



NEWSLETTER 22 - November 2011
Nurturing home-grown development in South Africa

www.thatu.org

How your contributions help the Midland Meander Education Project



Your generous contributions to Thatu have not only helped two projects in South Africa, they have also encouraged donations from Rotary and the Body Shop Foundation. One of the projects, the Midland Meander Education Project in KwaZulu Natal, works with many schools to help them create food gardens and improve the environment.

At one school, Vrystaat Primary School, project leader Laila was soon able to report: "I was excited to see more than 5 learners carrying big bundles of spinach from the garden to the kitchen, chopping it and putting it in the pot. It was heartening to see fresh food from the garden feeding the whole school. The lunch of phutu (maize porridge) and spinach was delicious. It is always difficult to do hard work with these learners because they are very young, and sometimes hungry."

At Yarrow Primary School, everyone in the school took part in an adventurous total garden make-over on the poor sloping land. Project leaders Jessica and Ntombenhle tell us:

Grade 1s and 2s were given the task of visiting each tree planted last year. They had to water, compost and mulch each tree with love. This they did expertly. They then worked in the small vegetable garden outside their classroom. Grades 3 and 4 cleaned the main vegetable garden. They removed stones, plastic, grass, neatened the edges. Grades 6 and 7 worked hard taking out grass roots. The oldest, biggest boys went out to fetch long logs while the rest helped hoe and prepare the soil.

"After terracing the garden we composted, watered and mulched the beds, then planted vegetable seedlings. To celebrate we ate solar cooked spinach from the garden! We had fun together and there was a growing sense of ownership, as if everyone understood the deeper meaning of this transformation."

With Thatu's limited funds we can only support a few of the hundreds of schools in the area, all are equally needy and we'd love to help more.

Christmas is Coming

Thatu is seven this year! In those seven years, you have helped us send a magnificent £100,000 to really worthwhile projects. Please help as much as you can this Christmas-time by visiting our online shop: www.thatu.org/shop.

You can buy **virtual gifts** for friends ? not goats, the scourge of so much land, but essentials like vegetable seedlings, herbs, tools, permaculture guidance.

Gifts of colourful strong bags made in a community project in South Africa.

Cards and gifts with a difference such as Reuse Labels.

Christmas Tree decorations made in a workshop for disabled people in South Africa.

Or a gift of a standing order or cheque to Thatu.

As ever, we guarantee that your donation is managed effectively. Our work is voluntary and our expenses are tiny.



Please **DONATE**

Read more about Thatu and its projects on our new website www.thatu.org

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