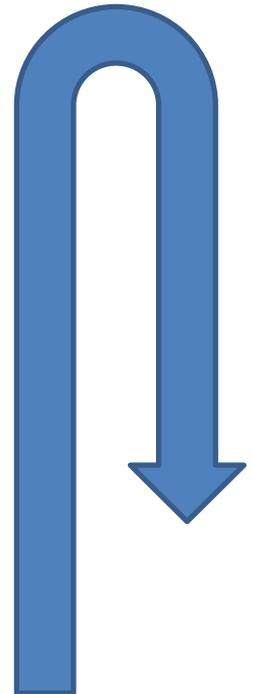


A VERY HAPPY 2013 TO ALL OUR FRIENDS!

Warm greetings to all our friends, new and old! We hope that the festive season revived your spirit, and gave opportunity to spend time with loved ones. Our wish for this year is one of prosperity, new challenges and opportunities and most importantly, hope for one and all.

BACK TO SCHOOL

Johann Honniball has been a friend of our Foundation for many years, assisting and participating in various projects from arts and crafts to education. Just after New Year, we received a desperate note from Johann, a school in our area is doomed for closure, and if the community and parents don't pull together, 107 children will not be able to go to school anymore. Tshedimosong Elementary school between Koster and Rustenburg have been earmarked for closure by the department due to dilapidation and decreasing numbers of learners. Learning of this Johann, and his friends at Thololego Eco Village, who are the landlords of this school, joined forces and mobilised the community and the parents of the learners to take action. They spent weeks renovating the school, motivating the community to encourage the children to attend the school, and proving to the department that this school is actually worth saving. One of the last conditions of the department was that the school should be habitable and conducive to a learning environment, which means, there should be furniture and equipment. This is where Johann decided to send us a note. Without even considering, our friends at UNISA got into contact with Johann, and arranged that their second hand furniture be donated to the school. Desks, filing cabinets, pigeon holes and book shelves were loaded on trucks sponsored by Willem de Kock, a local samaritan, and transported back to the school. The moment of arrival was greeted by an overwhelmed community, with feeling of hope returning with the truck load of furniture. The department of Education has subsequently agreed to keep the school open, and will be conducting visits throughout the year to monitor attendance, and progress at the school. Thank you to UNISA, Willem de Kock and the community for the enthusiasm and co-operation in saving the future of these children. Here are some before and after pictures of the school.



PROJECT TURN-AROUND

Tshedimosong Elementary School



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Making Rustenburg the place we love to call Home

CAMPing in the Eastern Cape

Early in December last year, we had the wonderful opportunity to take our Community Asset Mapping Programme to a community in the Eastern Cape. Cennergi, a cleaner power company, has a successful wind farming project, the Tsitsikamma Community Wind Farm, which they are developing together with Watt Energy and the Tsitsikamma Development Trust. It is a 95MW wind farm located on the Mfengu community land, in the Eastern Cape. Not only are they an environmentally responsible organization, but their commitment to the community in which they operate clearly shows as well. We were asked to assist in mapping assets in their community, to have a reference to move from, in order to create sustainable socio-economic projects with the community, and for the community. We are grateful for the opportunity to work in a different community than ours, for us it's an opportunity to learn again, and to have a new perception on issues and challenges that we sometimes take for granted. We'd like to thank Cennergi for placing their trust in us to facilitate this process, and commend them for being a responsible, and responsive donor within their community. Below are some pictures we've taken of our experience.



Pictures courtesy of UNISA. On the right, children from the community, and our big motivation in doing what we do; to create a better future for THEM.

Good luck Melanie!

Melanie Nicolau is completing her PhD in Geography at the University of South Africa. The focus of the PhD research originally focussed on the levels of under provision of a variety of services in rural local municipalities in South Africa, and aimed at developing a "bottom up" strategy for the provision of such services. Since participating in the community engagement initiatives of Unisa with the Greater Rustenburg Community Foundation and the application of the Community Asset mapping Programme (CAMP), the research focus of the thesis has shifted slightly. The thesis now aims to present a tool that can be applied by local community members in an attempt to create their own wealth and levels of service provision that would be acceptable for the community. The thesis is in the final draft stages and will be submitted for examination in May 2013. We wish Melanie all the best with a tough couple of months ahead of her, and want to thank her, and her department for the invaluable support they have given us over the last 5 years.

