

ROSL-Namibia Project

The ROSL-Namibia project was established in 1995 with Clara Bohitile, Deputy Minister of Basic Education and Culture, to provide primary school bursaries for Bushmen and other children living in remote areas. Due to the generosity of donors, it was possible to continue this support at secondary and tertiary levels. Indeed, six bursary awardees are now qualified teachers. Members' continuing generosity also enabled support for three dedicated schools in isolated areas: Hippo Primary in the Omaheke, Katora Primary in the depths of the Namib desert and Huigub Primary, where support has ranged from emergency rice to the renovation of chairs.

During a monitoring visit in October it was good to see that Huigub Primary was continuing to win prizes for the best grade seven results in spite of past difficulties of drought, flooding and meningitis. At Katora Primary the ROSL bursary recipients had greatly grown in confidence and former head boy Tanigu Gariseb had settled in well at Swakopmund Secondary. Jobus Kaiseb, who started at Huigub, continued to excel at Otjikoto Secondary and Elrico Slinger, who started at Hippo, had passed his first year exams at the University of Namibia.

At Windhoek College of Education, six new recipients were selected and Brenda Muharukua won the 2008 ROSL prize for an outstanding graduate. The project continued to benefit from Clara Bohitile's interest and the pastoral care provided by Principal Zirk Vermeulen and his wife Henrita at Hippo, and by Principal Habakuk Shilongo and the staff at Huigub.

The ROSL-Namibia project is greatly appreciative of all those members who so generously included donations when renewing their 2008 memberships and for the support from the London Group, Discussion Group and the Exeter Branch during the year.

In December, Elias Araeb, one of the first bursary recipients, wrote to say: *'I am so very thankful for what the League has done for me. I should like to do something for the League this end to show my appreciation.'* The involvement of ROSL bursary alumni themselves could therefore be a pleasing development in the future.

Margaret Adrian-Vallance, Director of PR and Development

Left: Belinda Awases carries a renovated chair back into the classroom at Huigub Primary

Right: Elias Araeb, one of the first nine ROSL Namibia bursary recipients, with his class at Rakatuka Primary School in the Omaheke region

