

# NEWSLETTER

THE POWER OF 8000



SPRING 2024



## Dear Valued Donors and Supporters

We are delighted to share updates about our recent initiatives and achievements at **The Power of 8000 (TPO8000)**. Your generous contributions are at the heart of every success, and we are deeply grateful for your ongoing support, which allows us to maintain and enhance the beauty of our environment in White River.

## Building 'Team White River'

TPO8000 continues to play a key role within our town, collaborating with community groups, religious institutions, and schools to uplift the area. We are receiving growing interest from individuals and organisations keen to contribute to our projects.

Together, we are fostering a spirit of unity and progress.

## Updates on Current Projects

### Reliable Workhorse for Our Operations

Thanks to **Westvaal Motor Group**, we now have a dependable **Isuzu bakkie**, '**Sebenza 3.0**' (meaning "work" in isiZulu). This essential vehicle, sponsored by **Westvaal White River Isuzu**, enables our team to transport waste, tools, and other materials efficiently, building on the support we've received with previous Ford Ranger bakkies from **Westvaal Numbi Ford**.



The POWER of 8000



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



## Waterfront Park Development

With the generous sponsorship of **Pine Lake Inn** and **Southern Sun Group**, we are developing an **adventure play area** at the Waterfront Park on Tom Lawrence Street. Additional contributions of timber and tyres have enhanced the initial concept, and we look forward to opening this space for the community **early this summer**.

Watch this space... or, more appropriately - watch the Waterfront Space... the play area is loading!

## Other news

### Litter bins

We are placing large, metal swing bins around town, especially in high traffic areas. There is an advertising opportunity for businesses that would like to rent advertising space on these bins. **Contact Lori 072 012 5896, [Lori@divadomestica.com](mailto:Lori@divadomestica.com)**

### Kilo Eaters

The chapter of Kilo Eaters from Nelspruit ran 8000 metres for the Power of 8000 through White River on 5 October, filming as they went. A video of this, featuring our lovely town will soon be available.

### Publicity activities

TPO8000 was present at a number of community events such as bazaars, markets and athletics. This helps us to grow the recognition and support base within the community.



Rob Ferreira



## Winter Season Achievements

During the quieter winter months, our team focused on crucial maintenance tasks that are harder to manage in the busy summer season:

- Curb and walkway cleaning across town
- Ongoing community cleanups, including:
  - First Avenue: the length of the road was properly cleaned and cleared
  - R40 North of Casterbridge (read about that [here](#) and [here](#)) with further cleanups planned – **come and help on 3 November!**
  - White River Cemetery tidy-up with Uplands Community Service scholars
- Facilitated the repair of the Cemetery fence



## Looking Ahead: Preparing for Summer

As summer approaches, so does the challenge of rapid grass growth. Our team is preparing for the busy mowing season, working closely with the City of Mbombela Parks Department to ensure public spaces are clean and ready for routine maintenance.

Additionally, we plan to expand the curb painting project beyond the Danie Joubert/CMKD intersection, with local businesses eager to join the effort.



# Our Power Rangers and Volunteers

Our core team—affectionately known as the ‘Power Rangers’—consists of three to four dedicated workers and our **Operations Manager, Andrea Vianello**. Local businesses keep our team energised by providing daily meals and drinks. **A heartfelt thank you to our food sponsors!**

Though we operate with a small, full-time ground crew, the broader management of TPO8000 relies on a **few dedicated volunteers**, many of whom balance their involvement with full-time jobs. **We invite our community to get involved!**

## How to get involved

There are different ways of supporting or contributing to TPO8000:

1. **‘Doing your bit’:** maintaining the area where you live or work: cleaning pavements, picking up litter, emptying bins. Look around and see what you can do in your neighbourhood.
2. **Contributions in cash, kind, or consumables:** we need to fund our ongoing operations e.g. money to pay our ground team; fuel; black bags (we go through thousands!), herbicide, etc.
3. **Volunteering:** on specific projects such as clean-ups; or at an info table at key community events or central points
4. **Spread the word:** we need to grow our support base in order to unlock more activities on the ground. Tell/show/share what we do with everyone you know and the groups you belong to: family, friends, church, social, sport, etc.



## In memorial

TPO8000 was saddened by the news of the sudden passing of Isaac Sithubi, White River Parks Department Supervisor. Isaac worked closely with TPO8000 to maintain the parks and public spaces of White River, and we keenly feel his loss. Our sincere condolences to his family.

## A Call for Continued Support

Your contributions empower us to make White River a vibrant place to live, work, and visit. We appreciate your ongoing support and ask that you encourage others to join us. Together, we can create a lasting impact that benefits all residents.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us.

With sincere gratitude,

**The Power of 8000 Team**

