

# ROSL-Namibia project



La Fondation raised the interesting question as to whether the project could be used as a template in other Commonwealth countries and why it works so well. The main reason, as confirmed by Clara Bohitile, is the long-term commitment by ROSL, and the project is therefore very grateful to all those donors who have kept it going since 1995.

**Margaret Adrian-Vallance**  
Director of Public Relations & Development

The success of ROSL bursary awardees in remote areas such as the Kalahari, the generosity of ROSL donors and new fund-raising initiatives were the main highlights of 2009.

The ROSL-Namibia project was established in 1995 with Clara Bohitile, then Deputy Minister of Basic Education and Culture, to provide primary school bursaries for individual San (Bushman) and other children living in remote areas. Due to the generosity of ROSL members and non-ROSL donors it was possible to extend this support to secondary and tertiary levels and contribute to the

development funds of three primary schools in isolated areas: Katora, Hippo and Huigub.

2009 saw most of the 17 ROSL bursary recipients doing well. Kobus Gaiseb, for example, who started at Huigub Primary and is now at Otjikoto Secondary, was selected for a leadership training course, continued to win school prizes and was voted head of the school hostel. Tamigu Gariseb, who started at Katora Primary and is now at Swakopmund Secondary, excelled in maths and other subjects.

During the year, two caring and supportive Principals who had played such a vital part in the project came up to retirement: Rheinhard Doeseb at Katora Primary and Habakuk Shilongo at Huigub Primary. At Katora the five ROSL bursary recipients did well, and at Huigub a new kitchen and classrooms were built with additional funding from Germany. At Windhoek College of Education, ROSL continued to support seven students, mainly from Himba communities in the far north.

In September it was agreed that the ROSL-Namibia project should feature in a short section of the Centenary DVD. Director Chris Swann therefore joined the first part of the annual monitoring visit, in October, and filmed in the east and west of the country. My co-monitor Paul Oosthuizen and I filmed in the north and the Nyae Nyae conservancy.

In the Nyae Nyae our guide was ROSL bursary recipient Cwisa Cwi,

now Principal of five bush schools in his homeland of the Jo'hoansi San. Cwisa was one of several awardees to give an interview in a confident and thoughtful way. Others included two of the first nine in the project – Elias Araeb and Ellie Velskoen from the Omaheke. Both are now teachers. Chris also interviewed Clara Bohitile MP in Windhoek, ROSL bursary recipients at Katora and took general shots to

Fondation Espace Afrique, which 'provides support for the realisation of projects and initiatives at the Pan-African level and is the Petrolin Group's commitment to the development of Africa'. In December, it was confirmed that a grant agreement would be ready in early 2010 and it was decided that a short DVD should be made about the project to support such applications in the future.

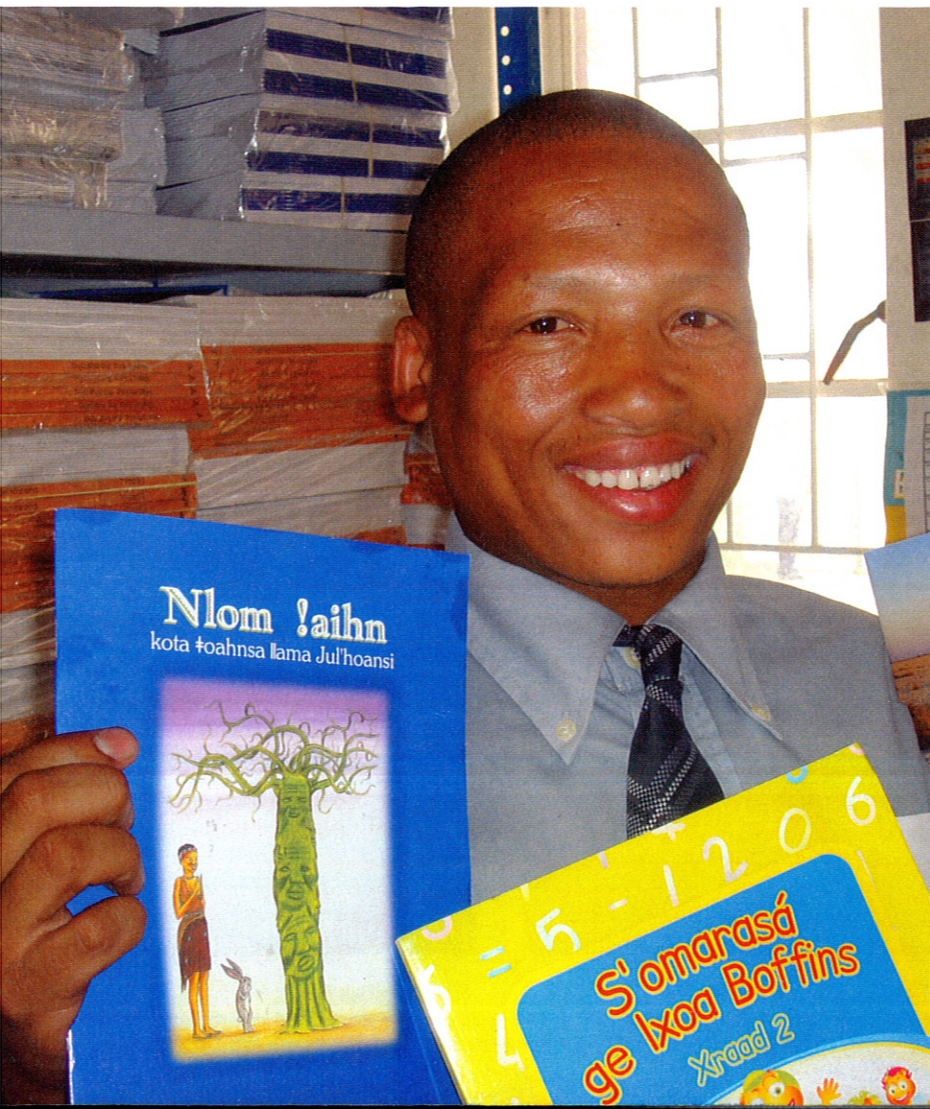
“Cwisa was one of several awardees to give an interview in a confident and thoughtful way”

indicate the tyranny of distance in this vast country with its population of only 2 million.

On the downside, 2009 was the second year in which the project was not entirely self-funded due to the recession, falling exchange rates and fewer donations from non-ROSL sources. In order to safeguard funds for those already in the project, support for the three schools was therefore reduced and only one new bursary award was made during the year.

As it was essential to find new donors to supplement the £5,700 from members, an application was made in November to

ROSL bursary recipient Cwisa Cwi with the text books he has helped to translate into Ju'hoansi San



Left: The approach to Katora Primary School in the Namib desert

Below: An evening gathering at Nhoma village in the Nyae Nyae

