

SASA

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

every child deserves an opportunity.

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GAMES THE BOARDERS PLAY! BY SUSAN PERROW



African Leaf Kids with Susan Perrow, July 2010

3.15 and school is out. The 240 non-boarders climb onto school buses or walk out the gate and down the road, heading for their homes in Ongata Rongai and the surrounding hills and valleys.

But the Mbagathi boarders, 90 of them in total, including the 16 'African Leaf' children, stay on at the school. How do they fill their spare time you may wonder, five afternoons a week?

I was privileged to spend some days at the school in July this year and one of my favourite experiences was the afternoon 'down time'. After a quick drink and snack for afternoon tea, the children would run out into the gardens and fields to 'play'. I joined in the less energetic games (eg. ping pong) then would sit and watch the more energetic ones jump-elastics, hopscotch, string ball, skipping, rope climbing and soccer. I was continually amazed at how 90 children, aged 5 to 16 years, kept themselves amused for hours each afternoon with what is rapidly

becoming known in our western culture as 'old fashioned' games.

Some of the younger children, with a makeshift 'aeroplane' (made from a leaf impaled on the end of a short stick), had continual races back and forwards across the grass, holding their fastly rotating 'leaf motors' in the air above their heads. I tried unsuccessfully several times to get one going, but reached the other side of the playground without a single turn of my leaf – much to the amusement of the children!

The older girls, like many around the world, sometimes would experiment with hair do's and clothing. They would sit patiently having their braids redone, often only a few each day, with it taking more than a week for a complete change of hair-do. Others enjoyed swapping and mix-and-matching their clothing. One afternoon some of the girls were huddled under an acacia bush – I wandered over and found them looking for short lengths of thorn to put in their ears to keep their pierced holes

open. 'How did they pierce them in the beginning?' I asked. 'The African way', they laughed, 'with a very sharp thorn'. Then off they ran, it was time to help prepare the tables for the evening meal. I watched them singing and dancing as they wiped down table tops and set out 90 bowls and 90 cups - even this work was undertaken with the joy of a game.

What a privilege to be around such creativity and simplicity. Not a computer game or mobile phone anywhere on campus! It was World -cup fever at the time, with the world's best players competing further south on the African continent in Cape Town. I sometimes overheard the children discussing the matches, but when I asked if they could listen on a radio to the progress of the game, the answer was – 'oh no, we just read the results the next day in the newspaper'. Then one boy added, 'anyway, we would rather be playing the game, not sitting listening to it!'



MANNA FROM HEAVEN!

WORLDWIDE COURIER SERVICE SUPPORTS AFRICAN LEAF

Manna from heaven appeared for us courtesy of worldwide courier company DHL who demonstrated how large organisations can make a difference to people in need.

A month or so ago, friends of LEAF director Eva had donated to us several boxes of used, good quality clothing to send to the children in Kenya but we didn't know how on earth we were going to be able to afford to send them. We've occasionally been offered similar donations in the past which we've had to refuse as overseas shipments were unaffordable for us.

Thanks to a contact of Eva and her partner Paul, we were put in touch with the right people at DHL who made us a generous offer of 4 consignments per year weighing up to 50 kg – free of charge.

We have already taken advantage of DHL's offer and our first consignment ... 3 boxes of children's clothing ... has been shipped and has arrived at the Mbagathi Steiner School in Nairobi. The clothing was given to the LEAF children as well as any other children at the school in need of clothing. Some baby clothes in the shipment have gone to babies in need at the local health clinic.

DHL's offer was a godsend and the LEAF children were absolutely delighted to receive the clothes and shoes.

The clothing was given to us by Nga Nguyen who collected it from members of her Linh Son Vietnamese Temple community at Darra in Brisbane.

So, we send a big THANK YOU to DHL for their very generous offer, to their staff - for their helpful assistance and to Nga Nguyen and her friends for their generous donation of the clothing.

NEW VERANDAH FOR SAINTS OF HOPE

With some generous donations this year we have been able to build a verandah for the African LEAF supported Saints of Hope Day Care Centre in the Kawangware slum. Three metres wide by six metres long, it extends off the kitchen door, making a perfect dining room for the children, and a sheltered place for bags and shoes.



With the Food Program now in full swing, the verandah has tables and benches for 25 children (half the group) to sit for meals in rostered time slots.

Having this extra space has greatly improved the quality of the teaching program – the inside rooms can now be used for work

and play, without the interruptions of having to turn them into improvised dining rooms twice a day.

The staff and children are very happy.

Thank you donors!



NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

After 6 full years of operation, we are thrilled to launch our new website. You can now find it easier to contact us about donating, sponsoring a child or becoming a member of African LEAF. You can also find out about other ways of helping. Visit <http://www.africanleaf.org.au/how-you-can-help/>

The new site will be managed by the African LEAF team and we now have secure online PayPal for donations.

We hope you enjoy our more vibrant online content and we thank you for your continued support. For those businesses who give to

African LEAF, we will continue to promote you when and wherever possible, in our appreciation.

Visit <http://www.africanleaf.org.au/our-supporters/>

Our thanks to our talented website designer Bronwyn Scherl (www.bcreati.com.au) who kindly constructed the website at a substantial discount to usual rates, as her contribution.

If you have any feedback, feel free to contact us by email at: admin@africanleaf.org.au.

SUPPORTER PROFILE

We have pleasure in featuring Ku and his staff at Byron Bay Trading Company & Reject Shop, in this issue's Supporter Profile.

Reject Shop supplies the world's best homewares of the best quality at the best possible discounted prices with a 100% guarantee on everything. They sell beautiful, elegant things from every corner of the globe! And they're open 7 days a week.

Reject Shop is one of our Collection Tin outlets and they also

generously sell our range of gift cards at no profit to their business. A big **THANK YOU** to Ku and his team for their continuing support.

The Reject shop is situated opposite the Dendy cinema at 3/111 Jonson Street, Byron Bay.

TRADING COMPANY

3/111 JONSON ST, BYRON BAY, NSW 2481 AUSTRALIA

Kitchen essentials to top-shelf cooking equipment
Beautiful, elegant essential things from every corner of the globe

TEL + 61 2 66855190 FAX + 61 2 66855820 info@byronbaytradingcompany.com.au



CHRISTMAS IS ON IT'S WAY!

TWO GIFTS FOR ONE – OPPORTUNITY GIFT CARDS

Christmas is on its way so why not select from one of our range of Opportunity Gift Cards and give twice over. Firstly to a friend or loved one, secondly to an orphaned and vulnerable child.

We have available a range of Gift Cards which feature artwork by African LEAF children ... children who probably never knew when their birthday was, let alone expect to celebrate with cards and presents. When you buy these cards, the amount you pay will go towards our programs.

For more information or to purchase these through the website. Visit <http://www.africanleaf.org.au/how-you-can-help/> or they can be purchased from Reject Shop, 3/111 Jonson Street, Byron Bay or Green Garage, 63 Tennyson Street, Byron Bay

LOCAL MUSICIAN DONATES 10% OF CD SALES TO AFRICAN LEAF

Bangalow based musician, Tamsin Wolfe, has released her CD For The Love Of Kids which she describes as "marvellous music for magical children" and she has pledged 10% of sales to African LEAF.

Tamsin has been writing and recording music for kids for several years and draws inspiration from her surroundings which more often than not include an endlessly entertaining bunch of children. Her wish is to see her music reach as far as it can out in the world, hopefully bringing joy and healing to all who hear it.

Tamsin discovered African LEAF when she attended a Kids4Kids concert fundraiser in Bangalow in 2006. After seeing our short film, she knew that she would help some day. Tamsin told us that she was drawn to African LEAF because of its "grass roots" quality and that she saw the people involved as very down to earth with a balanced mix of compassion and practical know how. Thank you Tamsin for your generosity.

If you'd like to know more, or if you'd like to purchase the CD, go to www.fortheloveofkids.com.au

LESSON 5 LEARNING KISWAHILI

Excuse me Samahani

Hello Jambo / Hujambo / Salama

Please Tafadhali

Can you help me? Tafadhali, naomba msaada

Do you speak English? Unasema kiingereza?

May I take a picture? Naomba kupiga picha

Goodbye Kwa heri / Kwa herini (more than one person)