

KEY GROWTH FOR 2013 – PRESENTED BY SAM BENDZULLA

This has been a big year for AfrikaBurn – a solid growth spurt across all areas of the event, the movement and the organisation.

These are some of our vital statistics ...

The Tankwa Town population expanded expanded to 7102 ticket holding participants. Our actual population was somewhat bigger than this though. Behind the scenes, and uncounted, are numerous other key people involved in generating the event and keeping us safe – the DPW and Clan crew, medics, fire crew, security.

About 7,5% of our population was kids 14 and under. This year we sold children's tickets at a nominal fee of R20 each, so we know we had 526 of the little burners come through the gate.

And at least 2 octogenarians, who also pay the nominal ticket fee. I hope they met each other out there on the binnekring!

74 theme camps ringed the kring and stretched up 6ish boulevard and into the suburbs.

15 of these were big sound party camps (and for the play-list police, 4 of these said they'd be playing trance).

99 artworks registered. And I counted a good dozen more unregistered "surprise" pieces.

24 of these pieces burnt, or were a burn event. And of course on top of that there was the beautiful Clan burn.

The Clan stood complete for exactly 50 days this year!

We had a killer year for performance, especially live bands. 40 performances registered, including 19 bands.

The marching band did the rounds in true gypsy steampunk fashion. And Lara's piano recitals took your breath away.

Mutant vehicles positively exploded this year! A total of 74 registered at DMV. Many of these announcing themselves for the first time on site.

Next year, no unregistered vehicles will be allowed on site, for safety reasons.

We funded 32 grant projects for Tankwa Town.

15 artworks

3 theme camp projects

5 performances

and 10 mutant vehicles

The R400 000 grant pot was well spent and every grant project delivered their magic.

ArtSpark funds Burner-related creative projects outside of Tankwa Town.

This had reduced funding this year, because of budgetary issues, so we allocated it across just 2 projects to make the funds really count.

But we have lekker plans for this fledgling program next year, with a shortlist of

projects and fund amounts identified.

The total spent towards creative projects this year is R555 765,65

Outreach got off to a great start this year too, with 7 projects initiated and 9 new volunteers welcomed into the portfolio. This new portfolio also has big plans for next year.

By all accounts, the Burner community and the default world are loving our work! In fact, the DAC likes what we're doing so much, they would like to give us money to do more of it. Now that our PBO application is in, we're hoping we can soon take them up on their offer.

And we're developing a collaborative relationship with Open Streets. That's them outside right now

Our volunteer community has also grown considerably.
The number of volunteers who signed up is 999!

532 volunteers signed up for a site shift in advance.
Just 6 of them did not show up.
We had 639 site shifts to fill!

For those who don't know, the kinds of site volunteers who help make AfrikaBurn work are : Gate fairies, Greeters, Volunteer co-ordinators, Volunteer booth fairies, Arteria booth fairies, MOOPers, and Rangers.

Rangers made a focused rive to expand their corps.
114 Rangers walked the kring this year, over 30 shifts.

39 new Rangers were trained at 7 training sessions – 2 in Jozi, 4 in Cape Town, and 1 in Tankwa Town.
And 9 new deputy Rangers were trained up and earned their swag on site.

In fact Health and Safety grew substantially overall.
We had more medics of course, but we also had 2 Burner doctors who volunteered their services as support to the medics throughout the event. Sol the surfing doctor was on standby to the medics for the whole event.

We had a Sanctuary space for the first time this year, with trained counsellors on hand and one psychiatrist who volunteered their assistance throughout the event.

Of course we needed more space to fit in all these extra people, so the Tankwa Town footprint was expanded significantly. The biggest area of expansion was on the flats behind 8-ish to 10-ish.
We also clearly marked the Quiet, Buffer and Loud zones on the map and on the ground, which meant people knew better where to put themselves and how to behave in their neck of the desert.

It got a little tight in some spots during the event, and we will need to find new space for expansion for 2014.

The landowners are keen for us to stay and happy to accommodate our growing population on an expanded footprint. Townplanning discussions are already

underway and we have a provisional plan in place.

And toilets LOTS of toilets.

131 long drops. And 55 portaloos, including 5 with wheelchair access.

Unfortunately also lots of flies, happily only after the event was closed, but DPW definitely felt them in the breakdown and clean up phase.

DPW were on site over a 60 day period between the first DPW person to arrive and the last one to leave (naturally, this was the indefatigable Roger Mallet)

There was an average core crew of 42, with supplementary volunteers throughout the period.

The volunteer MOOPers work daily throughout the event, across 7 volunteer activities.

A core crew of dedicated MOOPers stayed on after the event MOOPing for 5 days solid. After their departure, DPW diligently picked up more MOOP as it rose to the surface.

How much MOOP was there? A LOT! We estimate there was enough MOOP to fill a 6 ton truck 3 times over!

Next year, we aim to reduce that significantly, so please bring LOTS of black bags and take them away FULL!

17 newsletters went out over the year to our Burner community, spreading the word on community activities and the principles. And our community is growing, no doubt about it.

We have around 19 000 facebook fans at the moment, and 2028 followers on twitter. The highest number of retweets of an Afrikaburn tweet reached over 6000 people.

Of course to organize all of this activity effectively the organisation has had to grow as well.

This year we had a committed and contracted team of 15 working on the various portfolios.

For those who don't know, the portfolios are : Communications and Social Media, Creative, DMV, DPW, Finance and Governance, Gate and Ticketing, Health and Safety, Outreach, Special Events, Volunteers

Each of these portfolios also made a concerted effort to bring in more portfolio volunteers. It's working. More dedicated and committed portfolio volunteers will work even better. So if you think you'd like to help please let us know!

7 Directors did their damndest to keep things ticking along the event critical path and take care of the movement and ethos behind it.

We met a LOT. 30-flipping-5 times over the last year.

This was around 130 meeting hours. Multiply that by the 7 directors and it's at least 910 hours of cumulative thinking, planning and exploring.

We have 27 members at the moment.

3 members stepped down, making space for 5 new ones voted in at the last AGM.

What will AfrikaBurn look like next year? The directors and Ops team have a solid idea of how we think it should. Now it's up to the membership to decide.

Thank you for your time today, and for your ongoing commitment to the beautiful thing that is AfrikaBurn!

Sam (for the directors)