

## **Mpumalanga “STEP OUT AND STEP IN”**

**By Nic van der Merwe**

It is now four years since the first SAPI Mpumalanga meeting took place at the Belfast Golf Club on 18 November 2005. Can you believe we did not even have time to play that day? The election of a small but committed executive committee that day was the right group to lead SAPI in the province. This committee served the Branch members with great dedication. My sincere thanks to all the members that have attended the Branch meetings and debated the challenges that are faced by the Planning profession in Mpumalanga Province.

I have to thank Bert Strydom for his perseverance with those critical issues, for his hard work setting up the mini conferences and for seeing the funny side of life. The one event that we surely won't forget was when the Town Planner had to pull the Land Surveyor's Hummer from the dam. Thank goodness for more than one available Planner, because two also got stuck.

Four great mini conferences (events) and regular Branch meetings have made an impact and the membership is constantly growing. Thanks to the Planners in the Province that supported us with sponsorships. Now is the time to extend and take the lead in effecting change on planning matters in the Province. This challenge was put to the newly elected Chairperson Ms Heila Meintjies, a young active, dynamic and single Town Planner from Nelspruit.