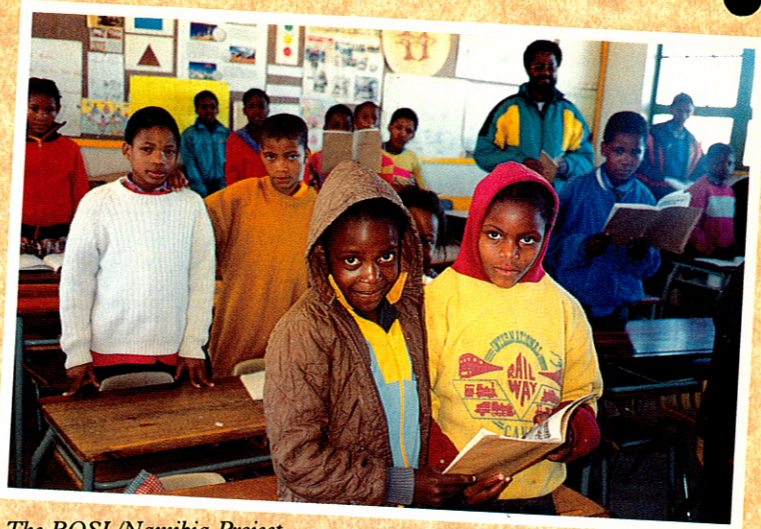


# COMMONWEALTH *Friendship/Welfare* PROJECTS

**Margaret Adrian-Vallance**

*League Director of Public Relations and Development*

As part of the League's remit to 'give service to the Commonwealth' modest welfare projects were developed in 1994. Originally restricted to joint projects requiring support in kind, interest and financial donations from Branches and members enabled their wider development during 1995.



*The ROSL/Namibia Project will help provide resource materials in needy schools for San (Bushmen), settlement and farm children.*



*Some 1,200 people have now benefited from the four eye camps held in Sri Lanka's hill country.*

*Opening doors to a younger audience in Western Australia where those in isolated areas face special difficulties.*



## **Sri Lanka/ROSL Project**

The first project supported eye camps in Sri Lanka's hill country and particularly tea plantation families living in the 'lines' - single rooms often shared with poultry. League partners included the Colombo Eye Bank and the Aziz Foundation which also funded a visit by the Director of PR & Development to coincide with the 1994 eye camps in Badulla and Nawalapitiya.

Following an appeal, ROSL members collected around 3,000 spectacles and Singapore's 'Operation Vision' 1,200. This enabled two more eye camps to be held in 1995 at Yatiyantota and Bogawantalawa.

"Underprivileged villagers received most wanted spectacles (recycling of an important resource which would otherwise go unutilised)", writes Mr Ashruff Aziz. "We convey our most sincere gratitude of your efforts in the cause of the underprivileged".

## **Namibia/ROSL Project**

With support from the League's Central Council, 1995 saw the initiation of a project jointly developed by the Director of PR & Development, the Honorary Corresponding Secretary for Namibia, the Minister of Local

Government and Housing, the Deputy Minister of Education and Culture, University Vice-Chancellor, Air Namibia and teachers at the Childrens Centre at Katutura, the Settlement at Otjivero and schools near the Kalahari.

Following an appeal in *Overseas* magazine for specific books, pens and pencils, some eighteen boxes have been free freighted out to Windhoek by Air Namibia. Almost all items were new and several members had gone to considerable expense in providing high quality goods. Smaller parcels have been posted. Due to additional financial donations from Branches and individual members, the League will also be able to support annual school fees (£26) for needy youngsters and give special help to the settlement community at Otjivero.

## **Western Australia**

A contribution towards a 'Youth in Business' leaflet for circulation in this huge state where young

people in isolated areas face special difficulties helped bring together the Duke of Edinburgh's Award WA and ROSL's Perth Branch. This on-going relationship is helping to increase League awareness amongst a younger generation.

## **A Thank-You**

The League would like to thank all those who donated items or funds and thereby helped take forward these informal friendship projects.



*Amongst those welcoming closer links with the League, Dr M P Tjitendero, Speaker of Namibia's National Assembly.*



*Dick Chamberlain, Honorary Corresponding Secretary for Namibia and Margaret Adrian-Vallance, Director of PR & Development pack some of the books, pens and pencils donated by members.*