



Report 18 Nov 2010

This report covers the work that has been done in the Vanessa Grant School, the Rongai Vocational Training School and Gogar Primary School. A separate report has been circulated about the Vanessa Grant Girls' School.

Vanessa Grant School

Despite the prolonged dry spell from the beginning of November, the school is in remarkable fettle. Naomi has managed the shortage of water well and, thanks to Gogar Farm, there has been enough.

The new play area was officially opened on 24th March with pupils from Gogar Primary, the Vocational School as well as the VGS all present and involved in songs and dances. The schools have been very lucky to have three dynamic volunteers, Ness, Georgia and Sally, who have built a delightful shelter with seating as well as painting the container with topical scenes (sheep and kangaroos). The plan is to develop this area for the benefit of all three schools. In the pipeline are some hopscotch areas. This was at the suggestion of three physiotherapy volunteers led by Annie Kingsford, Vanessa's niece.



The official opening of the shelter.

Sponsorship: many thanks to all of you who reacted to the message about sponsoring children at the VGS and VCTC, as we now have most of the needy children cared for. There are still three children who need support, so let me know if you can help. Details on how to donate are on the website www.vanessagrantrust.org



On the swings with the shelter in the background.

Vocational Training School



The children from the vocational school at the new playground. There are now 35 in three classrooms so more teaching space is required. It is always impressive to see how cheerful these children are and this project is in need of fund raising if anyone is looking for a good cause.



Lessons in tying flies.



One of the knitting machines in use.

Gogar Primary School



The paved assembly area is a great success thanks to the faithful support of Cheltenham College. The heart of the school has been transformed from a dust bowl into a practical and increasingly attractive area.

King's Edgehill School from Nova Scotia camped in wet conditions, which is ironic considering how dry it has been and spent two days working in the school.



Sunday: On the way to school...

Welcomed by the boarders.

The boarding blocks are now up and running and the school is greatly indebted to the KES, Bridget, Sam, Georgia, Joseph, Arthur and Shane who have combined their input to provide a shower and loo block, bunk beds and mattresses. Without this financial injection and without Sam and Bridget's drive to get on with the shower block, the boarders would not be as comfortable as they are now.



The dorms after painting by KES.



Sister Hiltrude talks to a sick pupil.



Bunk beds in the dorms. Cosy!

Sister Hiltrude reports that the positive impact on the academic front is already evident. All the boarders can now study in the classrooms in the evenings as there is electricity. No longer do they have chores to do at home and attempt to study in the evening by a candle or a kerosene light. A number are also spared more than an hour's walk every morning and evening. They also receive three good meals which is more than many will have at home, especially in such a dry year.



The new shower block with the tank. Sister Hiltrude is standing next to the Chairman of the Board of Governors who has been a huge support to her. They are a strong team.

King's Edgehill School (KES) camped on the farm with a group of seventeen and spent two days working at the school painting. They have transformed the Nursery section which was rather dark and have provided money for appropriate sized desks for the children in this section. Specific fundraising has been undertaken to help with providing regular meals and this money has been put towards buying maize and fertiliser for planting on the school maize plot once there has been enough rain.

The Nursery Section.



Before...



After.

www.vanessagrattrust.org

www.vggs.org

J E O March 2011.