

NEWSLETTER

THE POWER OF 8000



JULY 2026

We are absolutely blown away!

There are moments that remind us just how extraordinary White River really is. Our Gala Dinner Fundraiser was one of them.

What began as an initiative by a passionate group of TPO8000 supporters turned into an unforgettable evening of generosity, hope and community spirit. A wonderful cross-section of local residents and business owners came together with one purpose – to invest in the future of the town we all love. **The response exceeded every expectation.**

Thanks to the incredible generosity of those who attended, The Power of 8000 received significant pledges that will strengthen our ability to continue restoring, maintaining and enhancing White River. Every pledge is an investment in cleaner streets, better-maintained parks, safer public spaces and a town we can all continue to be proud of.

Our Chair, Rhodes Abell, shared the remarkable journey of TPO8000 – from a handful of committed volunteers to a professional, accountable organisation making a visible difference across White River every single day. Looking back at everything that has already been achieved, there was a real sense that this is only the beginning.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the incredible organising committee who made the evening possible, to the wonderful team at Whispering Thorns for their exceptional hospitality, and to every sponsor whose generosity helped create such a memorable event. Most of all, thank you to our amazing White River community. You continue to prove that when a community believes in something, incredible things happen.

The future of White River has never looked brighter. Together, we're building it.
Rhodes Abel –Chairman



Mona Marsh, Daniyala Torlage & Nelisiwe Ngcane



The POWER of 8000



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Power of 8000 NPC Acc: 63001009611
Bank: FNB Branch: 270552



Welcome, Sebenza 5!

Meet Sebenza 5—the latest Isuzu bakkie generously provided by Westvaal Motor Group White River. Rather than simply donating a vehicle, Westvaal has partnered with TPO8000 by regularly replacing our hardworking bakkie with a brand-new one every few months. This means our team always has a safe, reliable vehicle to carry our Power Rangers to work sites, transport equipment, and haul the many loads of litter collected across White River.

The vehicle is insured by TWK Insurance, while a number of generous local businesses help keep it fuelled and on the road. This remarkable partnership keeps TPO8000 moving every single day. We simply couldn't do what we do without it.



Tshepo and Maurice Touché from Westvaal-Isuzu

***Our sincere thanks to
Westvaal Motor Group,
TWK Insurance and
our fuel sponsors for
helping us keep White
River beautiful. Look
out for it around and
about in White River.***



The Rolletjie Challenge Results!

Our Refuse Rolletjie Challenge was another outstanding success!

With our Power Rangers using more than 100 refuse bags every day to keep White River clean, the need for black bags never stops. Our target was 2,300 rolls – but thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we collected an amazing **2,730 rolls!**

A huge thank you to every resident, business, school, estate, organisation and community group that donated. Every single roll helps us keep White River cleaner, greener and more beautiful.

Special thanks go to **Build It** and **Wimpy White River** for serving as our official drop-off points throughout the campaign. An extra thank you to the fantastic Wimpy team, who went the extra mile by encouraging donations and rewarding donors with a complimentary coffee or ice cream.

The good news? Wimpy White River will continue as a permanent drop-off point for refuse bag donations, so if you'd still like to support TPO8000, simply drop off your "rolletjies" any time during the year. Once again, White River has shown that when a community works together, even the smallest contributions make a big difference. Thank you!



Chris Crous and Ross Harris

White River Buidit

Anton and Christo - Everest Motoring

Astron Energy



Bright Boards in Lion's Park

Bright, cheerful new signs have popped up around Lion's Park, each carrying a lovely reminder to help keep this special space clean and cared for. Created from repurposed boards by one of our creative volunteers, they add colour, charm and a sense of fun, while encouraging everyone to take pride in the park and use the bins provided. It's a wonderful example of how a simple idea, a little creativity and some donated materials can add something really special to a community space.



Wimpy Power Breakfast & Burger

There is exciting news coming soon about a Wimpy Power of 8000 Burger Combo and Power of 8000 Breakfast Combo. Stay Tuned!



Meet the Team

—A chat with Tshepo—

Behind every clean street, emptied bin and tidy park is a hardworking team that takes great pride in keeping White River looking its best. We caught up with **Tshepo, TPO8000's Operations Manager** to hear how things are going.

“

Thank you Tshepo and the Power Ranger Team! We see your hard work every day, and White River is a better place because of it

..... ”



Tell us about your team

"There are six of us – myself, Sandile, Mduduzi, Siyabonga, Alfred and Prince. We're a great team and have a really good relationship. You could say we work like a family."

How does the public react when they see the TPO8000 team?

"People wave at us and sometimes even hoot. It really feels good to know that people appreciate what we're doing."

Are you well equipped for the job?

"Yes. Our uniforms are hard-wearing and ideal for the work we do, and we recently received new ones from **Ruggedwear**. We also have lots of operational equipment."

What about lunches?

"We're very fortunate that our lunches are sponsored by different local businesses throughout the week. We deeply thank **Galito's, Pick n Pay, Spar, Savemor** and **Wimpy**."

How are the Isuzu and trailer working out?

"The Isuzu is perfect for what we do. It is a fantastic bakkie – I wish I owned one myself! Thanks to the **Westvaal Group** which makes our work possible. The trailer has also made a huge difference because we can get a lot more work done."



Is there anything you'd like to say to our supporters?

"I'd like to thank the residents of White River for looking after their own properties and verges. It makes a big difference. We also have a very good working relationship with the City of Mbombela, especially the **Parks Department**, and work together whenever they need our assistance."



Ronnie Bester Park gets some TLC

Ronnie Bester Park has recently received a little extra love from some wonderful members of our community.

Thanks to the generosity of **KMI**, beautiful new benches and matching litter bins have been installed at the park's most scenic viewpoints. Keeping them looking their best is **Breezy Butterfly Car Wash**, whose team regularly cleans the benches as a generous service to the community. We've also begun identifying and tagging many of the park's indigenous trees, thanks to the assistance of Peter and Michael Marthinusen. We hope this will encourage residents and visitors to appreciate the rich natural heritage growing right here in our flagship park.



On **24 June**, learners from **Rob Ferreira High School** rolled up their sleeves and spent the afternoon giving the park a seasonal makeover. They removed invasive cat's claw creeper from trees, weeded the rockery, collected fallen branches and tackled litter throughout the park. The result? Ronnie Bester Park is looking magnificent. Even in the middle of winter, it's green, welcoming and a place we can all be proud of.



A sincere thanks to everyone who contributed. Together, we're keeping White River's flagship park looking its very best.

Community gives R40 entrance a fresh new look

One warm Saturday morning in April, our community turned out in force to give the **R40/Tom Lawrence Street** intersection a well-deserved makeover. The initiative, led and generously supported by the team at **White River Saw Mills**, brought together volunteers of all ages armed with black and white paint, brushes, reflective vests, and plenty of enthusiasm. Together they cleaned up the busy intersection and repainted the kerbs in crisp black and white. As the northern gateway into White River, this intersection creates an important first impression for residents and visitors alike. Thanks to this fantastic community effort it is once again neat, clean, welcoming, and a credit to our town.

Our sincere thanks to **White River Sawmills** for initiating the project, and to every volunteer who gave up their Saturday morning to help. It's another wonderful example of what can be achieved when local businesses and the community work together.





White River, the small town with The **Power** of 8000.



White River's the best; there can be no debate,
Because only our town has The **Power** of **Eight!**

Our town is our team and we stand strong and proud,
White River, Witrivier, we shout it out loud!

We keep our town tidy, our streets neat and clean,
No rubbish on sidewalks, no posters obscene.
The parks are all mown, road edges trim,
All black bags collected, filled to the brim.

We frown if we happen to see someone litter;
Someone else must clear up and that makes us bitter.

In cleaning our town we use black bags a-plenty,
But donations from friends bring **two thousand and twenty!**

Sebenza our bakkie is out in the town,
Busy and tireless, running around.
And all of our **Power Rangers** are there,
The team work together, they all do their share.

We work alongside our Municipality,
They're underfunded, that's a reality.
But we're supported by many, and that's really great,
Motivating, energising – The **Power** of **Eight!**

