

## We dream the impossible because we believe in miracles



*This Kudu Newsletter is the voice of the children in a forgotten valley in the Karoo. Not only is the Kudu their cry for help, but it is also their grateful thank you to those in our world who are helping them dream of a better future.*

*All of us working for the children of Vlakteplaas give our services without any remuneration whatsoever. Even this newsletter is produced for free by Belgian and Dutch friends for whom the Vlakteplaas children are very near to their heart.*

*Almeri and I gratefully salute all our donors and supporters!*

*Jans Rautenbach, OULAP*

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**F**or the school year 2005 Gideon Swartbooi, Kately September, Emmerentia Vermond, Veleshia Lloyd and Jo-Ann Blou could attend their first year at high school. All these pupils achieved extremely good results at high school and because meanwhile 14 scholars from Vlakteplaas attend De Rust High School they now appointed a mentor teacher to personally assists our Vlakteplaas bursary students.

For 2006 Brumhilda Windvogel, Desiderius Claassen, Brumilda Verlaat, Sumoney Arends, Kelvin Erasmus, Henriëtte Erasmus, Jessica Adams and Hendroline de Villiers received a bursary to attend De Rust high School.

All the bursaries have been made possible by the financial support of friends from South Africa, the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and Great Britain. The Vlakteplaas community is very grateful for this opportunity for its young people.

## High school bursaries



## Vlakteplaas children day care centre



In South Africa children can attend pre school from the age of approx. 2 years. Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, after church a special establishment meeting took place in the presence of people of the provincial Government, the minister and his wife and parents.

The Board members were elected and the next morning the first crèche day started. To qualify for financial support by the South African Government 6 children were necessary.

The first morning 19 children were present and the other day even more



children came. For the time being the old school is used as 'kinder garden'. This is a very important event for the Vlakteplaas community because by being able to send their very little chil-

dren to pre school, both father and mother can work on the neighbouring farms without having to worry about their little ones!

### Driemaster school - Lelystad

## The Netherlands' treat



The first monday of the new school year was a very special day. First of all the AJAX sports wear arrived in the school and secondly there was a special treat of a Dutch school which already donates on a regular basis money for better food for the children. On this special day the pupils were surprised by getting fruit juice, a lolly and a little bag with popcorn. For the next day 150 sausages were on the menu. Even the very little ones in the old school building got their fruit juice and popcorn. Thank you pupils and staff of the Driemaster for this special surprise!





# Thank you

## AJAX - Amsterdam

**S**tichting KarooCare (the Dutch foundation especially established to support Vlakteplaas UCC Prîmer, read more on [www.karoorcare.nl](http://www.karoorcare.nl)) successfully approached AJAX with the request for sports wear for the school children and sports wear for the young men of the Vlakteplaas region. Twice a week the Vlakteplaas sport field is used by the young adults for meeting other teams, to have their training and to have an internal competition.

Unfortunately the Vlakteplaas team could not afford to have team sports-wear and now they have!!!

Thank you Ajax Amsterdam for your kind donation and now KarooCare is urgently searching for football boots or

sports shoes for the pupils as well as for the young adults, they have to play barefoot or on their new AJAX football knee socks as the picture shows.

Nevertheless: the sports wear was a big succes and we expect to find funds for sports shoes as well!!!



**M**eanwhile one of Jans' wishes is to have the football ground coated with an artificial top coat. A project proposal for this will be send to the Johan Cruyff foundation in the Netherlands as a coated ground will make it possible to use it for more purposes from which the whole community could benefit.

We will keep you informed on the progress of the sports field and in Jans' own words: we are dreaming the impossible because we believe in miracles!!!

## Bursary student

### Hendroline De Villiers

Hendroline is born the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1993.

She lives in Snyberg, a settlement 7 kilometres from Vlakteplaas.

Hendroline lives in the house with her mother, her blind sister, her aunty, her uncle and their children. All together 10 people live in the house, where there is no electricity. Through the intermediary of Jans her sister will have an eye surgery to regain a 10% eyesight.

Hendroline studies in De Rust hoërskool (high school). She received a scholarship from a German couple and she has to study hard but is convinced she will succeed! She loves mathematics. Sometimes she and her entire family can watch TV in their village. She loves *7de Laan*, a kind of Bold and Beautiful and she loves English pop music, so she is very happy that she can also study English in the Rust Hoërskool.



## Kitchen Kombuis



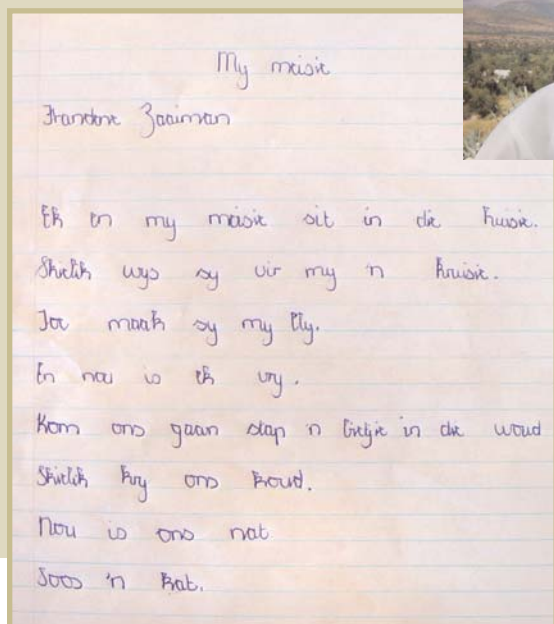
As it turned out that the kitchen needed more space, the teachers room became a part of the kitchen. New cupboards and shelves were build, in order to give the cook better possibilities to prepare healthy meals for the children and to use it as a canteen during among others sports events and after church.

A cook has been appointed to prepare meals. For the time being it had been done with the help of volunteers.

According to the calculation of Jans he needs a yearly amount of approx. ZAR 100,000.- (€ 14,000), this means U\$ 0,5 or € 0,4 per child per day. This amount includes the food and the cook's salary.

The local farmers have undertaken to provide vegetables in season like carrots, onions, potatoes etc. KarooCare the Netherlands already agreed to donate 50% of the amount needed. This has been made possible by regularly donations from Vlakteplaas friends. Do you wish to help us to collect the other 50%? Please contact [karoocare@nienhuisbeheer.nl](mailto:karoocare@nienhuisbeheer.nl).





**H**ello, I am Frandene Zaaimean and I made a little poem for KUDU. I am born 24<sup>th</sup> December 1994 and I love mathematics and reading. Now, I am in grade 6. My favourite sport is netball, later I would like to become a schoolteacher. My poem is written in Afrikaans and it is about me and my girlfriend. We sit in the house, then we go for a walk in the wood. Then we get cold and become wet, just like a cat.

## Donation of € 3,000 from Noppies



A Dutch company in the Netherlands specialized in children clothing, invited private friends and business friends for the opening of their new offices in Lelystad. In stead of presents and flowers they asked for a donation for Vlakteplaas school. This resulted in an amount of Euro 3,000. Thank you Noppies!



**H**ello, my name is Baldwin Mtanda and I am born 24<sup>th</sup> August 1993. Hereby my picture of the Karoo for KUDU. I am in grade 7 and I love mathematics and football. Me and my friends are very proud to wear the AJAX outfit when playing football! My dream is to become a pilote.



## Second wing and other alterations

### German speaking contacts

Also in Germany a special foundation had been established to support Vlakeplaas. Three bursaries came from German Oulap guests. For more information in the German language you can contact [info@karoo-projekt.de](mailto:info@karoo-projekt.de) and look on <http://www.karoo-projekt.de/>

As you all probably know a second wing will be built to the school, this already starts this month.

Among others showers, lockers, a library and a multifunctional room will be part of this new wing. The same Dutch couple, Theo and Josefien, who founded the first wing, will finance this second wing as well. Miracles really do happen!

We certainly inform you further on the building and the progress in a next edition of Kudu.



# KUDU

The KUDU newsletter will be published every 2 months.

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