

PORT SHEPSTONE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

PROFESSIONAL REPORT

ORGANISATIONAL ACTIVITIES FROM PERIOD APRIL 2022 TO MARCH 2023
27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 9th NOVEMBER 2023

A. Introduction:

The Association was inaugurated on the 9 November 1994 and this year marks 29 years existence. We are volunteer driven with limited funding. Despite this, the Association has been sustained by community and member support- based on shared responsibilities, teamwork and commitment.

B. Summary of the Associations programmes.

1. Time Travel Educational Handbook

The Time Travel Educational Handbook authors are: Dr E Westergren - founder of the Time Travel Method, Sweden, G. Khan -co-ordinator of the Time Travel programme, PSTA and President of Bridging Ages International and Dr B. Gounden – school principal and member of PSTA.

The book was launched at both local and International level

First launch was held in Port Shepstone on 6 June 2022. Venue- Baptist Church. Attendance : approximately 50 guests.

The **second launch** took place in Turkey, during the Bridging Ages International conference in July 2022. A comprehensive report was included in report 2022.

2. Local Seminar Presentation held on 24 October 2023- Venue : Senior Primary School



The book was presented by Dr Gounden. The various theories underpinning the Time Travel method were highlighted. Thulas Mkhize chaired the proceedings, Rosey Mudaly opened with prayer.

Other presenters:

- Ommesh Maharaj- DOE on school systems
- Gulshera Khan: historical development of Twinning.
- The team from Sweden- teachers Christina and Jonas discussed Swedish Educational system and culture
- Swedish student: Julia and Sanna presented their school and life in Sweden
- Philani Gcaba: Importance of international collaboration

Board members Thandi Mkhize and Rose Malunga assisted with registration, membership and sale of book. Mr Baker, principal of Senior Primary School is thanked for the use of the school venue and provision of tea.

3. Presentation – International Seminars:

The Association members presented at international webinars.

- G. Khan presented Time Travel and Community Building at a Bridging Ages online seminar.
- Philani Gcaba, an educator at Ingwemabala Comprehensive High School jointly with G. Khan presented at international seminars held in August and September, respectively. The co-ordinator Bo Hellstrom, an educator who has been engaged with our Association for over a decade in many programmes. These seminars attracted educators from the Baltic region.
- On 31 January 2023- G. Khan presented “Current situation in Time Travel method with focus on challenges”
- Kimendran Gounden presented “ Four Emerging Global Crises” at a Bridging Ages webinar towards the latter of 2022.
- Dr Gounden presented at a Bridging Ages webinar on 13 March 2023 on: “Time Travel and Education”

4. Slottsskolan (Sweden)and Ingwemabala CHS (Port Shepstone) Project

Discussion about a collaboration between the two schools began in 2019. Detailed programmes on dates for the physical exchanges to both countries were twice postponed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. It eventually culminated In September and October 2022. The planning, coordination and preparation was managed by the Association.



In summary – 2022 programme:

- The South African delegation departed for Sweden on 25 September and returned on 5th October 2022. Delegates were: Philani Gcaba, Ntombizodwa Mrwabane, Ntsiki Khumalo and Gulshera Khan.
- Port Shepstone Twinning Association selected Philani Gcaba as he is the link to the school and is highly committed. The selection of the school was also based on the school's continued involvement. Sweden selected both G. Khan and S. Khumalo.
- The chairperson, Mr T. Mkhize and Ms Khan held meetings with the school principal, Mr Gumede to discuss the programme and selection of delegates. The school selected educator Zodwa Mrwabane since Physical Sciences was one of the subjects in this exchange.
- Application to the MEC of Education to grant permission was supported by Mr Ommesh Maharaj, Mr . R. Wood, and Mr Appalaraju. A long process supported by the Department of Education- Ugu District.
- Visa Application costs of approximately R3000 per delegate was reimbursed by the Project.
- A final farewell meeting took place at the Department of Education boardroom, where the departing delegates signed a pledge. This is a Twinning tradition.

- A detailed programme comprising of classroom teaching, presentation, meetings, hosting of seminar on school management system, showcasing our region and country was welcomed by the teachers at Slottsskolan, Borgholm, Sweden. Philani Gcaba made a video recording of the school which was one of the highlights. Selected students presented their school and kept us informed throughout our stay. This gave them confidence. Our school also followed the same procedure during their visit. We have also met the Mayor of Borgholm. A letter from our mayor was handed over to him. Another letter from our Mayor was handed over to the Mayor of Oskarshamn.
- Time Travel event to the year 1912 were held at both countries.



- A highlight was to reconnect with Oskarshamn (OSAK) committee. A three day programme was also arranged in Oskarshamn- three schools were visited. The pen pal school programme was promoted.



Educators from Oskarsgynasium were keen to twin with schools in Port Shepstone surrounding community.

Ake Nilsson , a teacher at this school will pursue this collaboration.

Far left- is Tormod Nasset- founder of OSAK, Sweden- our counterpart

Oskarsgynasium School have been engaged with our Association since 1993.

- We have also connected with Bo Hellstrom who has worked with our Association for over 10 years.
- Media coverage of the programme appeared in two local Swedish newspapers.
- Invited to dinners at Laila's Place, Oskarshamn- (*reconnected with 15 friends*), Bo Hellstrom home and that of the principal-from Slottsskolan
- Visited Kristdala , where Sven Ake Johansson resides, including a programme at a church in Kalmar and a women's organisation- Oliver in Oskarshamn.

The returning visit from Slottsskolan 23- 28 October 2022



A detailed programme was developed. They had presented Sweden education system at Port Shepstone Senior Primary and Marburg Primary schools.

A concluding discussion was held at the Department of Education Boardroom. In conclusion, our community is special, most supportive and made a very positive impression on our visiting delegates from Sweden.

Image: Betania Mission Time Travel 1912. Dr Ebbe Westergren was part of the delegation. He facilitated this Time Travel. It is also wonderful to have with us the founder of the method.

Highlights- a similar programme was developed for the delegation from Sottskolan. On this delegation was the school principal, accompanied by three educators and Ebbe Westergren

- The delegation spent days at Ingwemabala CHS – attended classes, exchanged teaching methods and discussion on management school systems.
- Presented Sweden to teachers at Senior Primary School.
- Spent a day at Marburg Primary School
- Visited Gamalakhe Tin Town – exposure to force removal
- Invited to tea and dinner at Audan and DD Naidoo's home respectively.
- Final evaluation meeting held at Department of Education offices

5. Slottsskolan- Ingwemabala 2023

Christina- the coordinator of the programme submitted a detailed report to the funder with inputs from both Philani and Gulshera from our Association. A further application for the continuation of the exchange programme. Letter of intent were submitted by Ingwemabala CHS and Marburg Primary.

During this October 2023, a delegation of two educators and 2 learners spent two weeks in our community. The collaboration continued with Ingwemabala Comprehensive High School and Marburg Primary School.

“The Swedish delegates were Christina Larson (Slottsskolan coordinator), Jonas Boberg (Maths and Physics teacher) and the two learners, Julia Noren and Sanna Martinsson arrived on 16-10-23 and departed on 30-10-23. They spent time at Ingwemabala and Marburg primary. There was an exchange programme last year between these schools. This collaboration is cemented on the 30 years of visits conducted by delegates from South Africa and Sweden managed by PSTA-Port Shepstone Twinning Association. “ Philani Gcaba



New friends with learners from Ingwemabala Comprehensive High School were fogged

This partnership is beneficial for both countries as it discusses topics like: Xenophobia, School management, Culture and Diversity, Education for sustainable development, Teaching and learning methods, Heritage and Time Travel. In the Time Travel learners realised that the present Ingwemabala was started by Swedish missionaries. This collaboration is so relevant.

Learning and interaction. Swedish learner participates as a learner. She also use school uniform as uniform is not used at their schools. A new experience.

The highlights of this year's collaboration were that the delegates visited communities and experienced communal activities, food, dance and communal tours.



Gamalakhe Tin Town



Listening to Smangele Memela- story of forceful removal from Albersville to Gamalakhe TinTown in 1968.

The delegates visited Inyandezulu Community Care project that is managed by PTSA renovated from donations outsourced from Sweden. They also went to the Inyandezulu waterfall and Lake Eland. Other activities included the seminar with local schools and meeting Department of Education officials.

Time Travel- Betania Mission 1912

Goal

1. The importance of life - long learning
2. Use the Time Travel method as a way to support education in Natural Science and Mathematics, Social Science, and English as a medium in communication. Topics on energy and change, space and shape measurements.
3. Make learners understand the importance of local heritage site
4. Using water as an energy source as a means for sustainable development.



Physical Science lesson takes place as part of an activity during the Time Travel event



adio Sunny South- one hour presentation. Thulas Mkhize – chairperson from the PSTA accompanied the delegation- Philani as the host.

When evaluation the programme, Christinah Larson stated, “We learn in different and it is quite interesting.” Ingwemabala school coordinator, Philani Gcaba stated” Learners involved in the programme have excelled academically and there is active involvement in teaching and learning.” Dr B. Gounden, Marburg primary principal stated that “I strongly believe that we can achieve much more in our future endeavours.”

Gulshera Khan representative, PSTA and Bridging Ages International president, echoed, “This collaboration brought back the old Twinning vibe and commitment engaging communities..” .

Marburg Primary School visit 25-26 October 2023- Report :Dr B Gounden

“The Swedish delegates observed lessons, taught some lessons, presented talks at the assembly, engaged with sporting activities and also visited outside institutions that were linked to the school such as Barney’s Pre-School and Mseni Homes. The educators and learners exchanged their Swedish educational experiences at the school. This international collaboration has strengthened cultural diversity, respect, tolerance and promoted social cohesion. It is hoped that this lifetime experience is continued in the future”.



The Association is grateful to SAPS, many persons who have hosted the delegates at their homes, viz Thandi Mkhize, Philani Gcaba, Gulshera Khan, Thandi Mkhize. Dr Gounden had taken them out to a restaurant and the many who have contributed. Ubuntu at its best!

An embracing community- Social cohesion, acceptance and love



6. Nyandezulu Community Care Project



Mzi Ndwalane, a past Board member has been engaged in many PSTA programmes. He went on three occasions as a delegate to Sweden. As a community leader and representative on the governing body of Nyandezulu Primary School- his interest together with other members is to support community based initiatives. At present , PSTA have adopted the Nyandezulu Community Care Project- NCCP. This project is involved in after school care, womens

programmes, gardening project, school tuition classes, as well as church services held on Sundays.

Bo Hellstrom's (Global School and Global Profile co-ordinator) visit to our community in February 2023 has resulted in his personal donation of R16200 towards the renovation of NCCP. A further application was made to Open Hand (Sweden) and they pledged a further donation to assist with the renovation of this much needed facility.



Bo and his wife Ulla spent a few days at Mrs Lushaba's home – a retired teacher. Above NCCP

NB: The Nyandezulu Water Fall is recognized by the Tourism Association as a tourist attraction

7. Bridging Ages International Collaboration, Co-ordination and Leadership - Online

The planning for the international conference in Turkey was postponed twice, year 2020 and 2021. The conference took place in Giresun, Turkiya, from 29 June- 01 July (Excursion 02 July), 2022.

- **Representation on Bridging Ages International as President :** G Khan was re-elected President of BA International- 26 countries are represented. This is her second term. (each term is 2 years) During this period, significant development in terms of the operational governance and collaboration was achieved:
- The International conference was successful- held from 29 June to 1 July 2022, at Giresun, Turkey.
" A highly qualitative conference- togetherness, professional, well organised and creative" . View conference Newsletter on www.bridgingages.com

- The conference Time Travel at Kulakkaya Plateau, Giresun - Hazelnut Co-operative 1938 was excellent, well prepared and relevant. ***Turkey is the largest producer of hazelnuts and accounts for 75% of world production.***
- A 10 day training took place. In total 8 days were physical training. Rueben Gounden and Gulshera Khan supported Ebbe Westergren as the leader of the training.
- In total 3 International newsletters were circulated .
- Presentations at webinars – refer to sect 3 of this report.

Bridging Ages First Digital Conference: hosted by BA North America on the theme “Cross-Cultural Relationships Throughout History”, 12-13 September 2023.

The 2023 Bridging Ages International conference took place on the 12th and 13th of September with the theme of “Cross-Cultural Relationships Throughout History.” The host, Bridging Ages North America, was originally going to stage an in-person conference in the Yukon Territory of Canada but when funding was not secured for the costly flights to that remote region, it was decided that a digital gathering would suffice for this year. Though an in-person Bridging Ages International conference is always preferred, the 2023 digital gathering of Time Travel practitioners was nonetheless a success.

4th Virtual Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Our 4th virtual AGM was held on 23rd March. This was an appropriate platform to reflect, discuss and find solutions on the way forward.

C. General

Gamalakhe Tin Town is also recognised as a tourist site by the Tourism Association. We are proud of our contribution in ensuring that Smangele Memela’s story of forceful removal is now recorded and tourists can experience remnants of the apartheid system

Funding to National Lottery commission was submitted in June – in the Arts , heritage and Culture sector. Job creation in this sector is equally important.

In conclusion the Association continues to manage programmes, grow despite financial setbacks. Both co-ordination of programmes and projects remain voluntary

Gulshera Khan
Co-ordination of Programmes – Volunteer
Social Worker