

SASA

Sasa means **NOW** or **WHAT'S UP** in Kiswahili

every child deserves an opportunity.

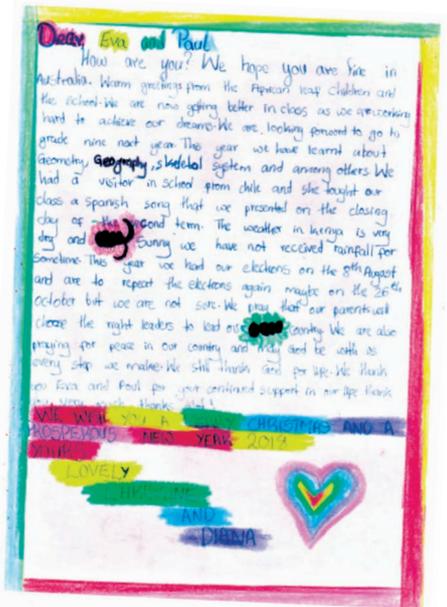
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GREETINGS TO YOU FROM THE LEAF CHILDREN

We received a letter via Housemother Pamela from two of our beautiful LEAF children, Christine and Diana. The letter was addressed to Paul and Eva but we can safely say that it's written for you, all of our loyal supporters.

Dear Eva and Paul,
 How are you? We hope you are fine in Australia. Warm greetings from the African leaf children and the school. We are now getting better in class as we are working hard to achieve our dreams. We are looking forward to go to grade nine next year. This year we have learnt about Geometry, Geography, skeletal system and among others. We had a visitor in school from Chile and she taught our class a Spanish song that we presented on the closing day of the second term. The weather in Kenya is very dry and sunny we have not received rainfall for

some time. This year we had our elections on the 8th August and are to repeat the elections again maybe on the 26th October but we are not sure. We pray that our parents will choose the right leaders to lead our country. We are also praying for peace in our country and may God be with us every step we make. We still thank God for life. We thank you Eva and Paul for your continued support in our life. Thank you very much, thanks a lot!
 WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR 2018.
 YOURS LOVELY CHRISTINE AND DIANA



NEWS ABOUT SHEILA

Sheila, our oldest LEAF child ... no longer a child ... has let us know that she is having a baby and she is very happy. It's hard to believe that the girl who came to LEAF nine years ago at the age of 12, will soon have a child of her own. This will be our first LEAF grandchild. Joanna and Craig Chapman who own the Ololo Resort where Sheila works told us that the baby's father also works at Ololo and is hardworking young man and reliable. Sheila will get maternity leave and will be able to afford a nanny so that she can continue to work there. We'll keep you posted.



Sheila 12years old



A pregnant, happy Sheila



Lincoln

CO-SPONSOR NEEDED

One of our older children, Lincoln is in need of a co-sponsor.

Lincoln is currently in his first year of high school and is doing well. We have great hopes that he will move on to further studies and to independence in his adult years.

If you are able to help him by becoming a co-sponsor, please contact Susan on admin@africanleaf.org.au for more information.



Enjoying their new chairs

LEAF GIVES ASSISTANCE TO ORKUPELIA, A NEW DAY CARE PROJECT

One of our valued associates in Kenya, Alice Wekesa, who has been caring for some of our African Leaf Children during the school holidays for many years, has now started up a day care centre which she has named 'Orkupelia' (Little Eaglets).

This new project is based in Narok in the Rift Valley. It was set up to help mothers in the community so they can go out to work. According to Alice it is growing very well. She started with 2 children and as of today there are 15 children. The youngest is 3 months and the oldest is 3 years.

Alice commenced this project in January 2017. The mums bring the children to her every morning and pick them in the evening and some are collected as late as 9 pm. They are given 2 snacks and a meal daily. The children are not only Masai but from other tribes also.

At present Alice is renting a ground floor one bedroom apartment in a building with many rooms (for potential growth!). The mothers make a small contribution towards the rent and salaries, but not enough to help buy furniture and toys, so Alice contacted African Leaf to ask for our help. She explained that there weren't any chairs and tables so everyone was sitting on the floor to eat meals and do activities. And there weren't any

mattresses - so at rest time the children all lay together on a borrowed carpet. Also there were only a few second hand toys but not enough.

On our request, Alice listed the priority needs, as follows: 3 mattress, 3 tables, 12 chairs, 1 set of shelves, 1 carpet, 1 doormat and 4 small stools. She gave quotes for each item, totalling \$1,400.

It was decided at our LEAF directors' meeting in May that we would make a one-off donation of \$1,400 from our 'Givers of Hope Fund' to cover purchase of the centre's immediate needs. We felt it was important to give Alice some support as she has been a great help to us and the LEAF children in the past.

Alice has recently forwarded to us photographs of how she has spent the funds. Here are two pictures of the children with their new tables and chairs and one of the new shelving.

Many thanks to our generous 'Givers of Hope' for making this support possible!



Gathering round the new table



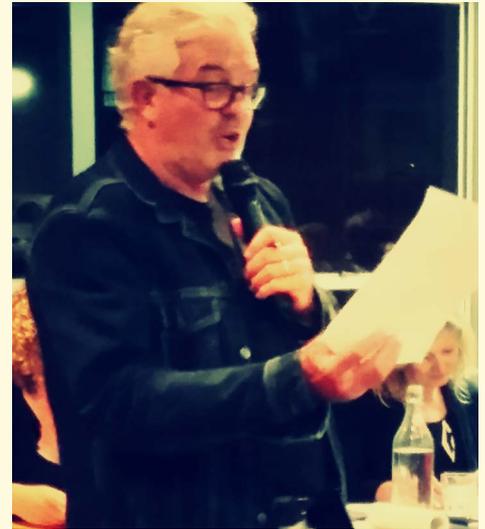
New shelving

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

A FUN NIGHT OF TRIVIA



A full house of Trivia participants



MC Extraordinaire Mick O'Regan

A great night was had by all at Byron Bay Bowling Club on Saturday 29th July at our annual Trivia Night. 18 teams of 8 assembled to enjoy a fun night and Team Alternative Facts were the winning team.

Once again MC Mick O'Regan entertained the room with his wonderful humour and questions were compiled by Queen of Trivia, Alison Mackay. Our thanks to Mick for a brilliant job done and to Alison and helpers, Gerrit, Ruth, Renia, Anna and Andrew.

On the night we raised \$3,455 which we couldn't have done without the generous assistance

of those businesses who donated prizes on the night: Our grateful thanks for raffle prizes to:

Byron Bay Writer's Festival; Buddha Gardens Day Spa; Crystal Castle; There's Always More Hair & Makeup; Tsonga Shoe Store (5th prize) and Bay Seafood. Our grateful thanks also go to the restaurants who provided gift vouchers for the winning team: Balcony Bar &

Oyster Bar; Beach Byron Cafe; Fleet Restaurant, Brunswick Heads; Sabi Sushi Café, Ocean Shores; The Rocks @ Aquarius and to those who supplied other prizes; Byron Bay Coffee Company; Byron Bay Hat Company; Linda & Christopher Dean; Orient Express Restaurant; Pighthouse Flicks; The Cellar Byron Bay; The Sticky Wicket & Woolworths Supermarket.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE CONT ...

BILLINUDGEL AFRICAN LEAF DANCE PARTY

As we go to print, preparations are being finalised for the African Leaf Dance Party held at the Billinudgel Pub on 28th October. This fundraiser has been the creation of one of our wonderful supporters, Fiona Hunter, who has put a huge amount of creativity into it. We'll let you know how it went in our next newsletter. Meantime ... **A HUGE THANK YOU to Fiona.**



LISA HUNT TO PERFORM AGAIN FOR LEAF

Top local and international artist Lisa Hunt will once again play at a special African (l.e.a.f) Dance Party event at Byron Bay Golf Club on **Sunday 26th of November**.

Lisa visited our African Leaf kids at the Rudolf Steiner Farm School in Nairobi during a visit to Kenya in 2013 and has been keen to do something to help us raise funds for them ever since. This will be the second time Lisa has performed for LEAF, the last time was in October 2015 when she performed in celebration of our 10th Anniversary.

Tickets are \$25 each (available only at the door on the day). All ticket sale proceeds will go to African LEAF. This will be an indoor event and not on an outdoor stage. The show will start at 6.00 p.m.

NAIROBI RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL APPEAL

We have had word from our Steiner school in Kenya, where we still board and educate 10 of our African Leaf children, that they are experiencing financial problems. Judith the head teacher wrote in her recent email to us:

“We wish to share with you the following and to inform you of the situation at the Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi Nairobi. If you can help in any way we would be most grateful.

Our sponsorship income dropped significantly in 2016 and the same trend is noted in 2017. Together with rising costs, high inflation and an unfavourable exchange rate we have a shortfall in 2017 of Kenyan Shillings 5 million (Euro 45,000).

Due to the nature of the problem the following years will also be difficult with a similar shortfall. This leaves the school in a serious financial situation. We have to raise our income in general to meet our mission being a school for underprivileged children. We therefore are writing all our friends for every kind of support in this area.”

Through our generous Giver of Hope donations, LEAF has made a one-off donation of \$1,500.

Judith’s email also included an attachment regarding their “Meals Appeal for Steiner School Mbagathi” which provides information and how to donate ...

HEALTHY MEALS FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN IN THE DRY LAND OF KENYA

Serious drought can be seen all over the dry savannah-landscape near Nairobi in Kenya, where the Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi is situated. Long dry cracks are spreading networks through the soil and the acacia trees are dusty grey and brown. Nothing can grow. There are worries all over.

It is difficult for people to get their daily food and goods in the markets, and in the shops food is scarce and prices go up. In Nairobi the water is at a seriously low level, which means that the wells are closed many days of the month. As a result of climate change, the situation is extremely problematic.

Every day at the Rudolf Steiner School Mbagathi the 330 children receive millet porridge at break and a warm and fulfilling meal with rice, maize, and vegetables at lunch. Right from the beginning in 1989 the school committed to support children from very poor families who cannot pay school fees and where the struggle for the daily food overshadows everything. These daily meals at the school have really been crucial for the children’s health and development.

The whole idea of offering healthy meals is a core-idea in the work with the children, and it is a strong wish that the school can continue to offer meals. The amount needed for the school to cover the food is:

- **100 EUR for a child/year** (The children get 2 warm meals/day), or
- **10 EUR for a child/month;** Marked: Meal Appeal

PLEASE HELP the children of the Rudolf Steiner School to get this healthy food with a small or large gift. 100% of the donations will go to the food. For more details on how to donate **email** rssmn@kenyaweb.com or visit www.rudolfsteinermbagathi.co.ke

A GREAT USE FOR YOUR OLD LAPTOP

If you have just updated your laptop and have your old one lying around, before you throw it away, you might consider donating it to LEAF.

LEAF Directors Paul and Eva will be visiting Kenya again around March next year and they would love to take a couple of laptops (maximum of 2) to give to either the Steiner School teachers or to one of our helpers over there. We can assure you that such a gift would be much appreciated.

If you have one you would like to donate, please contact Susan on admin@africanleaf.org.au or 0407 573 386.



AFTER THE ELECTION WHAT NEXT FOR KENYA?

BY JOHN ADAM

The current situation in Kenya differs somewhat from the 2008 post-election scenario except for one thing - Kenya is once again poised on the brink of country-wide tribal violence. There are 43 tribal groups in Kenya, and if the country splits along tribal lines things could get very ugly.

As things stand, Kenya is lurching toward a constitutional crisis as a standoff deepens between the two presidential candidates over how to manage a rerun of last month's botched election.

Both sides have entrenched their positions: Raila Odinga's opposition coalition has called mass protests to demand that the electoral commission is overhauled before the vote, while President Uhuru Kenyatta's ruling party rejects any changes to the authority and says the ballot must take place by the end of October. The impasse raises the risk that the election won't happen at all, a situation the Kenyan constitution doesn't envisage.

Previous disputes over elections in Kenya have led to violence, the most serious being in 2007 / 2008, when clashes left more than 1,100 people dead (a conservative estimate) and forced

350,000 more to flee their homes.

In early January of 2008 my wife Susan Perrow and I fled the country. For days we watched smoke rising from the slums on the opposite side of the National Park, as mainly subsistence farmer's houses around our area were being burned and stock slaughtered, and leaflets distributed widely and thrown into the Steiner School compound warned that only certain tribal groups were safe in the area. Children from the school were sent home, but many of the African LEAF children had nowhere to go, so they had to stay put, as the slums of Kawangware and Kibera were centres of terrible atrocities. Fortunately no violence effected the school - however Susan and I drove through groups of rioters and piles of burning tyres along the road adjacent to the vast Kibera slum on our way to the now crowded airport.

The latest election rerun became necessary after the Supreme Court annulled the vote after finding the Independent Electoral & Boundaries Commission failed to conduct it in line with the constitution. The commission has yet to announce how it will deal with the opposition's

demands to reconstitute its management. Nor has it responded to the court's detailed written judgment delivered on Sept. 21 that faulted the commission for declaring the vote result without the correct documentation.

The protests that Odinga's alliance are planning may escalate if Kenyatta's Jubilee Party carries out a threat to curb the judiciary's powers.

While Kenyatta has said he'll abide by the Supreme Court ruling, he's criticized the decision, labeling the judges as "crooks" and their judgment "a judicial coup."

Judith Brown, one of the stalwarts of the Nairobi Steiner School, writes:

"The election date is set for the 26th October and we don't know what to expect - we are living in uncertain times!"

"This is our short term, and the government said primary schools should close on 25th October, but we will close a day before and most of the children will go home to parents, relatives or carers."

"As you are aware, things have been a bit hot on the political scene, however these last few days are quieter, but we do not know what lies ahead of us"

What next indeed.

LESSON 19 LEARNING KISWAHILI EMERGENCY WORDS

Alaji Accident
Ambalensi Ambulance
Hospitali Hospital

Simu Telephone
Daktari Doctor

Kidonda Wound
Nesi Nurse