



NAMIBIA PROJECT BRANDSE FACT FINDING TRIP 20TH JUNE - 3RD JULY 2016

Investing for the Future, Encouraging Innovation, Enhancing Change



We arrived in Windhoek on the same flight from Johannesburg, as the Namibia 2016 team. The team met up with their truck and Zimbabwean driver, Morrison. We parted company with the team and collected a 4x4 camping Toyota land cruiser and then picked up supplies for our road expedition.

Before leaving Windhoek, the following day, we visited Boundary Wholesale to collect the final supplies which the team had ordered for IIKhūta!hoas and then we attended a meeting at the Ministry of Education where we received Namibia Government permission to build a new hostel in the grounds of IIKhūta!hoas Primary School. We will receive the plans in due course and the approximate cost to build a new hostel is N\$ 2.5 million.



We spent the night at a campsite at the Quivertree Forest, just outside Keetmanshoop. It was very cold but the sunset and sunrise were a spectacular sight and made up for any discomfort. We placed an order for maize meal and tinned fish as the winter food allowance from the team for the orphans and vulnerable children in the hostel at IIKhūta!hoas.

IIKhūta!hoas is a three hour drive on a very rough dusty road and we arrived at the school around 11.00 to find the ACS Namibia Project team busy painting the new school gate and adding the school's mission statement and HIV/Aids logo. We set up camp near their truck, as they had electricity!





We observed students teaching, playing board games and touch rugby. Robert and his team were busy preparing new vegetable beds in the school garden and doing a soil analysis test. Jessica and her team were checking the Boundary order of new tracksuits and school uniforms and preparing first aid packs for the families, which they handed out at the community meeting.

The 55 goats arrived for the vulnerable families and would be distributed after the classroom inauguration day.

We visited the hostel and spoke to the house parents about the plans for the new build. We also took pictures of the ACS chicken coop (Namibia 2014) and were pleased to see how the hostel children benefited from the eggs.



We observed families cooking on solar cookers purchased from NaDEET after the I!Khūta!hoas community and school children attended a workshop on 'learning and living for a sustainably future' at NaDEET in April.

We also noticed how little litter was in the I!Khūta!hoas school grounds as the learners now use the waste paper to make fire balls for cooking.

The ACS Namibia Project's donations, to this very rural school, have really made a difference and we are so proud of our Namibia teams who continue to work hard to leave this wonderful legacy.

On the classroom inauguration day representatives from the Ministry of Education and Namibian Government turned up to address the school, community and our students. It was very long ceremony with speeches, dancing and songs. The Namibia 2016 team did a great job singing two songs which were met with great appreciation from everyone present - Dee Tree was so moved that she requested a tissue and we were very, very proud of our ACS students.



Jessica and Luke presented the school board, teachers and support workers with a voucher to thank them for everything that they do to support the learners at I!Khūta!hoas Primary School. The voucher can be exchanged for books or clothing from a shop in Keetmanshoop.



Rijn and I left for the Namib Rand to visit the NamibRand Environmental and Educational Trust Centre (NaDEET) to learn more about their programs. We had not visited this area before and we were amazed by the beauty of this desert and the dark sky at night - we need to share 'this spot' plus the welcome at I!Khūta!hoas and the amazing work which NaDEET does on sustainability.



On our return to Windhoek we visited Swakopmund on the Atlantic coast. We met Viktoria and Andreas Keding (Founders of the NaDEET project) to discuss the possibilities of working with them for advice and support with the building of the new hostel, at I!Khūta!hoas, and the practicalities of establishing an NGO position for the Namibia Project Charity.



In Swakopmund we also met Lysias Uusiku (Chief Education and Enterprise Officer) at the Rossing Uranium Mine's Foundation. We discussed the Foundation's initiative on "Promoting Desert Agriculture." We went to Arandis to see the successful results of the Foundation's 'Dreamland Garden.' This project produces fresh vegetables for Swakopmund despite being in the desert and 80kms from a water source. We hope to adopt some of their methods for our school garden at I!Khūta!hoas.



In Windhoek we met the British High Commissioner, Jo Lomas and Beulah Beukes from the British Council. Our discussions were about teacher-student academic and cultural exchange and the Connecting Classrooms Project.



We met Paulus Kashiimbi (Deputy Director National Institute for Educational Development - NIED) about providing scholarships or bursaries for further education studies, in Namibia, for the learners from Dr Alpo Mauno Mbamba Junior Secondary School in Rundu.

On our final evening, in Namibia, we had dinner, at Hotel Thule, with Ambassador George Liswaniso and his wife Agnes (ex Namibia High Commissioner to London), Paulus Kashiimbi and Bernice du Plessis from the British High Commission and Harry (an Air Namibia pilot).



We are very fortunate that the Namibia Project has had such wonderful support in the past from many people who have generously given of their time to make the Project credible.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who helped to make our fact finding visit so worthwhile and who have provided information which will help our fledgling charity to make sustainable decisions to meet our goals.

Many thanks and Best Wishes to All,

Ann and Rijn

Namibia Project (CIO) Registered Charity Number 1163681

Goals:

1. To build a new hostel at I!Khūta!hoas Primary School in conjunction with the Kharas Regional Education Office
2. To improve food security by developing a sustainable school garden
3. Link with the British Council's Connecting Classrooms Initiative for teacher-student academic exchanges
4. Provision of scholarships to provide further education studies in Namibia

Links:



OpenStreetMap I!Khūta!hoas Map: <http://osm.org/go/keU9VcJAa?node=2424717770>



Namibia Project Fact Finding Trip Photos on Flickr: <https://flic.kr/s/aHskCE2zB5>



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