

# ASA



*Every Child Deserves An Opportunity!*

**AFRICAN LEAF NEWS**

January 2008

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## Welcome to 2008

It promised to be a year of growth and achievement however the year has begun with the violence in Kenya, that means many families and particularly children are suffering displacement, pain and hunger. It is at times like these that African Leaf is inundated with children needing our help desperately. Advice from the Steiner School principal and Nairobi social workers has brought to our attention many children in need of sponsorship. As you can imagine assessment of children for sponsorship is a very difficult task but we are steadily working through it.



In 2007 we welcomed **Christine** (aged 4) and **Lucky Moses** (born 4 August 07) and all the children at the Kilama Kindergarten, established with the help of African Leaf.

We said hello and farewell to **Mama Farida, Flora, Boris** and **Godfrey**, who all joined our family for a short while before being fortunate enough to be accepted for immigration to New Zealand. We farewelled **Jafred** and

**Lynet**, who happily found a new home with extended family.

At home, new friends joined us including **Lelli & Ailsa** in the office, **Tim, Sue, Wendy** and **Glen** amongst others.

We have an exciting year ahead with discussions underway with the benefactor who so generously bought the land in Kenya so that we can purchase it in our own right. This will provide a secure, safe and loving home for our children.

Many thanks to all who have helped in the past year including **Jenny, Carolyn** and especially **Kath** in Sydney and **Kristina** for your invaluable help. Thanks must also go to **John** and **Susan**, who braved the Nairobi riots for the children; **Judith, Rose** and all the staff at the Mbagathi Steiner School; and **Jane**, the Nairobi district health care worker.

So, 2008 will keep us all busy, challenged and rewarded. For the children, it will hopefully bring more security, learning and most importantly love in a country facing major political and social challenges.

*Asante Sana* (Thank you)  
for your continued support.

*"We have not inherited this land from our ancestors rather we have borrowed it from our children."*

**Kenyan Proverb**



## Kenyan facts

There are around 70 tribes from 3 tribal groups in Kenya.

The largest tribal group are the Bantu tribes of Kikuyu, Meru, Gusii, Embu, Akamba, Luyia and Mijikenda. There are also the Nilotic tribal groups including the Maasai and Samburu, and the Cushites with the El Molo tribe who are often noted as the smallest tribe in Kenya.

English and Kiswahili are the main languages throughout the country, but there are also all the tribal languages.

Tribal loyalties still play a part in Kenyan life as is sadly evidenced by the current unrest and social turmoil caused by rivalry between the two major political parties with loyalties to the Kikuyu and Luyia tribes.



## Mbagathi Steiner School update

The Christmas holidays have started and all the children have gone to extended family members, or selected carers, while the teachers and staff enjoy a well earned rest – school recommences on the 7th January.

Life at the Mbagathi Steiner School has certainly changed for the pupils over the last 12 months. Total enrolments have increased to 210 children, and the new school year promises many more. A ceiling of 270 primary students has been decided on to ensure that class numbers remain at a level that does not impinge on effective teaching. In addition, the kindergarten now has 55 children, with numbers due to increase in the New Year.

With the increase in numbers, more boarding facilities were needed. A group of Pharmacists on the North Coast of New South Wales, through the funding organization Aussies for Orphans, donated \$AU70,000 which funded the construction of stage one of a building for the girl boarders. Funding is presently being finalised for stage two. At the moment there are 56 boarders at the school, of which 13 are sponsored through African Leaf.

Boarding mothers Ndinda, Agnes, Pamela, and boarding father Peter are doing an excellent job. In addition there is now a cook for the boarders on evenings and weekends and a fully automatic industrial size washing machine (courtesy of the arrival of mains electricity), which provides the boarding staff with much more time to spend

with the children. The addition of Peter to the boarding staff has proven to be a perfect choice. The boys are now busy doing 'boy' things, and he has added a much needed male influence to their lives at the school.

In February 2008 a planning meeting will take place at the school, where the next stage of the classroom building program will be discussed. In early 2009 a further two classrooms, a school hall and a new kitchen / dining area will hopefully be constructed. The next step will be new kindergarten buildings - things are certainly moving along and will significantly benefit the African Leaf sponsored children as well as all the other pupils. We will keep you up to date with developments.

### John & Susan

African Leaf Members - currently visiting Kenya and the Mbagathi Steiner School.



## Kids 2 kids

Local school children have embraced the stories of less fortunate children in Kenya in a way that has really touched our hearts.

Eva (see page 4) visited **Byron Bay, Newrybar** and **Bangalow Public Schools, Byron Bay Community School** and **Cape Byron Steiner School** to tell our children about some of the kids in Kenya and their very different and difficult lives. Everywhere children listened with open hearts and astonishing attention. They wanted to do something to help and they did!

**Byron Bay Public School** raised \$800 dollars for African Leaf children on a muffin day, which took weeks in planning. The whole school embraced the cause and came dressed up in African fashion.

Other schools came together in an inspirational **Kids 4 Kids** concert and art exhibition in Bangalow, which raised nearly \$4000. It was an amazing sell-out event with more than 250 children performing. The commitment shown by children, parents, teachers and volunteers was outstanding. Special thanks go to the head and music teachers of all the schools and to Miranda Plummer, who strung it all together with the unwavering support of her friends and teaching colleagues.

**Asante Sana** (thank you) for your support, generosity and warmth.

In this new year, Eva would love to come back to all the schools to tell you more about the African Leaf children and report on our progress in Kenya.



## introducing:

### Kiki

Kiki (Braiyne Kariuki) is seven years old.

Since he was 5, Kiki has cared for his 2 year old sister, Diana. The whereabouts of his father is unknown and his alcoholic mother left them to fend for themselves in the slums of Nairobi.

African Leaf and Kenyan social workers found Kiki and Diana living off food scraps given by other slum dwellers. Kiki had never used a knife or fork, or a toilet in his life.

With the help of African Leaf sponsors, he and Diana board at the Mbagathi Steiner School. Having never attended school before, Kiki initially joined kindergarten. After showing good progress he moved to Class 1 in 2007. Although he can still be reserved at times, Kiki's 2007 school report shows that his language and math skills are improving and he plays more with the other children. He even took the part of the boy with the golden goose in a school play.

He loves painting, playtime, animals, and school.

Kiki now has the opportunity for a good life that all children deserve.



## news

Congratulations go to **The Arts Factory Lodge** on winning the Golden Backpack Award for best backpackers in NSW awarded by NSW Tourism.

We should like to add our congratulations to everyone who works and has stayed at the Arts Factory Lodge, as you are also one of our biggest ever supporters with a fantastic total of more than **\$7,500** in donations collected to date.

If you would like to add your contribution to the African Leaf children, look out for the love buckets and collection tins at these locations:

- Arts Factory Lodge**
- Green Garage**
- Byron Bay Handimart**
- Toy Kingdom**
- Reject Shop**
- Echidna Place, Bangalow**
- Brunswick Health Foods**



## learning Kiswahili lesson 1:

a few introductory words

### Kiswahili English

SaSa!	What's Up!
Habari	Hello / Hi
Nzuri (response)	Good / Fine
Hujambo?	Are you fine?
Sijambo! (response)	I am fine!
Ndio	Yes
Hapana	No
Sawa	OK
Samahani	Sorry
Asante Sana	Thank you very much

## member profile

### Eva

Australia to me is an incredible, beautiful country. When I am in nature, that extends into an experience of the spiritual for me. Everywhere I look I see beauty and I can also see it in the people

Kenya to me is chaos but with a heart of gold. I absolutely love its people, the warmth of their hearts and their humour

Latest good book - The Kite Runner

Favourite movie - Dances with Wolves

Strangest meal - Nyama Choma, a delicacy in Kenya. Incredibly tough old goat chopped up with a few slices of tomatoes and onions thrown in, served on a chopping board, no knives, forks or plates. Sharing that meal with exceptionally happy Kenyans just woofing it down, thinking two Christmases have arrived at once, is just the best!

Most rewarding travel experience - a tie - Kathmandu, staying in a Tibetan Buddhist Monastery & Nunnery and staying in Nairobi teaching English to the African Leaf children and others at the Mbagathi Steiner farm school

Good or bad at school - Dreamt my way through school

Favourite toy as a child - a ball, trees

When I grew up I wanted to be a vet - I grew up with a stable full of horses and adored the horses and our vet!

Green advice - recycle and cycle, grow a few veggies, hammer our politicians for quick action on emission reductions and cleaner energies, especially solar in our sunny country!

Most valued advice - have compassion for others and to wish with all your heart for the happiness of all beings. Then your own life will be full of love and happiness

The 3 people you would most like to invite to dinner - the Dalai Lama, Nelson Mandela and Andrew Denton

I am an AFRICAN LEAF member because I receive happiness from giving. It gives me a purpose in life. It is a passion to share with my partner Paul and enriches our lives constantly (and drives us nuts occasionally). I am also a member because I love all children and the Kenyan people!



## Your donation counts

How you can help children in Kenya:

**\$2,200 (\$6 a day)** will put a child through school (incl full board) for a year

**\$365 (\$1 a day)** will provide school holiday programs for 6 children

**\$90 (25¢ a day)** will buy a full set of clothes for a child

**\$17 (5¢ a day)** will buy a toy, socks and underwear

**\$5** will buy a toy for a child

OR

sponsor a child now to give a life-long opportunity

to donate now visit our website or email [admin@africanleaf.org.au](mailto:admin@africanleaf.org.au) for more information



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