who taught Nkosinathi Mabaso (the man so gifted with ceramics who took his life in January 2018) to find the clay and mould it.



Leopards live in Fort Nottingham.

Alson Zuma has never actually seen one. He has spotted the spoor, heard unusual growls and observed the remains of a fresh predator kill. He knows they are there. While some might avoid wandering through the forest and exploring the cliffs, Alson is undeterred.

Much of the inspiration for his art comes from Nature. "I like to be alone. I like to walk in these hills as I have done all my life," he explains quietly.

As far back as he can remember, he has been drawing. "I was amazed by a woman's head that my mother drew in the book in which she recorded births and deaths," he recalls, "even though the paper was flat, the head looked rounded. I always opened this book just to look at the picture." At school, he could not resist drawing in his books – according to his teacher, he was ruining them – and was smacked often for this misdemeanour. "In class, I would stare at someone for a long time – looking at all the details on their face. Faces are funny when you focus on them and I would sometimes burst out laughing." More trouble from Mrs Mzila. "There was nothing I could do. Drawing was in my blood."

In those days creativity as a career was unheard of, so Alson took a job tending livestock. Each day he would spend free time sketching with a ballpoint pen on the bag he used to carry his lunch and, in the evenings, draw pictures he stuck up in his cottage window. These were noticed by his employer David Fox, who encouraged him to do more. In the late 1980's Alson moved to Fort Nottingham and now works at the Fort Nottingham Museum owned by David Fox's family.

The museum is in the original buildings that housed soldiers of Nottinghamshire's Regiment, the 45th 'Sherwood Foresters', who were stationed in this garrison from 1856 to protect white settlers from raids by Bushmen. Ironically, Alson has Bushman ancestry and the museum shop contains his depictions of Bushman life painted on pieces of rock, along with his wonderful wood carvings.

While he has seen many bushpigs and baboons around Fort







Nottingham, there are certainly no rhinos or giraffes as carved on his boxes and panels. He uses books on wild animals for inspiration and has been a member of the Nottingham Road Library forever. The library ladies know the sort of thing that would appeal to him and point them out. "I have paid many fines for late returns," he laughs, "especially the books about dinosaurs. I am fascinated by dinosaurs."

Another fascination is radios. Alson has always fixed and fiddled with radios and his carved radio boxes are an absolute delight. They are covered with depictions of the various shows – weather, soaps, news and cooking – and contain a transcript of Radio Alzsum broadcast from Fort Nottingham. Listeners (readers) will be riveted by the politics of the village, the wildlife spotted late on Saturday night when villagers are dressed in their finest feathers, the traffic chaos caused when Mr Dube's goats and Mr Cele's sheep met on the main street and the weather report on yesterday's weather rather than tomorrow's.

Alson lives a simple life. To sit in the sunshine, listening to the radio, carving a piece of wood is pure pleasure. To walk down the road, through the ouhout trees into the hills is freedom. To teach his sons how to paint brings him great joy. To share his passion for Zulu culture makes him proud. To imagine the leopards roaming nearby makes him smile.

This creative citizen has found his spot in the world. Fort Nottingham is his place.





N3TC's funding of Singakwenza continues to support crèche practitioners who would normally not be able to afford formal training.

This helps the young children in their facilities to have access to a fun, hands-on learning programme that will stand them in good stead throughout their schooling careers.

Julie shares some beautiful stories of their experiences while working with the crèches along the N3 Toll Route:

**A boy in Bergville**: one of our crèches in Bergville is a great example of how well the programme works. We usually run a separate programme for the Toddlers, but in this class there are only three two-year-olds, so they often join in with whatever activity the Grade RRs are busy with. He normally doesn't talk very much, but he was fascinated with the threading activity that the others were doing, and he kept asking his teacher "Ngifaka la noma la?" (Must I go over or under?). Most two year olds are not exposed to threading activities, and he was not only thoroughly enjoying the challenge, but it gave him an opportunity to engage with his teacher – a vital part of his emotional development. It is also really important for the teachers to see that children can learn long before their language is developed – something that comes up over and over in our programme. So many parents and teachers think that a child needs to be able to speak before they can learn. They are often amazed by the youngest ones in their crèches when they see them trying – and succeeding – with a whole range of activities that they thought were only appropriate for the Grade Rs.

Incidental learning: the amount of incidental learning that happens when children play is often underestimated, and that is why we are so excited to see children of all ages making and playing with our toys. We ran a workshop for Thandi in Van Reenen last year, and she shared pictures with us recently of some of the girls from the neighbourhood making and playing with plastic bag ropes. Not only are there fewer plastic bags in the environment, but these girls are improving their coordination, spatial awareness, motor



planning, social development and cooperative learning. And the most wonderful part is that they just think they are having fun!"

**Continuous education**: Zonke Crèche in Winterton is another N3TC success story. Before we started, the three practitioners at the crèche had no idea how to provide stimulation for the children they were looking after. It has been wonderful to see the transformation of the little ones from the beginning to now, and how enthusiastic they are about the activities we offer. Thandeka (our trainer) reports that the practitioners are thoroughly enjoying the activities and there is clear evidence that they continue providing these activities for the children throughout the week when we aren't there.

Waste 2 Toys Workshops: N3TC continues to fund Waste 2 Toys workshops. One in kwaHaza was a resounding success. It was a bitterly cold Saturday with sleet falling in amongst the rain, yet 17 people arrived and gave it their all! The crèche owner had approached us to run this workshop for her parents so that they could understand the importance of these early years and to ensure that the learning that she is trying to offer is supported and continued at home. We were so impressed by the commitment from these parents, and as soon as we have capacity, we will begin mentoring this crèche too.



There is a pot of joy at the end of every Singakwenza rainbow.

At pre-schools in peri-urban areas, in townships or set amongst the rolling rural hills, Singakwenza adds colour, creativity and makes teachers lives a whole lot easier. "Knowing I have them by my side, makes me happy," smiles Buhle Cheka. "I love it when they visit and their way of teaching. The children find it easy to understand."

In her back yard in Khetani in Winterton, enterprising Buhle has built a creche. "My husband encouraged me to start my own creche after the one I was working at closed." Luckily, husband Max is a builder, so one December holiday he built a classroom in the garden, which Buhle filled with donated furniture, toys and posters. Max even built a child sized toilet for the kids to use. Once again, she could spend her days with the little ones that she loves so much – and who love her too. "When they leave for big school, they still come to visit and tell me they miss me," she smiles, "we have so much fun together. I get sad when the holidays arrive."

Buyisile Ngubuka presides over a sunny Grade R Classroom in Lidgetton. She too is thrilled to have met the Singakwenza team who introduced her to their clear and well thought out lesson plans, which she has managed to skilfully integrate with the Department of Education (DOE) curriculum. "Current education does not always work for the kids going into the world. There is no option to make changes in the curriculum, so as teachers we have to be very creative to make it relevant." Buyisile was thrilled to see at a recent DOE workshop that the facilitators had brought some of Singakwenza's work to show everyone. "Simple learning tools that teach hand-eye coordination and fine motor skills – the kids don't even realise they are learning because they are having so much fun!" she enthuses. In her opinion, no one can complain that they don't have teaching tools when there are so many useful waste materials available for free. Buyisile loves everything about teaching, and is studying part time for a teaching degree. "Even if I am stressed at home, the moment I arrive at school and see these faces, the stress is gone. Here I laugh all day!"

Singakwenza realises that there is more to running a busy preschool, than keeping the kids stimulated. So, besides sourcing

















wooden jungle gyms for the playground, demonstrating how magazines pictures can be turned into puzzles, yoghurt tubs into building blocks and bottle tops into counting games, they teach simple bookkeeping skills too. Buhle is particularly pleased to have learnt this, as she can see just how much money she is making, even though she can't resist buying extra toys and swings for her charges! "I want to renovate and expand my classroom (fortunately, Max is keen to help) and increase the numbers. Then I will be able to get an assistant and pass on my skills and knowledge."

Both women speak with pride of the appreciation they get for the solid foundations they have laid when the children in their care go on to other schools. They are well prepared and ready to learn. Wherever they land, Singakwenza leaves a trail of bright shopping bag skipping ropes, multi-coloured playdough, stimulated teachers and engaged children. A real rainbow nation in action.





N3TC guaranteed another year of funding that contributed to the employment of ten knitters.

"Seeing the faces of our knitting ladies when we tell them we can employ them for another year or take them on as a new knitter will never grow tiring and watching them go from strength to strength makes it all so much more worth it. We have ladies who had never held a pair of knitting needles before, and who are now making us the most beautiful Care Bears and realising for the first time they have a talent and are worth more than just being a Gogo at home. And, there is the most emotionally rewarding feeling that everyone gets every time we hand out bears to the children. The pleasure it gives the team to see something so simple make someone so happy no words will ever truly express." Rebecca Pinnell

The funding helps to improve the quality of the lives of these ladies as well as their families. Through the Care Bears initiative, the Lidgetton Knitting Ladies group has grown from a single lady to a group of 15. This has a significant impact on the community as 15 families now have additional income.

The project is also contributing to education and learning. When the Care Bears are handed out at schools, worksheets are provided





to the teachers to use in class and the bears are used as part of the lesson; combining education with entrepreneurship should bode well for the Lidgetton community.

Rebecca shared some heart-warming stories:

**Passing time**: One of our knitting ladies is Gogo Mary Zondi. Gogo Mary is 74 and undergoes regular kidney dialysis at the local clinic. We spoke to her about how the Care Bear Project helps and her response was that she now has money to afford transport to and from the clinic but also has something to do as she knits while she waits in the LONG lines to be seen by a doctor and throughout the dialysis.

**Bears that care**: One of the schools where we recently handed out bears was a victim of a robbery by a local gang. The children's toys, stationery, blankets and food were stolen. Our Care Bears gave the children such joy and the teachers' regained hope that the little school could get back on its feet.

"The recognition that comes from working with N3TC is immeasurable, as it has allowed us to reach out to so many more organisations."

Rebecca Pinnell



N3TC's funding is saturating an area of Sweetwaters with quality Early Childhood Development (ECD).

Specifically, the funding is enabling iThemba to employ skilled ECD practitioners who can train and mentor local crèche teachers, helping them learn new skills and embed past training.

iThemba's ECD mentors work patiently with the teachers in Sweetwaters, helping them adopt new skills and values around ECD in a way that leads to ownership. Rather than rushing in with a short-term solution, they are able to work on an individual level with the teachers

"Some of the teachers are 'bright sparks' and quickly pick up new skills, take initiative and apply new methods in their classrooms. For other teachers it really is a massive challenge to shift their thinking from a 'children should eat, sleep and sit quietly in rows' mindset to one of children running, playing and making noise." **Stu Walker** 

Typical feedback from the educators after the training is along the lines of: "Before iThemba came, I dreaded getting up in the morning to come to work. I didn't know what I was doing. Now that I have joined the Asdidlale mentoring, I have lots of ideas to implement in my classroom, and I know I am not alone."





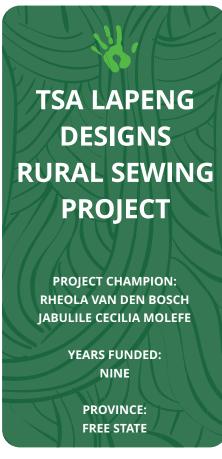
Further, assessments of the children in the iThemba programme showed that children coming from crèches where their teacher is mentored by an iThemba mentor in Asidlale are 31% more likely to be ready for school (grade R) than their peers, when it comes to basic school readiness skills.

A large portion of N3TC's funding is used to employ skilled ECD practitioners to mentor the unskilled teachers in the Sweetwaters community. Wendy Shelembe is the ECD mentor who works in the Zayeka district and through her weekly one-on-one visits with crèche teachers, leading Hlanganani Teacher Support groups, and helping to facilitate group term planning meetings she is able to help these teachers to apply quality ECD principles.

#### The story of Ste ...

Ste, by contrast, is a new teacher. She did not really know anything about applying quality ECD principles in her class. Slowly, but surely, through the visits from Wendy, she is starting to change the way she does things. One of the biggest changes we have seen with Ste is outside play. Playing outside is really important for child development, but many teachers shy away from it because it is messy, and takes effort to set up. However, when we visit Ste, we consistently see that she has the sand area and water area set out for the kids, sometimes hula-hoops set out for them to jump through, and we noticed she even had a mattress that she was dragging outside so that the kids could roll and tumble on it. This kind of physical activity and outside play is not something that is easy for many teachers to embrace. So it is exciting to see that through Wendy's mentorship, she is able to implement some of these ideas. When we asked her how she felt about Wendy's visits, she said, "I really need Wendy to keep on visiting me. I don't know what to do with the class, and sometimes I feel stuck or overwhelmed. But when Wendy visits, then we can think through ideas together, and I always leave with lots of ideas of what to do."

"We could not do this intensive mentoring process which leads to higher quality ECD outcomes in the schools without the funding from N3TC. Your long-term partnership is truly bringing real, lasting improvements in the level of ECD being offered in Sweetwaters community." **Stu Walker.** 





Tsa Lapeng Designs continues to provide much needed training, support and guidance to the entrepreneurial 'fashionistas' of Harrismith.

N3TC's funding covers essential costs of the project such as tuition, rent, electricity, yarns and machine repairs. All of this is beneficial, but the project survives on the sales of the ladies creations that are sold through the Tsa Lapeng retail outlet in Harrismith.

"It has been wonderful to continue with what we have been doing for quite a few years. Emotionally the training gives the students confidence and they feel better about themselves and have a chance to gain employment or start their own business."

Rheola van den Bosch

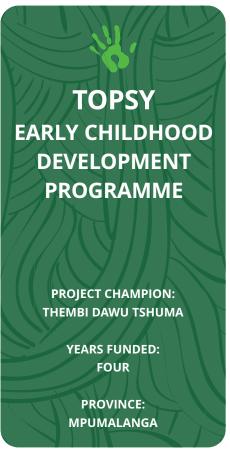
Dimpho Mopedi from Intabazwe tells her story.

I heard about the "I Love Sewing" Project, and knew it was for me and I signed up. When I got the call to start the sewing class, I was very excited. I have always loved clothes and wanted to have a brand of my own.

The Project has been of great help to me. I have learnt the basics of sewing and putting together a garment. I want to empower the people in my community, especially the youth that is sitting doing nothing. When I have completed the course I will then tap into the Clothing market for kids.

The journey is still ongoing as there is a lot I still need to learn.

I am very thankful for the opportunity that has been given to me.





The ECD services are designed to be holistic with the provision of play and learn centres coupled with medical check-ups that cater to supporting the children's physical and educational wellbeing.

The ECD practitioners benefit from Topsy's informal training workshops on how to stimulate children to enhance their educational and physical development.

In addition, as these practitioners interact with Topsy's medical staff they have gained insight into questions they need to ask and follow-up on pertaining to the health and well-being of the children attending their centres.

Topsy had an opportunity to participate in a dance event where children from two ECD centres went through a three-month period of learning to dance. In the process of learning to dance, the children gained confidence; and developed cognitively, socially, physically and linguistically as they sang along to the dance songs and interacted with dance instructors and other children







Mamello Support Group is a non-profit organisation catering for the needs of vulnerable children of Intabazwe, Harrismith.

Typically identified by local community members, door-to-door initiatives, local schools, clinics, churches and social workers, Mamello has become the light of hope to the children of the Intabazwe community.

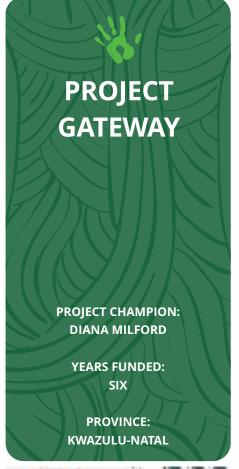
Children are provided with a wholesome meal every week day. After school over 60 children make their way to the Centre to receive their meal and attend the after school care programme which provides assistance with homework and additional educational programmes to further support their development.

In some cases Mamello assists the elderly and other members of the community with meals and support; and assistance in the event of disasters such as house fires or flooding.

To further support the community, Mamello has started a vegetable garden project at the homes of the people it supports.

Mamello is situated in a high crime area and the centre where all these activities take place – essential for serving the Intabazwe community – regularly fell victim to criminal activities. To ensure improved security and to safeguard the investment in the property, N3TC's funding in 2018 was used for the installation of a CCTV security system that has secured the premises and addressed the Group's security concerns.

The Mamello Bakery continues to function as a commercial outlet and income generator to secure the project's viability over the longer term. N3TC's funding was further used to purchase additional bakery equipment and products.



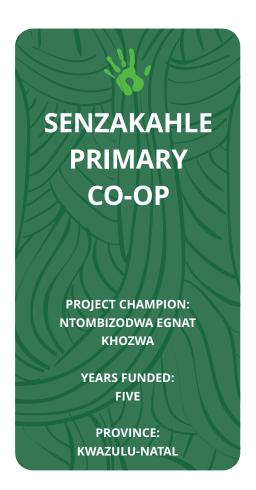


Project Gateway determines its success by the change it sees in the lives of the people it supports through its craft and fashion school programmes.

Constant monitoring enables the Project Gateway team to encourage past learners and those it mentors to come back and share their stories of how Project Gateway's interventions have improved the quality of their lives. Rarely are they disappointed. Some of the craft groups have actively improved the quality of their products and are eagerly sharing their stories of increased income and improved living conditions.

Through N3TC's funding, Project Gateway held its first market days for the year in July and September. These market days act as a showcase and retail outlet for the emerging crafters and students from the School of Fashion.

The efforts of Project Gateway are reaping rewards for those who grasp the opportunity to market and sell their wares. The market days have the potential to grow over the years providing more opportunities for growth, expansion and employment.



The story of Senzakahle is one of tenacity and a genuine desire to make a business work.

Ntombi's reports are always filled with positive stories of a group of people wanting to earn a living and contribute to their families, extended families and communities.

N3TC's funding of Senzakahle has had a great impact in the lives of its members.

"The team gets up early every morning, excited for the possibilities of a new day in their working environment free from stress." **Ntombi Khozwa** 

Senzakahle continues to invest the funding received from N3TC in new equipment that contributes to their ability to make quality products and meet orders efficiently.

This year Senzakahle moved its operation closer to the residential area of Bruntville, which has increased orders as customers do not have to travel long distances.

"The funding has had a positive impact on the lives of our beneficiaries because most of the women employed by the project are widowed.

Their dignity has been restored as they are able to put food on the table and take their grandchildren to school. We also have a disabled lady







working with us whose self-esteem has grown so much because of the skills she has gained from being part of our project." **Ntombi Khozwa** 

N3TC's funding has helped the Senzakahle ladies achieve their sustainability goals as they have been able to purchase the following:

- a refurbished container, used as an office, storeroom and showroom;
- a print head machine;
- an embroidery machine; and
- office furniture and equipment.

Ntombi is always looking for ways to improve and grow Senzakahle...

"From my experience over the past years I would like to handle marketing of our products differently by using social media, which is a common marketing trend in which we still need to be trained. We also need to employ more staff in order to increase production. We need better incentives for our staff members, volunteers and casual workers in order for them to be motivated and be more productive because presently we are only earning monthly stipends."



As often happens in small towns, one major manufacturer employs a lot of people, and when this business relocates or closes, many are left desperate.

The women who lead Senzakahle Co-Op in Mooi River, Zodwa Khoza and Sylvia Ntuli, had been employed at Mooi River Textiles since 1981 and 1974 respectively. Both women excelled at, and loved their jobs, happily crossing the bridge over the Mooi River every day until the factory closed in 2007. Zodwa's father was employed as a cotton spinner for Mooi River textiles, so the textile business was literally part of her family. It was a shock when it came to an end.

Senzakahle, which means 'we do a good job', was formed in 2008 after the women attended a gathering hosted by the then KZN Premier Zweli Mkhize. "I stood up at the meeting and suggested that he come and make a big factory in Mooi River," remembers Zodwa, "he encouraged us - saying that yes, we had worked for many years, had lots of experience and we should call the people who would work with us." A group of 30 women gathered and met with the local municipality telling them their plans. They were advised to form a cooperative. "We really believed that the government would be making us a big factory," laughs Sylvia, "we were really surprised that they expected us to do it for ourselves. We thought that forming a co-op meant we would get machines and materials to start."

Despite this misunderstanding, the enterprising pair just got going. "We looked for somewhere to work and were lucky when the lady who runs the bakery suggested we use a small space next door. We borrowed two domestic sewing machines, pushed them in wheel barrows and started." To begin with they bought the 'end pieces' and fabric offcuts to make scatter cushions, putting up flyers across the township to advertise their services. Zodwa is an expert 'cutter', able to make the most of the scraps of fabric. "A small piece means something to me," she smiles, "I like to match perfectly and not have any waste."

Being used to strong industrial machinery, adapting to small sewing machines was a challenge, but they persevered and as soon as they had saved enough cushion money, bought one machine. A local





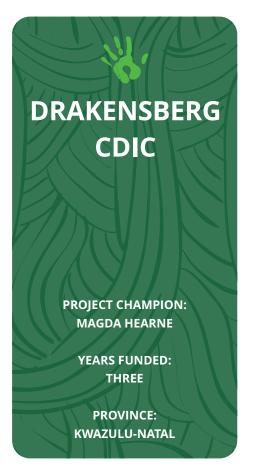


businessman bought them an overlocker. "We were so happy! It felt like we had everything," they recall. After a while, the municipality got funding for another six machines and for the past few years, support from N3TC has meant they have filled their tiny factory with a large cutting table, industrial machines and plenty of cloth.

Marketing their products is a challenge. Particularly when cheaply made Chinese goods are freely available at a fraction of the price. "We met with a group of Chinese people once to discuss this issue with them," recounts Sylvia, "they told us our problem was that we made things that last too long. If something only lasts one year, customers will come and buy again, but our sheets and curtains are good quality and will last for more than 10 years."

Despite this, they are determined not to compromise on quality and are thinking of new ways to sell their products, which now include warm gowns for cold Midlands winters, t-shirts and leggings. They plan to set up a gazebo on a busy corner in Market Street in central Mooi River soon. Here they will cheerily greet familiar faces and make new friends, and hopefully convince passers-by of the value of buying better quality goods.

These strong women are exceptional role models to the grandchildren they live with, and the community at large, epitomising the resilience of women across the world.



Reports from the CDIC team are an enlightening, yet true reflection of the state of tourism in the Central Drakensberg.

The team is passionate about promoting the area at its centre and other tourism-related events and expos. A hard working team, dedicated to seeing the region benefit economically from an influx of tourists to the Drakensberg.

Below is an extract of the CDIC's latest report.

The winter period is traditionally a quieter time for local tourism here in the Drakensberg. There seems to be a perception amongst our local travelling population that the weather during this time is prohibitively cold, which is not the case. While the evenings are cool the daytime temperatures are regularly into the 20 degrees which makes for very pleasant hiking.

Our area once again played host to a substantial number of European tourists with the majority coming from The Netherlands and we also saw a perceptible increase from Belgium and France this year. Being the long two-month summer holiday in Europe, a large proportion of the inbound tourists were families travelling with their children and it is heartening to see this. CDIC was, as always, the 'one stop' for all the

information they required to ensure the youngsters were kept busy taking part in the numerous activities on offer here in the Central Drakensberg.

Unfortunately, we did not escape the general down-turn with regards to in bound tourist numbers coming to South Africa in 2018. Having attended the World Trade Market in Cape Town and then the Indaba in Durban in May during which time the reasons for this downward trend was discussed at length, the conclusion was that there are many other much safer destinations on the African continent where visitors can see as many wild animals – which is still the number one draw card for coming to Africa – than South Africa. This is truly a sad reflection on the state of our country especially as it is now detrimentally affecting our capacity to grow the tourist industry, the one and only industry with growth potential enough to make a difference to our ever-increasing un-employment problem.

Area marketing continues to play an important part of the CDIC programme and June saw us being invited by South African Tourism to partake in a one-day Speed Marketing session in Sandton Johannesburg. SAT had invited 40 tour operators from the United Kingdom to visit South Africa on an educational during which they travelled extensively to get a feel of our country and each participating tourism business was given five minutes to ensure their businesses

became part of the itinerary package to be sold to clients wanting to come to SA. Naturally the Drakensberg made a good impression, but it is at such events that it becomes plain as to the huge diversity of tourism offerings there are in our country and to re-iterate it is an opportunity going begging if we cannot get our negatives sorted out.

We conclude with sincere thanks and are, as always, extremely grateful to N3TC for the continued funding that has assisted in making it possible for CDIC to be able to ensure that every tourist to our area obtains all the relevant, accurate holiday information they require and deserve.

CDIC Team.









Sunfield Fortuna clearly depicts the heart of a village raising a child and in this instance some of these children are over 60 years of age!

N3TC's support of Sunfield Fortuna goes a long way in supporting the daily operational costs and on-site entrepreneurial projects that contribute towards their sustainability goals.

Sunfield Fortuna cares for 80 disabled residents, providing a home away from home.

"Our residents have a place that they can call their own in an environment where they are treated with dignity and respect. Our aim is to help them reach their potential within their physical limits." **Brenda Gouws** 

Sunfield Fortuna's sustainability projects include vegetable tunnels along with production facilities for cellular tower trees and plugs. These projects raise essential funds for the Home but equally important is the sense of self worth that the residents involved in these projects gain. They are paid a small stipend for their work and this instils a sense of pride and independence that they sorely need.

The workshop, funded by N3TC in 2016/17, is the facility used to produce the cellular tower trees and plugs. It currently provides employment for ten residents and 22 members of the Siyatemba community in Balfour.





Empowered teachers nurture and develop resilient children that grow into influential leaders that build the future of our country.

Veronica Cronje, Lusa

Lusa Community Chest has an allencompassing approach towards enhancing the ECD offering in outlying ECD centres.

This year, N3TC contributed towards Lusa Community Chest-facilitated management development training for principals of 22 ECD Centre's in Rathanda settlement outside Heidelberg; coupled with the Gr8Start Early Childhood Development Programme at the same centres for their educators who haven't had any form of training before.

#### **Gr8Start Training for educators**

Lusa Community Chest carried out the training programme with one educator from each of the 22 ECD Centre's. It was a four-day hands-on, practical and interactive course, where the educators were up-skilled and provided with the tools and techniques required to implement and manage an effective ECD programme.

"It was amazing training. It taught me how you should treat your learners, to know the best and good ways to deal with children and solve different situations when dealing with different kids. Being a teacher should be a calling or passion, it is something that needs a loving person, because children need love and care. As a teacher you need to know yourself, know who you are, so that you can know your learners by name and be able to recognise them. Be someone they look up to and respect. You also need to know how to manage time, sort out your own relationships, have a balanced life and learn to forgive and live life to the full."



Siphiwe Village is a gift. When the flower farmer who owned the land retired, he transferred the title deeds to those who had worked for him and built them each a home. Sindile Ntanda who runs the Siphilisiwe Creche in the village is an unexpected gift to this community too.

In an odd twist of fate, she became friendly with a woman who lived in Siphiwe Village in Heidelberg. While her new friend was not able to read or write, she was very keen to open a creche for the children in the community. Together, in 2009, they hatched a plan to use an abandoned building on the edge of the settlement.

"We had no money, no electricity, no chairs, we had nothing. We discussed the idea with the community on Sunday and by the next week we began – with nine children in the empty room." On the first day Sindile asked herself a thousand questions – wondering what on earth she had done? "I had this group of children looking







at me and I could not even remember one rhyme!" She started telling them stories about her life and asking them about theirs.

Sindile grew up on a farm outside Heidelberg. "I remember when it was really cold, and I had no shoes, my friend lent me one of hers to wear to get my left foot warm and then we would swap to warm the other foot! Sometimes in summer we spent our bus money on ice cream and then had to run all the way home behind the bus. We were happy and full of nonsense." When her father died, the family moved to her grandfather's homestead in Krugersdorp. "There were 11 grandchildren all staying together. My lovely grandfather taught us to be responsible, to take care of one another." As a 12 year old, Sindile was sent to live with another branch of her family and attend high school in Ladysmith. "I caught the red bus to Park Station in Joburg with four big bags and the directions written on a piece of paper. I bought a train ticket to Wasbank and set off on the journey quite unafraid." Unfortunately, the train passed her station while she slept, and she alighted on the deserted platform in Estcourt at 2 o'clock in the morning. Courageously and carrying her four bags, she found a taxi and a bus and made her way to Ladysmith to begin high school.

She and her mother kept in touch writing letters posted in blue envelopes. "My mother rented rooms, so every time I came home in the holidays, I had to search for where she was living. After finishing school, I helped her build a shack so she could stay in one place." Sindile had dreams of being a social worker, but by the time she was 21 she had two babies, the father of her children had died, and her hopes of a better life looked bleak. "I took my children to



I remember when it was really cold, and I had no shoes, my friend lent me one of hers to wear to get my left foot warm and then we would swap to warm the other foot!



live with their granny in Ladysmith. It was a safer environment and the only option I had, even though I missed them terribly. Now I was able to get a job. With my first pay check I bought my mum 10 beautiful pots, with my second I bought her a stove. We were changing our lives."

With this history of resilience and a positive attitude it is little wonder that Sindile has turned a derelict building into a thriving, colourful creche. "Little by little, we are improving every day," she says proudly. Now Siphilisiwe Creche is registered with the Department of Social Development, so receives a grant for teachers' stipends and food. "We have the lowest fees in SA," she grins, "just R170 a month and some cannot even pay that." This means that the four cheerful teachers are actually volunteers, keen to help their community and make the most of every training opportunity to improve their skills. When the children go on to Grade one at neighbouring schools, the teachers there often call Sindile to thank her for the good foundation her team has laid. This is great reward for their efforts.

While the children twirl happily in their hula hoops and climb the jungle gym with glee, Sindile is dreaming up ways to make this



school even better. She'd like a vehicle to transport the little ones who live beyond walking distance safely each day, to build an outdoor classroom to increase their space in all weather and install water tanks to enable a food garden to thrive.

Sindile is absolutely determined and believes passionately that there is no greater gift one can give a child than a good start to their education journey.







Diwawene Investments is a new addition to the N3TC Touching Lives Programme.

Following a visit by Phambili Gama and Con Roux to the Mafube Local Municipality to discuss a number of issues relating to maintenance and construction work along the N3 Toll Route, they came across the Diwawene Investment Project that aims to provide school uniforms to the 'poorest of the poor' children at three schools in Qalabotjha, Villiers.

The Mafube Local Municipality is a Category B municipality in the Fezile Dabi District of the Free State Province. It is one of the four municipalities in the district, making up almost a quarter of its geographical area. The name is a Sesotho word meaning 'dawning of the new day'.

Unemployment is high in this small town situated on the banks of the Vaal River next to the N3 Toll Route. Many families in this area depend on social grants, which makes affording school uniforms low on their list of necessities.

N3TC's funding awarded to Diwawene Investments helped with the manufacture and purchase of school uniform packages for 125 local children. In doing so, Diwawene Investments worked with a



team of unemployed women in the area to manufacuter this uniform, clearly demonstrating that that this project had far reaching economic benefits for the community.

Mrs Mbele is one of the women who benefited from this project. She lives with her two grandchildren and she is dependent on social grants. She survives by providing sewing services to the local community. As one of the eight ladies involved in the manufacture of the school uniforms, she has subsequently purchased a new machine and is planning to manufacture more school uniforms and tracksuits for supply to local families.

Evidence that a little can go a long way.





Ingane yakho
ingane yami.
Nduduzo Khoza,
KZN Crane Foundation
My child is your child.



Clearly Elsie Madlala is an accomplished seamstress and astute business woman. Neat uniforms, flamboyant African dresses and promotional t-shirts are stacked high in the storeroom of Babanentse headquarters in Bruntville, Mooi River.

At the top of the hill at the Siqalo creche that her sister, Aletta Mpangase, runs, learners are dressed in blue uniforms that Aletta makes for them during the holidays.

When they were little, their mom made most of their clothes - often matching outfits - and taught them basic sewing and knitting skills. "I used to unpick my children's clothes, copy the shape and then sew them back together by hand. That is how I learnt to make patterns." Elsie remembers, "Zandile, my daughter, was always beautifully dressed, usually in her favourite colour - pink." Soon neighbours were asking her to make hats, jerseys and dresses for their families too.

Elsie, Zandile and Aletta formed Sinothando Sewing Club in 2001 with a couple of other keen seamstresses. Five years later, they formalised as a co-operative on the advice of the local Municipality to access government grants. "We took the first letters of all our names and put them together to get Babanentse. It means to care of others," says Elsie. Older members who are not up to sewing anymore, are still part of the vibrant team, but have new jobs. Nosicelo Zondo oversees checking the quality of the workmanship, while Nomsa Msomi is inspector of ironing the final garment, giving gentle advice to younger people employed by the Co-Op. Zandile (of the unpicked pink dress fame) is now administrator as well as seamstress when big orders arrive. Her desk, files and laptop are housed in a container beside the factory.

In 2012 with a loan from Itala Bank, to buy three industrial sewing machines, they started making uniforms for Mooi River Primary School. Then a tender to sew the curtains for the newly built Bruntville Clinic enabled them to pay back the loan and buy more equipment. Clearly there was no stopping these women!

With everyone's fingers flying at the machines, they needed care for  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right$ 

their children and grandchildren. Aletta, who has always loved children and had done a course in Early Childhood Development started a creche at her home. Within a few years of



saving the fees, she and Elsie were able to buy a dedicated house for the pre-school. Now they have 70 children enrolled, employ two teachers, a cleaner, a gardener and a cook. "It is very important that we create jobs for people. We women need to work together to make Mooi River strong again." They have plans to buy the empty plot next door and start a Foundation Phase School to cater for the children of Phumlasi area. In an effort to strengthen community, they are looking at sourcing all the food for the daily feeding scheme from local vegetable gardeners – ensuring that money keeps circulating in the township and does not drain out.

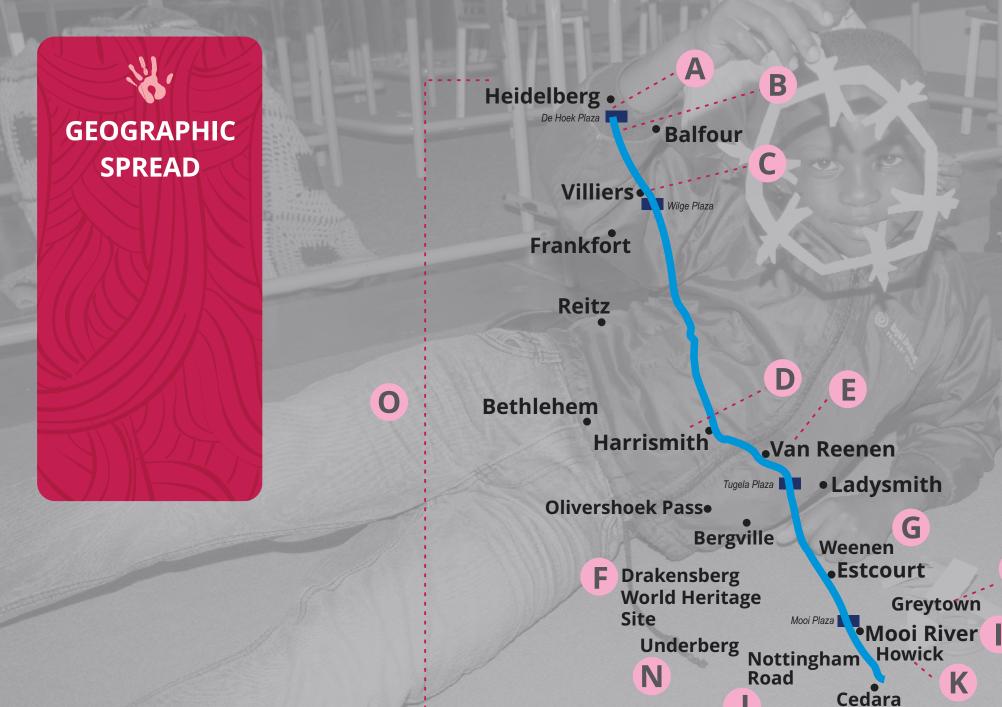
As orders for t-shirts rolled in, Babanentse realised they needed an embroidery machine and a screen printer, so that they could supply the finished product rather than send their t-shirts away to have event logos printed or embroidered. The tiny area is now crammed with all this equipment. Elsie dreams of expanding to a spacious factory, with a shop space to display garments for sale. The visibility would allow her to compete with other shops at the Mooi River Mall, although she says sadly, "People like to buy cheap Chinese clothes that look like African attire. The material is poor quality and the workmanship is not good." The Babanentse range is exceptional quality and ticks all the boxes – community development, skills sharing, local empowerment, careful craftsmanship. Exactly what the area needs.

Epitomising the fighting strength of women, these sisters are certainly doing it for themselves.



Every community needs access to education, food security, economic opportunities and social welfare services. The N3TC Touching Lives programme through its support of these inspiring, life altering social engagement projects is doing just that. The 'global' N3 Corridor village is raising children with a hope for a bright future and a life free of the poverty of disadvantage and marginalisation.

Andy Visser, passionate N3TC Touching Lives supporter



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ט	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	Education: Top-Up Bursaries
	New Horizon College	Education: Top-Up Bursaries
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	Environmental Learning	Community Training
	Treverton Schools	Education: Top-Up Bursaries
	Bruntville Primary School	
	Computer Training	Community Training
	Care Bears	Enterprise Development
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	Education Programme	Education
	Curry's Post Primary School	Education
	Singakwenza ECD Programme	Enterprise Development
	Midlands Meander Emerging	
	Artists Project	Enterprise Development
	Shea O'Connor School	Education
	Music Voyage	Youth Development
	Funda Nenja	Youth Development
M	Comrades Marathon	Community Events
	Crystal Springs Primary School	Education
	Project Gateway	Enterprise Development
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	Underberg Primary School	Education
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	Pevensey Place	Disabled
	Underberg Pre-Primary School	Education
0	Trucking Wellness	HIV/AIDS
	Old Mutual joBerg2c	Community Events
	Duduza	Child Welfare
	RCC Crochet Project	Child Welfare



