



December 2017

## *News from Kenya – rebuild*

Since our last newsletter there have been many changes at the nursery school. With the very generous help of Forest Hill Rotary and Albert Park Rotary, a new school building has been constructed. The previous building was made with corrugated iron on a cement base. The new building instead retains a cement base, but has brick walls, tiled floors and is ready for solar panels to be installed.

The main goal of the project is to provide more power to the school to enable lights to be installed. There is no electricity in the region, so the solar-powered lights would make the school a place where older children who live in the area (particularly girls) have a safe place to study at night. It will also provide an evening meeting place for community meetings and the like. Well done to Georgina and the team in Kenya for an amazing effort so far. We look forward to seeing the finished product soon.



You may be aware that Kenya has recently had a national election and unfortunately the aftermath has seen violence and uncertainty. Election time is always a challenge in Kenya, whichever political party loses the election invariably claims that the election process has been rigged. Access to food and services drops off and it is stressful for everyone, but particularly for those in remote areas like Katolo. These challenges have seen the budget stretched significantly on the re-build and solar panel project.

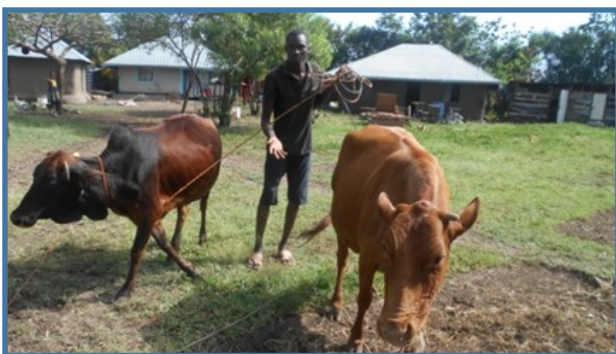
An email request to Katolo supporters, however, has reinvigorated the project and absolutely put it back on track. Leanne and I are continually amazed at the generosity of the wider family of people who support this humble nursery school. The response to the email was phenomenal and we cannot thank you all enough for such generosity, particularly at this time of year. Thank you so much.

## *Regular Donors*

A special thanks this newsletter to some wonderful people who make a regular monthly donation to the nursery school. Even a small amount adds up and makes such a big difference. It also gives us some confidence that there will be a steady income coming in, particularly between fundraisers.

## *Excursion and Graduation*

As has become an annual tradition, the final class students enjoyed an excursion and graduation ceremony to mark the end of their nursery school / kindergarten years and 'graduation' to Primary School. The children went to the "big smoke"; Kisumu, where they visited the Kisumu museum and Osienala beach where the children even had the opportunity to record poems and songs in a studio. They also enjoyed a boat ride. For most of the children this is the only time that they will venture so far from the village until adulthood, so it is an incredible experience for them.



## *Vegies and Livestock*

Some of you may not be aware that the nursery school has a very large vegetable patch and some housing for chickens and a cow. These were built a few years ago, with the help of money from Forest Hill and Nunawading Rotary Groups. Recently our Dad, Des Pifold, donated some money towards a new cow! Here is Georgina's son, Kevin, showing the cow her new home and playmate.

## *Sponsorship 2018*

Sorry to remind you, but 2017 is almost over! Where did it go? We will be in touch soon to see whether current student sponsors would like to continue their sponsorship in 2018 and then to see whether anybody would like to start sponsoring again or for the first time. It is super easy – just \$50 per year and, wherever possible, we get you a photo and some info about one of the children. The money goes towards the feeding program for the child, a school uniform, learning tools and medical treatment as required.

## *Letter from Kenya*

Dear friends,

My name is Dorine Kaura a teacher handling final class at Hope Katolo Nursery school. I would like to give great appreciation on behalf of other teachers for the good work you are doing to the children and the staff. Thanks for the Lunch porridge program for the kids, adequate supply of learning and teaching materials. I will not forget to thank you for the salary increase that we received last year and this year 2017. As you know the prices of commodities continue rising everyday due to the drought here in Kenya. But we are managing.

I hope you enjoyed the video of the final class at the vegetable garden.

I am currently preparing the final class kids for graduation at the end of the year. The kids are really excited. They are learning poems and dances in addition to their usual book-work.

Thanks,  
Dorine.

## *Koonung Heights Uniting Church*

Big thanks to Koonung Heights Uniting Church (KHUC) who invited us once again to have a stall at their Twilight Market earlier in November. Volunteers from the church manned the stall, with help from Leanne and Melanie (and Gabby at one stage!) and we sold our olive oil to market-goers. Margaret and Voon from the church sell the olive oil to members of the congregation throughout the year too. Thanks so much for the support! Here is Melanie and Leanne with Anne From KHUC at the stall.





## Movie Night

We enjoyed a Spring-time movie night in September this year.

A great turn out enjoyed the movie "Victoria and Abdul" at Balwyn Cinemas and over \$700 was raised.



## Sri Lankan Feast

The Lort Smith crew have been at it again. A Sri Lankan lunch held in November was well attended (I think they like their food), mostly due to the wonderful cooking by Mangalika. The Lort Smith staff are continually thinking of new ways to raise money for the school and we thank them so much for their support.

## Olive Oil for Christmas

Don't forget to order your delicious Hope Katolo Nursery School olive oil for Christmas. Sourced by a family-owned Victorian business (Cockatoo Grove), it is a delicious extra-virgin olive oil that has proven very popular with all our "foodie" supporters! At \$12 a bottle it makes a great little presie for friends, your child's school teacher....you name it! Just email us at [hopekatolo@hotmail.com](mailto:hopekatolo@hotmail.com) or call/text Melanie 0412 187 353 or Leanne 0402 114 877.



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all...**