



roots&Shoots

Jane Goodall Institute South Africa,
www.rootsandshoots.org.za,
segal@gecko.biol.wits.ac.za,
(011) 646-6969

South Africa

Newsletter
Summer 2008
Volume 5 Issue 1



Message from the editor

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Message from Editor
- 2 Newsflash
- 3 Food Garden Project
- 4 JGI Facelift
- 5 Suggestions
- 6 Vegetable gardens in Mpumalanga
- 7 JGI office hours
- 8 Mpumalanga update
- 9 Special Thanks
- 9 Spot light on recycling
- 10 Wishlist

As the new editor of *Roots & Shoots South Africa* newsletter, I would like to wish all our members happiness and success for the year ahead. My goal as your editor is to keep those with an avid interest in *Roots & Shoots* up to date and involved with the ongoing activities and outreach programs taking place in South Africa.

Many of these projects go on behind the scenes and are unnoticed by the public. However, for individuals from informal and disadvantaged communities the existence of *Roots & Shoots'* projects provide an important source of hope, nourishment and even a safe haven when there is nowhere else to go. I would like to thank those members of *Roots & Shoots*, who out of the kindness of their hearts, give of their time and resources to these worthy causes.

I encourage all of our members to become active in a *Roots & Shoots* cause during the year. Your contributions, be it small or large, time or money, or even a bag of old clothes and toys, are greatly appreciated. Your assistance and charity have a lasting impact on the lives of the many men, women and children that need our help.

Till next time
Candice Segal

NEWSFLASH

Congratulations to Protect and Mathews for being chosen to represent South Africa at the Global Youth Summit in Florida USA in April. This is an enormous opportunity for these two members to gain knowledge and bring awareness on an international scale about the wonderful outreach programmes taking place in South Africa.

For more information on the summit visit:
<http://www.globalyouthsummit.org/home>



FOOD GARDENS PROJECT STARTED IN SOWETO AND LEHAE

By Denis Creighton



Enthusiastic participants from Kliptown



The start of a food garden

For more information on this article contact:
 Denis Creighton
 082 9000105
denis@soweto.co.za
www.soweto.co.za

Roots & Shoots South Africa, KDR Sports and Adventure Travel (Pty) Ltd have joined forces to establish two new groups in and around Soweto. One is in the Kliptown squatter camp, a very poor area with few if any services and amenities. This group, made up of young individuals, established their club in a facility owned by Catholic nuns, who are no longer active in the area. There are both meeting rooms and a crèche on the premises.

The second group is in Lehae, south of Johannesburg, where a large number of people were relocated from informal (shack) settlements in and around Soweto into new Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP) houses provided by the government. Although the residents now have formal houses with services, few other facilities have been provided in the area.

The establishment of these groups has given many unemployed youngsters a release for their energy. KDR sports, as part of its social development programme has been working with these groups for some time and with *Roots & Shoots*, to plan new initiatives compatible with the objectives of the two organisations.

The first project planned was food gardens and on 7th August 2007, a workshop was held in Kliptown presented by Luke Mdluli of Mpumalanga. The workshop exposed delegates to concepts such as organic gardening, propagation of seeds, planting and care of seedlings, preparing compost and nutrition. Basic tools, compost, seeds and seedlings were either donated or bought using allocated funds and were distributed to the two groups.

In Kliptown suitable land was available within the group's complex and planting commenced almost immediately. In Lehae however, suitable common land is still being sought and for the moment a patch within the residential property of one of the members is being used. It is hoped that the concept of food gardens will spread in the community. Within the Kliptown community particularly, this presents a unique challenge in that the land available to a household is generally minimal and not workable.

To overcome this, the idea of using old motor car tyres and drums is being pursued. Motor car tyres have a symbolic importance as often they have been used to set on fire to draw attention to grievances and in incidents of violence. Using tyres in creating a means of self sustenance may be used to change the preconditioned association into a symbol of hope and upliftment.

Ongoing support for Kliptown and Lahae food garden initiatives are needed and many channels are available for people to become involved. Already KDR has bought and presented netball poles and balls, and soccer balls to the young people. Other projects in keeping with the objectives may include trips to Suikerbosrand Nature Reserve, care for domestic animals and disabled people in the community.

JGI office receives a facelift

By Candice Segal



JGI Office starting to take shape

Over the past few weeks the JGI office, located in the Johannesburg Zoo has received some much needed 'spring cleaning'. In order to make the office more accessible to JGI, *Roots & Shoots* members and the general public, a lot of effort has been made to make the office more visually and intellectually stimulating. This has been achieved by displaying posters and information brochures about JGI and *Roots & Shoots* in South Africa.

There is still much to be done, but already the office has a cheerful aura about it. All members are welcome to visit and bring photos and/or articles which will be put on display.

Suggestions

This section is for *Roots & Shoots* members to share their ideas about current projects, or bring awareness about a community or school in need and could benefit from *Roots & Shoots* involvement.

What makes a *Roots & Shoots* Group work?

In this issue I provide advice provided given by Denis Creighton at a recent *Roots & Shoots* meeting.

Key elements to make a *Roots & Shoots* group or any other community based outreach group successful.

- a. Home base***
- b. Leadership***
- c. External support***

Vegetable garden success in schools in Mpumalanga and Roots & Shoots reaching out a helping hand to the

Good Hope Refuge

By Andrea Rosenman

One of the first areas of South Africa to initiate a Roots & Shoots programme was the Mpumalanga region, bordering the world-famous Kruger National Park. After having worked in this area before becoming involved with JGI South Africa, Sue Slotar identified a number of schools who desperately needed assistance in the establishment of food gardens. The garden provides students with a secure source of healthy food, which would be a supplement to their daily diet but for the vast majority of these students is their only meal of the day.

In the early part of 2007, Roots & Shoots gave a Food Garden workshop in Mpumalanga, very kindly hosted by Principal Joyce Mabasa of Magudu Primary School. The workshop was enthusiastically attended by over 40 teachers representing 23 different primary schools in the impoverished, rural area of Bushbuckridge. From that initial group of schools, we identified four schools that we would commit to the ongoing mentorship and improvement of their existing food garden. Through our continued support, they themselves would be able to reach out and offer assistance to the various other schools in their vicinity, with the primary aim of teaching them skills that they had learned through our stewardship.

We have had wonderful success with this initiative, having added another school in the area, who requested our support because of the urgent need to provide their learners with food at their school. After having previously delivered packets vegetable seeds, donated by a prominent South African industrial group, Robor, four

weeks later while visiting the school I was rewarded with the sight of a laboriously cleared weed-infested field on the school grounds, and the healthy growth of the newly planted donated seeds. What a wonderful surprise to return to Pensele Primary School two weeks later to find all the plants flourishing, tended to by at least 20 children, watering, weeding, and above all, immensely proud of their achievements!

Additionally, we have adopted an AIDS orphan- and abandoned-child refuge, on the outskirts of the capital city of Mpumalanga Province, Nelspruit - called the Good Hope Refuge. This refuge is based in an abandoned, former informal beer-drinking hall, and has been turned into a place of safety and hope for over 100 under 5-year old toddlers. Good Hope was started by 5 dedicated, courageous local women, who were appalled by the unacceptable numbers of parentless children roaming the streets of their dusty township. The children left to fend for themselves during the day while their impoverished parents were forced to leave them to travel into town to seek employment.

The centre's future is by no means secure - the derelict building that they are situated in, is on land that has been returned to the local community by the Land Claims Court of South Africa.

For more information on this article contact:

Andrea Rosenman

andrea@rootsandshoots.org.za



Children at Goodhope Day-care waiting patiently for their Christmas gifts



Children happily receiving their gifts

Unfortunately the refuge is operating on the goodwill of the community Chiefs who now hold custodianship of this reclaimed land, but who have now signed over this particular piece of land to the local provincial council for the development of a R60million (\$8 million) soccer stadium presently being constructed for the 2010 Soccer World Cup that will take place in South Africa. We hope to continue to highlight their plight in order that they have a voice in the face of possible eviction.

Despite the ongoing challenges of this impoverished area, our projects for 2008 include hosting a teacher's workshop, aimed at encouraging all the schools that we support to establish individual *Roots & Shots Clubs*, in order to make improvements to their own schools, and the continued improvement of our school's current food gardens. We hope to be able to twin these previously disadvantaged schools with more affluent schools in the province for further assistance in their projects.

JGI OFFICE HOURS

Weekday	Time
Monday	9am-1pm
Wednesday	1pm-5pm
Friday	9am-1pm

If you would like to arrange a time to be at the office outside the hours stated above please contact Sue or Candice @ susan@janegoodall.co.za & segal@gecko.biol.wits.ac.za

Mpumalanga Update

School	Status	Update	Help given	Help needed
Jongilanga	HELP	Lack of resources and readily available water has hampered growth	Seeds. Coke bottle watering method introduced.	6 X 20litre water bottles needed to give better access to water, gum poles and shade cloth needed
Pensele Primary	GOOD	Have implemented coke bottle irrigation method and all seeds donated planted. They have also planted 10 mango trees	Seeds and information on growing a food garden	More seeds for next growing season
Dumisani Primary	GOOD	Have an established food garden, however it is too small to feed all the pupils	Seeds and cloth for shade	
Good Hope Aids Refuge	HELP	Day-care is still running in land demarcated for soccer world cup development. Resources are still sorely lacking	Fruit, veg and meat, clothes and toys for children	Anything thing that can be donated will be appreciated and put to good use

Special Thanks

As one would expect in a continent like Africa, there are numerous challenges that need to be met - our sincere thanks to John Cussons, from Untamed Africa, a leading local tourism operator servicing the Kruger Park area, for donating shade cloth to cover the food garden at one of our adopted schools, Jongilanga Primary.

Spotlight on Recycling

By Gaby Sidley



As inconvenient as the power outages have been, the positive aspect is that there has been a lot of media information around ways of reducing electricity consumption. The reduction in electricity goes a way to decreasing the greenhouse gases produced daily.

The launch of <http://www.greenworks.co.za>, a website based on the Reduce Reuse Recycle principals, provides many easy tips on how to save on our electricity usage and lessen our influence on global warming.

The site, which was launched this month, provides information on what we as individuals can do to make a positive environmental impact.

"With the growing move towards going green, people are looking for ways to make a difference. <http://www.greenworks.co.za> provides information on how to decrease your electricity and water consumption, how to lessen your consumption of consumables by making smart purchasing decisions and how to reuse or repurpose items within your home," says Grace Green, Greenworks marketing manager.

The site also explores ways of managing your home waste, including how to recycle and how to compost. There are also sections on global warming and litter, and ways of saving on food purchases.

"The site demonstrates that going green works as you can save resources and money," says Green.

BECOME A MEMBER OF ROOTS & SHOOTS!

Join *Roots & Shoots* by sending in the accompanying membership form plus the annual membership fee of R200-00 (cheques payable to Jane Goodall Institute - South Africa) to the address below. Pauline Stuart on 083 253 9108, or e-mail her at sp27@mweb.co.za and request banking details.

WISHLIST

Item	Cause	Contact	Email address
Seeds, seedlings, fruit trees, compost	Food garden projects in Soweto and Mpumalanga	Denis Creighton and Andrea Rosenman	denis@soweto.co.za andrea@rootsandshoots.org.za
Tyres	Food garden project in Soweto	Denis Creighton	denis@soweto.co.za
Donations for purchasing a new Zozo hut	Kliptown Crèche	Denis Creighton	denis@soweto.co.za
Clothes, toys, crayons and other stationary	Goodhope crèche Mpumalanga	Andrea Rosenman	andrea@rootsandshoots.org.za
Second hand items	Jumble Sale Roots and Shoots Soweto	Sue Slotar	susan@janegoodall.co.za

**"Only if we understand can we care;
 Only if we care can we help;
 Only if we help shall all be saved."
 Dr Jane Goodall**