



## Our last 2009 News letter

2009 was a wonderfully busy and colourful year. With many new faces, a developing school system, volunteer teachers, donations, curriculum changes, etc. we were blessed with much excitement.

We would therefore like to report on some of the wonderful activities we experienced in the last few months.

### **HELPING HANDS!!!**

During the year we contacted several schools and asked their help with donations of clothes, bedding and other donations for the day care centre and our school children. Gobabis Gymnasium, Hippo Primary School and Windhoek Afrikaans Private School responded amazingly. We were overwhelmed with everything we found and could give the children. Each child received several sets of clothes. All the adult and baby clothes we could not use were sold by various parents and put back into the cheeky cheetah funds to pay for school uniforms and other needs of the new grade 1 children.

These gorgeous little uniforms were donated to us by Hippo school. Our children look smart, clean and very eager to learn!!



The children have also each received a lunch box and water bottle from Standard Bank Windhoek. Here with Ingrid van Straaten after her joyful visit to the day care centre.



Through a donation of paint from Tony and Rola Madi we could paint our day care centre building inside and outside earlier last year. Towards the end of the year we decided to renew and repaint some of the older things that needed some maintenance and care. Here, Samar and Paul worked very hard and did a perfect job with the children's individual storage boxes. At the end of the job they were both covered with paint from head to toe!



## More excitement!!!

One of the Harnas volunteers was a professional dancing instructor and she offered to show us all how to have great fun on the dance floor. What a day it was!!

We all had so much *fun* and burnt off a lot of that excess energy!

## HELPING TO CLEAN UP!!

Here, all the kids are helping Frikkie with his volunteers to do a big cleanup project. Everyone was divided into groups and gave a much appreciated helping hand to pick up rubbish and waste around the entire living area of the Harnas employee living quarters. Hereby trying to teach more life skills, hygiene and protecting our natural habitat.



## OUR FIRST PARENT MEETING



On Sunday 2 August 2009, after the usual church service, we had our very first parents meeting. Everyone was so excited and all the parents attended the big occasion dressed up in their best clothes.

Mara and Tania had every parent sitting on the edge of their seats! The children gave a small performance and very proudly showed their parents what they have been working on during the year. Tania also gave the parents a wonderful and informative talk about hygiene at home. It was a wonderful day and empowered the parents to share the children's enthusiasm about education and supporting them to see their schooling through.



Frikkie sharing words of wisdom with the parents, while two of our students, Samar and Paul, listen intently to all that Frikkie was explaining.

Our performance especially prepared for our parents!!! Each child had their own musical instrument and they all loved putting on a big performance for their parents.



Some of the funky artwork of the children displayed for the parents.

Parents tentatively paging through the children's work books amazed at their abilities and what they are achieving. Especially in the light of the fact that most of the parents cannot read or write!



## A TRUE MERRY MERRY XMAS!!!



One of the most touching experiences the past year was Xmas eve when all our volunteers decided to surprise our employees and their children with the most amazing Xmas gifts.

They spend an entire day in Gobabis shopping. Harnas made available an amount of money and the volunteers generously decided to add to that.

All the faces lit up in true fascination and joy

when each name was called and employees and children received anything from racing cars and Barbie dolls to - full dinner sets, footballs, towel sets, washing tubs, screw driver sets, etc. For the volunteers it was an incredible experience to see the joy and excitement with the smallest of gift. A joy that has in some cases been long lost in our material and unsatisfied modern society. For many of the employees it was their first Xmas present ever!!!



## XMAS CELEBRATION!!!





The cheeky cheetah children visited all the guests in the restaurant on old Xmas eve for a small Xmas display. We had the 3 triplets as the most amazing angels, the Sheppard's and the 3 wise men with their precious gifts. To top it off and remind us of the amazing birth of baby Jesus thousands of years ago to become the saviour of the world we had the arch Angel, Joseph, Maria and baby Jesus.



## **OUT INTO THE BIG WORLD!**

We are exceptionally proud to report that our 2009 group of children were all accepted to grade 1 at the Gquina local bushmen school. The Grade 1 group includes Maria Pikenien, Maria Axab, Christina Anton, Lisa Gou and Martha Gou.

We have been trying for years to get our children into the bushmen school but due to the incredible demand we could never get space. Ganna Paulus (or Nanna as we all know him) also received a place in grade 2 and will watch closely over the little ones. Nanna was so happy that he was accepted and did not have to return to the Herero school that he burst into tears of joy!!

We have become newly aware of the difficulties the children experience to pass their grades and stay in school. Most of the children are put into schools that does not speak their native language. Additionally the teaching languages add Afrikaans or English with these other languages like Herero, Wambo, etc. and together make it extremely difficult for the children in the younger grades to survive all the new and foreign concepts.

So not only are they separated from their parents, have to learn to socialize in a classroom and hostel situation, start grade 1 without any previous scholastic introduction or knowledge but they have to do so in a foreign language!!

We are therefore extremely thankful for their place in the Bushmen school and will gradually try to put all our children there to further improve their chances of finishing school.

Samar, who was with the children in the day care centre for the past two years, was accepted at the Gobabis Gymnasium and is also in the hostel there.

Nica, who have also been in the group for the past 2 years are now in Windhoek at the Treintjie School and doing really great.

We feel like mothers that watched our young birds take flight for the first time. Off they go to discover the big world out there.

We pray that God will hold them all in the palm of his hand and guide them through all the wonderful adventures ahead (and so keep us as parents and guardians on our knees ☺ )

## **CHEEKY CHEETAH TRUST REGISTRATION**

We can proudly announce that the Cheeky Cheetah Trust haven ow officially been registered in Namibia. The current members on the trust board includes:

Seppie Swanepoel



Marlene Esterhuizen



Jo van der Merwe



Seppie Swanepoel has been a teacher for special needs and disabled children for many years and can give ampoule advice and guidance with curriculum and running of the day care centre.

Marlene Esterhuizen is currently a teacher in Gobabis Gymnasium and has extensive financial management training and experience to lead the financial running of the trust.

Jo van der Merwe has been working for the Harnas Wildlife Foundation and Guest Farm for the last 10 years and started the day care centre together with several people.

We would also like to thank Dr. Nina Krumpholz and Regina Hermann for their role in financial contribution towards the trust and care of the children from Austria. They have played an very active role over the last few years in sustaining the day care centre and we would not have been able to cope without them.

## EXPENSE REPORT

We have just paid the yearly school and hostel fees for:

6 children in Gaina – Grade 1

11 children in Goeiehoop – different grades

Additionally we have also paid for their school uniform, blankets (what we could not give out of the donation boxes) toiletries and food boxes.

Furthermore the Harnas Wildlife Foundation and Guest Farm, through Schalk and Marieta van der Merwe, have been assisting our project by means of payment of teachers salary, cleaners salary, day care maintenance needs, running needs, vehicles expenses, etc.

We therefore would like to ask help again for the payment of the teacher's salaries and all the other expenses of the day care centre. (Food, equipment, cleaning, clothes, toiletries, transfers, salaries, website & marketing of volunteer project).

We would furthermore like to ask for volunteer teachers to join our program for 2010. This would be the most successful way of being able to sustain ourselves financially as well as with the proper care and knowledge. If anyone has connections to educational or pre-school institutes that might be interested or have teachers that might come and help us please let us know.

For anyone interested in joining our cheeky cheetah program please contact us at [jo@harnas.org](mailto:jo@harnas.org) for further information.

We would like to thank everyone that have contributed towards our project and the children over the last year! Without your help we would not have been able to continue and send these wonderful and enthusiastic little children out to the "big" school.

To have children is a privilege, to help protect them as a group and fight for their future is an ongoing process that will empower them to grab the future with both hands and change their own, their families and their communities lives forever. Playing a part in this is like being part of a long term miracle!

Till our next report  
Joyful laughter  
Jo van der Merwe