

KUDU

n°6

newsletter from the **Vlakteplaas skool** De Rust - South Africa

They who give...

It is actually amazing how Vlakteplaas UCC Primary School has become a rural beacon for the future of our country; all because of the unstinting support we receive.

I am, as always, deeply grateful to all our donors, small or large; and to our support foundations - Karoocare London; Karoo-Projekt Oberursel; iThemba Antwerp; and especially KarooCare Hilversum and every single member of its board who've initiated and pioneered magnificent support projects for our school and who tirelessly dedicate themselves to the welfare of our children.

I here would like to embrace KarooCare's Jos & Angelita Nienhuis who inter alia administer our kitchen operations and the scholarships programs; and who are constantly in contact with our many Dutch donors and supporters. Baie dankie!

Jans - OULAP

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Scholarship students

KarooCare Foundation surprised Jans with 14 new scholarships as from January 2008 - giving 14 young boys and girls a wonderful chance at a better future. Because mostly all our present 24 bursary students have no home study facilities, we established an afternoon homework class for them at Vlakteplaas' school, including lunch and supervision, financed by the scholarships. We wish all our high school scholars great success for the future!



We sincerely thank the friends who donated these bursaries. Baie, baie Dankie!!!

A bursary is not only for books or uniforms but also for all the extra things which makes life easier: such as toothpaste, shampoo, shoes, sport clothing and of course, for a once in a lifetime unforgettable school trip!

The first week of July, Jans, with mainstay support by KarooCare, and additional financing by AGRI Klein Karoo, De Rust Farmers Union, and other magnanimous well wishers; sent these students on a fabulous holiday to ATKV's Hartenbos resort near Mossel Bay. The Rev. Garth Sweetland; his wife Hettie; Andries Januarie, our School Board Chairperson; and other elders; travelled with, and ensured a great experience for all. Our two cooks used the resort centre's extensive kitchen facilities to provide three healthy meals daily. The party journeyed on the famed Choo Tjoe train; sailed to a Seal island; visited the Diaz museum; swam in a heated Olympic pool; enjoyed sea and surf; exploited amusement park rides; and attended special educational talks at night. To all of them it was the most memorable days of their lives...

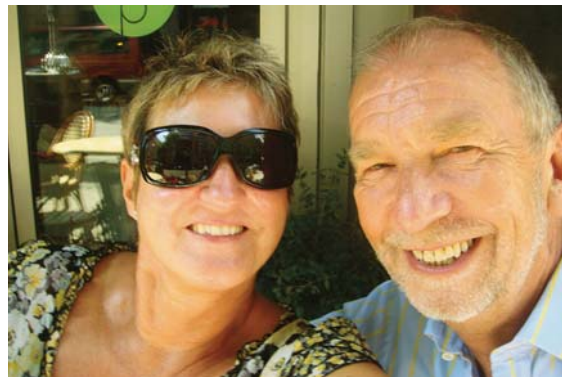


Great Britain

Our school expands!

We pay tribute to one couple who've this year joined our table of donors. Paul Whitney and Viv Norman established the Karoocare Charitable Trust in London; and with their generous financial support, we have built a large store room for tinned and dried produce and, as well as a most modern refrigerated cold room for meats, vegetables and perishable foods. They further financed a concrete retaining wall between classrooms and future sportsfield; a double security garage building; and a 1 + 14 seater Toyota Quantum taxi bus, plus a luggage trailer. Once the bus arrives, we can buy and collect our weekly kitchen supplies; transport our future sport teams and cultural groups to schools and cities; and convey sick people needing urgent doctor's attention.

We humbly salute both you Paul and Viv, and welcome you into our hearts!



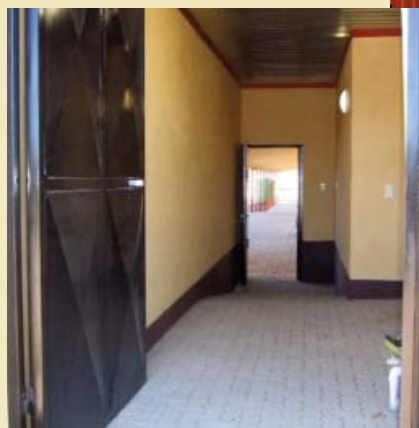
Double garage with security doors



Cold & storage facilities - exterior security entrance



Double entrance to refrigerated facility



Interlocking passage of storage facilities



Partial interior storage facility



Sannie and class at retaining wall doubling as outdoor seating



Class rooms and retaining wall

Germany

Our Karoo Project friends from Germany, Wolfgang & Inge Michler and Horst & Uta Pütz, visited early this year. They presented Jans with a cheque of ZAR 10.000 from TRAXON, Germany.

Another wonderful moment was meeting Desiderius and Veleshia, their two promising high school students who receive bursaries from them.



Crocodile !

Kerneels & Suzaan

At school Suzaan Adams and Kerneels Jumats are in the same class, at home they are neighbours.

They live with their parents and six other families - all of them are farmworkers - on the farm of family Vanderwesthuyzen, called "Aangenaam".



When we went over to their homes, it was lovely to see the elder children helping the youngsters, as at time of coming out of school their parents are still at work. At some houses there is also the grandma looking after the babies and doing some housework.

Belgium

Yves Montangie & Karen Moser head the iThemba Foundation in Belgium that supports our nursery school.

Their team works tirelessly at fund raising, and on June 14th in Antwerp they held a Street Festival and BBQ with the Esengo djembé band playing - hundreds and hundreds of people attended and thousands of euro's were raised. The Festival's success is also due to the participation of a team of volunteers (friends, family, students and neighbours) who gladly helped out the iThemba board in the organisation of this event.

We sincerely thank the iThemba Board members and all their supporters whose enthusiasm is an inspiration to us all.



ABSOC



For the second year in a row, student organisation 'ABSOC' at Antwerp's Lessius business school donated the profit of their annual quiz evening (April 8th) to the Vlakeplaas school. A cheque of 500 euro's was presented to the participating iThemba members. This is surely not a self-evident gesture for a small-scale student organisation, so we are very grateful to ABSOC's members and board. Karen Moser and Yves Montangie of iThemba handed over the cheque, which will contribute to the completion of the nursery school, to miss Sannie during their visit to the Vlakeplaas in May earlier this year.

The Netherlands



Jos & Angelita Nienhuis



The medical clinic at the nursery school, is mostly fully equipped, and already used by the regional mobile rural nursing services. This facility is supported with specific donations from various Vlakteplaas friends, like the Dutch author Yvonne Keuls who held a lecture at the Lions Club Voorburg and donated her fee to the project.

The building of an all weather paved basketball court will start within the near future.

The after school homework class and its participants.



KUDU

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