

PORT SHEPSTONE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Professional Report

Period April 2024 to July 2025

29th Annual General Meeting – 10th September 2025

A. Introduction:

For 31 years, our non-profit organisation has been dedicated to creating a positive impact in the community through the efforts of our volunteers and, periodically, part-time staff. Our Association has touched many lives through our programmes, and we continue to aim for excellence in all our endeavours and commitments. The injection of NLC funding in July 2024 has been tremendously helpful in supporting school heritage programmes based on the Time Travel method. This support was very much needed as the youth unemployment rate in our community is above 50%. The programme supports learning, community support and even tourism creation.

B. Slottskolan Programme with Ingwemabala CHS with associate schools Marburg Primary (SA) and Viktoria Skolan (Sweden). An International Collaboration School Programme: During this financial period, there were two exchanges: The objective of this programme is to strengthen educational and cultural ties between South African and Swedish schools through teacher and learner exchange programmes

B.1 4th Delegation Exchange to Slottskolan, Sweden (9–25 May 2024) Delegation from South Africa:



Educators: Philani Gcaba (Ingwemabala Technical High School), Rosey Mudaly (Marburg Primary School)

Learners: Siyamthanda Gumede and Wenzile Karabo Lentoa (Ingwemabala)

Preparation: Months of orientation including planning, presentations, empowerment, and visa applications, involving learners' parents.

Key Activities in Sweden:

- Oskarshamn: 2-night stay; reconnected with OSAK and attended an orientation at OLIVIA, a women's rights organisation.
- Slottskolan, Öland: Main programme coordinated by Christina; highly supportive and flexible, attending classes, presentations and engaging with the school programme and activities.
- Cultural Highlight: Participation in Time Travel event at Kalmar Castle, facilitated by Kalmar Läns Museum. Featured in *Bridging Ages* (Sept 2024).
- Learner Presentations: Siyamthanda and Wenzile shared personal insights and intentions to transfer learnings back home.
- Educator Presentations: Rosey Mudaly: School management at Marburg Primary and Philani Gcaba: History and benefits of the partnership; showed videos of past exchanges (2022–2023).
- Visits to Other Schools, institutions and partners: Victoriaskolan, Stagnelius High School, Jenny Nystrom High School. Met Ebbe Westergren, attended planning at Kalmar Läns Museum

Reflections:

- Learners appreciated Swedish history, music, and crafts.
- Gained confidence, intercultural understanding, and interest in heritage education.
- Strengthened ties between learners, teachers, and parents through pen-pal connections and shared educational resources.

Outcome and impact:

- Enhanced cultural understanding and exchange
- Improved teaching methods and strategies
- Increased learner confidence and self-expression
- Teachers: Exposure to global teaching methods, enhanced professional development
- Learners: Valued cultural experiences, increased creativity and confidence
- Parent, School and community involvement and support.
- Networking and support in international twinning took place between schools, urban and rural areas

B.2. International School Exchange (South Africa), 2–14 February 2025

Swedish Delegates: Christina Larsson, Principal; Goran Eliasson; Mathilda Hjalteryd (Home Economics); Cecelia Jansson (Primary Educator); Thomas Jotary (Social Sciences). Programme facilitated by Gulshera Khan, coordinated by PSTA



Itinerary Highlights:

- Ingwemabala Comprehensive High School: 4–7 Feb
- Olwandle High School: Visit arranged by Thulas Mkhize, exchange with Home Economics teacher.
- Marburg Primary School: 10–12 Feb – comprehensive engagement programme.



Inathi CYCC Visit (8 February): Delegates donated toys and stationery; picnic at Oribi Gorge with PSTA board.

The Time Travel programme is part of this exchange. As a result, PSTA coordinated a Time Travel event at Betania Mission 1912. G. Khan developed the second scenario to accommodate the visiting delegates from Sweden. This is highlighted in the section on school heritage programmes.

Programme Outcomes and Impact:

- Learners: Boosted confidence, cultural exposure, and critical thinking.
- Teachers: Shared methodologies, professional development, and collaboration.
- Community Involvement: Active participation by parents, teachers, and school communities.
- Sustainable Ties: Continued pen-pal communication and educational resource exchange.

Acknowledgments:



Thanks are extended to Ingwemabala Principal Mr. Gumede, Dr. B. Gounden (Marburg Primary), DOE Ugu District, parents, learners, and educators.

Special mention: Christina (Sweden coordinator) for her ongoing dedication and belief in cultural exchange.

B.3 Exchange Visits of Educators and Twinning Representative. There is a further exchange of four educators, departing on 27 September 2025



Delegation Selection: Several meetings and communications were held with Ingwemabala Comprehensive High School to select two participants for the programme. In total, five individuals were nominated, but each declined. Owing to this, there was a shift in focus to include another school focusing on the objective of the programme

(l-r) **Standing.** Rueben, Kindness, Gulshera, Glad, Rosey. **Seated** Njabulo, Thandi and Nokhuthula. Image Thuas

After further deliberation with Christina and Slottskolan, it was decided that Dr *Gounden (previously selected but unable to attend)* and a Consumer Studies educator from Olwandle High School would join the programme. The programme will continue under the leadership of Rosey Mudaly, with Glad Naidoo as acting principal, as the second delegate. The exchange will coincide with the third-term school holiday, though Ommesh Maharaj emphasised that leave protocols must still be followed.

On 04 June 2025, the office visited Olwandle High School, where the principal nominated Precious Nokuthula Shandu (Consumer Studies and Home Economics teacher). She accepted the invitation and is enthusiastic about joining the team. Delegates received confirmation letters, passports were approved, and they are currently busy planning for this trip.

C. National Lotteries Commission Funding (NLC)

The Association successfully applied for NLC (Lotto funding) and received the first tranche on 12 July 2024. This enabled the creation of **59 job opportunities**, with youth from Gamalakhe, Nyandezulu, and Mthwalume recruited and trained in the Time Travel methodology, and paid stipends while engaged in the programme according to our payment schedule.

Experienced leaders and coordinators in Time Travel are retained across the three areas. On 8 October 2024, NLC conducted a monitoring and evaluation visit, followed by the submission of the first tranche report on 17 January 2025. An unscheduled monitoring visit took place on 27 January 2025. On 19 May 2025, the Office submitted a further report to NLC, including financials from February to April 2025 and the updated ledger. The Association is currently awaiting the 2nd tranche payment. However, the programme could not be “stopped,” and the Association has utilised its reserves to finalise this programme.

Programme Project Achievements

C.1 Fifty-nine job opportunities were created across various categories, including admin, area coordinators, crafts, prop maintenance, prop allocation, activity leaders in Time Travel activities, facilitation and coordination

A few of the youth have reached the stage of making presentations and briefing the learners. Others were recruited for video editing, expertise in nature conservation, research, photography, and book layout.



Positive Outcome: Three qualified unemployed teachers were absorbed in schools as part of the government programme for youth unemployment, one returned to continue her studies at the University. However, they have all maintained contact with the Association and are still engaged.

C.2 Capacity Building and Empowerment:

Two sets of training took place.

- Session 1 Training: Time Travel Training methodology
- Session 2 Practical placement in terms of skills – at the 5 Time Travel events held within 2 months of the funding being granted
- Session 3 took place on 9th October – Reflection, evaluation, and identification of new sites
- Youth completed phase 3 training and received their certificates on 9 November 2024



The second set of training took place with 15 tourist interns in Mthwalume and trained members of our team.



- Part 1 – Time Travel event held on 7 April - based on Intelezi Poll Tax Uprising.
- Part 2 – Follow-up Training held on 24 April 2025
- Part 3 Graduation held on 5 September 2025

School Presentations and Meeting: To engage learners and teachers, the programme included a presentation, a discussion session, and information on the history of the Time Travel sites, all of which took place a few days before the Time Travel event. A total of 12 presentations were delivered.



This proved to be highly successful. Learners were well prepared. They were able to get into character and play their role well. They also came well-prepared with their own costumes.

C.3 Planning and Responsibility involved in hosting events:

The overall coordination and ensuring the success of each event is a highly responsible task. This also guarantees that there has been security at each site. There was a first aid kit and a person trained to manage this. Briefing meetings were held with the school principal and engaged educators. Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed with each participating institution. School indemnity was considered part of the school's administrative responsibilities. Transport arrangements were also made with the local taxi service, a joint decision with the school principal in the case of Nyandezulu Primary School.

C 4 School Heritage Programmes:- Highlights

1. Time Travel Emaus Mission 1904, Umzimkhulu was held on 15 August 2024



Sister Caroline, a nun from Kenya was highly impressed, participated as a cook at the event. She developed a publication which was circulated to their network in Germany and many other countries.



2. Time Travel Emseni CYCC 1994: held on 28 August 2024, avoiding taking close-up images of children, as this is a Care Centre.

3. Time Travel Gamalakhe Tin Town 1968 took place on 22 August 2024. The aim was to commemorate Women's Month.



The 4th Time Travel Betania Mission 1912 - Ezwelihle SP School event took place on 18 September 2024. The event involved Grade 7 learners. Two educators participated alongside the principal.

Many experienced participants provided feedback. It was one of the best planned events, with every participant engaged. Role cards were in place. Activities were excellent, and there was effective time management, as well as high learner enthusiasm and understanding. Activity leaders were unemployed teachers and

teachers from the school, with Philani Gcaba serving as facilitator and the principal as inspector. The combination of meticulous planning, experienced facilitators, and enthusiastic participants made this event a resounding success.

5th Time Travel: Inathi CYCC 1999 – Heritage Month Commemoration– 26 September 2024



Summary: This institution was renamed Inathi Child and Youth Care Centre. The purpose of the event was to demonstrate care, love, and attention to the children and to provide an understanding of the historical background, as it was on this day in 1999. Since it is a Care Centre, in accordance with the laws, a few images were taken. Some of the recruits for job creation opportunities are already assuming leadership roles, which is encouraging.



Another event at the centre took place in July 2025 with educators from Marburg Primary School and Olwandle High School.

January to July 2025: An additional six school events occurred. The participating schools included Nyandezulu Primary, Ingwemabala High School, Ezwelikhe Primary, Olwandle High, Inathi Care Centre, and Ntelelezi Msani Holiday programme – community children.

Images from these events





The Time Travel event was held at Betania Mission On 7th February with teachers from Sweden. Planning of the Time Travel Event took place at Ingwemabala C. High School on 06 February 2025. The scenario was developed according to the goals for this specific event.

The Swedish teachers and participants planned in advance for their role. This was a positive outcome

Reflection was conducted after the event. Mr. Zama, a former learner at this Mission

Station who plays the role of Inspector, described this event as being similar to how it used to be. The platoon system, community members' engagement, food preparation, and the arrival of regular missionaries to assist with teaching were all part of it.

Time Travel: Betania Mission 1912 - Nyandezulu Primary School event took place on 30 January 2025 with grade 7 learners. Event planning involved both the grade 7 learners and the three educators. Role cards were used, and activity leaders understood their roles. A successful and educational event was held, as reflected in the learners' feedback afterwards.



A Time Travel event was held at Gamalakhe Tin Town 1968 - Olwandle High School, commemorating Human Rights Day on 26 March 2025.

The well-planned event was held with grade 9 learners. The event was a great success. Three educators participated, and a reflection was conducted at the end.

Participants learnt about life during the apartheid era. They were encouraged to be individuals committed to improving their lives, recognising that life is now easier than it was in the past.

Time Travel event held at Ntelezi Msani Heritage Centre on 07 April 2025. Most of the participants were engaged in planning for the event. Howard Msomi developed the scenario. One of the goals was 'Preserve culture'. Participants learnt about local culture, tradition, including food preparation, Zulu dancing, customs, and cultural songs.

The Time Travel event was held at INATHI CYCC. This occasion was organised to coincide with Nelson Mandela's birthday and his love for children. The well-coordinated event proceeded very smoothly. Children enjoyed themselves while learning about their site. Board members of the organisation, Marburg and Olwandle school educators, participated.

C.5 30-Year Celebration and Graduation of Youth



The 30-Year Celebration of the Association, combined with the Graduation of trained youth, took place on 09 November 2024 at Senior Primary School. The event was attended by approximately 250 guests, including the Swedish Ambassador, Håkan Juholt, as the keynote speaker. Representatives from Oskarshamn, Sweden, Tormod and Lillemor Nasset were present, along with Bo Hellström, who has been engaged with our Association for over 20 years. The Mayor of Ray Nkonyeni Municipality and other dignitaries also honoured the occasion. There were presentations from all Swedish partners, with Gulshera Khan tracing the historical development of the Association's achievements.

The programme featured an exhibition of our heritage work, a presentation on the Time Travel Programme by Dr Gounden, and a video compiled by Ayabonga Dezi.

This milestone marked 30 years of dedicated service by the Association. It served as both a platform to showcase the School Heritage Programme and to celebrate the graduation of trained youth, while also creating job opportunities. The event generated wide publicity, with extensive media coverage highlighting the Association's achievements.

Graduates



Certificates were awarded to the following youth who successfully completed all three phases of training in Time Travel Methodology:

1. Lindelwa Proud Shazi
2. Moderate Shezi
3. Njabulo Mbutho
4. Olwethu Njiyela
5. Phakamile Nomcebo Shabane



6. Anele Xolo
7. Ayabonga Dezi
8. Anathi Siphesihle Sonjica
9. Ntandokazi Bohlela
10. Thobisile E Cele
11. Lindokuhle Ndwane
12. Zanele Innocentia Sokhulu

The NLC pull-up banner was also prominently featured. The Programme Director for the event was Mr Howard Msomi, who has been engaged with the Association since 2009.

Programme Highlights

The event was officially opened by Chairperson Thulas Mkhize, who paid tribute to many past members who had made significant contributions to the Association and approximately 45 who has passed on. The Mayor of RNM also addressed the gathering, with her speech warmly received by the audience.



Learners from Marburg and Ezwelihle Primary Schools showcased their talents through dance and cultural performances. The Association's Programme and demonstrated its role in promoting social cohesion and international cooperation.

In addition to the youth graduation, the Association recognised the contributions of long-standing members by presenting them with Certificates of Appreciation. Ndadane Kindness handed these out, while Ommesh Maharaj from DOE awarded the youth graduation certificates. Rueben Gounden presented the Time Travel Programme

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Rosey Mudaly, who acknowledged all participants, partners, and supporters who contributed to the success of the celebration.

Donations were generously provided by Lucky's, Lucky's Sport, and several other local businesses, further reflecting strong community support for the Association.

C6. Marketing and Communication

- NLC pull-up banner at all events
- Active Facebook page and group
- Website is under construction: www.portshepstonetwinning.org.za
- Publication
- Videos produced of events and uploaded on our Youtube channel

C7. Research and Book- Umlando Wethu, Our History. Sites and Stories Through Time Travel and Applied Heritage

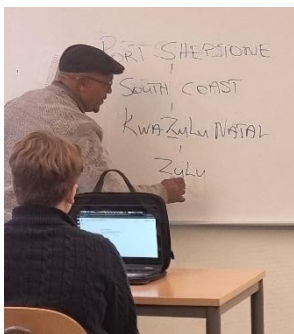
The research began approximately 12 years ago. For the past year, G Khan has worked consistently, focusing on additionally research and completing the 188-page book. This was a monumental task requiring intense effort. The book launch will take place on 20 September 2025. This has been a community effort, our international, national and local footprint. Leaders in the Time Travel programme- nationally and internationally

D. Bridging Ages International conference and Sweden trip

- Gulshera Khan has resigned as president of Bridging Ages International but retained her position as an ordinary, member on the Board
- The International Bridging Ages conference was held in March 2025. Three representatives from the Association attended the BA International Conference: Thandiwe Mkhize, Thulas Mkhize, and Gulshera Pillay (Khan). As a board member, Gulshera's trip was subsidised.
- Members of PSTA attended Bridging Ages' conference online: Njabulo Mbutho, Bongokuhle Ndwane, and Amanda Shazi.
- Three presentations took place: Philani Gcaba's online presentation on "Can Time Travel be used as a Tool for Change or Good Conduct?", Dr. B Gounden's online presentation on "The Links between Ebbe's Time Travel Method, Reflection, and Sustainability," and G. Khan's presentation on the "Holistic Approach to Time Travel Implementation."

Promoting our Association

- The delegation represented the Association at the Oskarshamn social gathering, celebrating 30 years and 20 years of Bridging Ages.
- The delegation also took the opportunity to visit Slottskolan.
- Accommodation was at Bo Hellstöm's home, Ebbe's home, Ulla and Karin's home, and at hotels in Oskarshamn and Kalmar.
- There were many presentations to schools, meetings with old friends in Oskarshamn, gatherings, and invites to Ingeborg and Kai's homes, Ake's home, along with warm receptions by Oskarshamn municipality, among others – dinner with the speaker.
- Gifts were handed to many, our T-shirts and beadwork. Well received by many.



Put a Smile on Children's Faces:



- Supported educational toys, books and other items for Mthunzini crèche. Image right: Trampoline donation from Durban was transported to Port Shepstone and donated to Emseni CYCC. It is in use at this Care Centre.
- On 21/01/2025, a donation of school uniforms was received from a community member and donated to Port Shepstone Senior Primary.
- Intelezi Msani Heritage Centre received a donation for their group of indigent children
- On 8 February 2025, the Swedish delegates generously donated toys and stationery to Inathi CYCC, as well as the Association.

E. Community Development Programmes: Nyandezulu Community Care Centre: The Swedish donation has been effectively used for renovations coordinated by Mzi Ndwane, with oversight visits by Ravi Pillay and Dr B. Gounden. The project is nearly complete, with significant improvements including a new roof, floors, plastering, windows, and entrance, though the veranda and some areas still require attention. Bo Ulla visited and expressed satisfaction with the progress. A community meeting, to be convened by Mzi Ndwane, will address questions around ownership of the centre. Project co-ordinated by G. Khan.

F. Crises Intervention Programme:

Assisted two families whose homes were partly destroyed by fire. Lucky's Manaba and another gentleman, Michael Pillay, have assisted. More details will be included in next year's report.

G. Fundraising and Sustainability: The office undertakes various fundraising initiatives to support events and programmes such as Time Travel. Current activities include compiling a recipe book for sale, as well as selling clothes, toys, and beadwork. Many individuals have supported the Association in kind—using their expertise, time, vehicles, halls for events, board rooms, and attending meetings. This support is highly valuable and helps ensure the sustainability of the Association.

H. Community Programmes and Support: Port Shepstone Museum – Our association delivered a presentation on Heritage and Culture on 18 May 2024. A further presentation to Provincial museum staff and the Port Shepstone museum took place in March 2025.

Conclusion:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to dedicated volunteers, participating schools, the Department of Education (DOE), Board members, partner institutions, Ziphakamise, NLC, recruits, and valued supporters. Your contributions have been instrumental in the success of our projects and programme.

Gulshera Khan (Pillay)

Social Worker-Programme Manager