

THE GOLDEN MOLE

NaDEET's Endemic Newsletter



Vol. 5, No. 2

November 2007

HOEKSTEEN PRIMARY SCHOOL WINS FREE TRIP TO NaDEET!

In June, NaDEET, in conjunction with the Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society (NEWS), sponsored an essay contest among Southern Namibian schools. Learners were asked to explore the topic: "Apathy and the Environment". Students in the Hardap and Karas regions were challenged to write about their local environments and communities. How do their local communities act towards the environment — are they concerned and respectful or do they show little or no interest and concern? We received entries from 11 different schools. Each participant received a Certificate of Participation. The first prize was an all expenses paid visit for the learner's class to NaDEET Centre.



Hoeksteen Primary School at NaDEET Photo: Christin Lange

We awarded the first prize to two learners from the Hoeksteen Primary School in Rosh Pinah: Ashley Nyambe and Talitha Litwayi. (See the bottom of this page and page four for their essays). Although they attend the same school, they live in and wrote about two different communities in their area, which have very different responses to the environment. Rosh Pinah has been developed by, and is owned by mining companies. The town itself is not actually a registered town in Namibia. The companies built and maintain nice housing for their employees. In the vicinity an informal settlement called Tutungeni has grown due to people coming to look for work. As you can read in Talitha's essay, this part of town has very little infrastructure. Ashley wrote about her community which is supported by the mining companies. Both learners covered the topics well and came to interesting and positive conclusions. Their class came to visit NaDEET in September, thanks to contributions from NEWS, Exxaro Mine and NaDEET.



Learners from Ashley and Talitha's class making recycled bricks during their free trip to NaDEET. Photo: Patience Mamili

"APATHY AND THE ENVIRONMENT" CONTEST WINNERS!

- 1st Place (*Free class trip to NaDEET*): Ashley Nyambe and Talitha Litwayi: Hoeksteen P.S., Rosh Pinah
 2nd Place (*NaDEET T-shirt*): Noeline Jantze: Nautilus P.S., Lüderitz
 3rd Place (*Environmental Poster*): Roeline Goases: Stampriet P.S., Stampriet

WINNING ENTRY: (tie for first place)

BY TALITHA LITWAYI: Grade 7, 14 years

Rosh Pinah is actually a very nice place, but there's many people who dwell in Rosh Pinah. Some of them don't have jobs or houses to stay in because they came from different towns to find job and a living here. For example the Zimbabweans: They come here for business but than they don't even know where they are going to stay. We have two mines here in Rosh Pinah, Exxaro and Skorpion mine. At both mines they mine zinc and lead.

Water is being wasted in Rosh Pinah, but not by the whole community. The people in Tutungeni have public taps and there is where the wasting occur. They leave the tap open after fetching water. They don't even think that if they leave the tap open and the water running what the consequences will be. Children will say that my mom left it open and so will I.

(cont. on page 3)

The Golden Mole is produced by

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NaDEET is a registered non-profit trust in Namibia.

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Read the other winning essay on page 4!



(continued from page 1)

WINNING ENTRY: (tie for first place)

BY TALITHA LITWAYI: Grade 7, 14 years

We have electricity here, but not in Tutungeni. We need electricity in Tutungeni because many people get killed and many crimes happen because of the darkness. The floodlights that is there are not sufficient.

There's many animals in and around Rosh Pinah like scorpions, snakes, rabbits, and then of course our domestic animals. Rosh Pinah is surrounded by beautiful plants, although small and short. We have quiver trees, aloes, camelthorns, bushes, grass, etc. To walk barefoot around the living areas is a risk because of the high number of snakes and scorpions. We have beautiful mountain ranges of different shapes.

Here in Rosh Pinah live different types of people. There's from the following cultures: Nama/Damara, Ovambo, Kavango, Caprivi, Zimbabwe, Herero, Afrikaans speaking and even foreigners from Finland for example. We have a lot of shops and services, although we still need a lot because we are still busy developing.

The people of Rosh Pinah don't act nicely towards their environment. They throw bottles and papers around instead of putting them in the dustbin. They waste water leaving the taps running. They cut down trees. All these mentioned above happens in Tutungeni. Some do feel sorry for the environment but don't know what to do or are too lazy to do anything about it. They need the water to drink, the wood to make a fire and don't have dustbins!

What we must do is to send a message through to the people to gather and clean the town. Even us, the school children, can clean our town and thus be an example to the adults. If they continue, we can invite experts on the topic to come and tell them how important the environment is to people, plants and animals. Then they will probably know what is wrong and what is right. Littering is dangerous and can cause diseases, like diarrhoea and tetanus. People please be careful!

Dear NaDEET

We as the Hoeksteen learners would like to thank you, especially Talitha and Ashley for the opportunity to visit your centre.

We've learned alot about the environment and gain more information for our knowledge and the future. We've seen alot of things

We never saw before only heard about it eg. Solar cookers, solar heaters, hot box ect.

We are sure this is going to improve our science. We've enjoyed everything here and it was very interesting. Hope to see you all again.

Thank once again, Mrs Victoria

: Miss Patience

: Miss Michiella

AND EVERYONE ELSE

THANK YOU
NaDEET !!

Read the other winning essay on Page 4!



Canichia Muinjo and Rauna Thomas: Our solar bakers from Rosh Pinah! (Photo: Christin Lange)

Happy 4th Birthday NaDEET!

NaDEET Centre celebrated our fourth birthday this past month with the help of the Hoeksteen Primary School. Canichia and Rauna helped make solar-baked chocolate birthday cake in NaDEET's solar ovens, which was shared among all the learners.

We are very happy to be celebrating another year, and look forward to many more.

NEWS:

Namibian Environment and Wildlife Society

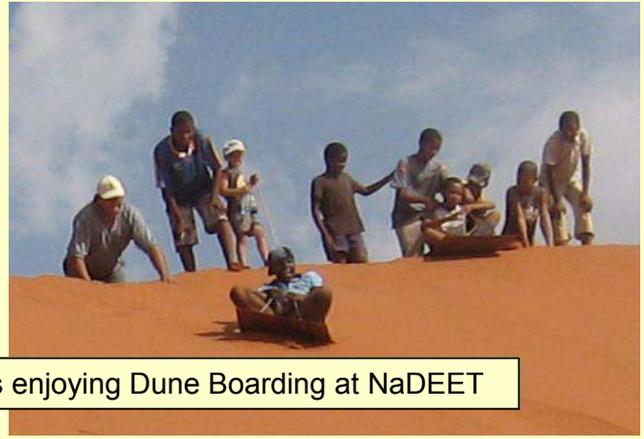
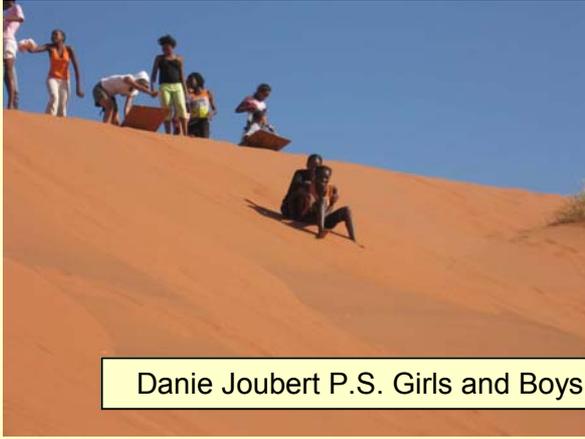
NEWS is a non-profit organization whose mission is to conserve the natural environment of Namibia through promoting appropriate protection, wise and sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable development. They have been active in Namibia for over forty years, and were previously known as The Wildlife Society. They recently changed their name, as well as updating their mission.

NEWS collaborated with NaDEET on the "Apathy and the Environment" Contest as part of their new initiative to promote environmental education among Namibia's youth. They aim to combat apathy towards the environment through educational programmes and projects, newsletters and monthly talks. Previously NaDEET has hosted NEWS membership education weekends. These weekends involve NEWS members of all ages coming to NaDEET to learn about the environment. NEWS also generously donated a new telescope to NaDEET last year. We look forward to continuing our relationship with NEWS.



NEWS
NAMIBIAN
ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE
SOCIETY

For More Information: www.news-namibia.org



Danie Joubert P.S. Girls and Boys classes enjoying Dune Boarding at NaDEET

Photos: Patience Mamili

WINNING ENTRY: (tie for first place) BY ASHLEY NYAMBE: Grade 6, 11 years

Rosh Pinah is a small town situated in the south of Namibia and is surrounded by beautiful mountains. It is about 360km, a three hour drive, from Keetmanshoop. Rosh Pinah is a very fast-growing town and rich in minerals as two of Namibia's largest mines can be found here. They are the Rosh Pinah Zinc corporation (Exxaro) and the Skorpion zinc corporation and both mines are producing zinc. As Rosh Pinah is situated in a bushy area, it is surrounded by a few farm animals like ostriches and wild animals like the springbok, gemsbok and kudu can be found in this area.

Rosh Pinah exists of about 6000 residents. About 80% of the people are employed by the two mines. There is a great sense of responsibility among the employers of both mines.

One good thing about Rosh Pinah's community is that it's people are friendly towards their environment. It became an instinct to the residents to take care of their environment. Here people are not allowed to kill animals, even small ones like the scorpion. The best way to deal with this is to try and catch the animal and take it back into the veld. If the animal is dangerous, like in the case of a snake, you must call the environment officer from one of the two mines to help you with the catching and releasing again of the animal.

Although people are allowed to water their gardens in order to establish a good and pleasant view and creating a homely environment, they are also aware of the fact that water in Namibia can become a rare resource. Namwater provides water to the town from the Orange River.

There is really a positive attitude among the residents of the town. People are standing together in keeping their environment clean. It is pleasure to play or walk around town, because of the clean streets. Big containers can be found in almost every street where rubbish can be dumped. These containers are cleaned on a regular basis, so there's no need for one to throw rubbish around. Environmental officers are always doing research to ensure that the town is environmental safe and no harm is caused by the pollution from the two mines.

Apathy is not really a problem in Rosh Pinah, but there is always room for improvement. More trees and grass can be planted. In order to save water people should rather plant trees which can survive on less water. Homeless dogs and cats should be taken care of. Regular reminders to save water and keep the town clean should be send out to inform new incomers of the town. The annual competition on "The most beautiful garden in town", held by Skorpion Zinc should continue to encourage people in having the most creative and beautiful garden in town. People don't destroy our beautiful town and country. Rather pick up rubbish and remember: Safe water, safe life!



Ashley and Talitha at NaDEET

Photo: Christin Lange

THE MOLE FILE

Fact No. 18 "The Search for Food"

In the driest parts of the Namib Desert, vegetation, and therefore also the Golden Mole's prey (termites and insect larvae), can be widely spaced. The Golden Mole may have to travel 500 to 1 000 meters per night in order to find enough food.



Share Net

NADEET thanks our 1 August—31 October 2007 donors:

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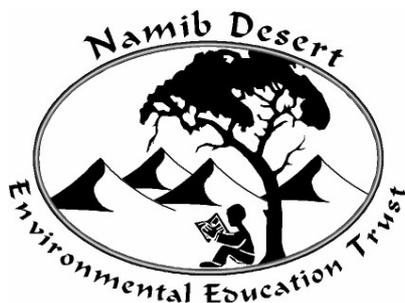
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Thank you very much! Your help is greatly appreciated!