



Dear Friends

We know it's not long since our last newsletter, but we have some very exciting news which we couldn't wait to share ...

Tukongote Preschool has been growing steadily over the past few years. The enrolment is now over 70 children. This means we have completely outgrown the current mud/pole classroom structure.

Now, thanks to some very special people, our wish of building a purpose built larger preschool has come true! On Wednesday we held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new school. Very special thanks go to Tessa and Rob, two of the owners of Waterberry, who have personally donated the money to make this project happen. Thank you also to Headman Komanyana for selling us a beautiful plot of riverside land, allowing us to turn our dream into reality.



The ceremony was a lot of fun with songs and dances from the preschool children and also reading demonstrations from the primary school children.



The new Tukongote school will have three bright and cheerful classrooms, an outside classroom and learning area, kitchen and feeding shelter and, of course, ablutions. As the headman said in his speech, just a few years ago the children of his village could not speak any English, the national language of Zambia, and they had nothing to do and nowhere to learn. When we open in early 2017, we will be able to offer up to 90 children the chance of three years of creative, holistic and fun pre-schooling. As BB King said, "The greatest thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you".

The building is a huge step up the ladder and once the school is built, guest donations will be used to maintain and run the school, pay salaries and to buy food and educational supplies.

The Tukongote motto is "Together We Educate", and to us this is truly reflected in this collaboration between Waterberry, our guests, the villagers and communities, all with the common goal of improving educational opportunities and empowering the young people.

It's so moving to see the progress already being made and to witness the excitement on the teachers', pupils' and parents' faces. Follow the progress on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/waterberrycommunityprojects



Best wishes from a very happy and excited Community Liaison team.

Kelly and Lynette

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