

ROSL-Namibia project



(l-r) Margaret Adrian-Vallance, bursary alumni Elias Araeb and Cwisa Cwi, and ROSL New Zealand Director Lyn Milne during the International Branch Conference

PHOTO: ALEXANDER SWANN

Highlights in 2010 included: a substantial donation from Fondation Espace Afrique; the generous support from ROSL members; the visit of two Namibian bursary alumni to the UK in June; the fifth ROSL bursary recipient to become head boy/girl of their school; and the making of a short film about the project.

The ROSL-Namibia project was established in 1995 with Clara Bohitile, and other members of the Namibian government, to provide school bursaries (shoes, clothes, toiletries, pocket money, hostel fees, food, books etc) for young people from very poor communities in remote areas. An important part of the project was to encourage them to feel confident and at ease with their peers. Monitoring visits also helped with the sometimes difficult transfer to secondary school, and ensured that funds got down the line.

Self-funded until the economic recession, the donation from Fondation Espace Afrique could not have come at a more appreciated time. Not only did it

enable those already in the project to continue their education, but as the organisation was founded in Africa, by an African and for Africa, their interest was a wonderful endorsement of ROSL members' support over the years. The project is incredibly grateful to Fondation's founder Samuel Dossou-Aworet and Director Maryse Dossou, and also to ROSL Central Council member Clive Carpenter who brought them together, and led discussions.

During 2010, the project supported ten students, mainly from Himba communities in the far north, at Windhoek College of Education, soon to be part of the University of Namibia, with higher fees and hostel costs. School bursary recipients included seven learners at Katora Primary; two at Hippo; one at Swakopmund Secondary (Tanigu Garises, former bursary recipient and head boy at Katora Primary); and one at Otjikoto Secondary (Kobus Kaiseb, who was elected head boy during the year). Contributions were also made to three school development funds, including the

Helpless Kindergarten in Tsumeb, for pipes and plumbing. At Hippo Primary near Gobabis, ROSL funds were used to build accommodation for a teacher as well as continue support for individual pupils.

The Fondation also funded laptops and training for bursary alumni Cwisa Cwi, now a school principal in the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, and Elias Araeb, now teaching in the Omaheke region.

During their visit to London, Elias and Cwisa attended the Centenary Reception at St James's Palace and were thrilled to be presented to HM The Queen. They also enjoyed a reunion lunch in Harwich with Dick Chamberlain, former project co-monitor/Director of University of Namibia Language Centre, and his wife Linda, followed by a tour of Harwich Community Primary school with Linda and headteacher Val Metcalf.

The project is also grateful to filmmaker Corrie Parsonson who edited the many hours of film shot on the monitoring visit into a very helpful three-minute dvd for the ROSL website.

The 15th year of the project was a great success, and highlighted the potential for the bursary alumni to become more involved in the next two or three years.

Margaret Adrian-Vallance
Director of PR
and Development