

Joint ROSL / Namibia Project

Members and branches have responded brilliantly to the need for ongoing support for this project which helps young people in remote areas obtain an education. At the start of the project there were three main objectives: to increase awareness of Namibia, to provide school resource materials, and to sponsor school bursaries for San, settlement and farm children especially in the Omaheke region.

Five years on, many ROSL members have enjoyed visits to the country, much school resource material has been donated and there are now 19 ROSL school bursary recipients. Most recipients are boarders at state residential schools due to the vast distances between communities and the long drives on the commercial farms. However, lifts from local farmers and teachers, donkey carts and donated bicycles are gradually helping more children to attend as day pupils.

When the project started, we had no way of knowing that so many of the young people would stay the course, turn out to be so academically gifted or reach university standard. The continuing financial support of branches and members has therefore been crucial.

During 1999 the strength of the pound and favourable exchange rates meant that there were sufficient funds left in Namibia from the 1998 donation in sterling to support the project until March 2000. Meanwhile additional funds were sought to help a school at Tsumkwe in the Kalahari at the request of the Deputy Minister of Basic Education and Culture, Clara Bohitile, and to enable at least two of the ROSL bursary recipients to attend University in Namibia.

Margaret Adrian-Vallance
Director PR & Development



Pupils with their teacher at the Otjivero Settlement school.



*Hon Clara Bohitile,
Deputy Minister of Basic
Education and Culture.*



Above: ROSL bursary recipient Jan Katari pictured outside Hippo Primary School, Omaheke region.

During the year an article in the Times Higher Education Supplement by the Deputy Editor, David Jobbins reported that, "No San (Bushman) are known to have received a university education, and there are no San teachers in Namibia's schools San have been helped to undertake primary and secondary education by a project led by Namibia's Ministry of Basic Education and Culture and supported by the London-based Royal Over-Seas League. Now several San students are approaching the point where university education is a possibility."

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West Sussex branch members who generously donated funds and school resource materials.



Dick Chamberlain, ROSL's HCS in Namibia, transporting a basket from the north for display at the University.