

# kivuli NEWS

EDITION 53 – Sept/Oct 2014 GDG Project J606N Update



Kivuli Project Inc is proud to be a project partner for J606N Kivuli Project, Kenya (Stage 2) with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) [www.globaldevelopment.org.au](http://www.globaldevelopment.org.au)



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## Welcome to the september and october newsletter

I am happy that I had the opportunity to visit Australia during this period. I had such a great time, meeting new friends and gaining new ideas. It was a wonderful opportunity to give our Australian friends a live update of our operations. Kivuli Project in Kenya was under the management of Anne, our Children's Home Manager, and Joseph, who works on our farm, in my absence, as I communicated frequently with them from Australia thanks to the Internet.

The project is heading towards achieving more of its goals and aims. Last month I was happy to meet the Australian Board face-to-face and together work on

some of our strategic goals into the future.

This month we were happy to learn that all of the five unemployed youths we sponsored to driving school last year have finally received their driving licences and they are looking for employment opportunities.

We are looking forward to drip irrigating most of the farm for more crop production using the funds raised at the trivia night – we will see this dream realised. The community around is happy to receive new ideas to improve on their farming skills, and learn of solar energy methods, among other benefits, from the project.



*'The best saying for any focused person is –Yes I can '*

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Australian Board of directors, our sponsors, Deep Creek Anglican Church, North Ringwood Uniting Church, and all the friends who have been

helping to maintain the project. Your contribution has helped us get to where we are today.

God bless,  
Isaac Wairangu



## pig farm

We have now finished the pig house and are sourcing our first lot of piglets to house them in November. This project was funded by Mission Travel Group through their *Giving Back* campaign. The pigs will be bred and sold for meat, another income generating initiative for Kivuli. We are working with the local Government Livestock Officers to hold a community demonstration next month for local farmers to learn about pig rearing. It is important that we share the knowledge we have to assist the local community with their own income generating capabilities.

## social workers seminar

Brenda Rutherford from Australia once again ran a social work seminar in September at Kivuli with 12 social workers from five charitable children institutions – all of which cater for orphans and vulnerable children who have experienced different types of trauma in their lives. The social workers shared some of the challenges they encounter, their success and worked towards a way forward as social workers together. The participants really got a lot out of the seminar and appreciated the time and knowledge Brenda shared with them – this is the 3rd conference she has run over the past 4 years. This conference



focused on *children and families in crisis* along with *counselling strategies for traumatised children and adolescents*. The great news is that the group wants to continue having more seminars even when Brenda is not present to keep the passion for the job burning. Social

workers in Kenya have very little (if any) support networks, or any formal supervision so gathering together as a group was very encouraging. The group will meet in early October to start discussing their next training.

## remembering monicah njeri

Monicah Njeri, mother of two of the Kivuli Children, Margaret and Peter, sadly died in October. She had suffered for a long time with AIDS and in the later years, cancer. Monicah was a long time supporter of Kivuli, always eager to help when able, and served as a member of the NGO for many years. She was a friendly and sociable lady who was actively involved in her local Catholic Church. She will be greatly missed and we will always have fond memories of her. Please remember Margaret and Peter, together with their older sister Wambui in your prayers, as they mourn the loss of their mother.



## shamba

Despite the challenge of continued rain shortage the shamba looks happy. This is because we are watering the plants on a daily basis using some sprinklers services by the solar water pump. We also have drip line that services the greenhouses. Speaking of which, the tomatoes we planted in the Tandum greenhouse have grown so quickly and have started producing fruit! They are looking very healthy. We have just picked our first lot,

about 1kg worth. We are not buying any vegetables from the market and this is saving us a considerable amount of money. We generally only need to go to the market now to buy the children fruit, most commonly bananas at the moment.

We had good time with the children who helped prepare more space for replanting. We have harvested some green peas from the farm and the children were very happy to have had a special meal from them.

## hydroponics trial

During October we started our first experiment growing wheat through hydroponics. This is the farming method where soil replaced with an artificial media. It is a very quick and efficient way of growing feed for the animals quickly. Our first trial was just one tray of wheat (as seen in the photos)

and it was extremely successful. The production of animal feed in this manner will reduce the need for purchasing expensive commercial feed. So far our cows have been happy with what has been grown. This process gives us new ideas of growing our animal feed for the upcoming pigs, chicken and cows.

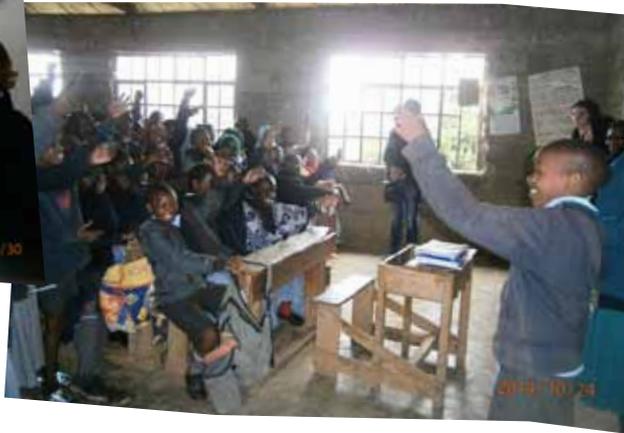


# monitoring visit

"Uncle" Dan Rutherford visited the project with his friend and long-term Kivuli supporter Alfie Jenkins during October. This is the second monitoring visit since the nationalisation of the project in December last year, when the Rutherford family returned to Australia. The Australian Board is committed to six-monthly monitoring visits in the initial years of nationalisation to ensure the project is running smoothly. Dan was most impressed with the great work Isaac, Anne and their team of committed Kenyan staff are doing at Kivuli. A lot of progress has been made over the past 10 months!

Dan and Alfie had a good time visiting our project. They had several activities to do including meeting with the administrators of the schools our children attend, spending time with a local family, and Alfie's also had the opportunity to visit his sponsor child in the home-based care program.

We also received other visitors from Australia who came to share with us as well as carrying out a different project with the school where our children attend with Ducere foundation. They had good time to tour our farm and liked everything they experienced.



## ducere foundation

Whilst in Australia, Isaac (and Dee) had the opportunity to meet with the Executive Director of the Ducere Foundation, Di Fleming. They Foundation has a strong passion to improve literacy amongst African schools and one of their initiatives of the foundation is to publish and distribute African Children's Stories. Di invited Kivuli to be a part of this initiative and we were excited to accept.

During Dan's monitoring visit, he together with Isaac, the local primary school Head Teacher, and a Ducere representative, coordinated a literacy session with the older primary students who all had a great time writing and illustrating their stories. These

stories were collected and are currently being reviewed and edited. The best stories will be selected to be published into a book, which will join a collection of books, which include stories written by students in other African nations. Each participating school will eventually be provided with their own library of these published collections, to read and interact with during class. The Head Teacher of the school was greatly encouraged by the initiative, and hopes it will continue into the future. He, together with the children, are looking forward to receiving the first published book containing stories from the students in his school.

## students

The primary and high school students started the final term (3) well and all are happy and working very hard in their academics. Some of the high school boys who had not been performing well will not be continuing the year at high school. Instead we will be assisting them in looking for a suitable polytechnic (trade) course to enrol in next year. Courses can include carpentry, plumbing, electrics, tailoring etc. This will provide them all with employable skills for their futures.

We have six class eight students who are preparing to sit their final primary school exams, which start in early November. They are doing very well and are all optimistic about their results. For the first time at Kivuli we also have three students who are finishing high school this year (Form 4) and have just completed all of their exams. What a remarkable achievement for them all – congratulations to Francis, Simon and Harrison!! These boys will now join their extended families, or 'home communities' as they await their results.

# trivia night

On the 4th of October we held our 4th annual trivia night for Kivuli in Melbourne. This year we aimed to raise \$7700 to purchase a drip irrigation system that will irrigate the entire shamba. As you have been reading about this year – farming is dependant on rainfall, and this year there hasn't been any. This irrigation system will ensure we have the capacity to water our crops throughout the year.

The final result was **\$7750!!!** It was a great turnout and we would like to thank all of the individuals and businesses who contributed goods and vouchers towards our silent auction. Thank you also to our wonderful fundraising team who we couldn't have run the night without. And finally, thank you to Tim and Emma and their team at Purple Soup who hosted the event for us. May God bless you all!!



# isaac in australia

Isaac spent 4 weeks in Australia over September and early October – his first trip out here. During this time he had the opportunity to meet the Australian Board along with many of the Kivuli sponsors and supporters. It was good for Isaac to learn the Kivuli operations from Australia, and this learning will only enhance processes moving forward.

One of Isaac's most memorable occasions was his surprise 40th birthday celebration dinner. Yes, he turned 40 shortly after arriving. In Kenya, birthdays are not really celebrated, and Isaac says he had *never* celebrated his birthday before. This was one he will not forget!

Isaac's trip was largely funded by individuals at Deep Creek Anglican Church (not through the GDG Aid and Development Fund), where he spent a considerable amount of time receiving training and mentoring from the leadership team there. For who don't know, Isaac also Pastors a church one day a week when not working for Kivuli, in a nearby village.



# for those that pray

## Praise God for

- The success of the trivia night, reaching our fundraising target
- Francis, Simon and Harrison completing their high school education
- The great response to the social worker's seminar.

## Please pray for

- The class 8 students as they sit their final primary school exams
- Isaac, as he implements some new strategies in Kenya after his Australian visit
- Margaret, Peter and their older sister Wambui as they mourn the loss of their mother.

# to donate

Gifts over \$2 to Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) with a preference for this project (J606N Kivuli Project, Kenya Stage 2) are tax deductible.

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\* No evangelistic activities are a part of or are funded by the GDG aid and development project. If excess funds are received they may be applied to other approved project activities.