



RUBBISH-RECYCLING PROJECT

Schoolchildren take action

The NaDEET programme aims to extend the environmental learning that occurs at NaDEET Centre back to the learners home and school community.

This year Mokaleng RC Combined School participated in the NaDEET At-School-Programme (ASP) by initiating a litter pick-up and recycling campaign around the school community. Part of their programme at NaDEET Centre included activities to identify a relevant environmental issue and action steps that the learners could take to help address this problem in their community.

Two learners from the grade 7 class wrote an article for the *Golden Mole* to report on what they did.

"Between August and September some of the Mokaleng RC Combined School students went for a trip to the NaDEET Centre. These students were some of the grade 6 and 7. They went with 5 teachers and 1 parent. There at NaDEET we learned about many things. The person who took us there is a volunteer teacher here at our school. At the NaDEET Centre we talked about trying to solve some difficult issues, like beating and stealing, bad words, and then rubbish. We chose the rubbish be-

(Continued on page 3)

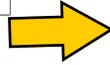
The *Golden Mole* is produced by

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FROM DESIGNS  TO BUILDINGS



TO CHILDREN:

Although the Namib Desert can almost guarantee sunshine (on average there are 330 days of sunshine per year), the few cloudy days that do exist seem to have coincided with the arrival of a school group at NaDEET Centre. To most desert inhabitants this is a much-needed reprieve from the heat and sun. But for solar education it is, to say the least, a bit of a challenge. A good reminder though that the philosophy of "sustainable living" includes being flexible and developing alternatives.



To date, NaDEET Centre has hosted four classes from the following schools: Mokaleng RC Combined School (2 classes), Kamwandi Primary School and Johannes Dohren High School. For all the children (ranging from 11-19 years) it was their first time in the Namib Desert and for most their first time on an educational school trip. The school children were all extremely eager to do, see and learn as much as possible.

The three to four-day programme that each group has participated in aimed to encourage the learners to examine the way they live and to reevaluate their relationship with their environment. The programme therefore begins with exploring our natural resources that provide us with the necessary food, water and shelter for survival. The participants then investigate the Namib Desert and how its inhabitants manage to survive in such an extreme climate. Lastly the learners take their newly developed skills and knowledge to identify ways that they can take meaningful environmental action to improve their home community.

Some of the activities that the children have done at NaDEET Centre are:

1. Dune Walk
2. Solar Cooking
3. Water Use Audit
4. Dune Boarding
5. Golden Moles and Owl: a predator-prey game



NAMIBIAN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATE (NEEC) COURSE

Prior to 2002 Namibia has not had any formal courses in Environmental Education on a tertiary or professional level. With funding from the Danish government, the SEEN (Supporting EE in Namibia) Project has funded the development and implementation of a professional development course for EE practitioners. NaDEET has been an implementing partner of the NEEC course as I am one of two tutors for the non-formal course participants.

There are seven participants in my regional group with whom I have met for regional and national workshops. The participants come from a variety of backgrounds including a school teacher, a health and safety officer for a road construction company and the National EE coordinator for the Directorate of Youth. As a culminating project for the year-long course, the participants are currently implementing an environmental learning programme in their workplace.



Regional group Windhoek 2003

NEEC takes a broad view of environment which emphasizes the role of the social, political and economic sphere on our natural environment. Participants are therefore challenged to re-examine their understandings of environmental problems and develop more appropriate solutions. This course has been adapted from the Rhodes University EE course in South Africa.

NaDEET's involvement in NEEC this year has helped us achieve our aims of capacity-building in environmental education.

Viktoria Paulick

NaDEET CENTRE OFFICIALLY OPENS ITS DOORS



Dr. Harvey unveils the plaque as Elinor Dürr, Viktoria Paulick and others look on

Friday 24 October 2003 brought smiles to supporters, colleagues, friends, family and all of us at NaDEET, as we were able to share and celebrate the hard work throughout this past year that has made NaDEET Centre a reality.

The two-hour long ceremony included welcoming words from Elinor Dürr, NaDEET's managing trustee, a blessing from Bishop Reinhard Keding of the German Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Namibia and Christiane Berker, NaDEET Trustee, gave a history and much-deserved recognition to

all of our supporters.

We are very honoured to have had Dr. Claudia Harvey, UNESCO Director of Windhoek Office and Representative of UNESCO to Angola, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland, officially open NaDEET Centre. Her opening address highlighted the role of NaDEET in achieving the Millennium Development Goals determined by all member countries of the United Nations of which environmental sustainability is one. Dr. Harvey said, "Environmental education is one of the essential instruments for empowering individuals and communities to take meaningful action and positively shape their future."

At the end of her opening address, Dr. Harvey also looked towards NaDEET's future now that the 'first hurdle' was overcome. "NaDEET faces at least two challenges, of course. One is its own question of sustainability. One dream of making the Centre live, has been realized. How to keep it alive and true to its goal of harmony between humans and the environment is the first challenge. How to ensure that its services reach, not only those who have, but those who need, is another. ... For many Namibians, the Namib is just within the reach of the TV screen, for others, it is still beyond the imagination. NaDEET has the challenge to ensure that such young Namibians get the opportunity to see, feel and respect the awe of the place after which their country was named."

NaDEET looks forward to tackling these challenges and hopes to receive the support from all who have made NaDEET Centre in the position to do so.

Viktoria Paulick

Thank you

NaDEET office also was fortunate to have two volunteers during this development year. Elsita Kiekebusch-Steinitz, having a few months to spare before university, did anything and everything including trying to find a dung beetle with a fly on it. Daniela Amrein not only developed the NaDEET website, but also saved my computer from a fatal error!



HEAT, SAND, DREAMS

Raleigh International helps NaDEET

After about two months of building with only four labourers, there was a lot more to do as plans had grown from tents and classes under a tree to a proper environmental education centre. It was necessary to get more help for building so that the Centre could be completed in time. As I spent lots of NaDEET's money for building materials (giving Elinor a stressful time), it was decided to contact the UK-based organisation Raleigh International, as we needed volunteers.

Dai Williams, the Namibia country director, came, saw and sent some troops...

Two Raleigh project staff, Susan Gregory (Marketer for Nestle) and Calum Murray (Scottish Lawyer in London), visited me confessing no previous building experience. This was fine with me as I had none as well (two months don't count) and my motto developed: "Just use a bit of logic and we'll be fine".

So it started: For three months we had three different groups of \pm 15 young people (the Venturers) full of dreams for the future helping to build NaDEET Centre. Like Baz who



Raleigh Venturers— Phase two

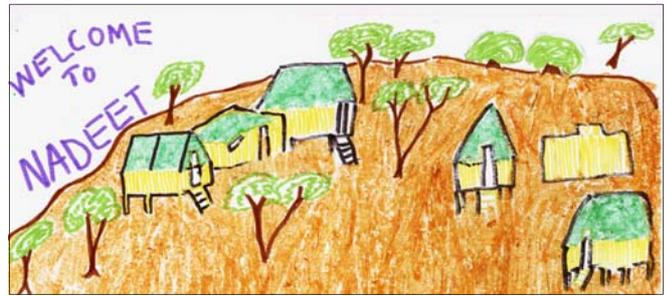
wants to be a social worker or Matt striving to become a pilot. While the Venturers came and went after three weeks, Susan and Calum became "Desert Experts" by "roughing it" in the heat and sand. The Namib Desert knowledge (at least concerning the weather) developed. The Venturers

worked hard through the hot, cold, wet (heavy fog that in Scotland would count as rain), and sand.

After some time I quickly read the "One Minute Manager" as getting 23 people (4 employees, 2 staff & numerous Venturers) organised with limited tools and practically no experience was quite a challenge. If I loose my hair next year I will blame it on this. But not only I learned, everybody did. Like: Annetjie who thought that it was good enough to measure by saying "plus or minus a few centimetres", Hugh and Tony who invented their own plumbing methods which prevented all water from passing through, Tim and Ann (and everybody else) who received PhDs in sand digging, Kerry that hardhats are useful (as did I) and Colin and TJ that although the Namib is not the UK, it is not so bad.

Although not everything always went according to plan, the help and enthusiasm of the Venturers and Raleigh Staff was amazing and a great help to the completion of the NaDEET Centre. I thank everyone who contributed to the realisation of a dream.

Andreas Keding



Drawing by a learner at Johannes Dobren HS

(Continued from page 1)

cause it could be the most easily solved. We chose rubbish because it is made by people.

From the 01 October all the grade 7s and grade 6s made some posters that encourage the shop keepers, drinkers and other people not to throw rubbish around the environment. The whole month the grade 7 and 6 were busy picking up rubbish around the environment. Before the end of the competition the grade 7 made a concert that included a drama about rubbish. A lot of the students were watching it. It was great on that Saturday night. The money that we got from the concert was N\$85.00.

On October 31, our teacher Miss Elizabeth called all the teachers during break to check who wins the competition. Most of the teachers said that it's the grade 6 who won. Then on November 11, Ms. Viktoria came from NaDEET to come and check the rubbish. With Ms. Viktoria we separated the rubbish from glass, scrap metal, tins and plastics and papers. Then we put the bottles into bags. We crushed the tins and weighed them. Miss Viktoria took some of them for recycling in Mariental. For one kilogram of glass we got N\$.05 and for one kg of tin we got N\$.10. Our amount together was N\$48.80.

*Lindiana Mokhatu & Zenith Mokhatu,
grade 7*

THE MOLE FILE

Fact No. 12

"Food finding"

The eyeless Golden Mole finds its food by feeling vibrations (microseismic signals) of the grass while it is sandswimming. The insects that the Golden Mole eats are often in this grass and also give off vibrations.





NADEET thanks all of our supporters!

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